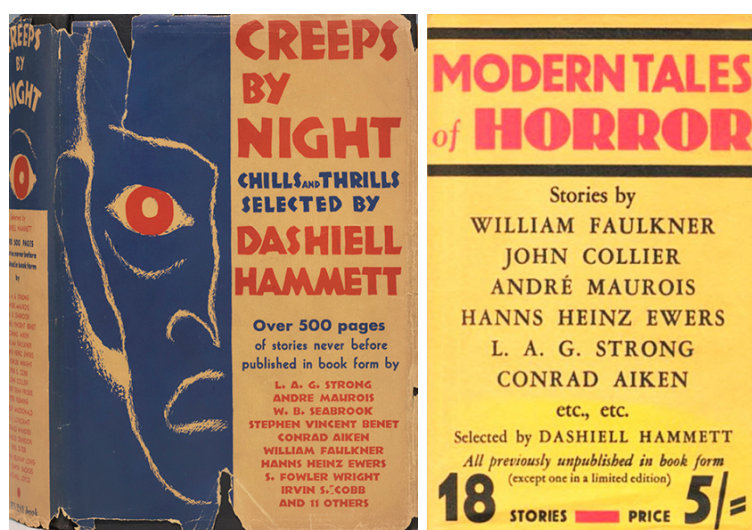


1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#77 | 19 MARS 1925



On est en 1931 (et réédition dès 1932), mais ce sera la première fois que H.P. Lovecraft verra une de ses histoires (« La musique d'Erich Zann ») reprise dans un livre imprimé, et sous l'autorité pas moins que celle de Dashiell Hammett, qui en rédige aussi l'introduction. Lovecraft n'a pas droit à son nom en couverture, mais si vous trouvez une de ces deux éditions chez un bouquiniste, c'est bien lui qui assurera votre fortune !

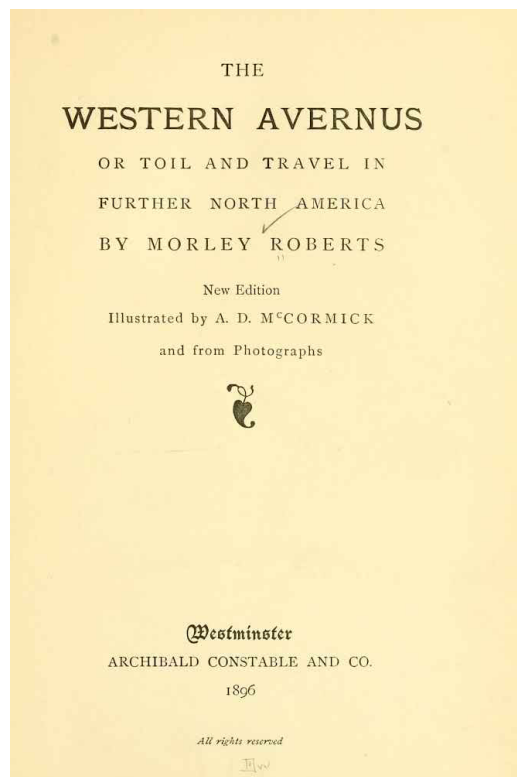
[1925, jeudi 19 mars]

Up early SH leave read Avernus — ate meal SH left — read more — up
with GK & SL — SL lv. up with GK till 4 a m — retire.

*Levé tôt. Sonia s'en va, je lis «The western Avernus » de Morley Roberts.
À midi je mange ce que Sonia avait préparé. Lu encore. Puis à l'étage du
dessus avec Kirk et Loveman. Loveman s'en va, on discute avec Kirk
jusqu'à 4 heures du matin. Je rentre.*

