

30 up 3:30 p.m. wrote galpin-
letter for SH - wrote SH -
SL call - out to Tiffany - back
unite - stay up.

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#87 | 30 MARS 1925

30 MARS. Dimanche. Sur le vapeur « *Lexington* » à destination de la Nouvelle-Angleterre. Je vais à Providence, Boston, Marblehead, Salem, Albany, et je ne sais où encore. Parti de Christopher St. à 17 h 30 (prévu à 17 h), j'ai contourné la pointe de Manhattan et je remonte l'East River. On a passé Bedloe puis Wards, mais où on est maintenant je ne saurais te le dire. Mon amie ! Si jamais je te donne un frisson tel que celui que j'ai eu en voyant le cher Shelton depuis la proue de ce digne Lexington, je n'aurai pas vécu en vain. Le bon vieux pont de Brooklyn, vu du sud, vaut la peine d'être vu. Je n'ai pas pris de couchette et je passerai la majeure partie de la nuit à l'une de ces tables à écrire des lettres à toi et à certains de ces garçons qui semblent m'aimer (étrangement) et dont je suis amoureux (naturellement, car ce sont les meilleurs gars du monde). J'ai testé mes forces en allant à Staten Island, Elizabeth, Queensborough, Jamaica et d'autres lieux similaires dans les environs de New York. C'est vraiment merveilleux. Croirais-tu qu'à New York, on peut marcher pendant un demi-mile ou plus sans voir une maison ou un être humain ? Non, je ne veux pas dire à travers un tube, mais à l'air libre... J'ai hâte de voir Marblehead et Salem. Et aussi Providence, le lieu de naissance et la ville natale de mon ami HPL. Boston également et, assez curieusement, Albany, que j'ai traversée je ne sais combien de fois sans jamais descendre du train.

À peine Kirk est-il (embarquement Christopher Street, ce qui explique la halte d'hier Downing Street) qu'il écrit à Lucile... et aux « boys » du Kalem Club. Manière bien sûr d'occuper la nuit assis. Contourner Manhattan via Battery Park puis remonter l'East River en passant sous leur Brooklyn Bridge pour rejoindre le « Sound » de Long Island, mieux protégé que la pleine mer : à nous de le suivre en imagination.



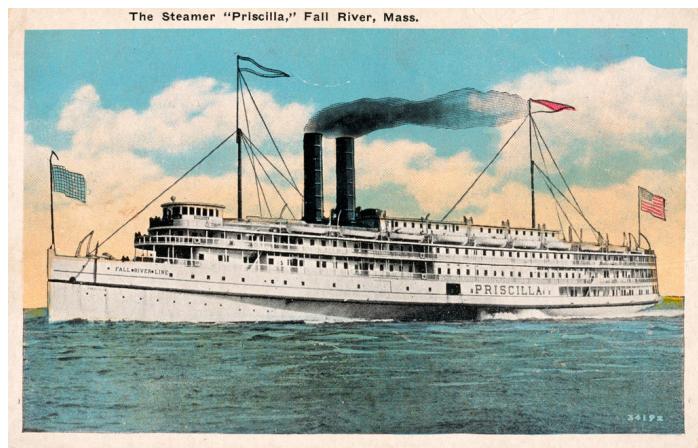
Drawn by W. L. Mowatt

LEXINGTON In Long Island Sound on Monday
Eve, Janst 13th 1840, by which melancholy occurrence; over 100 PERSONS PERISHED.

St. Omer's 5th & Park 2. Stevens 32-8. 3

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Souvenir tragique : le premier Lexington, déjà armé par la compagnie Vanderbilt, et sur le même trajet qu'emprunte Kirk dans le Sound de Long Island, explose en 1840, cent morts. L'épave fait encore saliver les chercheurs de trésor. Pas de trace qu'on ait baptisé « Lexington » ses héritiers (on a le Priscilla, le Commonwealth, le Town of Lowell et le Town of Taunton) : c'est donc devenu, pour Kirk, un nom générique pour les bateaux de la ligne ?



[1925, lundi 30 mars]

Up 3:30 p.m. — wrote Galpin — letters for SH — wrote SH — SL call — out to Tiffany — back & write — stay up.

Levé à 15h30. J'écris à Galpin. Démarches pour Sonia, puis écrit à Sonia. Arrivée Loveman, on descend au Tiffany. Retour et écrit toute la nuit.

