



1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#105 | 17 AVRIL 1925

Pauvre HL. Pourtant, rien à l'ouest de Cleveland n'est pire : il n'y a que Pittsburgh et Cleveland. T'ai-je dit combien j'étais heureux d'être de retour, de revoir les buildings, des femmes joliment apprêtées et mes amis ? Vers cinq heures de l'après-midi à Trenton, j'avais télégraphié à un ami que je serais à un certain restaurant à sept heures et qu'il m'y retrouve avec la bande. Je suis entré dans le restaurant et j'ai trouvé deux de ceux que j'attendais, mais pas celui que j'avais appelé. Il était sorti en ville avec un type d'Angleterre et n'avait pas reçu le télégramme, ni, naturellement, prévenu ces deux amis, qui étaient là par hasard. L'autre est arrivé mais bien plus tard, et nous avons passé un excellent moment, avec deux adorables chatons et le tout aussi agréable muscat. Ce soir, je vais à la merveilleuse vente George Barr McCutcheon de premières modernes aux American Art Galleries. Quand je pense que j'ai envisagé d'acheter un magasin à Brooklyn — et que je l'envisagerais peut-être encore.

*Un télégramme qui ne rejoint pas à temps son destinataire, et nous voilà avec deux versions complémentaires du retour de Kirrk à New York, et de comment « Downing Street » sert à nouveau de cantine collective.*

[1925, vendredi 17 avril]

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Up noon — meet JR — bus trip — Penn Post — Grand Central —  
Automat — Penn. Station — home — Tel. Downing St — GK — SL —  
RK — all to 169 — Scotch Bakery — RK home. GK — HP with SL —  
Down to Penn. Sta. — Kell — book — Tiffany home — up to GK —  
write — stay up.

*Levé à midi. En bus pour retrouver John Russell au Penn Post Hotel, puis  
de là à l'Automat de Grand Central. Retour, téléphoné Downing Street.  
Kirk est revenu. Loveman, Kleiner et lui au 169. On descend à la  
Boulangerie Écossaise. Kleiner repart, je reste avec Loveman et Kirk. On  
repart à Penn Station. Librairies, dont Kellerman. Au retour on s'arrête  
au Tiffany, puis on monte chez Kirk. Écrit toute la nuit.*

C'est seulement dans une lettre de mai 1930 à sa tante Lilian qu'on en apprendra plus sur Russell, qu'il habite à Clearwater (en Floride donc, côté golfe du Mexique, entre Tampa et St Petersburg), qu'il est sur le chemin du retour en Angleterre, et que c'est grâce à lui que Lovecraft avait repéré cet hôtel à 1\$50 la nuit, le Penn Post Hotel, ce dont il s'était souvenu pour ce séjour. Étrange, à cent ans de distance de lire chaque matin le journal à même date, sans jamais anticiper en lisant le numéro du lendemain. Se prendre à suivre comme en temps réel les affaires judiciaires, un empoisonnement, toujours un procès succède à un autre, et toujours les prouesses publiques du maire de New York — Hylan — ou les démêlés du projet de métro pour Staten Island. Puis l'infini feuilleton de la prohibition. Aux Galapagos, où il s'est rendu après les Bermudes, l'équipe du scientifique Beebe relève l'existence de deux nouveaux volcans, et poursuit ses prélèvements de faune marine inconnue. Babe Ruth, le célèbre joueur de base-ball, revient en première page cette fois pour l'opération d'un abcès à l'estomac, qu'on dit être lié à sa volonté de perdre trop rapidement du poids. En France c'est l'arrivée du cabinet Painlevé. Il y a le quota habituel de crimes, accidents, catastrophes. Un dirigeable géant, le R-33, parti de Lowestoft en Angleterre est pris par la tempête, ramené à la côte puis de nouveau balayé vers la mer du Nord, des destroyers le suivent de loin, relayés par un navire de guerre hollandais au matin suivant — tandis qu'un autre dirigeable est en difficulté près de Saint-Louis pour perte d'hélium, monde oublié. Un nouveau sculpteur désigné pour reprendre le monument commencé par Borghum. Une publicité (la première) pour suggérer de faire agrandir vos « Kodak » en vue de décoration intérieure. Mais peut-être que la seule raison intérieure de les suivre est d'éparpiller la

ville : la percevoir comme en relief, mais transparente. Toute chargée de ces silhouettes chacune mue par l'état présent de leur aventure individuelle. Et — malgré le quiproquo dû au télégramme arrivé Clinton Street en l'absence du destinataire — qu'alors celle de Lovecraft lui-même, répétant trois fois les initiales de son voisin et ami George Kirk retour de voyage, comme pour encore mieux s'assurer de sa prise, prend une consistance qui nous importe, quand bien même lacunaire. L'impression de tant de micro aller-retours inutiles. Quand bien même le mot *write* n'est jamais suivi d'un mot explicitant ce qui fut écrit, et que pourtant ce sera toute la nuit.

