



1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

#232 | 25 août 1925

« Mardi, levé à midi, écrit des lettres tout l'après-midi, dont une à A.E.P.G, et dans la soirée je suis retourné au Milan pour mon minestrone — après quoi j'ai absorbé une autre dose du livre de Kimball à la bibliothèque publique. De retour, j'ai écrit un peu puis couché tard.

Mercredi, je me suis levé à midi et j'ai passé l'après-midi à essayer de préparer quelques vers pour la réunion du Crayon Bleu de samedi, qui se tiendra au château des Dench à Sheepshead Bay, avec « Richard Merritt Dench, nouvellement arrivé », comme sujet littéraire. J'aimerais vraiment me dispenser de m'y rendre, mais cela offenserait le bon vieux Mortonius, qui m'a écrit spécialement pour me demander d'être présent avec une contribution. Ne sachant pas trop quoi dire à un enfant sans tomber dans la banalité et l'insipidité, j'ai décidé d'opter pour le didactisme à outrance — en disant au pauvre enfant dans quel monde difficile il était tombé, et en lui conseillant de s'accrocher fermement aux rêves et à l'imagination s'il espérait avoir ne serait-ce qu'un temps de vie tolérable. Pour cette harangue, un long mètre swinburnien avec des rimes internes m'a semblé le plus approprié, et j'ai donc commencé ainsi. Je joins le résultat décevant — que vous pouvez garder, puisque j'ai un autre carbone pour A.E.P.G.

*Et voilà comment celui qui a dans ses cahiers l'ébauche de Cthulhu, et deux récits d'horreur à dactylographier, se perd pendant trois jours dans l'écriture d'un poème de circonstance. Mais précieux pour nous, quoique dans la lettre du 27 août Lovecraft ne semble plus trop savoir s'il s'agissait du lundi ou du mardi, de vérifier une fois de plus que ses lettres à la tante Annie ont disparu, même si, pour ce poème To an infant, il a recours à un carbone : écrire la main ne signifie pas exemplaire unique.*

[1925, mardi 25 août]

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Up noon — write letters — out to Milan & library — return & write —  
retire late.

*Levé à midi. Écrit des lettres. Passé au Milan puis bibliothèque.  
Retour & écrit. Couché tard.*

Les livres qu'on ne peut pas s'acheter, on les lit à la bibliothèque (toujours cet énorme livre de Gertrude Selwyn Kimball, *Providence in colonial times*, paru en 1912, et qui lui servira notamment pour *L'affaire Charles Dexter Ward*) : remarquer qu'il n'entre pas à la grande bibliothèque de la Vème avenue avant 8 heures le soir, et y reste probablement jusqu'à la fermeture — vers 22 h 30 ?

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*New York Times*, 25 août 1925. Mike Reilly, que depuis vingt ans tout Jersey City appelait le riche mendiant, a prouvé hier en mourant qu'il était un pauvre homme ayant besoin de la charité. Pendant vingt ans, Mike a arpenté le front de mer avec sa jambe de bois, tendant son escarcelle. « Ben quoi, Jambe de Bois, lui répondait-on en général : vous êtes riches, vous les tendeurs d'écuelles... — Aidez-moi, protestait Mike, je n'ai pas récolté un sous... » Et tout le monde se moquait. Tout le monde avait lu des histoires sur des mendiants qui vivaient dans des suites d'hôtels et se faisaient conduire par des chauffeurs. Mike, disaient-ils, était l'un d'entre eux, et bien sûr il avait de l'argent. La police le croyait aussi, hier, après avoir appris que Mike était tombé dans l'escalier de sa pension au 224 York Street, à Jersey City. Il avait 62 ans, et ils s'attendaient à lui trouver plusieurs comptes en banque et une confortable épargne, ils se sont mis à chercher. « Il n'avait pas un centime », ont-ils déclaré hier soir, interloqués. « Mike disait la vérité. » Jeudi, les funérailles de Mike vont le prouver : il sera enterré à Laurel Hill, le cimetière des pauvres de Jersey City.

## Sneered At as Rich Beggar for 20 Years, 'Pegleg Mike' Dies and Leaves Not a Penny

Mike Reilly, whom for twenty years Jersey City called a rich mendicant, vindicated in death yesterday all his protestations that he was a poor man who needed alms.

For twenty years Mike had stumped about the waterfront with his wooden right leg, asking for help.

"Gwan, Pegleg," was the reply he usually got. "Why, you're rich; all you panhandlers are rich!"

"S'help me," protested Mike, "I ain't got a dime!"