« Oh, garçon ! T'aurais dû le voir ce matin, le GrandPa ! L'était-il pas beau ? Clamons-le au monde entier ! Du dessous de ma fière chevelure jusqu'à un point périlleusement près de mon oeil gauche se propage sur le front de marbre une fissure magnifique et parfaitement gore, ajoutant au classique de ma silhouette un charme dont certes elle manquait auparavant — la scarification diabolique du pirate ou des duellistes de Heidelberg. C'est quoi le problème ? Étrange expérience, les amis ! Je devrais en écrire un récit plein de tremblements de terre, avalanches et tout ça. Hier vers 6 heures du matin, après avoir toute la pleine nuit studieusement écrit penché sur mon bureau, j'entre dans la cuisine pour préparer mon repas solitaire. Peut-être sais-tu que je suis un mangeur singulièrement léger, et que je me contente au quotidien d'un seul repas, complété d'un verre de lait avec des crackers. Et c'était l'heure du verre de lait ! Je m'étais assis à la table et procédais au savant mélange de ma cuisine épicurienne quand j'entendis une sorte de craquement, et devant moi plus rien qu'un brouillard gris. Avant que j'aie pu secouer ma tête endormie pour la relier à la réalité environnante, se produisait sur le crâne ci-dessus mentionné un autre terrible événement — et sans autre avertissement tout le plafond du cosmos se déchirait et s'écroulait sur le pauvre GrandPa ! Ô dieux qui faites surgir un cataclysme d'aussi pauvres choses ! On rejouait pour moi les derniers jours de Pompéi ! Et cela m'abattit d'un coup tête contre la table, m'enterra sous les couches indistinctes de lave et le chaos des scories ! Si je n'avais pas une tête capable d'encaisser le choc, et la blessure qui en résulte, la lune aurait tissé cette nuit les fleurs de ses pâles rayons sur le blême cadavre de GrandPa ! Ainsi fus-je sanctifié par la poussière, quand bien même non pas celle des étoiles. Laissons de côté tout mystère et tous symboles, ce qu'il en fut réellement s'énonce ainsi : un morceau de plâtre du plafond s'est écroulé depuis un point juste à la verticale du dîneur solitaire. C'était un naufrage, qui n'attendait que moi ! La pièce ressemble à la Belgique dévastée, du moins ce que j'en voyais à travers le rideau de sang s'écoulant depuis le dôme blessé de mon chef. Mais je parvins quand même à ramper au dehors, écartant les pires débris et les monceaux de plâtre et de poussière. Aujourd'hui tout va bien, pour le dire à peu près. La blessure cicatrise, mais sûr quel accessoire à ma beauté ! Et une équipe de plâtriers au travail à prévoir — mais pas sur moi, mais dans

la cuisine. » (Traduction approximative.) Ce que Lovecraft écrit à son ami Galpin n'a pas été conservé : rien entre les 18 pages dactylographiées du 1er mai 1923 et la lettre à l'épouse française de Galpin le 26 août 1925. Mais à ce récit un peu du ton célinien de Lovecraft épistolier. L'habitude des nuits à écrire, comme ce jour même, ne commence donc pas à New York. Et puisqu'on a Lovecraft dans sa cuisine (quand à Providence il avait une cuisine), comparer le rédactionnel ci-dessus des femmes à la cuisine, à l'entrefilet ci-dessous, comme une société s'ébroue. Kirk pendant ce temps voyage : il en donne le détail à Lucile, merci à lui. Dans le journal : arrivée à New York de Marius Latour, un des pionniers du développement des lampes ayant permis l'essor de la radio, dès les toutes premières recherches pendant la Première Guerre, d'abord sous le nom de « thermionique », le mot « électronique » apparaît pour la première fois dans une de ses demandes de brevets. La radio, « bien commun » ? Autre inventeur oublié : de Dr Rogers qui expérimente la radio souterraine. Suicide de Margaret Pauline Lucas, 38 ans, écrivain, qui se jette du 7^{ème} étage de son hôtel (pas trace d'elle ni de sa sœur Helene, qui a signé elle aussi des nouvelles). Deux aviateurs disparaissent dans les marais des Everglades : souvenir de *L'appel de Cthulhu*. Et prestation contre le préjudice physique causé aux moins de seize ans employés dans l'industrie, avec leurs salaires de misère et « l'école de nuit ». Bienvenue dans cette nuit du 30 au 31 mars, Howard Phillips Lovecraft penche sur sa table à écrire jusqu'au matin.

