



1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

#229 | 22 août 1925

« En ce moment même, j'ai une tâche à accomplir qui exige un tact extrême : refuser un prêt de 185 dollars (imaginez que quelqu'un demande à ce pauvre vieux Théobald fauché de lui prêter de l'argent !) à une vieille dame bien née et méritante. La personne en question est la mère de notre poète John Ravenor Bullen, pour lequel j'ai écrit en juin dernier cette fastidieuse critique ; elle pense manifestement — simple vieille âme — que Theobald est prêt à l'aider dans toutes les situations d'urgence possibles. En guise de "garantie", elle m'envoie quelques actions sans valeur (auxquelles ses amis lui conseillent néanmoins de s'accrocher !) appartenant à son défunt mari, et termine son épître par cette phrase émouvante : "Veuillez accéder à ma demande" !). D'après son préambule décousu, j'en déduis que l'objet du prêt est de publier un livre de ritournelles pour enfants de feu M. Bullen — je regrette de ne pouvoir contribuer à une œuvre aussi noble. J'ai bien peur de ne pouvoir immortaliser qu'un seul Bullen, et encore, uniquement par des voies non financières ! Belknap me dit d'adopter un extérieur encore plus brusque et brutal que celui que j'ai actuellement, afin que les malheureux soient dissuadés de m'ennuyer. Il se désigne lui-même comme l'exemple classique de la "dureté" répulsive. »

On se souvient de John Ravenor Bullen, ce poète anglais vivant au sud de Toronto, près de la frontière Canada USA. L'article que lui consacre HPL dans le United Amateurs (voir annexes début juillet), n'avait rien de rébarbatif, exprimant sa propre conception de l'engagement poétique. On pourrait juste sourire à ce passage de la lettre postée le 23 : il est néanmoins un témoignage de la perception extérieure qu'ont ses correspondants de Lovecraft, aux manettes du United. Comment trouverait-il 185 dollars, plus de six mois de loyer, ou six chèques de Weird Tales : et voilà pourtant le genre de correspondances à quoi il consacre ses nuits.

[1925, samedi 22 août]

Slp. all day — up 9 p.m. Write continuously. Retire in morn.

Dormi tout le jour. Levé à 9 h le soir, puis écrit sans arrêt.

Couché au matin.

Et ce serait ça la troisième vie de Lovecraft, celle qui précédait l'arrivée conjointe de Sonia puis Lee Galpin, et la vie littéraire mais sociale entre Belknap et Kirk ? Comme s'il fallait un sas. Dormir une pleine journée, dans le mouvement des lumières et des bruits. S'éveiller à la nuit tombée. S'asseoir à la table. Travailler jusqu'au matin — mais difficile cependant de savoir à quoi il travaille : corrections, augmentations de *Red Hook* et de *Lui* non, les deux manuscrits sont prêts à être dactylographiés, mais il en repousse l'épreuve. Compléments de notes et synopsis pour *Chulhu*, ou même prolongation de l'ébauche commencée il y a une semaine, et interrompue par l'éleveur de bisons ?) Ou tout simplement l'avalanche permanente des échanges épistolaires avec la nouvelle équipe en charge du *United Amateurs* : c'est malheureusement le plus probable — *anticipation sur ce qu'il dira demain, alors qu'il se sera couché le matin à 6 heures et réveillé à midi et demi* : « c'est une belle journée, et je me demande si je ne partirais pas en voyage si je n'avais pas une telle masse de lettres à écrire »). Il reconnaît avoir complètement oublié l'invitation de Kirk à aller voir *La rue vers l'or*, mais est-ce qu'il ne savait pas dès la veille n'en avoir eu aucune envie ? Et n'avoir même pas entendu les coups frappés à sa porte s'il y en a eu. Alors laissons-le dormir, et laissons le grand ballet des heures de nuit s'écouler autour de la silhouette voûtée sur sa table dans ce qui parvient encore du bruit tentaculaire de la ville tout autour. Samedi dans le journal : quasi pas de publicités, elles attendent le numéro qui paraîtra ce soir, avec les suppléments littéraire et magazines. Étrange conflit celui de ce père qui veut retirer du couvent sa fille malgré elle. Rares percées des conflits ouvriers dans le *NYT* : mais on licencie, hommes et femmes, celles et deux qui ont fait grève lors de la fête du travail. Et puis un dense brouillard a retardé de six heures l'entrée des paquebots et « liners » dans le port de New York : les images de leur arrivée ont dû être énigmatiques mais belles. Enlèvement d'une tortue amatrice de pancakes. Plus une invasion de moustiques.

