

1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

#201 | 22 juillet 1925

« Mercredi, je me suis levé à midi, et j'ai lu toute la journée, dîné à la maison avant, le soir, re rejoindre la réunion des Boys chez Kleiner. Kirk n'était pas là, étant rentré à Cleveland pour y voir son frère ; mais son associé est venu — enfrenant (avec la permission de Kleiner) notre « *stag rule* » (la loi du mâle ?) en amenant sa femme avec lui. Les autres étaient Morton et Leeds, plus l'hôte et le grand-père Theobald. La soirée s'est déroulée sans heurts mais sans éclat, jusqu'à minuit, heure à laquelle le couple de libraires est parti.

C'est alors que, spontanément, les anciens se sont mis à évoquer des souvenirs, discutant de choses récentes ou passées, et s'intéressant tellement à la question que la séance ne s'est terminée qu'à 4 heures du matin ! Nous avons débattu des hymnes nationaux et de vieilles chansons, nous avons chanté beaucoup des deux, nous avons parlé du Dr Oliver Wendell Holmes et lu une grande partie de ses vers, bref, nous avons passé un moment d'une indéniable intensité littéraire jusqu'à ce que l'est pâlisant nous avertisse que l'heure était venue pour tous les honnêtes noctambules d'aller se coucher. En rentrant chez moi par un itinéraire détourné pour accompagner l'accompagnement de Morton et Leeds jusqu'à la station de métro de Canal St. La seule mauvaise nouvelle de la réunion était que Yesley, le magazine de Leeds, était en difficulté et qu'elle ne pourrait pas payer ou accepter de copie pendant un certain temps. Belknap et moi avons reçu la promesse d'être payés pour ce que nous avons écrit, mais Yesley n'est pas très fiable à ce stade. La question est de savoir s'il poursuivra le magazine actuel ou s'il en fondera un autre, et si Leeds continuera avec lui ou cherchera des affiliations similaires ailleurs. Ainsi va le monde ! »

Et patatras le beau rêve des prospectus publicitaires, Lovecraft a travaillé pour rien. Dans la lettre du 27 à Lillian, aucune mention de Sonia à sa tante. Quant à la « stag rule » en littérature, dont acte !

[1925, mercredi 22 juillet]

Up noon — read all day — dinner at home — out to Boys' meeting at Kleiner's — Kamin & wife — Morton — Leeds & host. Yesley collapse.
Ka. go & meeting brightens. Disperse 4 a.m. — subway Canal St & home.
SH up — announce trip — retire.

Levé à midi. Lu toute la journée. Dîner à la maison. Sorti pour la réunion hebdomadaire chez Kleiner. Kamin vient avec son épouse. Morton. L'affaire avec Leeds et Yesley tombe à l'eau. Kamin s'en va, la réunion s'anime. Dispersion 4 heures du matin. Repris le métro Canal Street et maison. Sonia déjà levée. Me dit son départ. Couché.

Sonia, dans son mémoire sur leur vie conjugale, aura une phrase amère, qui concerne au moins cette nuit-là : lui, après sa matinée au lit, toute la journée ne fait que lire et, au soir, part retrouver son Kalem Club, lequel par exception tolérera que Martin Kamin, l'associé de Kirk, soit venu avec son épouse — mais, bien sûr, c'est seulement après leur départ que la discussion deviendra intéressante, et ces messieurs chanteront même des chansons jusqu'à 4 heures du matin. Quand il revient, après un crochet de plus pour ramener les copains au métro, c'est l'aube : Sonia est déjà levée et lui annonce son départ pour Cleveland, elle ne rentrera que le 15 août et c'est comme le coup de gong pour une nouvelle séquence décisive dans cette année new yorkaise. Mais si Lovecraft a perdu la nuit une fois de plus en discussion avec sa bande, comme ce n'était pas arrivé depuis des mois, est-ce que ce n'est pas pour le coup reçu dans la figure : Leeds lui annonçant que ses cinq proses promotionnelles ont fait chou blanc, que les représentants se sont cassés les dents, que son propre patron, Yesley, lui a dit que le cas Lovecraft était désespéré ? Dans son témoignage sur Lovecraft, publié dans les années 70, un des plus livres qui rendent Lovecraft le plus vivant, son ami Franck Belknap Long insiste sur ce rouage intérieur du couple, Sonia ne renonçant jamais à voir Lovecraft trouver dans l'énergie et l'élan de New York un travail salarié lié à la littérature, la presse, l'édition, la révision ou la publicité. Est-ce qu'en revenant à l'aube et la trouvant debout à l'attendre, Lovecraft a seulement mentionné cet échec de plus ? Dans le journal : verdict dans le procès Scopes, verdict croupion, 100 dollars d'amende pour l'enseignant, c'est un déni pour le procureur Bryan, et la honte universelle pour Dayton. N'empêche qu'on le juge coupable, et que le « Butler Act », inscrivant dans la loi qu'enseigner hors des prescriptions de la Bible est illégal, ne sera abrogé qu'en 1967. Intéressante confrontation publicitaire pour le

cinéma individuel : Bell & Howell suggèrent aux femmes de prendre la caméra, Pathex leur propose seulement de se faire filmer pour s'entraîner à d'éventuels castings.

