

1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

#230 | 23 août 1925

23 AOÛT. Aujourd'hui, je suis allé faire de l'aviron à Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Trois heures ou plus. Amusant. J'aurais aimé que tu sois avec moi. Beaucoup de gens. J'ai marché. Et mangé deux bons repas : un bon poisson et un steak de flétan. J'ai eu l'impression de ne voir personne que je connaissais. [...] Beaucoup à faire demain. Le plus important est le téléphone. Je ne peux pas faire de publicité ni d'impression tant que je n'ai pas de numéro. Ce sera Watkins, mais j'aimerais bien que ce soit Chelsea.

25 AOÛT. J'ai travaillé assez dur aujourd'hui, jusqu'à environ cinq heures, puis sorti et remonté *uptown* pour voir le dernier film de Chaplin, et probablement son meilleur. J'ai hâte de le revoir — en entier, et non pas du milieu à la fin. Je suis redescendu et j'ai mangé dans un petit restaurant du Village. J'avais envie de quelque chose de léger mais de bien servi. Le repas était plus léger que bien servi. Puis je suis rentré à la maison et je me suis demandé ce que j'allais bien pouvoir faire ce soir. Une décision ? Un

bon bain, encore quelques minutes de rangement et pur toit une vraie lettre à l'ancienne. Je suppose que je vais allumer ma vieille pipe que je n'ai pas fumée depuis des mois — elle était à Clinton Street, puis entreposée.

Je suis dans le vieux Chelsea, et je pense m'appeler « The Chelsea Book Shop ». Si seulement la compagnie de téléphone me donnait un numéro à Chelsea. Une chose particulièrement marquante dans mon souvenir de *La ruée vers l'or*, et la chose la plus drôle que j'aie jamais vue : il prend deux pommes de terre, les pique avec des fourchettes et, assis à la table, il s'en sert comme de pieds pour imiter un danseur. Attends de voir ça.

*Lovecraft particulièrement sobre dans son carnet aujourd'hui, alors suivons Kirk : ne serait-ce que pour mesurer une fois de plus tout ce qui sépare les deux meilleurs amis du monde ! Noter l'orthographe du nom futur de sa librairie, et l'erreur concernant le célèbre ballet des petits pains !*

[1925, dimanche 23 août]

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Up noon — write letters — retire late.

*Levé à midi. Écrit des lettres. Couché tard.*

Rôle régulateur des lettres. Une chaque jour à Sonia ? Aujourd'hui et ces prochains jours, retour de la coquille et enfoncement. En profiter pour lire ce que raconte Kirk, juste revenu de son mois à Cleveland, et qui continue d'écrire à sa fiancé. Tout d'un coup un changement cinématographique de plan : la relation de Kirk à Loveman, son ami de Cleveland, passe peut-être avant celle de Kirk à Lovecraft. La surprise aussi d'un garçon physique : aujourd'hui il va faire de l'aviron pendant trois heures sur le bassin de Prospect Park. La veille il est allé voir *La rue vers l'or*, que Charlie Chaplin vient de sortir. Il avait proposé à Lovecraft de l'accompagner, mais Lovecraft dormait, et Kirk de toute façon n'y est allé que deux jours plus tard. Kirk raconte à sa fiancée le ballet des petits pains (il confond avec des pommes de terre) mais est parfaitement conscient du geste esthétique qu'est le cinéma, ce dont on ne trouvera pas trace chez Lovecraft (le 28, Kirk retourne au cinéma pour voir le *Siegfried* de Fritz Lang, il y va avec Kleiner et n'ont même pas proposé à Lovecraft de les accompagner, lui il déclare de toute façon à sa tante : « Je ne suis pas très cinéma ces temps-ci »). Symétrie dans sa façon de parler de leurs réunions, Kirk : « on a aligné des choses pas très importantes sur des sujets pas inintéressants ». Relation pas forcément simple : *Kleiner disgusted me*, sans qu'il s'en explique, sinon que c'est la raison pour laquelle il n'assistera pas aux prochaines réunions — et dispute symétrique entre Leeds et McNeil et qui alternent leurs venues pour ne pas se trouver ensemble...) Mais lorsque Kirk et Lovecraft redescendent les quatre-vingt-dix blocs évoqués vendredi, passant devant un théâtre dont la décoration extérieure est faite en raphia, sautent en l'air de concert pour se saisir chacun d'un brin et le dérouler derrière eux sur le trottoir jusqu'au bout du possible : vaguement adolescent, non ? (Mais qui se souvient aujourd'hui de ce qu'était le raphia.) Il évoque aussi la bouteille de porto que Lovecraft doit lui remettre — on est toujours sous les lois de la prohibition. Dans les lettres de Kirk pour cette fin août et le début septembre, c'est évidemment l'installation de sa nouvelle librairie en appartement sur quoi on a le plus de détail. Il trouve l'appartement assez vite, juste à la limite de Chelsea et de Greenwich, et l'urgence pour lui c'est le téléphone (Chelsea 10461, ce sera), qui lui est nécessaire pour passer des annonces publicitaires et vendre à domicile ses trésors bibliophiles. C'est chez lui que peu à peu s'établira le Kalem Club dans la période où Lovecraft sera reparti à Providence, les réunions dans la pièce où les étagères de vieux livres