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*New York Times*, 17 avril 1925. Cinq bandits, dont trois armés, ont fait une belle bétise hier en prenant à tort John J De Bodan, domicilié au 8 431 de la 123ème rue, Richmond Hill, représentant en portails et clôtures à Long Island, pour le caissier de son entreprise, qui devait apporter la paye de fin de semaine. Ils le frappèrent à la tête avec la crosse d'une arme à feu, et s'enfuirent avec sa valise contenant une perceuse électrique. Eugene A Smyth, un autre représentant, accourut au secours de De Bodan et fut mis en joue par un des voleurs, qui se saisit de sa mallette contenant 2 dollars. Vous n'êtes que des escrocs minables », cria Smyth. Un des bandits le frappa à la mâchoire avec son revolver. Smyth tomba à terre. L'attaque eut lieu dans le hall d'entrée de la Anchor Cap and Closure Corporation, 22, Queens Street, Long Island. Se remettant sur pied, Smyth commença à poursuivre les bandits sur Queens Street. Ils sautèrent dans une automobile qui partit en direction du nord vers Bridge Plaza. Smyth prit alors un camion de l'entreprise et les suivit jusqu'à l'entrée de Manhattan par le Queensboro Bridge, où la voiture des bandits parvint à le semer. Les inspecteurs du commissariat de Hunter's Point ont commencé immédiatement leur enquête. De Bodan dit qu'il avait été attaqué par l'arrière et a seulement entraperçu un des bandits. Lui-même et Smyth sont convoqués aujourd'hui à la Rogue's Gallery de la direction de la police pour examiner les portraits-robots.

## **World's Finest Water Lily, Ever Blooming, Developed by City's Bronx Park Gardener**

An ever-blooming water lily which is said to surpass in every way all other species of the plant has been developed at the New York Botanical Gardens in Bronx Park, it was announced yesterday, from a natural hybrid discovered by Henry W. Becker, head gardener of the Bronx Park greenhouses.

The new lily, described as unique in the world's plant life, has the deepest purple coloring known to botanists and is remarkable for its year-round blooming. It has inner petals which resemble the Grasseus, another water lily, and the usual yellow stamens. It has been named Castella Bronx, and is the second species of the family to be developed by Mr. Becker, the first being the Becker, which is now known over the world.

Castella Bronx was discovered by Mr. Becker five years ago in a group of

other lilies in Greenhouse No. 1. He has cultivated it steadily since then, until he found it came true from seed.

"As a bloomer," he said, "it beats anything ever produced in the lily family. It has been in full bloom all winter, and is blooming now. As the Summer comes on, it will bloom still more freely. One flower lasts from four to seven days.

"Its flowered appearance is in marked contrast to those of the other water lilies in the garden, which in recent months have shown a downcast air. The leaves are a pretty, dark green and it always bears from one to three flowers and from five to seven buds. In bloom the flowers measure about eight inches in diameter. The stem is about fourteen inches long and projects more than a foot out of water. Experts from Kew Gardens in England, the St. Louis Botanical Gardens and from private water lily gardens in Washington say it is the 'Queen of the lilies.'

All of Bronx Park's twenty-eight varieties of water lilies will be displayed the latter part of May.

## Babe Ruth to Undergo an Operation Today; His Fever Due to an Abscess, Physicians Find

More complications have come to delay the departure of Babe Ruth from the hospital. Yesterday it developed that the slugger's influenza and indigestion have developed an abscess and this morning he will be operated on at St. Vincent's Hospital, where he has been since his return to the city just a week ago today. The operation, it was said by those in charge of the Babe's welfare, will not be serious but it will be very painful and will delay the star's departure from the hospital for perhaps two weeks.

Yesterday the Babe suffered great pain and his temperature varied between 100 and 101 degrees. The fever was due to the abscess, according to the diagnosis, and it is believed that after the operation the Yankees' main bulwark will recover steadily.

The latest malady from which the Babe is suffering is added to an at-

tack of influenza, a severe case of indigestion which caused his collapse when he returned from the Southern training trip, and a general run-down condition that was caused by his efforts to reduce to playing weight in too great a hurry.

Except for the new complication that has arisen the Yankees might have been aided by the powerful bat of the slugger at the start of the next week, but under the new burden Ruth will be fortunate to join his team before another fortnight. In the meantime he is fretting under the restraint and longing to get back on the diamond and swing a bat.