New York Times, 30 mars 1925. Le projet d'une collecte de 4 500 000 dollars pour le Club House féminin lancé. Plus de 1 200 personnes, dont un nombre important de célébrités de la scène, ont participé hier soir à un dîner organisé à l'hôtel Plaza par l'Association des Femmes d'Amérique. Mlle Gertrude Robinson Smith en était la présidente. Elle donna successivement la parole à Elsie Janis, Mary Young, Laurette Taylor, Florence Nash, Marie Dressler et d'autres stars du théâtre. Toutes les oratrices apportèrent leur soutien au projet d'une nouvelle Maison des Femmes. Mlle Dressler se révélant particulièrement enthousiaste. Elle revint sur ses propres expériences d'actrice en tournée pour souligner comment un Club House assurerait aux femmes d'affaires de différents arts ou professions un environnement confortable et familier au moindre coût.

FINDS RADIOS HERE OWED HIM MILLIONS

Dr. Latour Already Rich, Is Amazed on Visit at Wide Use of His Inventions.

DECREE CONFIRMS RIGHTS

Agreement Made With 3 Concerns Waives Past Claims—Other Firms Negotiating.

Dr. Marius A. Latour of Paris came here recently to discover, according to announcements made last night, that inventions of his had found such universal application in radio-receiving apparatus that millions in royalties, or damages for infringement, were due to him.

Already comfortable from the proceeds of other scientific inventions, and more interested in abstract writings and studies, Dr. Latour made no claim to past profits and contented himself with concluding agreements in the last few days recognizing him as the inventor of devices which are embodied in most of the millions of receiving sets in use in the United States.

Some of Latour's inventions were made more than ten years ago, but in the meantime he has harvested no financial benefit because, until recently he was not aware of the vast development of radio in the United States and the general use of his inventions. Professor Latour said yesterday that he estimated that the agreements, already made and about to be made, would have a capital value of more than \$100,000. The corporations which have come to terms with the French scientist and obtained the legal right to use his inventions are the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the Radio Corporation of America and the Fried-Elsemann Radio Corporation.

The agreement with the Fried-Elsemann Corporation was signed at the offices of former Federal Judge Julius M. Mayer, 247 Park Avenue, on Saturday. Professor Latour said yesterday that negotiations were in progress with Leo de Forest and other radio manufacturers who are seeking leases of his patents.

Professor Latour's rights to fundamental inventions of value in broadcasting were confirmed by Federal Judge Augustus N. Hand in a decision on Saturday in favor of Latour and against the Hazeltine corporation.

Waived Claims for Damages.

In the agreements up to the present, Professor Latour has waived claims for damages for past infringements of his eighty-eight patents. It is alleged that practically every one of the several million vacuum tube radio receiving sets in this country embodies infringements of one or more of the French inventor's rights.

The professor was an engineer of the General Electric Company at Schenectady from 1904 to 1911 and is said to be wealthy from royalties derived from previous patents. Besides being an electrical and radio inventor, he is a poet and a writer on philosophy and psychology.

GIRL WRITER LEAPS 7 STORIES TO DEATH

Six Years' Grief Over Fiance Who Died Led to Suicide, Says Her Sister.

FORMERLY IN THE FOLLIES

III and Under Nurse's Care, Miss Lucas Makes Her Way to Roof of Hotel Grenoble.

Dwellers in apartments and hotels surrounding the seven-story Hotel Grenoble at Seventh Avenue and Fifty-sixth Street, yesterday afternoon, looking from their windows, saw a woman walking on the roof of the hotel. She stepped up on the parapet, stood poised there an instant, and then disappeared.

A moment later people in the lobby of the Grenoble heard a crash in the stone-flagged courtyard like the sound of a heavy door slamming. They were startled. The clerk in charge, Charles S. Rankin, ran out into the yard and found the body of Miss Margaret Pauline Lucas, 38 years old, a free lance advertising and feature writer, who lived in the hotel with her mother and sister. She had killed herself after six years of brooding over the death of a fiancé just before they were to be married.

