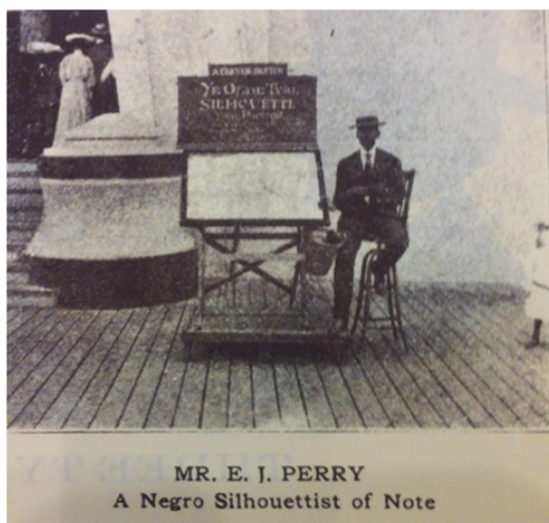


1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#83 | 26 MARS 1925



« It's my silheoutte », by Perry. Daté du 29 mars,

[1925, jeudi 26 mars]

Up late — wrote — SL arr. Went up to GK — all 3 downtown — R.I.
book — papers — SILHOUETTE — dinner Automat — home — drop
SL Clark St — write — up to GK. retired WROTE AEPG////

*Levé tard. Écrit. Arrivée de Loveman, on monte chez Kirk, puis tous trois
centre-ville. Livre sur le Rhode Island. Journaux. Les silhouettes
découpées. On dine à l'Automat. Maison, on laisse Loveman Clark Street.
Écrit. Monté chez Kirk. Retour, écrit à tante Annie.*

Du seul mot « silhouette » en majuscule, difficile d'extrapoler. Il y a toujours des caricaturistes sur les trottoirs de New York comme à Montmartre, et de ces artistes de rue qui vous découpent votre profil dans du papier noir. Si Lovecraft avait pu imaginer comment cette découpe deviendrait icône reproduite des décennies à des millions d'exemplaires, sa voix haut perchée en aurait fait le thème d'une discussion de toute une nuit, mais cela lui aurait semblé bien irréal. Souhaite-il disposer de ce découpage en ombre chinoise pour chacun des Boys de son Kalem Club ? Aujourd'hui, c'est « silhouette » en majuscule mais au singulier, la découpe en ombre chinoise est datée du 29 mars, et ce jour-là — donc dimanche à venir, dans trois jours — on trouvera dans le diary le mot « silhouettes » en minuscule mais au pluriel : cette découpe que Perry fait en direct et aux ciseaux aurait été réalisée ce jeudi, et livrée le dimanche, ou bien les Kalem se font découper chacun la leur en deux fois ? Et Lovecraft reviendra le voir au mois de juin, cette fois pour une découpe du profil de Sonia. Est-ce un détail, puisque Lovecraft ne le mentionne pas, que le réputé Perry soit un jeune Noir de vingt-six ans (voir index) ? Quant au journal, l'étrangeté de cet ancien marin devenu cambrioleur, arrêté à Boston, et qui contraignait ses victimes, toujours des femmes seules, à cohabiter avec lui toute une nuit, sans autre préjudice que matériel : il laisse sa signature sur un miroir, et se veut « loup solitaire ». En 1927, paraîtra en Allemagne le *Loup des steppes* d'Herman Hesse, que nous lirons tous : il est précisément en train d'en rédiger le manuscrit (le manuscrit de l'homme surnommé le « Loup des steppes », inclus dans le manuscrit du livre intitulé *Le loup des steppes*). Une publicité pour rasoirs auto-aiguissants, les délicieuses illustrations d'un magazine en vogue pour les bonnes ménagères, et dans une publicité Victrola l'étonnante suite d'acronymes des principales stations radio (Lovecraft y est royalement indifférent, on en aura confirmation plus tard).

