

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

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Lecture de Lovecraft, via Arthur Leeds qui lui en a remis un paquet (facile pour lui, qui parvient à y publier des pages), les petits livrets du très populaire Reader's Digest, ici taille comparée au billet d'un dollar — et Lovecraft remercie sa tante Annie qui, pour le voyage à Washington, lui en a envoyé deux au lieu d'un pour son argent de poche, accompagnés d'un colis de six chemises, puisqu'à Providence c'est plus économique. Et question adventice : Leeds oui a accès au Reader's Digest, mais son écriture interdit à Lovecraft d'y prétendre — on attend toujours à ces portes qui ne s'ouvriront jamais, sans savoir que votre propre porte est ailleurs, thème récurrent chez Franz Kafka, son contemporain, que Lovecraft ne connaîtra jamais (et réciproquement) : comment aurait-il réagi au « soutier » qui ouvre L'Amérique ?

[1925, mercredi 8 avril]

Up late — meet SH — groceries in Bklyn — Laundry — Dinner — wash dishes — read & retire.

Levé tard. Rendez-vous Sonia. Épicerie à Brooklyn. Déposer vêtements à la laverie. Dîner, vaisselle, lu et couché.

Pratiques de piraterie chez Tailor, la laverie de quartier : on exige de lui un supplément parce que ses chemises sont à col raide (ce qui dispense du faux-col). Outre l'argent de poche qu'elles lui envoient chaque semaine, sa tante Annie vient de lui expédier des chemises : pour une opportunité de soldes à Providence, ou bien qui lui restaient de son défunt mari (non) ? La durée des vêtements et leur transmission ne sont pas dans leur monde ce que devenu dans le nôtre, on n'en saura pas plus. Dans ses lettres, Lovecraft ne parle pas de son travail de fiction, sinon pour signaler que Leeds lui a prêté une pile de récents numéros du *Reader's Digest*. Traduire : des heures de discussion avec Leeds sur quelles histoires ils pourraient concevoir et vendre, quitte à les écrire ensemble, à ce magazine en train de devenir immensément populaire, qui rémunère si bien, mais pour des récits aux antipodes de ce qu'accepte *Weird Tales* ? Au moins Leeds y a-t-il ses entrées, et Lovecraft bute sur l'obstacle qu'il affrontera toute sa vie : exigence narrative impossible à dissoudre dans la lecture simple. Après ses chemises, c'est de ses chaussettes dont Lovecraft parle à sa tante : non, il n'a jamais dépensé un cent pour porter ses chaussettes à la laverie ! Il les accumule dans un « sac de chiffon » et y choisit de préférence celles qui ont déjà des trous aux orteils (*hopeless gap*), en ce cas il n'y a pas à les laver, quand vraiment ce n'est plus possible on les jette. Et cela retarde, là mi-avril, de déballer celles que Sonia lui a offertes à Noël, on a fait dans l'utile — peut-il dignement porter des chaussettes trouées et pas fraîches pour son voyage à Washington ? Retrouvailles donc avec Sonia, qui officie dans une famille avec charge de gouvernante pour un enfant qu'elle apprécie : il l'attend à sa descente du train, à Grand Central. Séjour pour Sonia favorable à sa convalescence, certainement. Mais ce retour à New York apparemment pour des entretiens d'embauche dans ce qui reste son domaine d'activité : les départements de mode des grandes chaînes de magasins. Lorsqu'elle repart direction nord, son époux partira direction sud, à l'opposé. Pourtant, trois ans plus tard, en 1928, il sera totalement fasciné par ce Vermont aux paysages sauvages, y résidera quatre mois et rapportera de Brattleboro, un peu plus haut, le décor d'un de ses plus forts récits, *Chuchotements dans la nuit*. Mais bien moins de détail là-dessus, pour la tante Lilian, que sur le fait que la deuxième souris a réussi à manger le fromage sans déclencher le piège : la lutte