New York Times, 22 juillet 1925. Régulièrement, de temps en temps, depuis quinze ans, Patrick Monaghan, 56 ans, domicilié au 743 de la 3ème avenue, a accordé à sa femme, Mme Monaghan, une généreuse raclée, selon leur fils l'agent de police James S Monaghan. Hier, selon le témoignage de la mère et du fils, le père une fois de plus s'en est pris à Mme Monaghan, qui avait un œil au beurre noire et lui un rasoir levé sur elle quand leur fils est entré dans l'appartement. Le policier a alors imposé à son père une médecine de sa fabrication et lui a passé les menottes. Monaghan a été écroué avec une caution de 5 000 dollars par le juge Michael J Delagi du tribunal de Yorkville, pour agression.

SCOPES GUILTY, FINED \$100, SCORES LAW; BENEDICTION ENDS TRIAL, APPEAL STARTS; DARROW ANSWERS NINE BRYAN QUESTIONS

**Both Sides Speed Procedure for Scopes Appeal;
Defense Cost \$25,000, With Lawyers Serving Free**

Special to The New York Times.

KNOXVILLE Tenn., July 21.—With the conviction of John Thomas Scopes, attorneys for the defense at Dayton began at once to formulate their plans for the appeal. The case will come before the Supreme Court when that tribunal sits in Knoxville in September. Attorneys for both sides today agreed to expedite the appeal procedure in order to assure a hearing of the issues at that session.

Clarence Darrow, chief of the defense staff, is expected to argue the case before the Supreme Court here. Frank Sparlock, prominent attorney of Chattanooga, assisting the defense, will also plead for Mr. Scopes, being well versed in the peculiarities of Tennessee law. John R. Neal of Knoxville also is expected to take an important part in the appeal proceedings.

For the State, Attorney General Stewart and Ben G. McKenzie doubtless will carry the burden.

The defense's appeal will consist of two main points: First, that the Anti-Evolution law is unconstitutional; second, that even though the law were valid, Mr. Scopes did not violate it, and that the defense was prohibited from proving this at the Dayton trial.

DAYTON, Tenn., July 21 (AP).—A misdemeanor case carrying as a penalty to the guilty offender a fine of \$100 and costs of the trial brought an expenditure to the defenders of John Thomas Scopes of about \$25,000.

The actual court costs are estimated at well over \$300, or more than treble the fine assessed. The greatest expense of the trial was the cost of bringing expert witnesses, who were not allowed to testify. Defense counsel estimated that cost to be \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Attorneys on both sides bore their own expenses and served without fees.

In addition several hundred dollars was paid out by the county in preparing the Court House for the trial.

FINAL SCENES DRAMATIC

Defense Suddenly Decides to Make No Plea and Accept Conviction.

BRYAN IS DISAPPOINTED

Loses Chance to Examine Darrow and His Long-Prepared Speech Is Undelivered.

HIS EVIDENCE IS EXPUNGED

Differences Forgotten in the End as All Concerned Exchange Felicitations.

Special to The New York Times.

DAYTON, Tenn., July 21.—The trial of John Thomas Scopes for teaching evolution in Tennessee, which Clarence Darrow characterized today as "the first case of its kind since we stopped trying people for witchcraft," is over. Mr. Scopes was found guilty and fined \$100, and his counsel will appeal to the Supreme Court of Tennessee for reversal of the verdict. The scene will then be shifted from Dayton to Knoxville, where the case will probably come up on the first Monday in September.

But the end of the trial did not end the battle on evolution, for not long after its conclusion William Jennings Bryan opened fire on Clarence Darrow with a strong statement and a list of nine questions on the basic principles of the Christian religion. To these Mr. Darrow replied and added a statement explaining Mr. Bryan's "rabies." Dudley Field Malone also contributed a statement predicting ultimate victory for evolution and repeating that Mr. Bryan ran away from the fight.

**G. G. HAVENA SUICIDE,
DUE TO ILL HEALTH**

Banker and Opera Patron
Shoots Himself After Vain
Struggle to Recover.