New York Times, 26 mars 1925. De Boston, Massachusetts, 25 mars. Le « Loup solitaire », le voleur mystérieux qui surveillait pendant des semaines les appartements de femmes seules dans le quartier de Black Bay, en a fini hier de ses affûts habituels. James E Walters, connu aussi sous le nom de Frank Stevens, a avoué en avoir tenu le rôle, et été mis en observation par les médecins psychiatres de l'État à la prison de Charles Street. Walters, qui a été pris sur le fait la nuit dernière devant une maison du sud de Boston et arrêté tôt ce matin, a plaidé non coupable quant aux accusations de vol et dénié avoir porté des armes, et a indiqué qu'il appuierait sa défense sur son irresponsabilité mentale. Le juge Bishop, de la cour supérieure, a fixé sa caution à 90 000 dollars. L'identité du « Loup solitaire » a pu être établie grâce à des empreintes laissées sur une bouteille dans l'appartement d'une des victimes, et une autre sur un miroir, chez une précédente victime, où il avait écrit avec arrogance « Je suis le loup solitaire ». Walters avait servi dans la marine durant la guerre, et les registres de l'armée ont permis l'identification. Le « Loup solitaire » avait pour la première fois attiré l'attention de la police de Boston le 5 janvier, en dévalisant l'appartement d'une jeune femme qu'il attacha à son lit. Il resta dans l'appartement presque toute la nuit et laissa sa victime attachée lorsqu'il partit. S'ensuivit une série d'appartements volés, pénétrant chaque fois dans les lieux en l'absence de ses occupants, et se cachant jusqu'au moment favorisant ses plans. Dans un quartier largement habité par des femmes actives ou des étudiantes, la peur du « Loup solitaire » devint si grande, qu'une large part de la police en civil fut affectée à l'affaire. Walters a été reconnu par plusieurs des femmes victimes du « Loup solitaire ».

FINGERPRINT ON BOTTLE TRAPS THE 'LONE WOLF'

**Burglar Who Terrorized Women
Apartment Dwellers of Boston
Will Plead Insanity.**

BOSTON, Mass., March 25.—The "Lone Wolf," the mysterious burglar who for weeks preyed on women apartment dwellers in the Back Bay district, vanished from his accustomed haunts today and tonight. James E. Walters, otherwise known as Frank Stevens, who admitted that he had enacted the rôle, was under observation at the Charles Street Jail by physicians of the State Department of Mental Diseases. Walters, who was traced to a house in South Boston last night and arrested early today, pleaded not guilty to indictments of burglary and carrying weapons and indicated that he would offer insanity as his defense. Judge Bishop in Superior Court, fixed bail at \$90,000.

The identity of the "Lone Wolf" became known through fingerprints left on a bottle in the apartment of one of his victims and on a mirror at another place where he boastfully wrote "I am the Lone Wolf." Walters served in the navy during the war, and the naval records assisted in the identification. The "Lone Wolf" first engaged the attention of the Boston police Jan. 5, when he robbed the apartment of a young woman whom he lashed to a bed. He remained most of the night in the apartment and left his victim bound when he departed. A series of apartment robberies followed, the burglar in each case entering the place while the tenants were absent and concealing himself until the moment favored his plans. The dread of the "Lone Wolf" in a district inhabited largely by business women and college girls became so great that a large force of plain clothes police was assigned to duty there. Walters was identified by several women who had been robbed by the "Lone Wolf."



1925
316 pages and cover
Circulation—1,278,000



MANHATTAN YIELDS MASTODON'S BONES

Workmen Dig Up Remains of
the Island's Oldest Known
Inhabitant at Inwood.

LIVED 10,000 YEARS AGO

Fossils Presented to the American
Museum—Souvenir Hunters Steal
13 of 14 Huge Teeth.

Remains of the oldest known inhabitant of Manhattan Island—a mastodon which died about 10,000 years ago in a marsh in the Inwood section—were removed yesterday to the American Museum of Natural History from a building lot at Payson Avenue and Dyckman Street, where they had been dug up by workmen on Tuesday.

A dozen fragments of bones of the thick-skinned young tree trunks and fourteen huge, ridged teeth were unearthed. All of the bone fragments are in the museum, but only one of the teeth escaped souvenir hunters.

These are the first mastodon remains found on Manhattan Island. Thirty-five years ago a mastodon tusk was excavated from the Harlem Ship Canal, but on the Bronx side.

