

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#82 | 24 & 25 MARS 1925

En ce qui concerne les voyages — comme je l'ai dit à AEPG, je ne supporterais pas de revoir Providence tant que je ne pourrais pas y rester pour toujours. Lorsque je rentrerai, j'hésiterais à aller même à Pawtucket ou à East Providence, tandis que l'idée de traverser la frontière du Massachusetts à Hunt's Mills me remplirait d'une véritable horreur ! N'en prendre qu'un aperçu temporaire serait comme d'un homme en détresse balayé par une tempête en vue de son propre port, puis emporté à nouveau dans le noir illimité d'une mer étrangère.

*Bientôt retrouver la suite des lettres à Lilian et Annie (mais jamais celles à Sonia, qui nous en révéleraient tant). Ici, 2 avril : de l'idée de revenir à Providence mais juste pour y passer...*

[1925, mardi 24 & mercredi 25 mars]

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Up noon — RK call — write — Sonny call — look at GK books — discuss — GK arr. — Sonny leave — read in GK room — downstairs again — SL call — GK arrive — Read in GK room. Out to Johnsons & see SL home — back to 169 — read — stayed up. Wrote SH — out for 15 coll. — stamps — Flatbush Gas — dinner — barber — walk thro' park & home — start for Belknap's — all present but Morton — RK & SL lv. early — HPL, Leeds & GK up 2am — return home & retire.

*Levé midi. Visite de Kleiner. Écrit. Arrivée de Belknap. On va voir les livres de Kirk. Kirk arrive, Sonny repart. On lit chez Kirk. Puis chez moi. Arrivée de Loveman. Arrivée de Kirk. On remonte lire chez lui, puis dîner au Johnsons et voir la chambre de Loveman. Retour au 169. Resté réveillé. Écrit à Sonia. Je sors chercher des timbres. Je descends par Flatbush. Coiffeur. Marche dans le parc et rentré. Je pars chez Belknap. Tous présents sauf Morton. Kleiner et Loveman repartent de bonne heure. Lovecraft, Leeds & Kirk jusqu'à 2 heures. Retour et couché.*

Et encore ce jeu de ludions, monter chez Kirk, aller chez Belknap, retrouver Loveman, revenir chez soi, remonter à l'étage. Mais c'est la première fois de ce carnet 1925 que Lovecraft franchit le pas : au lieu d'aller dormir à 4 ou 5 heures du matin, il reste réveillé. Il ne parle pas d'écrire, sinon une lettre à Sonia, disparue comme les autres. Il ne surenchérit pas sur ce rythme nouveau pour lui, qui s'établit sur deux journées et plus une seule, et sera déterminant pour certains de ses récits. L'immeuble de la Union Gas, 176 Remsen Street, existe toujours, mais désormais à usage universitaire — et plus de coiffeur dans la rue. La mention directe qu'il écrit à Sonia, et ce petit travers (Pierre Bergounioux le pratique encore), tant qu'à acheter des timbres-poste, de les choisir parmi les « collections ». Imaginaire lovecraftien: dans le NYT, ce documentaire sur Mallory dans l'Everest où il a disparu, à 200 mètres du sommet, en juin 1924 (ses restes seront retrouvés en 1999) ; mais rien pour supposer que Lovecraft s'y soit rendu (et ce style à la Jules Verne, pour ces événements des sociétés de géographie). De riches américains (M & Mme Mallory de la Mallory Transport Lines, même patronyme que l'alpiniste mais rien à voir, sinon ce hasard — un destroyer au nom de Henry R Mallory sera coulé par un sous-marin allemand en 1943) en visite à Nassau sur leur yacht, offrent un piano à une jeune adolescente de treize ans qui en a la compréhension instinctive — on nous donne le nom du yacht, pas de la « little negro girl ». Protestation contre cette loi qui, dans le Tennessee, interdit au nom de la Bible mention de la théorie de l'évolution. Et, ô destin de la

littérature, trois pierres de l'église de Stratford-upon-Avon offertes pour être insérées dans les murs de la nouvelle cathédrale de New York.