New York Times, 22 août 1925. Quarante industriels du textile ont ensemble licencié ceux de leurs employés qui ont participé à la grève de 2 heures appelée par le Comité d'action locale, mais quinze d'entre eux ont réintégré les grévistes lorsque leurs autres employés ont débrayé par solidarité. La marche de jeudi était un test dans le rapport de force entre l'Union des femmes ouvrières du textile et l'union patronale locale, et

ont été condamnées pour avoir organisé un meeting de Fête du travail avec prise de parole par des orateurs communistes de l'Internationale ouvrière. Morris Sigman, président de l'Union des travailleurs du textile, dit qu'il avait enjoint à ses affiliés de ne pas quitter leur travail, la grève ayant été qualifiée d'illégale, qu'il avait pris contact hier avec les employeurs des ouvriers licenciés afin qu'ils ne les poursuivent pas pour « abandon de poste ». Il dit qu'il avait confiance dans la décision à venir des industriels, et que les 10 000 ou 11 000 employés qui avaient suivi les instructions du syndicat ne seraient pas inquiétés, seulement un millier d'entre eux s'étant joints à la grève.

ALIENISTS TO EXAMINE GIRL.

Father, Seeking to Take Her From Convent, Says She Had Mania.

Appointment of a commission of four alienists to determine the status of the mentality of Miss Geraldine Riche, whose father, John, has asked the Chancery Court in Jersey City for a writ of habeas corpus to take her out of the Convent of St. John the Baptist in Newark, was ordered by Vice Chancellor Bentley in Jersey City yesterday.

Riche, in applying for the writ on Aug. 3, named Sister Illuminita, Mother Superior at the convent, as the respondent, and charged that his daughter was being kept there under duress. At the first hearing a week ago the girl denied this, saying she was happy in the convent and did not wish to return home because of the alleged cruelty with which her father treated her. After the hearing, Riche was arrested on a charge of deserting his wife and other five children in Hackensack.

The father contended his daughter had been seized with a religious mania. She denied this, as she did his assertion that she was only 16 years old, maintaining that she was 19.

STRIKERS LOSE JOBS IN GARMENT TRADES

Forty Manufacturers Discharge
Some Employes for Part in
Two-Hour Walkout.

MANY ARE REINSTATED

Sigman Minimizes Number in Demonstration—Hyman Now Says
35,000 Took Part.

Forty garment manufacturers discharged some of their employes who participated in the two-hour strike called by the Joint Committee of Action of Locals 2, 9 and 22, according to an announcement by the committee yesterday. Fifteen employers, it was said, immediately reinstated their discharged employes when other employes walked out in sympathy.

The walk-out on Thursday was a test of strength between the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the suspended officials of local unions 2, 9 and 22, who were found guilty of having arranged a May Day meeting where Communist speakers denounced the governing officials of the international union. The suspended officials joined forces to fight the international union and for this purpose organized the Joint Action Committee.

Morris Sigman, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, said that although he had warned the employes not to desert their shops on an "outlaw strike," he got in touch with the employers yesterday and requested them not to interpret the stoppage as a literal "abandonment of employment." He said he was inclined to believe that the employers would heed the request of the international union. In his statement Mr. Sigman said that his estimate late Thursday of those who joined in the demonstration called by the Joint Action Committee was correct. Reports based on a check of cloak and dress shops, he said, indicated that between 10,000 and 11,000, "including Communist sympathizers from other trades and cloakmakers and dressmakers without jobs," filled the meeting halls.

Sigman Minimizes Walk-Out.