During the last Ice Age and probably for some time thereafter, the Hudson Valley was inhabited by great herds of mastodons. The greatest mastodon cemetery in the world is at Newburgh, a site in those primeval days rich with mastodon food for the scene of the mastodons' annual dance or, more probably, a great marsh or quicksand which lay on the trail used by mastodons in their migrations and trapped them by the hundreds.

"Bones!" He Shouted.

"Mangile Domenico was digging in soft, wet clay twenty-two feet below the ground level on Tuesday when his shovel cut through chunks which resembled rotten planks. He examined them and shouted 'Bones!'"

Ambrose Conforti, the contractor, who was excavating for an apartment house foundation, took a look. The men picked up the chunks, which resembled fragments of ship timbers and crumbled between thumb and finger.

"They must be elephant's bones," said Conforti. "We'll have to give them to the museum."

Conforti's force soon had dug enough bones to fill a large box, including fourteen chunks of ivory with massive irregular cups and long roots. The news soon spread through the neighborhood and hundreds gathered that night to see the remains of this ancient citizen of Inwood. Conforti put a watchman over the bones for the night, but yesterday morning a milkman seized one of the teeth in the box.

Grabbed a Tooth for His Hazel.

"I want this for Hazel," he told onlookers. "It'll be a corking thing for the whatnot."

The merit of this idea was instantly recognized, and others raided the teeth. Only three were left yesterday afternoon when Dr. C. C. Mook of the American Museum arrived. These and the bones were presented to the museum by Conforti, but before Dr. Mook could carry them to an automobile, two of the teeth had been stolen, so that the museum got but one. An atrocious luck is supposed to attach to such relics in private hands, it is possible some of the others will be given to the museum later. The lot where the remains were found is in a gully which runs between the old Billings estate and the proposed Inwood Park from Broadway to the Hudson River. Just north is a thirty-foot cliff. After a superficial examination of the site, Dr. Mook said that the remains came from Pleistocene clay, which was laid down about 10,000 years ago. The mastodon, because of its weight, might have been beamed in a marsh.

"It is not any great surprise to find such remains here," said Dr. Mook. "They were prominent in the Hudson Valley and might be found anywhere right down to the ocean. The mastodon was not quite so tall as the elephant, but a little broader. We are not quite sure that species survived the Ice Age."

Live Mastodons Seen by Indians.

EXPERTS WILL AID
RISK MERGER PLAN

Little Study by Group Will
Furnish Specific Proposal to
the Public Commission.

PRODUCERS TO COOPERATE
In preparing the Commission's
proposal, the producers of the
film will cooperate with the
group in New York.

THE PRODUCTION OF
A FILM BY THE GROUP
WILL BE A JOINT EFFORT
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THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1936

19

To Prove Our Case
and introduce better
shaving to more
millions of men

49¢ for a
Gold Plated
Valet AutoStop Razor

Latest Model
Complete Outfit

Our
Reasons
for this very
Sensational Offer

On sale at all stores displaying
this window sign

Experience has taught us this: If a man will only try the Valet AutoStop Razor, he will adopt it.

The difficulty lies in so many men getting into a habit. They continue to use a non-stopping razor. They fail to learn a better way.

Hence our sensational offer. It costs you only 49¢ to give this self-stopping razor a trial.

Use the Valet AutoStop Razor for a month. You'll have a super-keen blade for every shave. Compare this way with your former way. See if you care to return to a non-stopping razor.

Millions of men have adopted a

better way, afforded solely by the Valet AutoStop Razor, the only razor that stops its own blades automatically.

No need to remove the blade to stop or clean. Handy. Simple. Speedy.

Don't continue your present shaving method, without giving this better way a trial. Learn for yourself. It costs but 49¢. This trial will open up years of shaving satisfaction.

This special offer lasts for only a few days, as long as the special allotment lasts.

For sale at all leading drug stores and cigar stores. Look for the special sale sign. Free yourself from dull blades.

