

up late - dust room - out to  
WED. Garfield - Boys arrive -  
TELGRAPH  
Marlton 1st, **APRIL** RK & SL,  
& Leeds. Spirited meeting -  
Marlton & SL go first then RK,  
up to SK room with Leeds - out  
~~of Johnson's~~ - see Leeds off -  
**THUR.** return & read - stay up.  
2

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#89 | 1<sup>ER</sup> AVRIL 1925

Quant à H.R.H. et ses menaces grandissantes d'embonpoint il devrait prendre des leçons de diète auprès de Grand'Pa Theobald ! Le régime alimentaire et la marche sont des éléments essentiels — ce qui me rappelle que ce soir, j'ai commencé mon programme de repas à domicile, après avoir dépensé 30 cts pour la quantité de nourriture qui devrait fournir à *TROIS* repas :

1 pain... 0,06

à l'épicerie : 1 boîte moyenne de haricots... 0,14

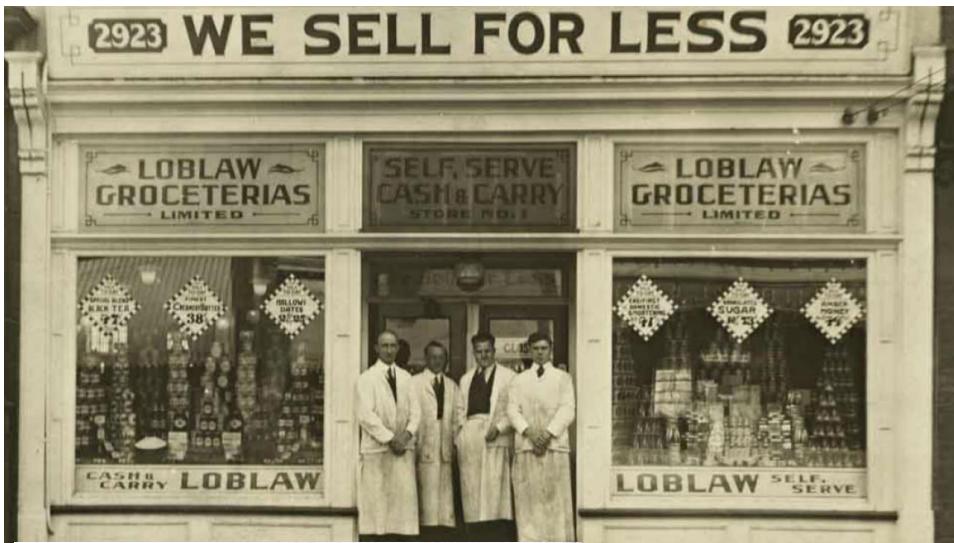
au James Butler : 1/2 livre de fromage

(deux magasins comme nos Mayflowers de Providence)

Total----- 0.30

Je fais chauffer les haricots sur le Sterno, en gardant la sauce séparément dans une tasse recouverte d'une soucoupe. Oui, je suis en train de devenir une femme de ménage très efficace, et parions que les factures les plus salées ne seront pas celles du garde-manger ! Le loyer et la blanchisserie sont les postes les plus importants — et une entreprise de pirates nous réclame 35 cents chacun pour livrer nos cols de chemise au numéro 15 ! Je les laisse faire, mais je crois que je vais essayer de voir ce que je peux faire moi-même dans ce domaine !

Howard Phillips Lovecraft, lettre à Lilian Clark, 2 avril 1925.



*Les boîtes de haricots et le fromage achetés chez Garfield : l'enseigne appartient à Loblaw, inventeurs du self-service !*

[1925, mercredi 1er avril]

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Up late — dust room — out to Garfield — Boys arrive — TELEGRAM — Morton 1st, RK & SL, & Leeds. Spirited meeting — Morton & SL go first, then RK, up to GK room with Leeds — out to Johnson's — see Leeds off — return & read — stay up.