vont du sol au plafond (sa fiancée a mis de l'argent dans le commerce, un prêt à la banque complète), avec cigare et café, et dans l'autre pièce, où il loge, toujours la possibilité de dormir sur un des canapés, parfois ils y restent à cinq. Les lectures de Kirk ces jours-ci : Joseph Conrad, Anatole France, la biographie de Shelley par André Maurois (la haute réputation de Maurois aux USA à cette époque, y compris pour des nouvelles fantastiques dont on ne trouve plus certaines que via leur traduction US), et Emily Dickinson. Mais les habitudes avec Lovecraft ont la peau dure : le mercredi 2 septembre, après la réunion chez Frank Belknap, ils raccompagnent Arthur Leeds à son hôtel de la 49ème rue vers 1 h 45 du matin, et redescendent à pied jusqu'à Chelsea en s'arrêtant au bord de l'Hudson à London Terrace avant de s'installer chez Kirk où ils parlent jusqu'à 6 heures du matin quoique Lovecraft, dit Kirk, ait parfois piqué du nez dans les livres. « Dans toute la gloire d'un homme heureux », dit Kirk de lui-même. Même resté ces deux jours chez lui, Lovecraft n'a pas dû déroger à la lecture du *NYT* et ses suppléments : avec les soldes d'août et les ventes d'appartement, le journal reprend du tonus et des pages (190...), profitons-en. Comme par exemple les premières photos publiées de l'expédition au Mount Logan, qu'on avait suivie en juin. Ou la réfection de la tombe de Dante, ou une révision des *Mille et une nuits*. Ou bien sûr *La ruée vers l'or* dans la page cinéma. Plus encore les moustiques : le corps médical conseille de ne pas laisser trop piquer les nourrissons.

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*New York Times*, 23 août 1925. Tandis que les édiles des cinq boroughs de la ville se battaient hier contre l'invasion moustiques, en nombre plus grand que New York n'a jamais connu tous ces été, une escadre de fieffés piqueurs a envahi la mairie elle-même. La peste grésillait dans les couloirs, et, selon les politiciens naturalistes, avaient leur pays natal dans les bassins au pied de la statue de la Vertu civique, où nagent les plus jeunes. La pluie de mardi soir avait compliqué le travail des combattants anti-moustiques en leur fournissant de nombreux autres lieux pour leurs larves. Central Park, selon certains, en serait la capitale, en fournissant de toutes tailles, ronflements et couleurs, et même des insectes à l'aspect effrayant d'espèces que jamais personne n'avait vues auparavant. Des légions d'appartements, certains à plus de 9 blocks du parc, ont dû équiper leurs fenêtres moustiquaires. Les insectes, cependant, ne semblent pas avoir beaucoup de peine à contourner les écrans, se précipitant vers les occupants avec un zèle redoublé. Selon certains habitants à proximité immédiate du parc, les moustiquaires sont une erreur, en ce qu'elles contribuent surtout à mettre les insectes en colère et les renforcer dans leur souhait de vengeance à l'encontre de quiconque souhaite les garder dehors. Le Dr J Allen Patton, directeur de la compagnie d'assurances Prudential, a insisté hier sur la nécessité de protéger les nourrissons des piqures.