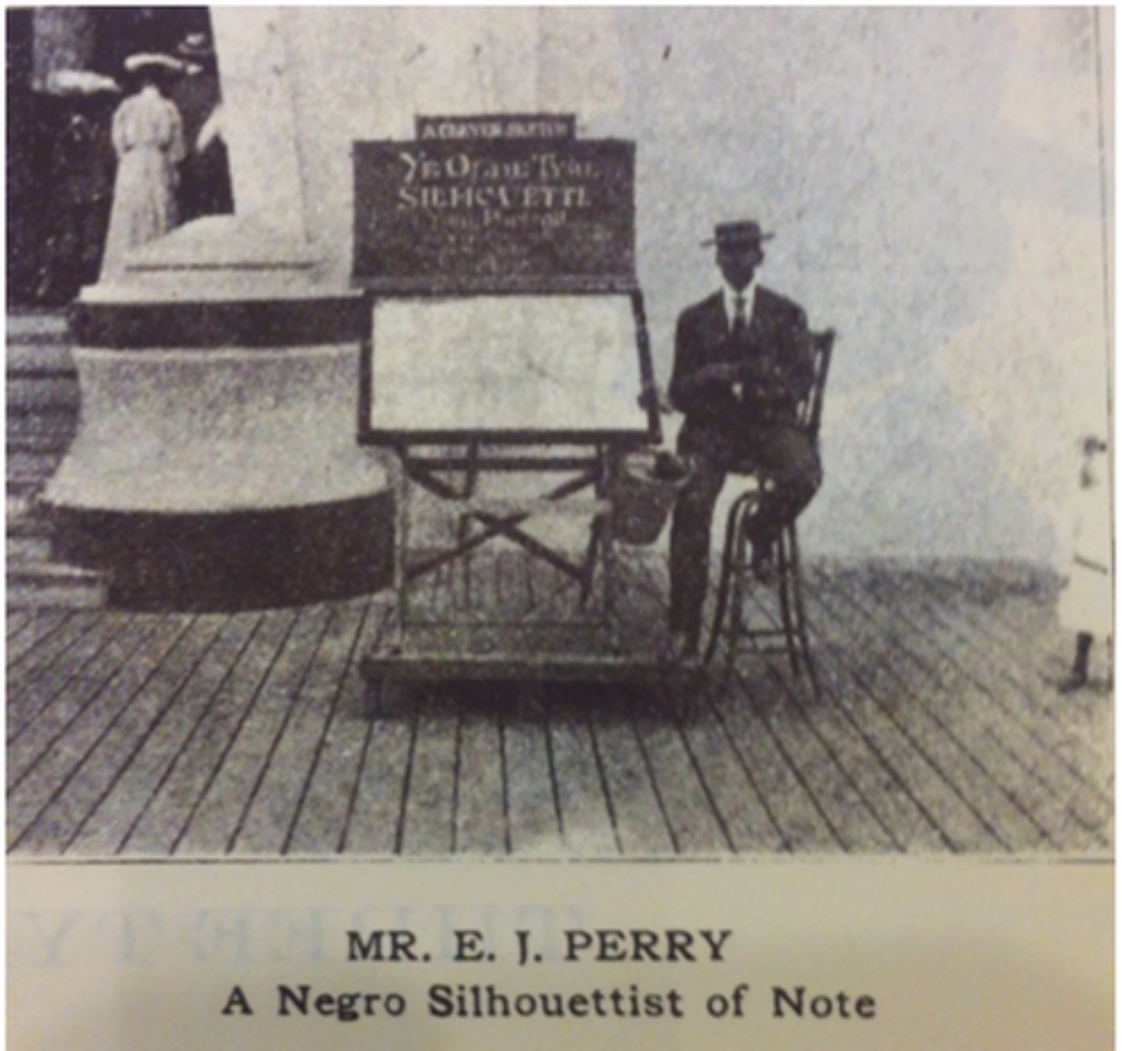


What
You Get
Razor (Gold
Plated)
Stop
Blade
Box (Gold
Plated)
Case



Sharpens Itself

AUTOSTOP SAFETY RAZOR CO., 656 First Avenue, New York City



« The silhouettes and the artist are both black. » E.J. Perry, seule photographie connue. Né en 1879, il semble officier l'été à Coney Island et l'hiver au Dolphin Hotel de Harlem. Sa trace disparaît en 1934.