*Levé tard. Fait le ménage. Sorti pour Garfield Place, les Boys arrivent.*

*Kirk s'excuse par télégramme. Morton le premier, puis Kleiner & Loveman. Rencontre tonique. Morton et Loveman repartent les premiers, puis Kleiner, on monte chez Kirk avec Leeds. Puis au Johnson, jusqu'au départ de Leeds. Retour et lu. Nuit blanche.*

Kirk s'est excusé par télégramme, depuis New Haven, de ne pouvoir les rejoindre. Parce que c'est du sérieux, leur réunion hebdomadaire, et dans la lettre à Lilian Lovecraft en tient l'exact détail, encore une preuve de son carnet comme archive collective, d'un petit bout d'histoire littéraire (au moins à ses yeux) et la journée y passe : « J'ai commencé par nettoyer ma chambre en prévision de la réunion des Boys. Mortonius a été le premier à arriver, puis Kleiner et Loveman ensemble, enfin Leeds. Sonny n'a pas pu venir, mais Kirk a envoyé un télégramme de regret depuis New Haven. La réunion fut animée, mais Morton dut partir tôt pour le dernier train de Paterson — Loveman partit avec lui. Puis Kleiner à son tour, après quoi Leeds et moi sommes montés à l'étage pour examiner les livres et les photos de Kirk. Leeds est reparti à 3 heures du matin, après qu'on ait pris un café et une tarte aux abricots au Johnson's. » Il faut le journal des Goncourt pour une telle précision dans la vie au quotidien des écrivains, mais ni Jules ni Edmond ne nous parlent forcément de ceux qui nous concerneraient le plus. Leeds à droit lui aussi à la visite des trésors de Kirk, Lovecraft a la clé, pour lui montrer les livres et les gravures (plutôt que photographies, Lovecraft parlant juste de *pictures* — on a aussi à Paris ce commerce des gravures arrachées aux éditions anciennes et vendues séparément). Leeds n'est pas un membre du premier cercle, quoique faisant officiellement partie du Kalem Club, mais il a fait trente-six métiers (il a même travaillé dans un cirque, adolescent) et c'est avec lui que Lovecraft va tenter de devenir rédacteur publicitaire — sa brouille avec Everett McNeil va peser sur le Kalem, contraignant Lovecraft à des visites séparées au vieux bonhomme dans la misère, et ses romans pour adolescents. De quoi parle-t-on, à 3 heures du matin, dans le Johnson's probablement désert ? Le livre qui l'entraîne à nouveau dans une nuit sans dormir, c'est une nouvelle version des *Mille et une nuits* prêtée par Morton, avec des contes qu'il ne connaît pas. Au moins aura-t-il « pris les poussières » (*dust room*), comme aurait dit Mme Maigret. Dans

le journal, la rumeur d'assassinat de Trotski : elle se révélera fausse, mais noter que l'article ne mentionne pas encore le nom de celui qui dès à présent exerce le pouvoir, Joseph Staline. Pas de semaine sans accident minier : après Merlebach, Newcastle. Une expédition américaine, missionnée par le Musée d'histoire naturelle, quitte Shangai pour le désert de Gobi. Les deux aviateurs photographes retrouvés, après trois jours, près du lac Istokpoga en Floride centrale (sur une diagonale qui irait de Palm Beach à St Petersburg) : trois jours avec deux boîtes de haricots et quelques barres de chocolat, un peu d'eau à condition de creuser avec les mains dans le sable, et quand on les retrouve ils finissaient de réparer leur moteur et se préparaient à redécoller. Inauguration d'un cours d'histoire du livre à la Yale. Le *New York Evening Post* annonce quatre pages de photographies dans ses éditions quotidiennes à partir d'aujourd'hui. L'explorateur Rasmussen en mission pour le Canada contre les infanticides de petite fille parmi les Eskimos de la baie de l'Hudson. Diffuser d'anciens films avec un nouveau titre ? Oui, mais à condition de mentionner explicitement le titre original, on suppose quelques abus ! Farces du 1<sup>er</sup> avril : demander « Mister Fish » à l'opératrice de téléphone vous vaudra des ennuis — et le zoo du Bronx ne donnera pas suite aux appels demandant M. Lion ou M. Ours. Et, en écho et prolongement à la cour d'immeuble de *The Last Laugh*, cette poursuite mortelle d'un revendeur de drogue, de nouveau le New York de la nuit (où veille Lovecraft, une fois de plus, assis à sa table pour écrire).