Le départ de Sonia change-t-il quelque chose, sinon se laisser absorber de nouveau par cette entité plurielle et bavarde qu'il constitue avec Kirk, Loveman et les autres ? Il lit Morley Roberts, un roman de 1887 (Morley Roberts mourra en 1942, mais il avait 30 ans à la publication de son roman) : épopée d'un gentleman de l'ère victorienne égaré sur les chantiers de construction des voies de chemin de fer en Colombie britannique, à la manière du Conrad de *Heart of darkness*. Ce jour-là, dans le nord, cette tornade qui laisse 800 morts derrière elle (le *Times* indique 950, le lendemain précisera) : les tornades d'aujourd'hui occupent télévisions et journaux bien des jours en amont, mais le rapport à la mort a changé d'échelle. Une telle pauvreté ou précarité, là-haut ? On voit sur la carte des noms français, Vincennes, ou Terre Haute, prison qui recevra plus tard Chuck Berry. Garder en tête ce qu'une actualité de cet ordre révèle de l'inconscient sociétal de la mort à chaque époque, lorsqu'on lit les romans et récits de celle-ci. Et quelle différence dans le ressenti individuel avec le calvaire éprouvé par cette gamine violentée et séquestrée par des criminels, et pourtant dans le plein cœur actif de Manhattan : s'il y a si peu de progrès dans notre pauvre humanité, la tête mal faite de Lovecraft vaut aussi pour qu'on s'y reconnaisse ? Suite de l'exploration d'hier, avec le « bus fantôme » de Waldo Elwyn Backus : pu télécharger cette anthologie concoctée en 1932 par Dashiell Hammett, et qui sera pour Howard Phillips Lovecraft la première publication dans un livre imprimé, et sous l'autorité de Hammett : c'est *La musique d'Erich Zann* qui y est reprise. Mais il y voisine avec Donald Wandrei, William Faulkner, l'ami Belknap Long, Conrad Aiken et Hanns Heinz Ewers, dont il fera aussi des « compressions » dans son carnet de 1933. Et quelle étrangeté d'y trouver aussi le français André Maurois, dans une brève histoire qu'il situe... près d'Orléans ! En 1935, publiera un essai sur les auteurs fantastiques américains, et nombre de ses nouvelles ces années-là sont situées aux USA, on y reviendra bien sûr. « Boulots et voyages », c'est le sous-titre du livre de Morley Roberts, paru en 1887, arpentages du nord des États-Unis, moins connu qu'un autre livre du même : *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts ans* (et même 81 ans, pour être plus fort que Jules Verne).

New York Times, 19 mars 1925. Séquestrée deux jours dans une cave. Retrouvée au coin de la 2ème Avenue et de la 34ème rue, la nuit dernière, portant uniquement une couverture et des chaussettes, Rose Smith, âgée de 20 ans, a déclaré avoir été retenue prisonnière dans une cave de la 34ème rue, entre la 1ère et la 2ème Avenue, par deux hommes, deux jours durant, qui lui avaient enlevé ses vêtements pour l'empêcher de fuir. Elle a été transportée à l'hôpital Bellevue dans un état hystérique. Elle porte la trace de nombreux coups au visage et sur le corps. La jeune fille a dit aux inspecteurs du commissariat de la 34ème rue qu'elle était entrée dans cet immeuble de la 34ème rue pour une offre d'emploi, et qu'alors qu'elle repartait deux hommes l'avait emmenée de force dans les caves, où les attendaient quatre autres hommes. Sa condition ne lui a pas permis de raconter les détails de son évasion. Elle a déclaré être domiciliée au 806 Elton Avenue dans le Bronx. Il y a deux ans, un groupe de sept hommes avait effectué une attaque similaire sur une employée de Bellevue, dans une cave des mêmes bâtiments, cinq avaient été pris et envoyés en prison.



GIRL SPEEDER HELD 3D TIME IN 8 DAYS

Miss Mendelssohn Threatened
by Judge With Severe
Sentence Today.

PERSECUTED, SHE THINKS

Ordered to Give Up License, She
Says She Can't Face the Spring
Without Her Little Racer.

For the third time in eight days Helen Mendelssohn, a nineteen-year-old Columbia University student who is studying to prepare for a law course, was arraigned in court yesterday for traffic violations.

The last time she spent one day in jail on one charge, and was fined \$25 with the option of two days in the workhouse on a second charge. Time was given her to raise the fine.

Yesterday in the Traffic Court, when she answered Magistrate Max S. Levine's question, she was alternately pert and penitent. At last she confessed to speeding at twenty-nine miles an hour and was remanded until tomorrow. In the meantime, the Magistrate told her, she must not drive her car.