*New York Times*, 25 mars 1925. La Société royale de géographie a commandité un film, *L'épopée du mont Everest*, qui a été projeté pour la première fois dans notre pays pour les membres de la Société américaine de géographie et leurs invités, dans l'auditorium de l'immeuble des Sociétés industrielles. Le Dr John Finley, président de la Société

américaine de géographie, a prononcé un bref discours. Le film nous fait retraverser les heures qui ont précédé la mort de deux alpinistes britanniques, George Leigh Mallory et I.C. Irvine, dont on pense qu'ils ont fait une chute mortelle à moins de deux cents mètres du but qui était l'ambition de leur vie. À cet endroit, l'image montre les deux silhouettes en mouvement à plus de 1 200 mètres d'altitude au-dessus de la caméra. On dit que c'est la première fois qu'on photographie un sujet à une telle distance. À un autre moment dans cette phase de l'expédition, on voit le retour des grimpeurs exténués, d'un point à plus de 8 500 mètres au-dessus du niveau de la mer. Il n'était pas possible de transporter la caméra à cette hauteur, et à nouveau la photographie longue distance était nécessaire. C'est au pied du glacier est du Rongbuk, que Mallory a tenté en vain d'escalader lors de deux précédentes ascensions. Le camp de la Falaise de glace, à une altitude de 7 000 mètres, et auquel reviennent les alpinistes à bout de fatigue, est

**MT. EVEREST CLIMB  
SHOWN IN PICTURES**

**Film of Expedition in Which Mallory and Irvine Died Has First Showing Here.**

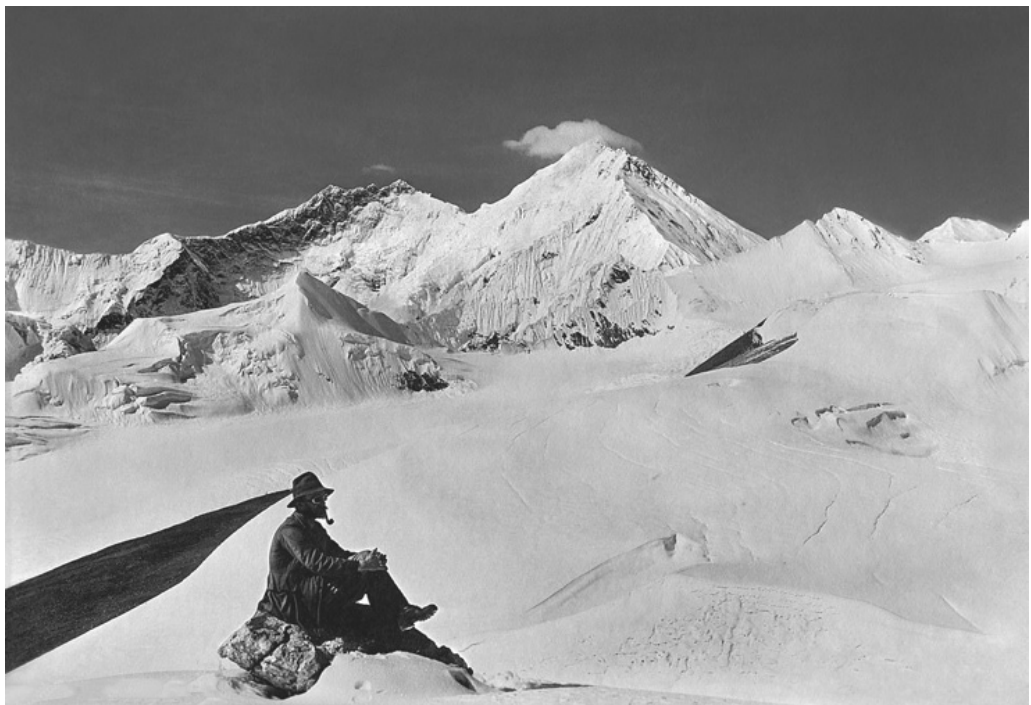
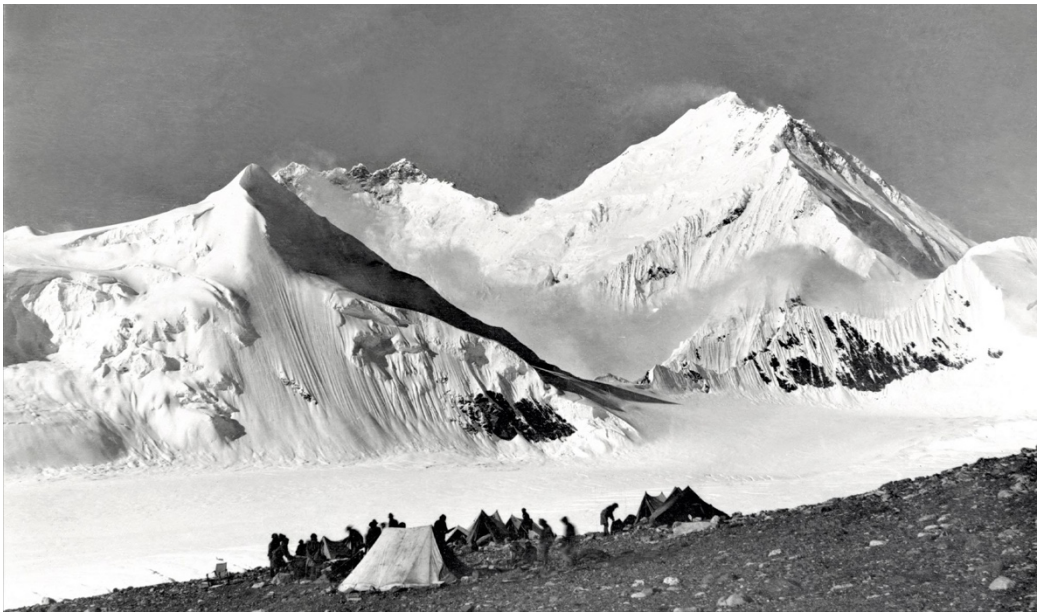
A motion picture, "The Epic of Mount Everest," prepared under the direction of the Royal Geographical Society, was shown last night for the first time in this country for members of the American Geographical Society and their guests in the auditorium of the Engineering Societies Building. Dr. John H. Finley, President of the American Geographical Society, made a brief introductory address.