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*New York Times*, 1er avril 1925. La nuit dernière, une descente conjointe des agents de la brigade des narcotiques et des inspecteurs en civil de la Commission spéciale de la division narcotiques de la police sur les vendeurs de drogue et leurs clients dans le Morningside s'est terminée par la mort d'un revendeur de drogue, tué par les agents fédéraux. Il les avait attaqués avec un couteau dans la cour d'un immeuble d'appartements au 316 de la 112<sup>ème</sup> rue Ouest, ont-ils déclaré, alors qu'ils l'encerclaient après une première tentative de fuite. L'homme abattu était Salvatore Corti, domicilié au 253 de la 11<sup>ème</sup> rue Ouest. Il venait de vendre une livre d'héroïne aux agents fédéraux James J Murray et George J Coyle pour 8 dollars en billets marqués, au coin de Manhattan Avenue et de la 112<sup>ème</sup> rue. La vente a été effectuée en présence de Louis Ferara, 22 ans, domicilié 432 Wales Avenue, que les détectives en civil William Czech et Percival Harmon avaient arrêté moins d'une demi-heure plus tôt avec six autres personnes dans le Morningside Park. Les agents fédéraux et les inspecteurs de la commission Simon surveillaient les activités de Ferara dans le parc depuis plusieurs nuits, mais les fédéraux souhaitaient ne pas l'arrêter avant d'avoir identifié son propre fournisseur. Les détectives de la commission Simon procédèrent à son arrestation à 22h, après l'avoir convaincu de leur vendre de la drogue. Ils l'emmenèrent au commissariat de la 123<sup>ème</sup> rue sous l'inculpation de violation de la loi Harrison sur les narcotiques. Puis ils apprirent des agents fédéraux Murray et Coyle que l'homme leur avait échappé

dans l'obscurité, et qu'ils voulaient s'en servir comme appât pour arrêter son fournisseur. La police le ramena dans le parc. Ferara amena les agents jusqu'à Corti, qu'il connaissait sous le nom de « The Midge ». La police le suivait. Corti était debout contre le mur d'un bâtiment au coin de Manhattan Avenue et de la 112ème rue. Ferara lui présenta les deux agents fédéraux. Corti leur vendit la drogue. Ils lui déclarèrent alors qu'il était en état d'arrestation et il s'échappa. Il courut jusqu'à une cour d'immeuble voisine, où les agents fédéraux le poursuivirent. Murray et Coyle ont déclaré qu'alors qu'ils voulaient s'en saisir au fond de la cour il se retourna sur eux avec un couteau, qu'ils sortirent alors leurs pistolets et que tous deux tirèrent à la fois. Corti, qui se révéla être âgé de 32 ans, tomba à terre, une balle logée près du cœur. Ils le transportèrent dans le hall, où il mourut presque immédiatement. Les deux agents fédéraux et les autres témoins comparaîtront ce matin devant le District Attorney Morgan A Jones, chef du bureau des homicides, qui a bien précisé qu'aucun des deux n'était inculpé.

## Raid on Drug Venders in Morningside Park Results in Death of One Who Draws Knife

A combined descent last night by Federal narcotic agents and plain clothes men of Special Deputy Police Commissioner Simon's narcotic division upon drug peddlers and drug addicts in Morningside Park resulted in one drug seller being shot and killed by Federal agents. He had attacked them with a knife in the yard of the apartment house at 316 West 112th Street, they said, when they cornered him in his flight from arrest.

The slain man was Salvatore Corti of 253 West 111th Street. Last night he sold to Federal Agents James J. Murray and George J. Coyle a quarter of an ounce of heroin for \$8 in marked banknotes at the corner of Manhattan Avenue and 112th Street. The sale was made in the presence of Louis Ferara, 22 years old, of 432 Wales Avenue, whom plain clothes men William Czech and Percival Harmon of Dr. Simon's staff had arrested less than half an hour before with six other men in Morningside Park.

Both the Federal men and Dr. Simon's detectives had been watching Ferara's activities in the park several nights, but the Federal agents had decided not to arrest him until they could identify the man to whom he was employed. The city's detectives seized him about 10 o'clock, after inducing him to sell them a drug.

They took him to the West 123d Street station and booked him on a charge of

violating the Harrison narcotic act. Then they heard from Federal agents Murray and Coyle that the man had evaded them in the darkness, and they wanted to use him in capturing his employer. The police took him back to the park.

Ferara led the Federal agents to Corti, whom he knew as "Midge." The police went along as Corti was standing against the wall of a building at Manhattan Avenue and 112th Street. Ferara introduced the Federal agents.

Corti told them he was a prisoner and he bolted. He ran through a near-by apartment house with the Federal agents in pursuit. The police held their positions. Murray and Coyle said when they caught their man in the apartment yard he whirled on them with a knife. Both pulled their pistols and shot simultaneously. Corti, who later appeared to be about 32 years old, dropped. One bullet was lodged close to his heart. They carried him to the vestibule, where he died almost immediately.

Assistant District Attorney Morgan A. Jones, head of the Homicide Bureau, questioned the Federal agents and the police and announced that he had ordered that neither Murray nor Coyle be arrested. He said the two Federal agents and other witnesses would appear at his office this morning to make formal statements.