continue. Et ce mystère du carnet : de nouveau, puisque Sonia est là, comme un assèchement des notations — où simplement parce que n'ayant pas à écrire à « S.H. », il ne juge pas utile d'en relever le détail ? On le répète, marqueur discret, et surtout sans en tirer de conclusions tranchantes. Dans le journal : en Une, Babe Ruth a la grippe, match perdu. Nouvelles découvertes dans les fouilles d'Utica à Tunis : Lovecraft lit forcément l'article, lors d'une pause cafétéria. À cause du nom Saratoga : lancement à Camden (sur la Delaware, l'autre rive face à Philadelphie, la frontière donc entre Pennsylvanie et New Jersey) du destroyer éponyme, premier navire à pouvoir transporter 40 avions, et sur cette photo du lancement on aperçoit le biplan d'une autre équipe de photographes aériens : le bateau sera bientôt à Pearl Harbor (mais sera au mouillage en Californie lors de l'attaque japonaise), et sera un des piliers de la flotte américaine dans la « WW2 » (l'art des acronymes chez les historiens...). À cause de ces détails dans la préparation du voyage Washington, une publicité pour les chaussettes. Et Studebaker passe sa production de bus (y compris scolaires, ces monstres jaunes qui évolueront si peu) à 600 véhicules par jour. Enfin, ô temps pré-numériques, ce coursier à vélo qui croit pouvoir planquer chez lui une pleine enveloppe d'actions (noter que son patron, Post & Flagg, les fait travailler par équipes de dix) !

New York Times, 8 avril 1925. Mis en colère parce qu'il croyait qu'il ne serait pas payé du travail de son après-midi, un coursier de Wall Street, Simon Lester, 18 ans, a conservé hier par devers lui 30 000 dollars en titres et actions du cabinet de courtiers Post & Flagg, 49 Broadway. En retardant leur livraison à ce soir, le jeune Lester espérait que le Stock Exchange leur imposerait une amende. Son plan était une lame à double tranchant. Les courtiers, suspectant un vol, ont prévenu la police du commissariat du quai Old Slip. Le coursier fut arrêté quelques heures plus tard à son domicile, 531, 135ème rue, dans le Bronx, et placé en garde-à-vue sous l'inculpation de vol organisé. Lester dit à la police qu'aux environs de midi, hier, les dirigeants de Post & Flagg téléphonèrent au service de coursiers pour dix cyclistes. Lester était l'un des dix mis à disposition de l'entreprise. Il dit qu'après avoir retiré de la banque de Manhattan et de la New York Trust Company les enveloppes de titres et actions, un de ses collègues lui dit que leur travail ne serait pas payé. « Alors je suis devenu fou, se confessa-t-il à la police, et je me suis demandé comment je pouvais mettre Post & Flagg dans la mouise. Et je décidai de garder les enveloppes jusqu'au lendemain soir, pour qu'ils aient l'amende du Stock Exchange. Et je suis rentré chez moi, mais je n'ai jamais pensé garder ce machin. » Les enveloppes, dit-on, contenaient 500 titres de la Cosden Oil, 300 de la Hudson Motors Corporation, et cinq titres de 1 00 dollars émis à 8 % sur la Banque du Danemark, à échéance de 1945.



LAUNCH SARATOGA, HUGE PLANE CARRIER

Wife of Secretary Wilbur Christens Ship With Wine Bottle Containing Water.

FIRST OF FIVE SUCH CRAFT

Coolidge Gets Word by Pigeon—
Navy Head Speaks at Ceremonies
at Camden Yards.

Special to The New York Times.

CAMDEN, N. J., April 7.—The Saratoga of the United States Navy, originally intended to be the first of the six battle cruisers provided for in the naval building program of 1916 but now the largest airplane carrier in the world, was launched here today at the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Corporation.

The vessel, only the hull of which has been completed, was christened by Mrs. Curtis D. Wilbur, wife of the Secretary of the Navy, who performed the ceremony by breaking a champagne bottle with water from Saratoga Springs, N. Y., over the bow. The exercises were attended by more than a score of naval officers. Government officials and members of the shipbuilding firm.

Thirty naval and Marine Corps airplanes circled overhead as Mrs. Wilbur brought down the bottle, and the movement unloosed from an aviary near the gun-sts' stand twenty white carrier pigeons, which carried the announcement of the launching to naval stations in various parts of the country and to President Coolidge.

The Saratoga, which is the fifth United States Navy vessel to bear that name, the first having been built in 1780 at Philadelphia, and served in the Revolution, will be followed by the Lexington, which will be launched soon. The four other vessels provided for have been scrapped in accordance with the agreement at the Conference for Limitation of Armament.

To Carry Forty Combat Planes.

The Saratoga will carry a complement of forty combat planes and thirty-two bombing planes, and together with these she will cost \$45,000,000. She is 338 feet long and has a beam of 105 feet. Over the entire hull will stretch the flying deck. The only superstructure of the ship will be an abbreviated navigating

STUDEBAKER COMPANY TO BUILD MANY BUSES

Turning Out 600 Cars Daily, With
the Demand Exceeding the
Capacity.