FRIEND DISCOVERS BODY

**BONAPARTE GIVES
PROPERTY TO WIFE**

Great-Grandnephew of the Em-
peror Signs Away All but
\$5,000 a Year.

AGREEMENT ENDS HER SUIT

Scopes Trial Ends Abruptly, but Evolution Fight Rages in Statements

French Scientists Protest Tennessee Law As an "Odious" Effort to Suppress Thought

PARIS, July 22.—The French scientific community has expressed its strong opposition to the Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in the schools. The law, which was passed last year, is regarded as an "odious" effort to suppress thought and to maintain the religious dogma of the Bible as the only source of knowledge.

The French Academy of Sciences, in a statement issued today, declared that the law was "a gross violation of the rights of science and of the rights of the individual." It stated that the law was "a gross violation of the rights of science and of the rights of the individual."

EVOLUTION BATTLE RAGES OUT OF COURT

Byron Deacon Opponent as Proponent of Evolution—Says Bible is Unreliable

DAKOTA, July 22.—The battle over evolution has moved out of the courtroom and into the public arena. Byron Deacon, a prominent local figure, has become a vocal proponent of evolution, opposing the Tennessee law. He has stated that the Bible is unreliable and that evolution is a scientific fact.

Text of Bryan's Nine Questions on Religion And Darrow's Replies to the Comments

DAKOTA, July 22.—The following are the nine questions posed by William Jennings Bryan during the trial, and the replies given by Clarence Darrow:

Q.—Do you believe in the Bible?

A.—I believe in the Bible as a collection of books written by men who were inspired by God.

Q.—Do you believe in the story of the creation of the world in six days?

A.—I believe in the story of the creation of the world as it is told in the Bible.

CROWD AT THE END SURGES TO DARROW

Thousands Packed Outside to See Him Go

DAKOTA, July 22.—A large crowd of people gathered outside the courtroom today to see Clarence Darrow as he left the building. The crowd was estimated to be one of the largest in the history of the trial.

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2,000,000 WORDS WIRED TO THE PRESS

Western Union Best Vast File From Dayton on Time Under Heavy Effort.

120,000 TO THE TWICE

Five Brown Wires Used to Get 120,000 Words on a Single Day

—100 Reporters at Trial.

Reported to the New York Times

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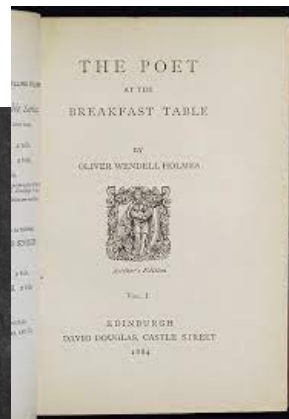
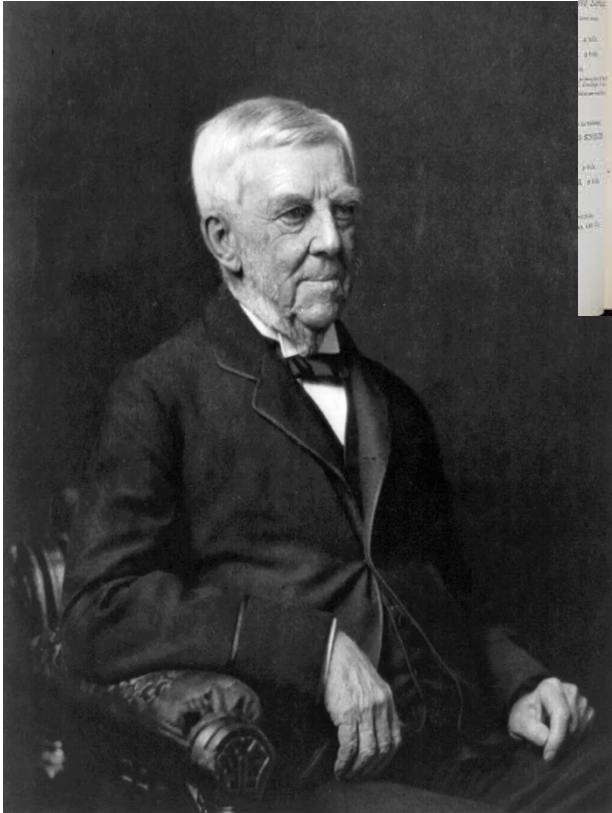
Reported to the New York Times

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Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894), médecin et poète, et un des livres de sa série satirique « at the breakfast table », qui amuse bien nos messieurs aujourd'hui. Ne pas confondre avec Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.(1841-1935), son fils, éminent juriste.



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PROJECTOR

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