*Let Dravy Tree Surgeons examine your trees  
without cost. Phone Murray Hill 1517. —Adv.*

*The Nassau Hotel, Long Beach, L. I., opens  
Decoration Day; same management. —Adv.*

*Petite inversion technique : cet article a été publié hier dans l'édition du 31 mars, et la belle histoire des 10 dollars que j'ai insérée dans le PDF d'hier est publiée dans l'édition de ce jour — vous me permettez cet erratum et on conserve l'inversion ?*

# RASMUSSEN TO SAVE ESKIMO GIRL BABIES

Leaves Here in Week to Aid the Canadian Government to Stop Infanticide Custom.

## SAYS BOYS ARE NOT KILLED

Rigors of Existence Responsible for Practice, He Explains —Death by Smothering.

## LIFE IS NOT HELD SACRED

Describes Native Songs and Legends and His Twenty Years of Exploration in the Arctic.

Knud Rasmussen, Arctic explorer, who recently was invited by the Canadian Government to report on the Eskimos of the Hudson Bay and more northern regions, arrived here yesterday on the Cunard liner *Aurania* from Liverpool. He said that one of the Eskimo practices which the Canadian Government hopes to stop is the killing of all girl infants, save those pledged in marriage.

The custom of Eskimo Infanticide, according to Dr. Rasmussen, developed from the Eskimo's difficulty in providing food and other necessities for the family.

"The Eskimo has not in any sense the same moral viewpoint as civilized people," he explained, "and the life of a child has about the same value as the life of any other creature. If there is not provender enough they kill the girl babies immediately after birth by smothering them. If a girl baby, prior to birth, is pledged in marriage the mother will preserve it. If not, the line of least resistance is followed and the infant is put out of the way. Boy babies have a greater value and are seldom, if ever, killed."

Rasmussen completed last December a four-year expedition to the Arctic, and explained that he has turned back at the Siberian frontier by the Bolsheviks. He started from Greenland, covered the upper stretches of Baffinland, and went down the Hudson Bay country westward toward the magnetic pole, thence circuitously through Northern Alaska, touching at Point Barrow, and southward along the little known coast of Alaska to British Columbia.

He covered 20,000 miles of Arctic region and took many thousands of feet of moving picture film of the Eskimos. The film will be shown in America, he announced, by Dr. M. I. Nyebroe, Chairman of the Danish committee that backed the expedition. Dr. Nyebroe arrived with Dr. Rasmussen on the *Aurania*. Dr. Rasmussen will be at the Hotel Pennsylvania for about a week before leaving for Ottawa.

Described Eskimo Life.

# ALL HOPE ABANDONED FOR 38 ENTOMBED MEN

Rescuers at Newcastle, England, Say It Will Take 3 Weeks to Reach Flood-Trapped Miners.

NEWCASTLE, England, March 31 (Associated Press). Late tonight it seemed as though nothing short of a miracle would serve to save the thirty-eight men and boys who were caught on Monday by a sudden rush of water into the Montague Colliery at Scobwood.

Rescuers, however, were still laboring with great energy on the installation of giant pumping apparatus in an endeavor to free the mine of water. But the company's consulting engineer ruefully admitted that there was no further hope to be entertained for the entrapped workers, as even with the hardest kind of pumping it would take three weeks to reach the victims. It would be impossible, he declared, to send down divers into the rushing torrent, and moreover noxious gases ruined the places where rescuers would have a possible chance to operate.

The Bishop of Newcastle today and tonight headed a number of spiritual comforters of all denominations who gathered at the pithead, where grief-stricken relatives of the men still clinging to the seemingly vain hope of ultimate rescue.

Men who attempted to enter the pit mouth this morning said the waters were rising rapidly, and that the deadly black damp was already present, greatly lessening the chances of life for the imprisoned men would escape alive.

Of the thirty-eight entrapped men, mine officials announced, twenty-six are married and have a total of seventy dependents.

Officials of the Mines' Association are arranging for financial relief for these dependents, while the local authorities are arranging a fund for the same purpose.

The disaster is the worst in England since January, 1915, when 155 men were lost in the coal pit at St. Fagans.

Two hundred men were in the mine when the flood started, but all except the thirty-eight escaped. Eight of those

trapped are said to be on a ridge near the roof of the mine.

# Can't Phone Mr. Fish Today; Try Mr. Bear or Mr. Chetah

The public stock of harmless pleasure is to be impoverished today by the sudden withdrawal of the hallowed privilege of calling up Whitehall 1-560 on April Fool's Day and asking for Mr. Fish.