Ruth isn't taking the idleness which has been forced upon him in any gentle mood and is restless under the inactivity. Except for the great pain that he has been suffering since the abscess developed he probably would have insisted on being released before this, but until the pain is removed and his fever abated he undoubtedly will make no effort to leave the hospital.

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# BEEBE DISCOVERS TWO NEW VOLCANOES ERUPTING MAGNIFICENTLY IN GALAPAGOS, AND BIG TIDE RIP TEEMING WITH SEA LIFE

## Army Airship Drifts With Broken Rudder; Valves Let Out Helium and Make Landing Safe

Special to The New York Times.

ST. LOUIS, April 16.—Scott Field's big dirigible, the TC-3, dropped to earth at Black Walnut, Mo., ten miles north of St. Charles, Mo., at 3:10 o'clock this afternoon, little the worse for a two-hour jaunt through the skies, at the mercy of wind currents. The controls to the rudder failed to work while the airship was over Caseyville, Ill., about 1 o'clock, and it drifted for two hours.

Part of the 200,000 cubic feet of non-inflammable helium gas was allowed to escape before the ship descended at Black Walnut.

Early reports at Scott Field said that the TC-3 made the landing without serious damage and that none of the crew of seven men, in command of First Lieutenant Douglas Johnson, was injured.

At 3:30 o'clock a track left Scott Field to take back the deflated bag and the gondola of the airship.

The TC-3 left Scott Field at 11:30 on a training flight. About 1 o'clock observers saw it begin to drift. It passed over Granite City, the Mississippi River, the north end of St. Louis County, the Missouri River and St. Charles County.

It drifted over Florissant and continued north.

At 1:45 o'clock, when it was over Granite City, the crew dropped half the ballast. Its altitude, varying with the air currents, was about 1,000 feet at this point. At 2:30 P. M. it was blown over the Missouri River and was thirty miles away from Caseyville.

Men started from Lambert-St. Louis flying field in automobiles to follow the drifting ship. Captain William Robertson, one of the pursuers, observed the ship making several dips as if it were trying to land. An airplane and airship also were dispatched in pursuit. Major Norman Peek, acting commandant, left Scott Field to follow the ship in an automobile.

The gas bag had to be partially deflated of its valuable helium gas before it could make the landing. It carried about 180,000 cubic feet of the gas and about 20,000 cubic feet of air.

The TC-3 is about sixty feet high from the top of the gas bag to the bottom of the car carrying the crew and the two motors and is 195 feet long. The rudder, consisting of a fabric covered frame, is eighteen feet high and fourteen feet long. The craft is of rigid type.

## BREAKS THROUGH THE STATIC

Explorer Is Finally Able to  
Tell of His Experiences  
in the Pacific.

## EGGS OF HALOBATES FOUND

Mackerel With Blue and Yellow  
Lights and Transparent Floun-  
ders Are Caught in Nets.

## CLASH OF CURRENTS STUDIED

Party May Get Explanation of  
Recent Remarkable Changes

feet long. The craft is of rigid type.

## RUNAWAY AIRSHIP FIGHTS WAY HOME

British Dirigible, Swept Out to Sea in Gale, Is Returning After Long Battle With Winds.

### DAY OF ALARM FOR CREW

Craft, Damaged in Tearing Loose From Mast, Turns Back From Holland at Night.

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By Wireles to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Friday, April 17.—The R-33, Great Britain's giant airship, broke away yesterday morning from the mast to which it was moored at Fulham, Norfolk, and was carried out to sea. Fortunately nearly a complete crew and two days' fuel were aboard.

The latest report received by the Air Ministry at 5 this morning said the R-33 was sixty miles west of Amsterdam, making steady progress afterward at about eight knots. The airship is accompanied by destroyers.

Previous to this message the R-33 had at 3:44 o'clock wirelessly to Fulham that she was flying fifteen knots an hour toward Lowestoft and at 4:30 o'clock she asked the sloop Godetia to close in on her.

A gale of fifty miles an hour was blowing all Wednesday night and the airship had been straining heavily at the mast to which it was moored. Nevertheless a crew of twenty under Lieutenant F. N. Booth, first officer, were aboard preparing for an experimental cruise. Suddenly at 9:50 o'clock yesterday morning there came a fierce gust from the west and the airship broke adrift. An arm of the mast had snapped, but the wreckage hanging from the bow seemed to show the airship's nose was badly rent.

At first it was evident the R-33 was out of control. She was swinging broadside to the wind, rapidly turning from side to side and being rushed at a great pace through the air. It was some time before she found an even keel, first her nose pointing upward, then her tail. She had at the start of her flight plenty of height, but spectators were alarmed to see her settling down as she drifted over the flat country between Fulham and the sea.