## CHIEF ARCTIC FLIER AGREES ON RETURN

Byrd Notifies Navy of Decision  
Reluctantly Reached in Con-  
ference With MacMillan.

### PREPARE TO SAIL FOR MAINE

Leaders Are Disappointed, but Cour-  
age of Men in Face of Great  
Obstacles Is Praised.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—Formal notice that the MacMillan aerial exploration of the Polar Sea had been abandoned, owing to the unseasonable climatic conditions, was received at the Navy Department today direct from Lieut. Commander R. E. Byrd, at Etah. The decision, which was made with reluctance, followed a conference between the aviation chief and Commander MacMillan.

In his message, which bears the date of Aug. 20, and which was forwarded from Seattle, Wash., by P. K. Leberman, Commander Byrd reported that Commander MacMillan had given orders to prepare the ship and planes for departure to Wiscasset, Me.

The decision thus reached meets with the approval of Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, who notified Commander Byrd on Tuesday that it might be well to call off the enterprise in view of the handicaps and hazards.

Following his statement that the explorers were making preparations to return southward, Commander Byrd added:

"I am very much disappointed that we cannot continue to accomplish our mission and I have so expressed myself, but do not presume that I question Commander MacMillan's good judgment, nor do I fail to sympathize with him in his position, and I know that it is with great reluctance that he gives orders to abandon our flight. He has never failed to put the greatest effort into making the aviation program a success.

"The navy personnel with me has put forth superhuman efforts during this undertaking and I am proud of them even if the time has been wanting to accomplish the mission. They have overcome great obstacles and have shown great courage and they deserve better success."

In accordance with instructions forwarded earlier in the week, the naval aviation unit accompanying MacMillan will do some exploratory work in Greenland and Labrador on the return journey.

#### Describes Cruelty of Arctic.

Maynard Owen Williams, a staff correspondent of the National Geographical Society with the expedition, in a dispatch from on board the Bowdoin in Pandora Harbor, Greenland, says:

"The Arctic as I have just seen it from an airplane is the same cruel Arctic only more so."

## Derailed Train Ties Up Brooklyn Subway; Crowd Calm in Smoke and Darkness

Traffic on the Lexington Avenue and Broadway-Seventh Avenue lines of the Interborough Subway was suspended in Brooklyn between Atlantic Avenue and Clark Street yesterday between 5:27 P. M. and 6:52 P. M. by the derailment of the forward car of a ten-car northbound express train of the Lexington Avenue line at a switch 100 feet from the Atlantic Avenue terminus.

The train was crowded. The motor-man had headed it through a switch to take the inside northbound track when the first car left the track and carried five cars with it across the four sets of tracks. The feed cable on the six cars scraped the rails, pulling loose and extinguishing the emergency lights in the train and causing clouds of smoke to rise into the cars, but the passengers remained calm. No one was hurt.

The station master at the Atlantic Avenue Station had the power turned off between Atlantic Avenue and Clark Street and called a wrecking crew to lift the derailed car back to the track.

Passengers on the train were helped off by members of the train and platform crews. They walked back on the tracks to Atlantic Avenue, where they completed their journeys by surface cars, elevated and B. M. T. trains.

Persons coming into the Atlantic Avenue Station from Flatbush and East New York also had to get other trains to complete their journeys from this station to the Wall Street and Bowling Green Stations of the Interborough, which, until the derailed car was placed back on the train, formed the terminals of service in downtown Manhattan.

## Mouquin's, Once Rendezvous for Epicures, Later Padlocked, Now Is Closed for Good

Mouquin's, a favorite French restaurant in other days, is closed for good. It has gone, sadly admitted Louis C. Mouquin yesterday, to join the memories and a "to lease" sign on the door at Sixth Avenue and Twenty-eighth Street marks its passing.

"We decided about a month ago," said Mouquin, the son of the founder, "that our day in that kind of restaurant was done. So we put up the sign and we await a person to lease it. Prohibition? Maybe. At any rate, what kind of a restaurant does not pay any more. Why? I do not know."