"The Industrial Council of the Cloak Manufacturers' Protective Association announced this morning that out of the 8,200 workers employed in the shops belonging to its members only about 1,000 joined the stoppage," he added, "while in ninety-seven shops of the ISI in the association not one worker left his employment. The American Cloak Manufacturers' Association said that after a careful canvass not more than 20 per cent. of their workers left the shops."

The Joint Action Committee raised its estimate of Thursday, which placed 20,000 as the number of men and women in the meeting halls. Louis Hyman, Chairman of the Joint Committee, said: "President Sigman says that 10,000 members answered our call and stopped work. Such a statement is ridiculous. No one can issue any absolute figures, for there was no actual count. Originally we engaged halls to accommodate 20,000 people. These were filled to capacity. Other halls were hired and were also crowded, and many never got into any of the meetings. According to reports we have received today from all sources, we estimate that at least 35,000 stopped work."

Hyman declared that instead of 70,000 cloak and dress makers in the city, as claimed by President Sigman, only 50,000 are affiliated with the New York Joint Board, and this number includes members in near-by New Jersey, Brooklyn and the suburbs.

HEAVY SEAS AND FOG HOLD UP BERENGARIA

Liner Arrives Six Hours Late After
Hard Buffeting by a Sixty-
Mile Gale.

The Cunarder Berengaria was six hours late in arriving yesterday from Southampton and Cherbourg due to fog and a sixty-mile gale from the southwest, with a thirty-foot sea on Thursday night, which came on very suddenly. Captain W. R. D. Irvine, the master, said, as the gale burst with great fury at 1 A. M.

Miss Louisa Fletcher, daughter of Stoughton A. Fletcher of Indianapolis, was a passenger. She had been reported on July 6 to be engaged in Berlin to Count Ernst Gottfried van Schmettow, scion of an old Prussian family. Two weeks ago the wedding was reported to have been postponed without any reason being given out by the Count or his American fiancée. Miss Fletcher, who came with her brother, Stoughton J. Fletcher, said the wedding would take place here in October.

In September, 1920, Miss Fletcher attracted public attention by running away from her summer home at East Gloucester clad in overalls and was found three days later working on a farm, raking hay, at Ipswich, where she had hired out that morning as a farm hand.

Another passenger was Clarence H. Geist, founder of the Seaville Golf Club at Atlantic City, and a stockholder in utilities companies. He returned from a seven weeks' trip to Paris and London with Mrs. Geist and their three daughters. Mr. Geist had a private car waiting in the Pennsylvania Station to convey the party to Atlantic City.

Colonel Bernard A. Flood of the New York Police Department returned from a special mission abroad for District Attorney Joab H. Banton. He traced four criminals, and found two in Germany, one in Vienna and the other one in Prague. Colonel Flood said he did not know whether they could be brought back to the United States for trial under the existing extradition treaties.

Mrs. Georgette Cohan-Souther, daughter of George M. Cohan, returned from England, where she attended the Cowes regatta with her mother. When asked about the rumor of her engagement to the Earl of Berwyck, Mrs. Souther said: "I am not engaged to any one, nor will I be. For when I marry it will be sudden and there will be no need for an engagement." Others on the ship were the Earl of Caledon, Judge John H. Goff, Countess Colorado-Mansfeldt, Count von der Vetter and Dr. J. Eastman Sheehan, the noted plastic surgeon. The Berengaria brought 579 second, 583 tourist third and 131 third-class passengers, which, with the 737 first class, made a total of 1,530 passengers.

MOSQUITOS INVADE CITY HALL IN SQUADS

Political Naturalists Say Hardy
Stingers Breed Near Civic
Virtue Pool Itself.

OFFICIALS CONTINUE BATTLE

Central Park Residents Declare
Screens Serve Only to Redouble
Zeal of Pests.

While the city health officials in the five boroughs were battling yesterday to stamp out the visitation of mosquitoes, larger and in greater numbers than New York has had in many summers, a squad of hardy stingers invaded the City Hall itself. The pests buzzed busily about the corridors and, according to political naturalists, had their breeding place in pools splashed about the statue of Civic Virtue by boy swimmers.

