



1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

299 | 1^{er} novembre 1925



« J'ai mangé un ragoût de bœuf hier soir et je mangerai le reste ce matin. Comme vous, j'ai d'abord tout réchauffé, un deuxième réchauffage ne nuisant en rien à la deuxième portion. Comme je ne suis pas attaché à la convention de certains aliments à certaines heures, je ne garde mes deuxièmes portions qu'une demi-journée, les laissant constituer mon prochain repas plutôt que celui du lendemain. De cette façon, j'évite toute altération des aliments à base de viande. Les haricots et les spaghettis en conserve sont bien meilleurs lorsque réchauffés, mais mes conserves préférées sont les repas complets que j'ai décrits il y a quelque temps, parmi lesquels mon préféré reste le ragoût de bœuf. Je peux également réchauffer les tourtes la viande de mouton que j'achète à la Scotch Bakery. Un jour, j'essaierai le succotash en conserve. En effet, maintenant que je dispose d'un moyen de réchauffer mes plats, je consomme plus de conserves. De temps en temps, j'achète des haricots Heinz plutôt que des Atlantic & Pacific, car même s'ils sont plus chers, leur saveur est meilleure. Je vais peut-être aussi essayer différentes marques de spaghettis en conserve. Quant à laisser le couvercle du réchaud ouvert, j'ai essayé, mais je n'ai pas obtenu de résultats très concluants. Parfois, je baisse le feu pour économiser du pétrole, car je ne veux jamais dépasser 5 gallons (80 cts !) par semaine. Au fait, la jauge de pétrole devrait-elle fonctionner sans aucune aide, comme tapoter ou déplacer le poêle ? Je trouve que la mienne semble avoir besoin d'une telle stimulation de temps en temps, bien que le processus ne présente aucune difficulté. »

HPL, lettre à Lillian du 7 novembre, jusqu'aujourd'hui il reste à la maison, un petit coup d'œil sur les intérieurs est légitime ! Et souhaitons-lui bon appétit avec le succotash, mélange haricots et maïs...

[1925, dimanche 1er novembre]

Up late — read *Weird Tales* — began *Three Impostors* — retired late.

*Levé tard. Lu le Weird Tales. Commencé les Trois imposteurs.
Couché tard.*

Il a donc retrouvé son volume d'Arthur Machen, *Les trois imposteurs*, qui fera toujours partie des neuf volumes de Machen présents dans sa bibliothèque à sa mort : est-ce pour cela, une volonté d'exhaustivité pour l'auteur-maître, qu'il s'était tant escrimé pour retrouver l'ouvrage, égaré dans les bureaux du *Coney Island Journal* à cause de l'ami Dench ? Et la curieuse histoire contée par S.T. Joshi, l'exemplaire de 1895 prêté à Bernard Austin Dwyer disparu en 1931 dans l'incendie de sa maison, Wilfred Talman offrira à Lovecraft la réimpression de 1930, augmentée d'une nouvelle, *The Red Hand*. En tout cas, plus de 250 pages à lire, et une quinzaine d'histoires. Et qui m'en voudra que cela parle à ceux de mon âge : Ben Hur sur les écrans, tourné avec quarante-deux caméras !

New York Times, 1^{er} novembre (publicité). Bien sûr que les livres meurent. Qui se souvient encore des best-sellers de l'année dernière, ou même des années précédentes ? Des milliers de livres, éphémères et sans valeur, tombent sans cesse dans l'oubli. Seules les œuvres immortelles des génies, ces grands livres qui sont la source durable de la culture et de l'éducation, sont préservées. Seul le temps peut être chargé de séparer le bon grain de l'ivraie. Les œuvres de Shakespeare ne mourront jamais, pas plus que celles de Dickens, de Shelley, de Platon, de Tolstoï ou de Stevenson (pour ne citer que quelques-uns des maîtres figurant sur la liste des immortels). Leur influence vitale pour l'élévation de l'esprit humain se poursuit sans cesse. « Ne lisez que des livres célèbres », disait Emerson. Aujourd'hui, pour vous, pour tous les hommes et toutes les femmes qui désirent sincèrement être à l'avant-garde de la vie, capables de grandes réalisations, éveillés aux plaisirs les plus durables de la vie, l'édition moderne a rendu accessibles.

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Sunday, November 1, 1923 **The New York Times** KATZMAN'S HISTORY SECTION 5

THE BATTLESHIP "NEW YORK" AT SEA

The battleship "New York" is shown at sea, with its main gun turrets visible. The ship is surrounded by a large number of smaller boats, including destroyers and torpedo boats, which are part of its escort. The scene is set in the open ocean, with a clear sky and calm water.

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Sunday, November 1, 1923 **The New York Times** KATZMAN'S HISTORY SECTION 6

The Photograph Which "Shook" England: The Prince of Wales as a Red-Haired Vamp

The photograph shows a woman in a patterned dress, standing in a room. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The room has a large window in the background, and the lighting is soft and even.

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