The picture leads up to the death of the two British mountain climbers, George Leigh Mallory and I. C. Irvine, who are believed to have fallen to death within 600 feet of the goal which had been their lifelong ambition. At this point the photography shows the moving figures pictured at a distance of two miles and 1,000 feet above the plane of the camera. This is said to be the longest range photographs ever taken.

Another feature of this phase of the expedition is the view of the return of the climbers in an exhausted condition from a point 25,000 feet above the sea. The camera was unable to reach this height, and as a consequence the photography at long range was made necessary. This was at the foot of the East Rongbuk glacier, which Mallory had tried in vain to ascend on two previous occasions. Ice Cliff Camp, at a height of 23,000 feet, to which the climbers returned in an exhausted condition, is shown in great detail, and an excellent view of the northeast ridge of the mountain peak at the summit of the cliff of 1,000 feet of ice is clearly afforded.

montré dans le plus grand détail, avec une vue parfaite du versant nord-est de la crête qui fait le sommet de cet à-pic de 300 mètres de glace.





*George Leigh Mallory, ultime expédition Everest, 1924.  
« Parce qu'il est là. »*



## WOMAN EXPLORER SEEKS 'LOST WORLD'

**Miss MacGregor Will Leave Today  
for New Adventures in South  
American Jungle.**

Miss Katherine MacGregor, the young explorer who was the first white woman to cross the Andes over the trail from Lima, Peru, to Para, at the mouth of the Amazon River, three years ago, will sail today on the steamer Panama in quest of new adventures in the jungle of South America.

Miss MacGregor told some of her plans yesterday at the Hotel Earle, where she has been living since her return from a trip around the world.

From Cristobal, Panama, she will start for the interior of Colombia, sailing up the Magdalena River by canoe. Taking up the trail there for the wild interior country, she will search for the so-called "lost world" and will then visit the settlement of the Macas in Ecuador and also invade the haunts of the Jivaros, or head-hunters, of Ecuador.

Miss MacGregor said she plans to make a special study of these two tribes and record her visit in motion pictures. She believed she would be the first white woman to invade the province of the Macas, the white descendants of the Spanish conquerors of South America, who do not mix with the Indians. Following this, she will explore the Madre de Dios country, following one of the tributaries of the upper Amazon.

Miss MacGregor, who is a Wisconsin girl and a former student at the Columbia School of Journalism, also will hunt big game in the jungles. She said she was prepared to remain a year in the wilds of South America and that upon her return she expected to write a book describing her adventures.

## FIND MUSICAL PRODIGY AND GIVE HER A PIANO

**Mr. and Mrs. Mallory Return From  
Bahamas With Story of a  
Little Negro Girl.**

When Clifford D. Mallory, President of the Mallory Transport Lines, and Mrs. Mallory returned to New York yesterday on the Munson liner Munargo from Nassau, Bahama Islands, they announced the discovery of a musical prodigy in the Bahamas. They told how an 11-year-old negro girl at Fresh Creek, on Andros Island in the Bahamas, sat down at a piano she had never seen before and played with such talent that she awakened the appreciation of Mrs. Mallory, herself a skilled musician.

The negro child fancied herself a great musician when she came into possession of the keyboard of a piano that had been washed up on the island by a storm, according to Mr. and Mrs. Mallory. The Rev. Dr. Webb and his wife, missionaries among the colony of 300 natives, called attention of tourists to the child and her silent keyboard. Dr. William Posey of Radnor, Pa., shipped a piano to Fresh Creek for the little girl. Mr. and Mrs. Mallory were entrusted with the presentation of the gift.