The cries of alarmed residents of the hotel who saw the body from their windows brought the first news of the tragedy to the mother, Mrs. Alda Lucas, and the sister, Miss Helene Lucas, a short-story writer. Both were prostrated, the mother so seriously that she was put under a physician's care. From the sister was learned the story of the dead woman's melancholy, which followed the death of Duncan Wood, a member of a prominent family, she said, in an explosion in a munition plant near Philadelphia. Miss Lucas suffered a nervous breakdown then, which became more severe eight months ago. Recently she had been under the constant care of a trained nurse.

Joked Before Leap.

Miss Lucas had carefully disguised the fact that she intended to end her life, her sister said, and had appeared to be in unusually good spirits yesterday. Just before she mounted to the roof she went into the room of her sister, who was busy writing, and gave her some candy, joking as she did so.

"I never saw sister so well as today," said Miss Helene Lucas. "After she had visited with me a moment in my room, she left, and I thought she had gone back to her own room, where she would be with Justine Steel, her nurse, and my mother. Instead she must have gone to the roof. She must have climbed the stairs and avoided meeting people in the hotel who knew her, for if she had taken the elevator the operators would not have let her go to the roof.

"The next I knew of my sister was when I heard guests of the hotel running excitedly through the halls, shouting that there was a woman in the rear yard. At first I thought perhaps there was a fire, but when I went to the yard I learned this terrible thing. I collapsed and was carried to our apartment."

AVIATORS MISSING IN FLORIDA SWAMPS

R. A. Smith and E. P. Lott of New York Go Out Over Everglades and Do Not Return.

PLANNED TO TAKE PICTURES

Parties Will Start Out Today to Make a Wide Search for the Pair.

Special to The New York Times.

SEBRING, Fla., March 29.—Two aerial photographers who left here early yesterday morning to make surveys of the Ispokpoga drainage district have not been heard from since and are believed to have been lost in the Everglades. They are Captain R. A. Smith and E. P. Lott of New York, employed by the Fairchild's Flying Corporation of 136 West Fifty-second Street.

Since Jan. 1 Smith and Lott had been taking photographs of the drainage districts hereabouts, making their headquarters in Sebring at Circle Inn. Early yesterday morning they left the inn for their private flying field at Winter Haven, taking with them their photographic apparatus and other paraphernalia. That was the last seen of them.

The men told persons in Sebring that they planned to go toward Lake Okeechobee, thirty miles as the bird flies, to try out some new apparatus.

Otis A. Hardin, a contractor in charge of a reclamation project near Sebring, arrived there late yesterday to meet the photographers, who had agreed to be at the inn at 8 P. M. When neither of the photographers had appeared this morning, Mr. Hardin went to the flying field. Their plane, a 200-horsepower Fokker, was missing with their photographic apparatus.

Telephone and telegraph messages to all towns in the vicinity of Sebring, from Palm Beach and Miami on the east coast to Tampa and St. Petersburg on the west, have failed to report any trace of the missing men.

The area over which the aviators were to have taken pictures is one of the most sparsely settled sections of Florida. The Everglades are huge swamps over which has grown up a dense tropical foliage, and they spread for miles around. The swamp varies in depth from one foot to fifteen feet and are infested with alligators, many varieties of poisonous reptiles and vast swarms of mosquitoes.

There are no roads to speak of leading through this section as it is practically uninhabited. Persons familiar with the everglades say that if Lott and Captain Smith were forced to make a landing anywhere in the interior it might be days before they are found.

It is virtually impossible for any one unfamiliar with the Everglades swamp lands to make any headway through them because of the varying depth of the waters and tangled tropical growths, it is asserted, and the only practicable way by which a rescue can be effected is through the use of air-

PHYSICAL DEFECTS IN CHILD WORKERS

Nearly Half Those 14 and 15 Years Old Injuriously Affected by Labor.

6 PER CENT. TOIL OVERTIME

Results of a Survey Announced by State Industrial Commissioner James A. Hamilton.

State Industrial Commissioner James A. Hamilton, in a statement issued yesterday on the results of a study of the health of working children, points out that nearly half of those 14 and 15 years old were found to have physical defects which were aggravated by the work they were doing.

The study included 412 working boys and girls under 16 years of age in New York City, and was conducted at the city's two continuation schools.

"Almost half of the children entered industry because money was needed at home; but a second very large group went to work because it was dissatisfied with what school had to offer," says the statement.