After bearing the brunt of this standard form of wit for thirty or forty years, the authorities of the Aquarium yesterday asked the officials of the telephone company to cut off its April 1 telephone service and give the public a chance to scatter its jests.

Another delicate stroke of wit which is to be baffled today is that of cajoling strangers into calling up the City Mortuary and asking to talk to Mr. Coffin or Mr. Slab.

Not all wit, originally and invention are to be abolished. Fordham 5560 can still be called. Director William J. Hornaday has given orders that no attempt shall be made to discourage the simple pleasures of the people by denying them the right to telephone there for Messrs. Lyon, Bear, Gnu or Chetah. He has in fact assigned a special telephone operator to handle the April Fool business, on which the Bronx Zoo today expects to have nearly a monopoly.

# Moscow Opposition Think Trotsky Slain; Paris Hears Zinovieff Ordered His Death

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Special Cable to The New York Times.

LONDON, March 31.—The Stockholm *Tidningar* today published a dispatch from Moscow reporting that Leon Trotsky had disappeared without leaving any clue to his whereabouts, and the Opposition leader at the Soviet capital believes he has been murdered and his body disposed of.

The message said that during his enforced exile the deposed Red Army Chief first lived on the estate of Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovich at Sinaia, a Romanian mountain resort, but after an attempt was made against him by unknown persons he moved to Suchumi, where he lived in a villa formerly occupied by a millionaire named Chakhabashvili.

The Soviet Government, the report continued, has ordered all frontier guards to exercise the strictest watch on all frontier stations. The ministry has also ordered the Black Sea Fleet to watch all shipping.

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.

By Wireless to The New York Times.

PARIS, March 31.—A rumor was cur-

rent in Paris today that Leon Trotsky, former Soviet War Minister, had been assassinated. A message was said to have been received from Russia alleging that the rumor was committed by the order of Gregory Zinovieff, head of the Third International.

This followed the report of his flight from his villa in the Caucasus, which, it was said, was circulated by the Soviet Government to hoodwink the public.

In order to allay suspicion, the Soviet is said to be keeping a close watch of all frontier stations lest Trotsky should attempt to flee abroad. Russian newspapers are said to have been forbidden to publish any news of his safety.

The official version is that Trotsky has managed to cross the frontier and is hiding in a foreign country. It is impossible to obtain any definite news of the truth of these messages, which are causing much excitement among Russians here.

## YALE BOOK COURSES ARE MADE PERMANENT

**Professor Keogh's Innovation Is  
Now Called One of the Most  
Successful Since 1914.**

*Special to The New York Times.*  
NEW HAVEN, March 31.—Yale's newest department, a group of studies, included in the courses in bibliography, founded by Professor Andrew Keogh, has been pronounced one of the most successful innovations attempted at Yale in university reorganization since the World War, and will be expanded as a permanent feature.

Professor Keogh, who has been the university librarian for ten years, was made John Sterling Professor of Bibliography a year ago and opened the group by instituting the two courses. The first is in the graduate school and is intended chiefly for students of literature and history, particularly for those pursuing studies in advanced English. He has made a study of practical aspects of bibliography, including a discussion of general reference works, book translation, the bibliography of philology and history, catalogues of manuscripts and of special collections in other libraries, and the printing of dissertations.

The second course is for undergraduates and includes the development of the book from ancient times to the present, plus an exhibition illustrated by specimens of manuscripts, early printed books, issued by Yale, and present examples of bindings and the graphic arts. There also have been exhibitions of library methods of classification and cataloguing and preparing students for the work of public libraries and for the care of their own.

The classes have been large and have resulted in one of the most unusual achievements of any professor. There has been a single session or tardiness during the year, and not a student has left when the hour was over for the formal lecture. Professor Keogh invariably has remained an hour longer, and in every case the class has spent the second hour listening to the informal discussion on books.

The result has been to create remarkable interest in books and libraries and to make many Yale students and collectors, whose accumulation of volumes has made possible, it is believed, the largest exhibition ever made by the students of any university. Eight of the students who have received an honor stand at midyear for the first half year's work.

In connection with the courses in bibliography, the Englishman Club, an undergraduate organization, has great influence on book collecting at the university. The club has a collection valued at more than \$250,000.

Announcement is made that the electrical engineers of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale will offer in the third week in April a course for electric metermen of Connecticut and adjoining States, which is designed to give them a better understanding of the increasingly technical requirements of commercial electric metering.

## COURT TELLS HIM TO SMILE.

Rapp Ignores Advice When Ordered to Pay His Wife \$8 a Week.