The question as to what will happen when she comes up for sentence tomorrow was agitating Miss Mendelssohn a great deal last night, for she declared that she might just as well spend a year in jail as lose her driver's license and be deprived of the car.

"I couldn't face Spring without my little racer," she said, and then made a reservation, "that is, unless I got an airplane."

The scene in Traffic Court yesterday was entirely different from what the young student pictured it would be. At the time of her previous conviction she acquired some publicity because she preferred to spend a day in jail instead of paying the fine of \$5, even though she had the money.

Yesterday, she said, she was all keyed up to be hauled and confined. Instead, one pert remark aroused the ire of the Magistrate, and he rebuked her sternly. When she said the car was a necessity to her education, because it enabled her to reach her classes on time, he said the first thing he would do would be to take her license away.

"You must get rid of that car. You are not a fit person to drive. Let me have that license," Magistrate Levine told her.

She fumbled in her bag and said something the Magistrate did not catch. He asked a court officer to repeat it. The attendant said the girl had asked what could be done if she refused to sell the car and did not give up her license.

"You can't make a fool of this Court," Magistrate Levine said. "You may expect a good stiff workhouse sentence. Do not think for a minute you can be frivolous in this courtroom."

Miss Mendelssohn said last night that the court attendant misconstrued her statement. She admitted she had prepared for such a situation by leaving her license at home.

Though the Court sent Motor Vehicle Inspector O'Brien to her home to get the license, Miss Mendelssohn insisted last night that she still had it. She said she was not seeking publicity, but that she was being watched by all the traffic policemen.

"I feel I'm being victimized and abused by a lot of people who have nothing to do," she said. "There were plenty of cases in court who were speeding more than I was, and they did not take away their licenses, so I don't see why they should take mine."

HEAD HUNTERS KILL FOR TOURIST TRADE

Explorer Tells How Shuaras
Slay Even Tribesmen to Sell
Human Heads as Curios.

SPENT YEAR AMONG THEM

C. Lester Liddle Presents Collection
of Native Articles to Natural
History Museum.

C. Lester Liddle, who has just spent a year with the head-hunting Shuaras of the upper Amazon country in Ecuador, presented yesterday to the American Museum of Natural History a collection of weapons, jewels, ceremonial ornaments, musical instruments and other characteristic articles of the South American head-hunters, including the technical outfit used in converting the heads of enemies and strangers into ornaments for formal wear.

With medicine and gifts, Mr. Liddle established him-elf on an exempt basis with the head-hunters in the Province of Oriente in Ecuador and lived through a year while studying the economic resources of the country.

"A little before, some fishhooks and beads and other articles put me on a footing of safety," said Mr. Liddle. "It was my second visit. I had been in the country in search of a gold mine a year before. This time I was making a more serious study."

"I found that ore is fairly secure when he comes to regard you as a friend, although I was accidentally endangered twice. In the first place I attracted too much attention to my head by wearing black sunglasses. They had never seen glasses before, and it was supposed that they were an organic part of my head. I became nervous when I found they were studying me so closely. It is a very unpleasant sensation to find an intense interest taken in your head by such connoisseurs."

Like Variety in Heads.

"They place a high valuation on heads that are different. One of the men who fell a victim of these people some years ago was a white-bearded man said to be a German professor. They were particularly excited about that because all of the Indians are beardless."

Formerly the killings all took place in obedience to the tribal law of revenge. When a man was killed in one tribe, his kinsmen could not rest until they had evened it up by killing a member of the other tribe. The head was always taken, the skull removed and by an elaborate technical process the head was reduced to the size of a fist, still perfectly preserving the features of the slain one. Originally this was a matter of law and religion with them, but today it has become a matter of supplying the tourist demand for such relics.

There is a regular market for such things. A skillfully reduced specimen sells today at Quito, Guayaquil and other South American ports for \$300 to \$400. Heads with certain singularities command higher prices. The head of the scientist, I was told, eventually sold for \$1,000.

"As soon as I was warned that it was the sun glasses that caused a peculiar interest in my head, I took them off. I wore them subsequently, but always took them off a few times when I met a stranger so that he would not have any misconceptions."

SING SING MEN GIVE \$2,619.

Prisoners Raise \$2,619 for Electric
Chair Victim's Widow.