The rain of Thursday night complicated the work of the pest fighters by providing additional places for the mosquito larvae. Central Park, according to persons living near it, is sending forth all sorts of pests this year. Moths of various color and size and noisy, clumsy hordes of fearsome aspect and unknown species are being blamed on the park by indignant householders, who have been putting in the evenings chasing the pests about Central Park apartments.

Scores of apartments, some of them nine blocks from the park, have recently blossomed forth with window screens. The mosquitoes, however, seem to have little trouble getting through the mesh of the screens, and when they get in they rush at the tenants with redoubled zeal. In the opinion of some tenants near the park, screens are a mistake since they seem to serve only to make the pests angry and inspire in them an ugly determination to seek revenge for the effort to bar them out.

The necessity of protecting babies from the mosquitoes was emphasized yesterday by Dr. J. Allen Patton, Medical Director of the Prudential Insurance Company.

Mines Loose Off French Coast.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PARIS, Aug. 21.—French naval authorities report that a number of loose mines are floating off the coast near Dieppe and toward Berneval, a few miles to the northeast. Steps are being taken to destroy them, and warnings have been issued to all navigators.

Pancake-Loving Turtle, a Family Heirloom, Kidnapped From Home He's Visited for Years

Special to The New York Times.

BROOKHAVEN, L. I., Aug. 21.—Mrs. Edward Raynor's pet turtle, which came to her back door every day in Spring and Summer for four years to get pancakes made by a recipe known to her family for 200 years, has been kidnapped and advertised as lost in the current issue of The Brookhaven Advance.

Mrs. Raynor, like many other persons of Brookhaven, has made a pet of turtles, especially those which had the initials of her ancestors carved on their shells, and when this particular turtle which had a large "R" on his back, came to her house four years ago, she knew he had been the pet of the Bartow family, her ancestors, who settled here two centuries ago, and she took pains to make him welcome.

The turtle, a large fellow, immediately showed a fondness for the Bartow pancakes. At first, the ate only what Mrs. Raynor cut left, but then, after Mrs. Raynor saw how much he liked them, she made up special batches of batter for him alone and set them out in a plate at the back door. Every morning he would waddle to the house to get them, except during strawberry blossom time, when Mrs. Raynor knew he was getting sustenance in strawberry beds.

This would continue until early Fall, when, with the first cold snap, the turtle would disappear somewhere into the earth to hibernate for the Winter.

But a week or so ago after the turtle had got his pancakes and waddled off again to whatever turtles do when not eating pancakes, Mrs. Raynor saw an automobile stop, a man reach down to the earth, lift something into his car and drive away.

The next day and the next and the day afterward the turtle did not come to the Raynor backdoor for his pancakes. Then Mrs. Raynor inserted the following advertisement in The Brookhaven Advance:

LOST—If this notice comes to the man who took the turtle, will he please return him to Mrs. Edward Raynor, who fears he will miss his pancakes and also will never be able to find his way back to his Winter location?

"I want only to know that the turtle is well off," said Mrs. Raynor today. "If the man doesn't want to return him, I'll be glad to send him a recipe for the pancakes. I'm afraid the turtle will miss them and be unhappy."

When you think of Writing
Think of Writing.—Adv.

Zeppelins Missing at Own Anniversary; Germans Celebrate Feat of First Dirigible

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Aug. 21.—Germany celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Zeppelin flight today at Friedrichshafen with music, speeches and special flights of airplanes and balloons but without a Zeppelin. Though the Zeppelin works on the shore of Lake Constance completed 128 dirigibles, the fortunes of war have depleted the country of all the products of this plant in the last twelve years.

Since the departure of the Los Angeles to America, the plant has been idle. Many technicians who shared the problems of the first Zeppelin's construction and the glory of the first flight a quarter of a century ago, gathered at Friedrichshafen. Kober, construction engineer; Duerr, an engineer; Marx, a pilot; Hergesell, a meteorological engineer, and Dr. Eckener, whose efforts enabled the first flight to become a reality, were greeted by a score of aged workmen, who, with their chiefs, bore the jeers of the credulous

ones who declared attempts to conquer the air "flying in the face of Providence."