"Practice a daily dozen smiles before your mirror for a week and you won't know yourself," was the advice Magistrate John Kochendorfer in the Flushing Police Court yesterday gave Edward Rapp, 22 years old, of 515 East Eighty-sixth Street. Rapp appeared to answer a charge of non-support brought by his wife Florence of 123 Toledo Street, Elmhurst. They have a 10-months-old baby. "You are too grumpy," the Magistrate told Rapp. "Smile three times a day and you will find a great difference in your life. Today you look like 35 years old instead of 22. If you don't cheer up old will look like 70 when you are 40."

Rapp was ordered to pay his wife \$8 a week and the case was adjourned until April 14, but Rapp did not smile.

## LIMITS NEW TITLES FOR REISSUED FILMS

**Federal Board Rules That the  
Old Names Must Have the  
Same Prominence.**

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Motion picture films, when reissued with changed titles, must bear their old titles as prominently as their new, the Federal Trade Commission said today in an order against four respondents in New York, Philadelphia and Boston. The order named the Capital Film Exchange of Philadelphia; the Alhambra of New York; Herman Ritskin of Boston and the Film Distributors League, Inc., of New York.

The commission charged that while "The Three Musketeers," a film featuring Douglas Fairbanks, was being shown in New York, the respondents reissued it under the title entitled "d'Artagnan" under the name "The Three Musketeers," using confusing advertising matter and other means to mislead the public into believing the reissue film was the same as the fair picture. The respondents were ordered to stop such methods.

The respondents were ordered dismissed as to the Eastern Feature Film Company, Boston; Favorite Players Film Corporation, Chicago; Lance Film Distributing Corporation of Ohio; Lands End Distributors Corporation ofware; Supreme Photoplay Corporation, Los Angeles; Favorite Film Company, Detroit; Friedman Film Corporation, Indianapolis; Alhambra Film Corporation, New York; Supreme Film Company, Los Angeles; Quality Film Corporation, Pittsburgh; Reliance Film Exporters, New York; and the Film Ideas, Chicago, who also were named respondents in the commission's original complaint.

## MISSING AIRMEN FOUND.

Smith and Lott Forced to Land in Florida Everglades.

*Special to The New York Times.*

SEBRING, Fla., March 31.—Fifty-six hours after they flew out from their flying field near Winter Haven, Captains Robert C. Smith and E. P. Lott, aerial photographers, were found this afternoon by Otis A. Hardin, a contractor, of Sebring, on the shores of Fish Eating Creek, a tributary of Lake Tarpon, twenty miles north of Palmetto, between Lake Stearns and Alachua.

Both men were unharmed and in good condition, although suffering from loss of sleep. Since early Saturday morning the two had been flying incessantly on their plane in an effort to find a broken motor jacket which had forced them down.

During all that time they had eaten nothing but a few chocolate bars carried in their pockets, and had had only two cans of baked beans which they had taken along for Saturday's luncheon. They had been in the general neighborhood of the Everglades when they finally discovered a small spring, and by digging a hole in the sand they were able to obtain sufficient water for drinking purposes.

The two men were found, they just succeeded in repairing the motor jacket and were able to fly back home in their own plane.

## AMERICANS PREPARE TO ENTER MONGOLIA

**Museum of Natural History Party  
Sets Out Tomorrow From  
Shanghai.**

Copyright, 1925, by The Chicago Tribune Co.  
SHANGHAI, March 31.—Eight American scientists connected with the American Museum of Natural History, arrived in Shanghai this week and are busy making final purchases of supplies and equipment for a trip to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia in search of relics of prehistoric man.

The party will leave Shanghai by train on Thursday, and it expects to start on April 15 on the trip of 900 miles to the Altai Mountains to begin exploration work left off two years ago. From the Kalgan end of the railway the trip will be by motor car and camel caravan. For a period of five months the party does not expect to receive mail or communications from the outside world, and it hopes to return in September to Winter in Peking and to make preparations for next summer.

The Chinese customs authorities extended facilities for the admittance of the party's equipment, including a considerable number of firearms and ammunition. Included in the equipment are specimens of mammals collected two years ago, which the party is presenting to Chinese geological museums in Peking and Urga, the capital of Mongolia.

In addition to archaeological work, the party will be making a map of Mongolia, which it expects to present to the Mongolian and Chinese Governments. The party does not expect any difficulties due to political trouble.

The members of the expedition are Walter Granger, Charles P. Berkey, E. M. Morris, E. B. Cawleford, W. Chaney, George Olse, B. W. Roberts and B. C. Nelson.