The restaurant was opened in 1837. Henri Mouquin had established a restaurant in Fulton Street which had become a downtown institution. Charles Dana and Horace Greeley in their day were patrons there, and Mrs. Mouquin, known as "Mother Mouquin," had achieved notable success in the culinary art.

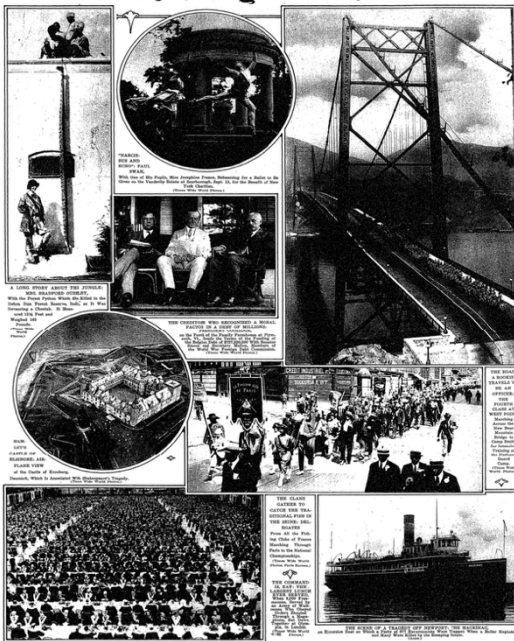
The uptown restaurant was then decided upon. It was located in the two-story wooden structure which it occupied to the end. The house itself is one of Manhattan's oldest landmarks. It was built by Henry Varian, brother of Isaac Varian, who was Mayor of New York in 1830-40, and was known as "Knickerbocker Cottage." There in 1898 was organized the New York Athletic Club, the first amateur athletic organization in America.

When Henri Mouquin took over the

Cottage it was housing Jacquin's Restaurant, credited with originating the "red ink" table d'hôte. Mouquin discarded the table d'hôte and served his meals à la carte. Many of his dishes attained a vogue, and his wines, especially the sparkling ones, were considered excellent.

With the advent of prohibition the lustre of the restaurant began to fade. Early in March last a padlock was put on the front door by order of the Federal Court. The management was charged with permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors. Two waiters, Alexander Chapput and Armand Francois de Lysle, subsequently committed suicide by inhaling gas. The men had worked at Mouquin's for twenty years and their despondency was attributed to the closing of the restaurant and their inability to find employment.

Another episode of the padlocking was the plight of the "Mouquin" cats. Mice were frequent tenants of the old frame structure and an army of cats was maintained to prey on them. When the Federal officers closed the restaurant they shooed cat after cat out of the door. Two cats, however, remained behind. Their cries finally caused neighbors to send for the police. The policemen reported the job beyond them, owing to the padlock. Federal officers and an expert cat-catcher from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals finally rescued the cats.



## A NEW TALE ADDED TO "ARABIAN NIGHTS"

## Leaders of Russian Academy Say They Have Found the Original Manuscript, Lost Since the Fifteenth Century

Intel Museum in Moscow is the only place in the world where you can see the original manuscript of the Declaration of Independence. The document, which was signed by 55 delegates, is now housed in the State Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences. It is a masterpiece of calligraphy, written in a cursive hand that is still used in Russia today. The document is a testament to the spirit of the American Revolution, and it is a treasure that is well worth a visit to the Intel Museum in Moscow.

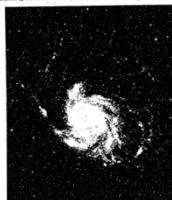
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## ISLAND UNIVERSES CHARTED BY SCIENTISTS

**Thousands of Separate Systems, Comparable in Size to Our Own Nebula, Are Scattered Through Space**



**T**he *By W. J. LESTER*  
of the *Standard Chiropractic*  
OFFICE, 1101 N. 1st St., St. Paul,  
Minn., has been elected president  
of the American Chiropractic  
Association, which met in session  
at the Hotel Marlborough in  
Boston, Mass., for its annual  
meeting. The association was  
organized in 1906, and has  
since that time held its annual  
conventions in different cities.  
The association is composed of  
chiropractors from all over the  
United States, and is the largest  
of its kind in the world. It is  
the purpose of the association  
to promote the interests of  
chiropractic, and to advance  
the science and art of the  
profession. The association  
also has a journal, the *Journal  
of Chiropractic*, which is  
published monthly. The  
association is a non-profit  
organization, and its funds  
are used for the benefit of  
the profession. The association  
has a large membership, and  
is a very important organization  
in the chiropractic world.