Everybody laughed. Everybody had read stories of beggars who lived in

hotel suites and rode in limousines driven by liveried chauffeurs, and Mike, they said, was a beggar just like them; of course he had money.

The police believed it yesterday after they learned Mike had fallen down the stairs of his tenement home at 224 York Street, Jersey City. He was 82 years old, and they expected to find accounts in several banks. They went to investigate.

"He didn't have a cent," they said last night, a little mystified. "Mike was, telling the truth."

And on Thursday Mike's funeral will vindicate him again. His body will be buried in Laurel Hill, Jersey City's cemetery for paupers.

## MacMillan Starts Back From the Arctic; His Ship, the Peary, Arrives at Igloo Houny

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—The southward movement of the MacMillan Arctic expedition from its base at Etah, where all flying activities in search for the Polar Sea have been abandoned, has begun, and the Peary arrived yesterday at Igloo Houny, Greenland. This is a small trading station on Murchison Sound, about 100 miles south of Etah.

The Navy Department today received a radio message from Lieut. Commander Richard E. Byrd, sent yesterday, read-

"Peary arrived at Igloo Houny at 2:45 A. M., with NA-2 and NA-3. NA-1 was hoisted aboard this afternoon with wings dismantled. Commander MacMillan has decided not to do any more exploration in this region. Chief Boatswain Reber has come off the sick list and all naval personnel is well."

According to a radio message to the National Geographic Society, sent from Pandora Harbor, just south of Etah, the expedition is on its way to Disko Island, Greenland, where it coaled when en route north.

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The SERVEL Electric Refrigerator is kept cool by a refrigerant with a temperature under normal pressure of 10 degrees below zero. A few drops of this poured in water flashes into ice instantly. The refrigerant is harmless, odorless, and non-corrosive. It does not come into contact with food, but is confined in the system and never needs recharging.

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**HOUSEWORKER**, cooking, colored, part time or whole, housekeeping; experienced. Laura, Bradhurst 6846.

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**HOUSEWORKER**, experienced, colored; part or whole time. Bradhurst 6330.

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**LAUNDRESS**, experienced in all of its branches, wishes to cater to a select clientele; sunny dryers; call, deliver. Mrs. Tobin, 107 West 16th St., basement. Endicott 1967.

**LAUNDRESS**, colored, reliable; take home or out. 27 East 20th St. Superintendent.

**LAUNDRESS**, colored girl, wishes washing, take home; references. Hall, Harlem 3025.

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**LAUNDRESS**, high class, wishes fine work, home; references. Kelly, 182 East 65th.

**MOTHER'S HELPER**, neat colored girl. Parker, 226 West 144th.

**NURSE**, undergraduate, long experience; references; assisting light housework, invalid lady or maternity case. Audubon 0990.

**NURSE**, practical American, care semi-invalid lady; light housework; references. Hadingway 3302.

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**TRAINED NURSE**, take care of infant, \$25. Phone Fordham 4471.

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**WOMAN**, refined, English, would like position, housekeeper, good cook; experienced in nursing. Mrs. Lucy Gunthorpe, Broadway Central Hotel.

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## FEMALE.

### Employment Agencies.

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## MALE.

**BOY**, educated Europe, visiting high school, seeks good home in return for companionship boy or slight help. John, 21 Grant St., Port Wadsworth, S. I.

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**CHAUFFEUR** wishes position; 15 years' experience driving and repairing any car; best references. Phone Wadsworth 2469. Apt. 43.

**CHAUFFEUR-MECHANIC**, 24 years old, 5 years' experience, wishes position driving both commercial or private. Write or call L. N. Morel, 56 William St., L. I. City.

**CHAUFFEUR**, married, age 28; drives any make car; 11 years' experience; 7 years' references; not afraid of late hours. Fernon, Rhineland 1000.

**CHAUFFEUR-MECHANIC**, experienced, desires position private; 5 years last place. Wagon, 133 West 88th. Phone Schuyler 1078.

**CHAUFFEUR**, Swedish, single; 15 years' experience; city, country; excellent references. Sussquhanna 4054.

**CHAUFFEUR**, colored, light; can give references; operate, repair all automobiles. Bradhurst 2181.

**CHAUFFEUR-MECHANIC**, married, 37, excellent references, desires private position. Phone Academy 8111.

**CHAUFFEUR-MECHANIC**, 28, desires position private family; most references. Harlem 3025.

**CHAUFFEUR**, private family, city, country; references. Rhodon, 201 West 124th. Audubon 10610.

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**COUPLE**, colored, experienced, cook, butler, houseman or chauffeur; city references. Audubon 1932.

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