*ANNEXE*  
*Notice sur Arthur Leeds (1882-1952)*  
*par STJoshi*

En 1924, à quarante-deux ans, Arthur Leeds vit dans une chambre d'hôtel de la 49e rue ouest, dans le quartier de Manhattan connu sous le nom de « Hell's Kitchen ». Seul père de famille parmi les Kalems, il est venu de Chicago, laissant femme et enfants, pour gagner de l'argent.

Cela n'a pas bien marché pour lui. Certes, il a eu des emplois : chroniqueur pour le *Writers Digest* et le *Reader's Digest*, pigiste occasionnel, et il vendait quelques histoires à *Adventure* et *Weird Tales* mais, malgré la frugalité de son mode de vie, ce n'était guère suffisant pour subvenir à ses besoins, et encore moins pour rembourser ses dettes, comme il l'avait envisagé.

Leeds a le parcours le plus coloré des Kalems. Né au Canada, d'origine anglaise, il avait été forain, avait voyagé dans des théâtres d'action et avait travaillé pour le cinéma. On voudrait bien en savoir plus. Bien que l'on puisse supposer que Leeds n'a pas reçu d'éducation formelle, il est, d'après ce que l'on sait, très cultivé.

Pendant quelques mois, George Kirk engagera Leeds pour l'aider dans sa librairie. Selon Kirk, bien que Leeds soit très compétent et sympathique, il aimait trop lire et trop parler. Après l'avoir licencié, Kirk a aidé Leeds à trouver un autre emploi.

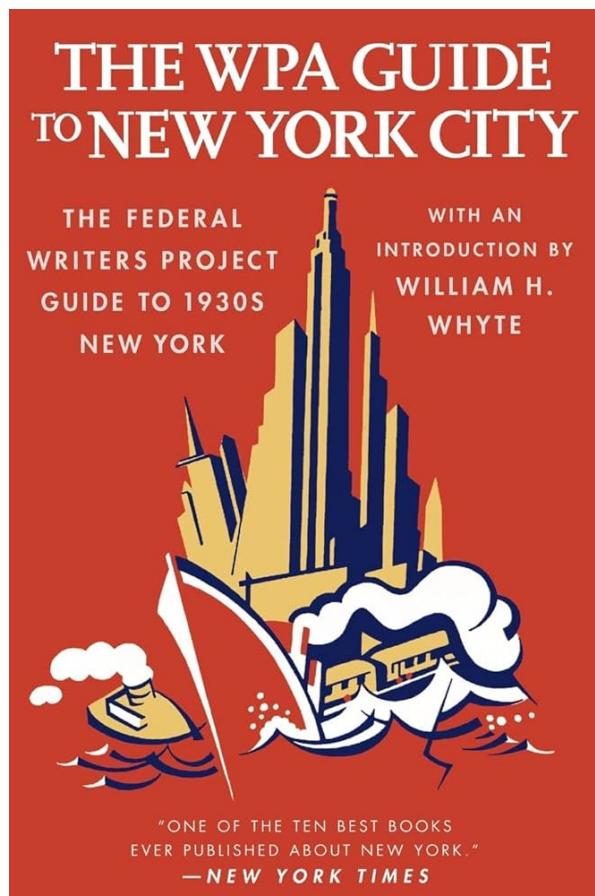
Selon toute vraisemblance, Leeds était au départ un ami de McNeil, qui vivait également à Hell's Kitchen, et par son intermédiaire avait rencontré d'autres journalistes amateurs. Tous les Kalems appréciaient Leeds. Leeds — qui passait d'une chambre lugubre à l'autre pour cause récurrente de non-paiement du loyer — était généreux envers ses amis. C'est grâce à lui que Lovecraft obtint plusieurs petits boulots.

Malheureusement, il n'existe pas de photographie de Leeds, et nous savons seulement qu'il portait une moustache. Sa tenue vestimentaire de Leeds était, aux yeux de Lovecraft, comme celle de Kleiner, « franchement impossible », avec sa veste qui éclatait aux coutures ; mais malgré sa pauvreté, Leeds était immaculé : rasé de près, il portait même des pantalons repassés. Après le cambriolage de Lovecraft, Leeds l'emmènera à ses propres adresses, pour tenter de remplacer à l'identique son costume acheté 5 \$, et l'initiera aux bonnes affaires du Manhattan secret.