The demand for automobiles is considerably larger than the daily capacity of the Studebaker Corporation and is much better than it was a year ago. A. R. Erskine, President of the company, told stockholders at the annual meeting held yesterday. The company is now turning out cars at the rate of 600 daily. It contemplates entering the motor bus business on a large scale. There are no prospects of an immediate change in the common dividend, according to Mr. Erskine, as the company plans to pay off its \$4,000,000 of bank loans by July 1. The company's collections in March aggregated \$17,600,000, according to Mr. Erskine. Disbursements totaled \$11,000,000. March sales aggregated 14,923 cars, against 12,393 in the same month last year.

Stockholders elected Paul G. Hoffman and F. W. Longfellow directors to fill vacancies. The Board of Directors elected Mr. Hoffman a Vice President in charge of sales, succeeding H. A. Biggs, resigned.

Ijams to Leave J. P. Morgan & Co.

J. Horton Ijams will leave the employ of J. P. Morgan & Co. on April 15, it was learned yesterday, to become a partner of the Philadelphia firm of Harrison, Smith & Co. He has been with the Morgan firm for a number of years in its bond department. Before his association with J. P. Morgan & Co. he was with Harris, Forbes & Co. Mr. Ijams will be the resident New York partner of the Philadelphia firm and his office will be at 50 Broadway.

Babe Ruth, Ill With Grip, Collapses; May Be Sent Home

Collapsing on the station platform at Asheville, N. C., when he arrived here yesterday morning with the New York Yankees, Babe Ruth was rushed to an Asheville hotel and was attended by a physician and nurse during the day. He has a bad case of the grip.

Last evening Ruth's nurse announced that he seemed considerably rested, but still was very sick. Manager Huggins of the Yankees, before departing with the team for Greenville, S. C., made arrangements to send Ruth home this morning in care of Coach Paul Kritichell, if he is able to travel.

It is not so certain that Ruth will be able to play in the opening game in New York next Tuesday.

[Details of Ruth's illness and yesterday's exhibition game in the sporting news on Page 17.]

Exquisite Jewelry in Tomb of Utica Salome, But Only Outline in Dust Remains of Dancer

By COUNT BYRON KUHN DE PROROK.

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By Wire to The New York Times.

EXCAVATION CAMP, Utica, Tunis, April 7.—"As sounding brass and tinkling cymbals"—these words have received new meaning from our excavations here. Before a crowd which included some of Europe's most aristocratic names we opened another Punic sarcophagus late yesterday. Within were two brazen cymbals, a chain of silver bells and some rouge in three shades of red.

These had survived since before the Christian era. But of the girl they were fashioned to adorn, of her alluring cheeks and lips, which may have changed the destinies of Utica, there was nothing but their color, which nature did not give. Of the twinkling toes which once were famous not a sign remained—save the golden treasure which those who had seen them gave. There was not even a skeleton. There was only its outline, traced in its own dust; enough for science to note prosaically that a certain nameless lass of Utica, who from all indications was a dancing girl, was about five feet in height.

One may safely add that she was lovely and bewitching, for the contents of the tomb of this Phoenician Salome were the richest ever found in North Africa, excluding Egypt. A hasty esti-

mate places their value as antiquities at more than 100,000 francs. There was a necklace of 150 golden stars, separated by drops of gold; a beautiful gold ring with a Greek god cut in a cameo, a chain of amulets and a Greek scarab. There were two vases of iridescent glass and two gold earrings, remarkable for the delicate sculpturing covering them, two inches in diameter, of a heavy solid gold whose use we have not yet determined—all of quality and art far superior to anything found during all the past excavations in Punic Africa.

There were still two other things, two perfume bottles—but their perfume was gone.

By chance the little dancing girl had for her "final appearance" a noteworthy assembly, including the Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna of Russia, the Duke de Clermont-Tonnerre, Marquis de Guise, Prince and Princess Jean de Fausigny, Lucigne, Baron and Baronne Rodolphe Derlanger, Count Philippe d'Estailleur, a member of the original committee of six I formed in 1920 to start excavations at Carthage; Counts Jean and Jacques Chabannes la Pallue, the present proprietors of Utica, and Mr. and Mrs. Lascelles Maxwell and their daughter Kathryn of New York.