The Spiral Nebula Is Invisible to the Unaided Eye.

## DANTE'S TOMB AT RAVENNA

**WILL BE REBUILT AGAIN**  
Ancient Dispute With Florence for Possession of the Poet's  
Bones Directs Periodical Attention to Sepulchre

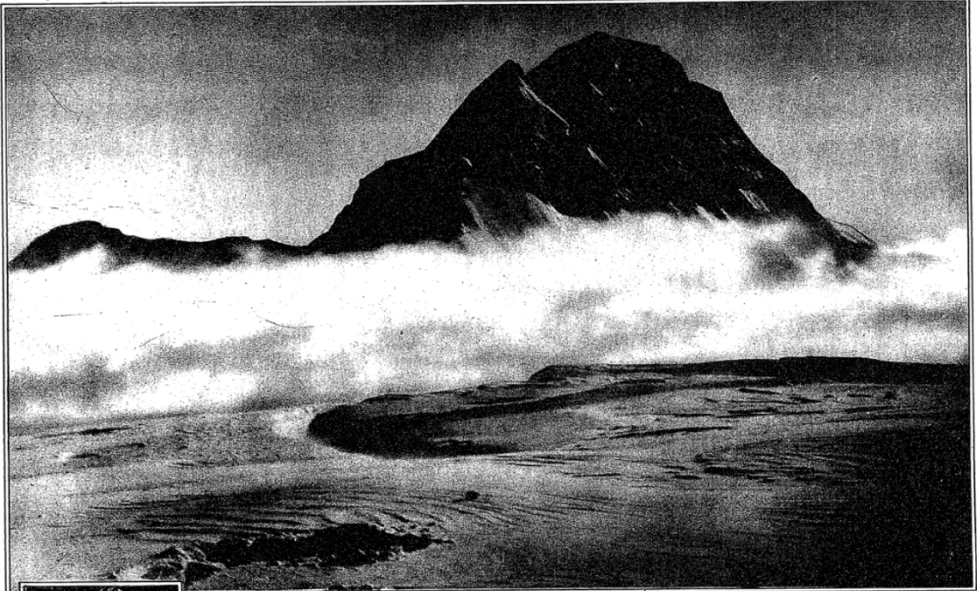


**SAVES LIVES**—The 1938 season for the cattle and sheep industry in Utah was the best in 125 years, according to the Utah Department of Agriculture. The department reports that the industry has been able to produce a record 1,000,000 head of cattle and sheep, and that the industry has been able to produce a record 1,000,000 head of cattle and sheep.



### The Tomb of Dante in the Ancient City of Ravenna





THE ICEFIELD AT THE TOP OF SAN-  
ADA: THE WHITE RIM OF KING COL,  
a Short Drop of 2,500 Feet, With  
King Peak Behind the Cloud, at  
the Summit of Mount Logan,  
the Highest Peak in Canada,  
Which Has Been Reached  
by an Expedition Headed  
by Captain McCarthy.  
(Photos © 1925, Vancouver  
(B. C.) Daily Province.)



THE LATEST VERSION OF  
"HUNG ON HER FINGER"  
AND BELLS ON HER  
TOES. FINEST BORDERS  
Jewelry From Europe on the  
Paris, Vienna, London  
Fashion with her own  
Her Husband's Portrait and  
a Pearl Embroidered With a  
"Jewel" of Her Name.



THE  
PORTAL  
TO THE  
HEIGHTS OF  
MOUNT LOGAN: CAMP AT KING COL,  
Where the Party Spent Five Nights in Bitter  
Weather and  
Low Tempera-  
tures Before  
Moving Up to  
Higher Altitudes.