Dr. Eckener, who was captain of the Los Angeles on her transatlantic flight, made an appeal to the German people to come to the rescue of the Zeppelin's future by subscribing to a fund for the construction of a new mammoth ship for a North Pole expedition. The campaign for raising the fund begins next Sunday and Dr. Eckener already has been assured by sport clubs and workers of other organizations that the necessary 5,000,000 marks will be forthcoming.

Dr. Eckener in the course of his speech, said that the Versailles treaty forbade ownership of Zeppelins by Germany but did not mention restriction of private ownership. Therefore, he maintained, the Allies could not disapprove the construction of an airship for an organization whose only aim was discovery.

Telephone Girl's Quick Wit Foils Robbery; Flash on Switchboard Shows Thieves in Shop

Presence of mind and knowledge of her job on the part of a Jersey City telephone operator, coupled with prompt action on the part of the police early yesterday morning prevented the looting of the Kiddie Shop, 291 Jackson Avenue, Jersey City, and nearly resulted in the arrest of three men who attempted to rob the place.

Miss Rose Hubbig of 155 Virginia Avenue was at her post at the Bergen exchange switchboard, where hundreds of glass disks on the board in front of her were dark. Suddenly a light flashed in number 3334. She knew that was the number of the Kiddie Shop and she knew also that at that hour no one had any legitimate business in the shop. The light showed only for an instant. It had probably been caused by one of the robbers tripping over a telephone wire

and knocking the receiver from the hook. He evidently replaced the receiver and the light died out. But Miss Hubbig knew something was amiss. She called the number and there was no reply. Then she told Miss Catherine McCarthy, the chief operator. Miss McCarthy telephoned to police headquarters. Quick action followed.

Frank Gross, telephone operator at police headquarters, flashed out an alarm to the fourth, fifth and seventh precincts, and reserves were sent to the store. At the same time Acting Captain Walter Gieluch and Detectives Norton, Grabler, De Marco and Nagle hurried over in a department automobile.

They arrived in time to see three men running from the store. One lost his cap. The thieves left behind them a Ford automobile, and the owner is being traced.

It was discovered that the marauders had forced a rear door and had been able to gather only about \$20 worth of goods before they were frightened away.

Policeman Dives Off High Wall and Saves 5-Year-Old Boy Gripped by East River Tide

Policeman Rudolph Kerchof plunged from the high retaining wall at East River and Eighty-fourth Street last night, and pulled a five-year-old boy from the grip of a strong tide that was sweeping the child out. The policeman then revived the boy and sent him home in the care of another policeman.

A week ago Kerchof was a mounted man. When ordered to patrol duty he was assigned to the East 104th Street Station. He had been four years in the mounted division and he and Prince, his horse, had become great pals. Orders were orders however, and Kerchof began to pound the pavements along the East River waterfront.

Last night as he paused at Eighty-sixth Street he heard cries. He located the sound as coming from the wall at Eighty-fourth Street two blocks outside Kerchof's precinct. The policeman ran down. He was short of breath when he reached the embankment sloping down to the darkening water. Without pausing to remove even his shoes Kerchof leaped in. A few powerful strokes and

he seized the boy, Emil Sackert of 1,054 Avenue A.

After his rescue Kerchof, thoroughly soaked and chilled, reported at his station house. He was ordered to go home and rest. He gently suggested to the Desk Lieutenant that he could not travel out to his home at 115 Potter Avenue, Astoria, dripping water like a rain-spout.

"Slip into your extra suit in the locker," said the Lieutenant.

"But I've only been here a week and I haven't got the extra uniform over yet," said Kerchof.

A backroom conference was held and in the end Kerchof sallied out of the station house in the shirt of Captain Looman, the shoes of the doorman, the Desk Lieutenant's extra trousers, some accessories supplied by a detective, and a cap lent by a Sergeant. The only thing that fitted Kerchof were a fellow patrolman's suspenders and the commendation of everybody in the station house for his deed.

POPULAR PRICE MATINEE TO-DAY
Summer Edition. Ziegfeld Folies.
New Amsterdam Theatre.—Adv.