"When she first sat down to the piano she seemed a little confused," Mr. Mallory said. "She struck a note or two, gained confidence and began to play immediately. My wife, who is a musician, said that the girl showed great talent. She amazed us all. Her gratitude was touching."

Mr. and Mrs. Mallory visited the island home of the musical prodigy aboard their yacht, the Bonnie Dundee, and they brought the yacht back to New York lashed to the deck of the Munargo. Frank C. Munson, President of the Munson Line, returning from Nassau, said that resort had enjoyed a record season. He said 300 persons were turned away from one of the leading hotels there just before he sailed for New York.

## DR. POTTER ASSAILS ANTI-EVOLUTION BILL

**Foresees "Bootlegging" of  
Science in the Schools of  
Tennessee Now.**

**GOV. PEAY IS CENSURED**

**Others Also Condemn the Ban—Dr.  
Straton Favors It as Fight on  
"Godless Theory."**

The signing of Tennessee's new law forbidding the teaching of evolution in schools supported by that State had a repercussion in New York yesterday when educators, scientists and clergymen discussed the action of Governor Austin Peay, who signed the bill. Again the line was sharply drawn between Fundamentalists and Modernists in religious circles, Dr. John Roach Straton of Calvary Baptist Church and Dr. Charles Francis Potter of the West Side Unitarian Church taking opposing sides.

Professor William F. Ogburn of the Department of Sociology, Columbia University; Dean H. E. Hawkes of Columbia College and Dr. Paul Kammerer of the University of Vienna decried the action of Tennessee in barring the teaching of evolution from the schools.

"The story of the enactment of the Anti-Evolution bill in Tennessee was rightly front-paged yesterday because it is symptomatic of the determined efforts of the Fundamentalists to force their peculiar religious ideas upon the children of American public schools," said Dr. Potter.

"When Governor Peay says the bill is 'a distinct protest against an irreligious tendency to exalt so-called science and deny the Bible' he exhibits a provincial ignorance of both science and the Bible.

"The Bible does not teach evolution. It is true, but it is itself an example of the evolution of religion from primitive folk-myth to the exalted teachings of Jesus.

"It will be very interesting to see how this law works out. Bootlegging evolution ought to be pretty profitable in Tennessee from now on."

"If a stranger may be permitted to make any comment concerning the law I should like to say that, of course, any university, limited to the 'truth' of the Bible, is no longer a university because it is not permitted to teach science," said Dr. Kammerer. "Regarding the relation of religion and the theory of evolution it seems strange that advanced priests in Europe do not find any difficulty in reconciling both."

"The waves of religious intolerance and reaction, such as the anti-evolution propaganda and the Ku Klux Klan movement, seem to come in cycles every so often," Dr. Ogburn declared. "Each successive cycle, however, finds knowledge more widespread than in the preceding cycles."

"My feeling is that in Tennessee they are mixing up a question of belief with a question of knowledge," said Dean Hawkes. "It is not a question of belief versus disbelief, but a question of knowledge versus ignorance."



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## Why Do So Many People Die at Middle Age?

"A LL of us who have reached middle life," said the Commissioner of Health of a great eastern state, "are shocked from time to time by reading in the papers that someone whom we supposed to be in good health has died suddenly or after a few hours' illness of 'acute indigestion' or heart-disease or apoplexy."

"This man or woman had apparently been well until illness came. But such was not the case. Chronic disease had long been slowly progressing and was not discovered because it had produced few or no symptoms, and therefore a physician had not been consulted."

"For the diseases of middle life are for the most part not germ diseases, but are due to the wearing out of the body and particularly to the wearing out of the heart and blood-vessels and kidneys—those organs which never have complete rest, but must always be working while life continues. There is one method of early detection, namely, to have a complete physical examination every year, even during apparent health. Then the early development of disease may be detected in time."

The Life Extension Institute was founded in 1913 with the cooperation of Harold A. Ley, Professor Irving Fisher of Yale, ex-President William Howard Taft, Alexander Graham Bell, Ambassador Page, Robert W. de Forest and one hundred other forward-looking men in this country and abroad, who believed that a vast amount of sickness could be prevented and human life extended many years through annual health examinations and education in correct personal hygiene. Since the Institute was organized 350,000 men and women have taken in health examinations.

The Institute is a humanitarian, semi-philanthropic organization founded upon a business basis. It was organized to be self-supporting and not to rely upon endowments and contributions for its success and maintenance.