HIGH UP IN THE AMERICAN ALPS: WINDY GAP,  
on the Side of Mount Logan, Where Camp Was Pitched at an Elevation of 14,000 Feet During  
the Amount of the Mountain, While the Temperature Registered a Minimum of 25 Below Zero.



BLOWING HIS OWN HORN IN SWITZERLAND:  
HOMER CHOW,  
the Novelist, Who Is at Work Upon a Story of Americans in  
Europe, With His Little Daughter (Left), Makes the Wallis  
Ring With a Pair of Alpshorn.  
(Times Photo Bureau.)

THE  
LONG-  
DISTANCE  
FEDLER  
OF  
FRANCE:  
LOUIS  
BERNIN,  
Who  
Recently  
Has Come  
From the  
Front of  
Notre Dame  
to Tour the  
Whole of  
France on  
His Bicycle  
to Market  
His Wares.  
(Times Photo  
Bureau.)

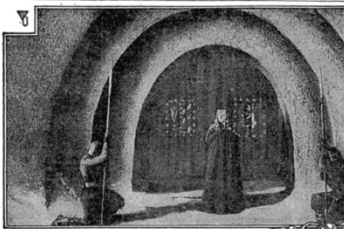


CLAIRE LUCE,  
Formerly With "The Made Box Review,"  
Now With the Summer Review at the Casino  
de Paris, Wears the Wares of Mistinguett's  
Jewelry Fashion Collection.  
(Times Photo Bureau.)



WITHIN SIGHT OF THE GOAL: THE EXPEDITION LEAVING CASCADE CAMP,  
Where the Party Spent Two Days, on the Last Leg to the Summit of Mount Logan. Each Man of the Party Carried  
Seventy Pounds Over 200 Miles of Ridge and Glacier and 30-Steep Slopes.

## REFLECTIONS AND NEWS OF THE SCREEN WORLD



Scene From the Film Conception of "Hegfried."

## Pathos, Poetry and Farce Linked in Chaplin's Offering, "The Gold Rush"

**T**heir way to go. And they did. "I was a little nervous," says the former lead singer of the band. "But I was so happy to be a part of it." The album, which was released in 1991, was a huge success, and it was a great way for the band to end their career. The album was a collection of songs that the band had written over the years, and it was a great way for them to say goodbye to their fans. The album was a success, and it was a great way for the band to end their career. The album was a collection of songs that the band had written over the years, and it was a great way for them to say goodbye to their fans.

[illegible][illegible]

George E. Arthur, Clarence Talma and Donald Colman in "Her Sister From Paris."

## Scenarist Chats About Film Stories Says Some of the Work Is Drudgery

## It's Fascinating

[illegible][illegible]

Thronged Ball Room for "Kiss for Cinderella" Is Fascinating

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

## Embassy Theatre To Open

[illegible]

## This Week's Photos

the 1990s, the industry has been hit hard by a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new entrants, a shift in the composition of the workforce, and a decline in the number of new entrants. The industry has been hit hard by a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new entrants, a shift in the composition of the workforce, and a decline in the number of new entrants.



Harry Earles, Victor McLaglen and Lon Chaney in "The Unholy Three." \$15,000 each.

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But no one who has read only some of Kipling would be satisfied to stop there. His spell leads one

on and on, seeking new adventures, new beauties. Is it to be wondered that thousands of book-lovers have clamored for Kipling in one uniform way? That they have dreamed of the day when they could add such a set to their libraries?

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shall have it near proper, but the word that shall break it must die.

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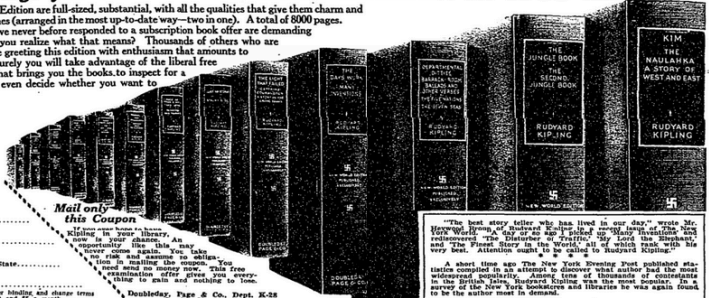
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