"The desire which many of these children have for more education is emphasized by the fact that in addition to working every day almost one-eighth of the children attended night school. Wages centred at about \$12, and only 3 per cent. of the children received less than \$10. Half of the children worked forty-four hours, though 6 per cent. contrary to the law, worked more than forty-eight hours. Boys had the active, girls the sedentary jobs. One-third of the boys were on their feet the entire workday; one-quarter of the girls sat the whole of their workday. One-fourth of the children were provided with wholly inadequate chairs, in most cases stools.

"On the health side the number of physical defects for each child averaged 2.4. Almost one-fifth of the children had some visual defect, one-third had dental defects, one-eighth had enlarged tonsils, 5 per cent. of the girls had thyroid enlargement, and 4 per cent. of the children had heart affections. Tuberculosis was found in 1 per cent. with lung abnormality in 3 per cent.

"Half of the children with a flat-foot condition had to be on their feet the greater part of their workday; one-quarter of the children with defective eyesight worked under eye strain; more than one-half of the children with heart affections worked under an excessive nerve strain. Subjecting the child under 16 to conditions of work which tend to break rather than strengthen his physical equipment would seem to be false economy.

"Fortunately, through existing cooperation of the Health, Labor and Educational Departments, and the valuable aid of the many agencies which are looking after the interests of our children, these conditions are being uncovered and efforts made to eliminate them."

UNDERGROUND RADIO HEARD 3,000 MILES

Dr. Rogers of Hyattsville (Md.) Reaches Pacific Coast—Will Try Next for Europe.

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, March 29.—After tests carried on for two months, Dr. James Harris Rogers of Hyattsville said today that he succeeded Saturday night in broadcasting as far as the Pacific Coast, or a distance of about 3,000 miles, with his underground radio transmitting set.

He received a telegram today from W. J. Nutt of Signal Station VIEZ, Los Angeles, saying the signals "were coming in finely."

Previous to the tests conducted last week, Dr. Rogers had been able to transmit messages from his underground antennae only as far as Weston, Kan., and Greenville, Texas, distances of 1,300 and 1,200 miles. Dr. Rogers also succeeded last week, it was said, in broadcasting as far as Albuquerque, N. M., a distance of 2,500 miles.

Dr. Rogers is a pioneer inventor in the field of underground transmission and last week made achievement so great that he expects laying of a 600-mile line which he intends to conduct his tests as soon

HUSBAND MISSING A WEEK.

Kissed Wife and Promised to Meet Her a Few Hours Later.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 29.—A week ago today Wilmer S. Chew, 38, kissed his wife good-bye in the morning and promised to meet her at 1:30 P. M., to close a deal on a cigar and stationery store that Mrs. Chew was going to conduct, and left the house in apparently cheerful spirits. He has not been seen since.

Mrs. Chew, bordering on a nervous breakdown, has pursued every possible clue as to her husband's whereabouts without result. The day after his disappearance, Mrs. Chew received a note from her husband, in which he said that he was en route to New York and would go from there to Canada. Since then no word has been received from the missing man.

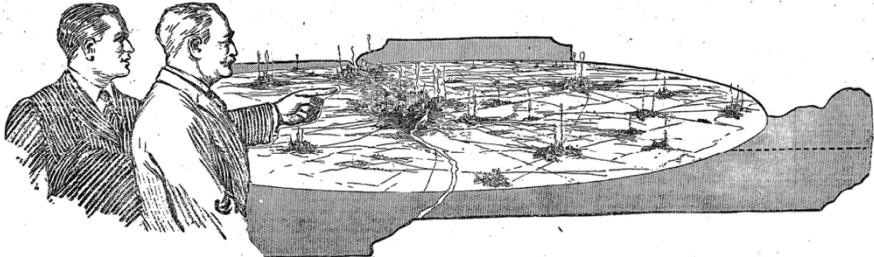
RADIO'S EFFECT ON BOOKS.

Novelist Predicts Writings Will Be Read Over Air in Future.

Cosmo Hamilton, the British novelist and playwright, in an address last night before the Jackson Heights Press Club at Jackson Heights, Queens, said the radio, now in its infancy, would profoundly affect writing in the next few years.

Novelists would have to boil their productions down from the 100,000 words of the present to 5,000, so that they could be read over the radio, he said. In five years, he said, reading would be superseded to a great extent, the public listening to its stories over the radio and seeing its plays in the moving picture theatres.

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