Habitué à une vie itinérante, Leeds a bien supporté son séjour à New York. La camaraderie, l'entraide et le réconfort qu'il trouve au Kalem Club l'aident à tenir le coup. Leeds retourna à Chicago en septembre 1926, mais maintint une correspondance avec ses amis du Kalem Club. En juin 1932, longtemps

après que les Kalems eurent cessé de se réunir régulièrement, Leeds était de retour à New York, vivant cette fois à Brooklyn.

Plus tard dans sa vie, Leeds trouvera une seconde chance en réussissant à écrire pour le *Federal Writers Project* et sa série de guides américains. Leeds est mort en 1952 à l'âge de 70 ans.



*Dans sa lettre du 2 avril à Lilian Clark, HPL mentionne ce guide du marcheur à New York dont il attend réception (mais Leeds n'y collaborera que plus tard). Une passerelle avec ces ébauches de guides (le Vermont, Québec) accumulés par Lovecraft ses dernières années, et parfaitement utilitaires — quitte même, pour celui consacré à Québec, d'être plutôt soporifique et pas du tout « trop advisor » ?*

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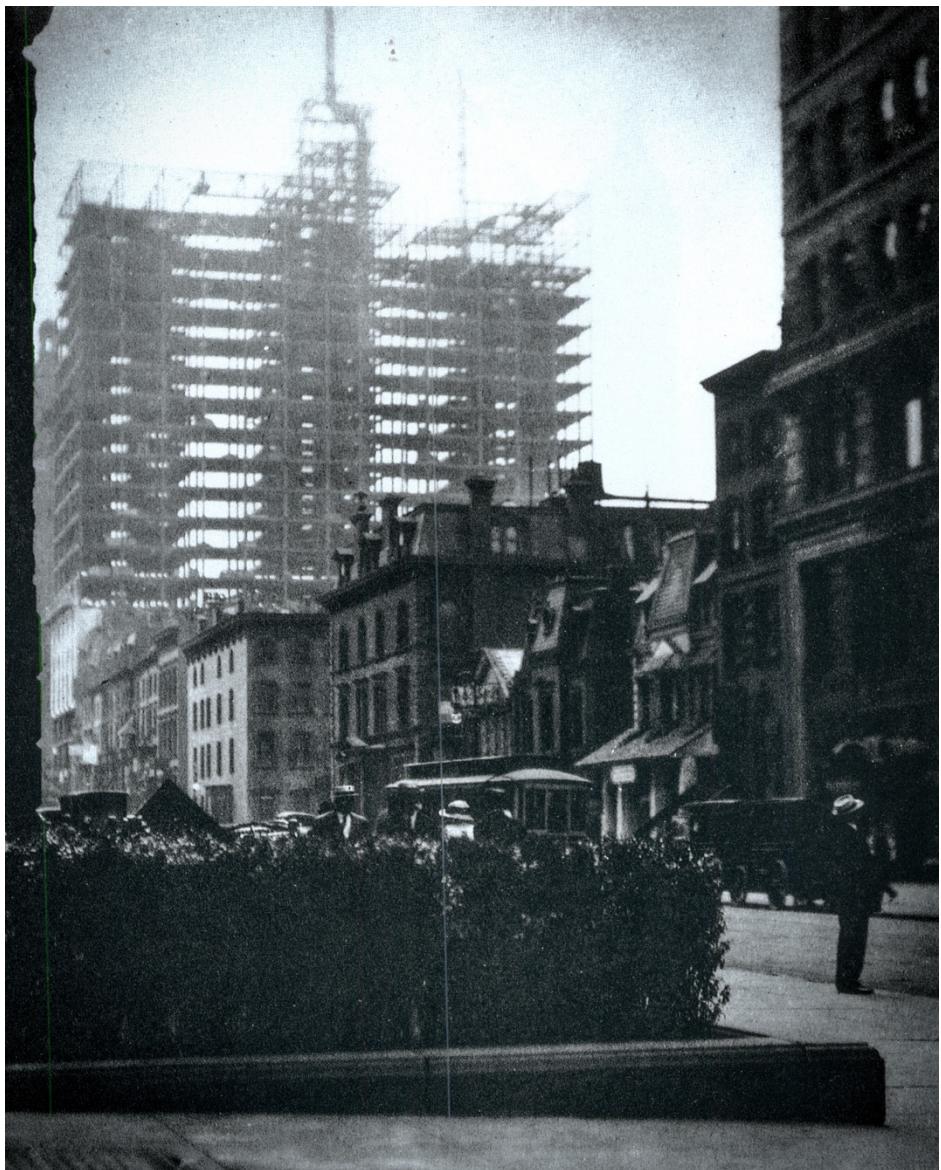
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*Alfred Stieglitz, « Old and new New York », 1910.*