That the sum of \$2,619.50 was raised among the inmates of Sing Sing Prison for the widow and two children of Frank Minnick, who was put to death in the electric chair last Thursday night, was made known by Father John F. McCaffrey, the prison chaplain, in an address delivered yesterday at a luncheon of the Mount Vernon Lions Club.

Father McCaffrey said the money was handed to the widow Saturday by Warden Lewis E. Lawes, and that it represented the contributions of 881 inmates from their private bank accounts and earnings at prison labor.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST.

BARNETT LEVY, recently of 86 West 113th St., with offices at 233 Broadway, lost certain checks, promissory notes or other negotiable paper; any one finding these please return. Abraham N. Levy, attorney, 233 Broadway, New York.

BAG, tan leather, embroidered, envelope bag, lost Brooklyn, Nostrand Av. trolley, C30 P M. Tuesday. Notify Miss Edella, Pennsylvania 8306. Reward.

BANK BOOK, No. 1019240 of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank; payment stopped. Please return book to bank, 51 Chambers St. BANK BOOK, C 3875, Pacific Bank. Vladimir Drucker, 161 West 72d.

BLOOD pressure apparatus and ear speculum lost on 3d Av. "L"; reward. Phone Drydock 3100.

BRIEF CASE, brown leather, Friday night, March 8, 6th Av. elevated, containing a seamstress papers, of no value except to owner; reward. G 431 Times.

BRIEFCASE, tan, containing important oil papers, photos, etc., left on Interborough subway Tuesday afternoon; liberal reward. Assistant Manager, Hotel Pennsylvania.

CERTIFICATE—Southern Pacific Company stock, No. F-35608, for five (5) shares in the name of Clive Hastings. Notice is hereby given to show cause to said company, 163 Broadway, New York, N. Y., why a duplicate should not be issued. Clive Hastings, Astoria, Ore.

CERTIFICATE No. H136891, lost, for Southern Pacific Company stock for one hundred (100) shares in the name "Robert Collier." Notice is hereby given to show cause to said company, 163 Broadway, New York, N. Y., why a duplicate should not be issued.

CERTIFICATES lost, No. 1288-0155. Callahan Zinc-Lead Co.

CLOTH—Broadened damask, between 5th Av. and Queensboro Bridge. Finder return to Anthony Romaniga, 110 William St. Beekman 6714. Suitable reward.

ENVELOPE PURSE, lost, black silk, containing about \$100 in cash, handkerchiefs, initialed L. E. J. and key, between Waldorf Astoria and 15 Park Av., or in 20th century taxi; liberal reward. Lost Articles Dept., Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, 84th St. and 5th Av.

LEDGERS (3), in taxi between Grand Central, 50th St., March 17. Please return, Elysee Restaurant, 1 East 50th.

POLICES (2), Scranton Life Insurance, in Twentieth Century cab, Wednesday evening. Return Mazur, 106 Rutgers Av., Jersey City.

PURSE, change, containing diamond band, chamber set, St. subway; reward. Kelly, Worth 0028.

SPECTACLES, case, cards, Hamilton Place, 1424; reward. Apt. 330. Phone Audubon 1106.

SUITCASE, small black patent leather, initialed B. T., on 5th Av. bus, Monday afternoon; reward. R 132 Times.

SUIT CASE (fitted), Twentieth Century taxi, marked "S. L." liberal reward. Return Henry Street Settlement, 255 Henry St.

CAPTIVE IN CELLAR 2 DAYS

Girl, Hysterical, Says Men HI
Clothing—Taken to Bellevue.

Found at Second Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street last night wearing only cloak and stockings, Rose Smith, 2 years old, said that she had been held prisoner in a cellar on Thirty-fourth Street, between First and Second Avenues, two days by two men, who took her clothes away from her to prevent escape. She was taken to Bellevue hysterical. She had bruises on her face and body.

The girl told detectives of the East Thirty-fifth Street Station that she went to the Thirty-fourth Street building to look for a position and as she was leaving the two men seized her and took her to the cellar, where there were four other men. Her condition did not permit her telling the details of her escape. She said that she lived at 806 Elton Avenue, the Bronx.

Two years ago a band of seven men made a similar attack on a mail from Bellevue in a cellar on the same block. Five were captured and sent to prison.