To New York's Last-Minute Men

Just round the corner looks Easter. But that's nothing to fret about. For just round the corner, too, is a Peck & Peck shop—and there you will find neck-wear of rare color and tone of subtle charm, or correct accentment for the impending season.



Peck & Peck

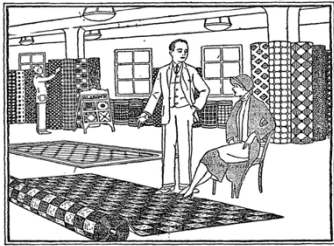
Four Ave. at 42nd St. Four Ave. at 49th St.
Wash. Street at 42nd St.

Was you be gilly of a typographical error in Easter? Will you play basket of play? Then here's a sweater that will catch your eye, a wanted alpaca of the right color and tone. It is in white, blue, navy, turquoise, and in light green. Priced at \$10. For a perfect match in tone, imported Scotch tartan with fancy cuffs. Priced at \$15.50.

Over the newest thing in our shop—just off the best in fact—are little socks with sublimated patterns from Paris. The color combinations are many—black with white, gray with black, beige with blue, bottle green with ivory, navy with powder blue, blue gray with gold. Priced at \$2.50 the pair.

Nestle patterns and colors at Peck & Peck's, truly, are legion. Also, daintily different. The Peck & Peck tie are made especially in Peck & Peck color in exclusive designs and color combinations. Quite out of the ordinary are our imported top silk ties, our hand-dyed English bowties, our Scotch clan plaids. Priced at \$2.50 and \$3.

Do you know what Linoleum really is?



OF THE millions of people who walk daily upon a colorful, comfortable floor of linoleum, few know the interesting story of its remarkable beginning. Over sixty years ago, Frederick Walton, an Englishman, who kept his eyes open and his mind alert, noticed the tough, pliable quality of the "skin" that forms on a can of paint exposed to the air. Realizing that this was "oxidized" linseed oil the expert mentioned in combining linseed oil with ground cork, he was searching for a substitute for rubber. By "oxidizing" or exposing this mass to the air he obtained a durable, elastic material which he pressed on to a backing of cloth or hessian—and a new material for floors was invented.


It was not exactly like rubber, for it was odorless, smooth, springy, waterproof, quiet to walk upon, and wonderfully durable. Mr. Walton called the new product Linoleum.

While linoleum was first used mostly for the kitchen and bathroom, with the marked improvement that came in designs and soft color tones, Blabon floors of Linoleum are now used for every room upstairs and down. Indeed, they constitute an important part of the decorative scheme in many a tastefully furnished home.

Blabon's Linoleum is sold by good home-furnishing and department stores. If your dealer hasn't it, write us his name and we will see that you are supplied. Booklet showing 22 characteristic patterns in color mailed free, on request.

The George W. Blabon Company, Philadelphia
Established 24 Years

BLABON'S Linoleum



Broker's Messenger Fears He Won't Be Paid, Holds \$30,000 Securities and Is Arrested

Angered because he believed that he would not be paid for his afternoon's work, Simon Lester, 18 years old, a Wall Street messenger, withheld \$30,000 worth of stocks and bonds belonging to the brokerage firm of Post & Flagg, 49 Broadway, yesterday. By delaying their delivery until this evening young Lester hoped to have the concern fined by the Stock Exchange.

His plan was a two-edged sword, however. The brokers, suspecting robbery, notified the police of the Old Slip Station. The messenger was arrested several hours later at his home, 531 East 135th Street, the Bronx, and locked up at headquarters on a charge of grand larceny.

Lester told the police that at noon yesterday officials of Post & Flagg tele-

phoned the Wall Street Messengers of 50 Broadway for ten boys. Lester was one of the ten sent to the firm. He said that after he had collected the stocks and bonds from the Bank of the Manhattan Company and the New York Trust Company he was told by his companions that he would not be paid for the job.

"Then I got mad," he confessed to the police. "and began to wonder how I could get Post & Flagg in a 'jam.' Finally I decided to hold out on the firm until tomorrow evening so that it would be penalized by the Exchange. I went home, never intending to keep the stuff."

The securities, it was said, included 500 shares of Cosden Oil, 300 shares of Hudson Motors Corporation and five \$1,000 bonds, Kingdom of Denmark, 8 per cent., maturing in 1945.

DAVEY TREE SURGEONS
Are local to you. Tel. Mur. Hill 1517.—Adv.

Manischewitz World Famous Matzo's, sold at all grocers and dealers.—Adv.

Profitable Mileage Proved by More