### Airship Is Carried Out to Sea.

Intense excitement was caused at Lowestoft as she drifted over the town, about half an hour after she broke loose. Hundreds of people rushed into the streets and watched spellbound the gallant struggle. Several attempts appeared to be made to swing her around toward the land. These failed and the R-33 was carried over the sea.

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## LUKEMAN IS NAMED FOR BORGLUM'S POST

Stone Mountain Committee Announces Choice of New Sculptor to Finish Memorial.

### HE WILL GIVE ALL HIS TIME

New Yorker, Born in Richmond, Va., Executed a Memorial to Women of Confederacy.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 16.—Augustus Lukeman of New York has been selected as the sculptor to finish the work on the memorial to the Confederacy on the side of Stone Mountain, which has been halted since Gutzon Borglum was dismissed. The announcement was made today by the Executive Committee of the Stone Mountain Monumental Association.

Mr. Lukeman has agreed, it was announced, to go to work at once upon his model for the central group and his plan for the Memorial Hall, which when completed will be submitted to the association for approval. He will devote his entire time to this work, it is said.

The association has agreed to pay Mr. Lukeman \$25,000 for completion of the memorial models and \$10,000 a year for supervision of the memorial work.

The only clash at the meeting of the Executive Committee came on a motion to delay action in the hope of effecting a reconciliation with Mr. Borglum. This was urged by Dr. Plato Burham and Dr. M. Ashby Jones, but was defeated with only seven votes cast in its favor. Then the vote for appointing Mr. Lukeman was unanimous.

The appointment of Mr. Lukeman follows the cancellation of Mr. Borglum's contract on charges that he had not fulfilled the terms, that he had allowed work on the memorial to lag and had attempted to thwart the plans for the project when he found himself unable to dictate the method of handling the association's affairs.

Within a few hours after his contract had been cancelled, Mr. Borglum and his superintendent of construction, J. G. Tucker, went to the studio at the foot of Stone Mountain and ordered the destruction of the models. They were indicted by the De Kalb County Grand Jury, but when Mr. Borglum was arrested in Greenboro, N. C., extradition

ment as compared with the plans of his predecessor, Gutzon Borglum.

At his home, 68 West Fifty-sixth Street, Mr. Lukeman enlarged on Colonel Peel's account and described the Hall of Fame, to be carved out of solid rock at the base of Stone Mountain, the lagoon which will reflect the structure and other new features of the memorial.

"We considered the names of sculptors in every part of the United States between the Atlantic and the Pacific," said Colonel Peel. "Many offers came from other sculptors to finish the work. They said they would regard it as the highest possible honor to be connected with the enterprise."

"Mr. Lukeman was recommended by sculptors and others who spoke in the highest terms of his achievements and his ability. Two weeks ago I invited him to Atlanta and entertained him at my home. He came under an assumed name because it was my wish to have his connection with the enterprise a secret from everybody until something definite was decided. After considerable deliberation the committee decided to have Mr. Lukeman, a native of Virginia, complete the memorial. The committee considered about 100 names of sculptors for the work."

"There will not be an iota of Borglum in the memorial. We will not follow Borglum's dream. His idea was to have the horsemen standing still. Mr. Lukeman will have them in action. Mr. Lukeman will supervise the work until it is done."

Mr. Lukeman, who reached New York last night after spending the day in Pittsfield, Mass., where he continued his work on the Soldiers' Memorial, said he was surprised and gratified when he was chosen as the sculptor to complete the Confederate Memorial.

### Great Opportunity.

"I feel that the greatest opportunity that has been afforded a sculptor in centuries has come to me," he said. "It is the greatest trust that could be placed in any man. Not only will I be held responsible to the American people, but the entire world and the generations that are to come will look to see what I have made of my solemn responsibility."

"Being a Virginian by birth, although I have spent the greater part of my mature life in the North, I naturally feel a deep patriotic interest in the memorial. It is an opportunity to do one of the greatest pieces of sculpture the world has ever known or will know for years to come. As history unfolds this great memorial will stand as a test of what we thought of our heroes."

Mr. Lukeman explained that a Hall of Fame, consisting of a large circular building, will be cut out of the solid rock at the base of the mountain. This innovation will be a massive structure 150 feet long, 50 feet deep and 60 feet high. In the building will be thirteen columns, each representing one of the States of the Confederacy. They will be engaged columns, tied together with a large band on which inscriptions will be



*George Barr McCutcheon (1866–1928) est peu susceptible d'avoir des homonymes. Il ne mourra, à soixante-deux ans, que trois ans plus tard, mais dès cette année 1925, puis un an plus tard en 1926, il revend sa magnifique collection d'autographes, lettres et éditions originales de Dickens et Thackeray, c'est à cette vente que Kirk se rend. Un grand inventeur de la « romance » qui est peu célébré par les tenants actuels du genre, cependant !*