The Institute renders no treatment, performs no operations, but makes a scientific survey of the life and body and submits a report which, if some form of medical attention is needed, assists the family physician in making the final diagnosis and applying the necessary treatment for the correction of any physical defects. The Institute's services include a standardized examination of the whole body, confidential detailed reports, suggestions as to needed medical treatment, instructions in all phases of correct personal hygiene and other valuable privileges. Every one should be examined once a year by their physician or by the Institute.

Examinations are made at the Head Office by appointment, by telephone or letter. There are separate departments for women and children, with both men and women examining physicians in attendance. Out-of-town subscribers can be examined at the Head Office or at the office of the Institute's Medical Examiner in their locality. Send in the coupon below or visit or telephone the Institute for further information.



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## FISHING FOR SHARKS NEW TOURIST GAME

The Orca Returns From the West Indies With a Thrilling Story.

### CAUGHT 11-FOOT MONSTER

It Pulled a Steward Overboard, but Was Killed by Timely Rescue Party.

Shark fishing off the coast of Venezuela was part of the diversion of several hundred tourists who returned to New York yesterday from a twenty-nine day cruise of West Indian and South American waters aboard the Royal Mail liner Orca. The tourists told how a room steward was jerked overboard by a gigantic shark which forty men were hardly able to haul aboard.

The shark, 11 feet long and weighing 600 pounds, was pretty well spent in his long tussle with the forty men aboard the Orca when the room steward dropped overboard and almost into the jaws of the pirate fish. The shark made for the steward and the steward made a great splutter.

Two seamen in a small boat ran their boat between the struggling shark and the steward just in time to prevent a tragedy. They dug boat hooks into the side of the shark, applied the lance, and finished him, while the room steward, benumbed, hung on the gunwale of the boat until he was dragged aboard.

After rescuing the steward the two seamen with the boat hooks joined the forty men on deck, and altogether they heaved the captive shark aboard, where it was measured and photographed. The shark was dropped several miles out of the port of La Guayra.

Off La Guayra sharks are as thick as goldfish in a fancier's tank, according to the passengers of the Orca. When the steamship arrived off La Guayra the passengers noticed the sharks playing in great schools around the vessel. When the giant shark was sighted lines were baited with pork and dropped over the side. The sea monster snapped three lines, but was caught fast on the fourth one.

The tourists completing the cruise on the Orca brought a remarkable collection of souvenirs from the countries and ports they visited, including baskets and wickerwork from La Guayra, and a large variety of flowers from Bermuda.

## SHAKESPEARE RELIC FOR THE CATHEDRAL

Place of Sedilia From Stratford-on-Avon Is Offered for St. John's Here.

### DELAY CORNERSTONE PLANS

Civic and Religious Function to Be Held in November—Building Will Go On.

The Fabric Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine recommended at the board's monthly meeting last evening that the civic and religious function to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone of the nave be held in the first week of next November instead of in May, as had been suggested. The trustees approved.

This decision does not mean that there will be any delay in the commencement of building operations. Actual construction will begin next month, but the great amount of preparatory work to be done before the structure will be ready for the formal laying of the cornerstone made the postponement advisable.

The following letter from the vicar of the church where William Shakespeare lies buried was laid before the Trustees: Avon, Stratford-on-Avon, March 10, 1925.

My Dear Bishop: Seeing in the press that the authorities of the Cathedral at Canterbury had offered some stones from their church to be incorporated into your Cathedral of New York, it occurred to me that you might care to have some which formed part of the fabric of the church where William Shakespeare lies, and which is so sacred a spot to thousands of Americans. I wrote to the Ambassador of the U. S. A. to offer a piece of the sedilia placed in the Chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury in this church by his immediate successor (John of Stratford) and removed about 1840 to make place for the restored sedilia.

He writes this morning suggesting that I make the offer to you. It would give me and my wardens great pleasure to add this tie to the many which already join our parish with America, and help to bind the friendship of the two great English-speaking nations of the world.

Should you and your committee be disposed to accept our offer I shall be glad to hear from you further.

Believe me your Lordship's faithful servant.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. MELVILLE, Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon and Canon of Coventry.

The Trustees adopted a resolution requesting Bishop Manning to accept the offer with expressions of their grateful appreciation.

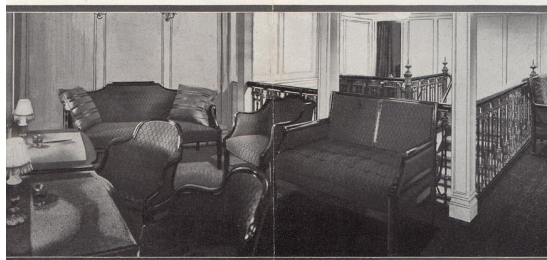




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