

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS

LOVECRAFT

336 | 9 DÉCEMBRE 1925

« Après avoir posté la lettre d'hier, me suis couché à 19h30 et j'ai dormi jusqu'à 8 heures mercredi matin. À mon réveil, j'ai lu un peu de Machen et le nouveau *Weird Tales*, puis j'ai reçu un appel de la maman de Sonny qui m'invitait à dîner à 17 heures avant la réunion. J'ai accepté, enfilé mon plus beau costume gris et je suis parti, en m'arrêtant à la bibliothèque publique pour lire pendant deux heures le livre de Marquand sur Lord Timothy Dexter. Vous-même et A.E.P.G devez vous procurer un exemplaire de ce livre délicieux, car il respire dans ses pages toute la vie piquante du vieux Newburyport ! Arrivé chez Sonny à l'heure, j'ai trouvé l'enfant dans une rage folle après le rejet par Wright de sa dernière nouvelle, *Legions of Lemuria* » mais je l'ai rapidement calmé en lui faisant remarquer à quel point l'opinion d'un éditeur de magazines bon marché est insignifiante. J'ai lu certains de ses derniers textes et lui ai suggéré une fin plus surprenante pour sa cette dernière histoire, qu'il a adoptée avec avidité et envoyée immédiatement au magazine *Frontier*. Un dîner somptueux a suivi, après quoi les invités ont commencé à arriver dans l'ordre suivant : Morton, Kleiner et Loveman ensemble, puis Kirk et Leeds ensemble. Une fois au complet, nous avons passé un moment très animé et agréable, et avons pleinement apprécié le superbe Welsh Rarebit que Mme Long nous avait préparé. Nous nous sommes séparés à minuit, je suis rentré chez moi à 1 heure du matin, puis j'ai lu un livre d'histoires étranges d'Algernon Blackwood que Leeds m'avait prêté. Il était assez long, et je ne l'avais pas encore terminé lorsque le courrier du matin est arrivé à 8 heures. »

[1925, mercredi 9 décembre]

Up 8 a.m. read W.T. & Machen. Tel. from Sonny — dinner inv. — Start for library & Sonny's — read Dexter book at library — up to Sonny's — read his new tales — discuss — dinner — discuss — guests arr. — JFM — RK & SL — GK & AL — general discussion — good meeting — disperse 12:00, back to 169 & read Blackwood — stay up.

Levé 8 heures, lu le Weird Tales et Machen. Coup de fil de Mme Belknap Long pour m'inviter à dîner à 17 heures. Je pars pour la bibliothèque puis chez Sonny, lecture du Dexter à la bibliothèque puis à pied pour aller chez les Belknap. Il me lit sa nouvelle histoire. Arrivent Morton, Kleiner et Loveman, puis Kirk et Leeds. Discussion générale, belle réunion. On s'en va à minuit, retour au 169 et je lu Algernon Blackwood. Pas couché.

Une réunion formidable pour le Kalem Club, ça les change des précédentes. Mais aussi parce qu'est « semaine Leeds », et surtout pour le menu concocté par la maman de Frank Belknap Long, plus petite fierté, vis-à-vis de la tante Lillian, d'affirmer que c'est lui, Howard, qui a proposé à « Sonny » une autre fin pour son histoire rejetée par *Weirs Tales*. Mais lui, cette matinée, c'est ce qu'il lit, le nouveau *Weird Tales*, daté janvier 2026 ! Son nom une nouvelle fois directement sur la couverture, et Fainsworth Wright a placé *The Tomb* en fin de numéro, non pour mise au placard mais pour raison inverse : avec la reprise du poème *Lenore* d'Edgar Poe, comme un coda plus littéraire... Gageons aussi que les tartines galloises au fromage fondu, au lieu de l'habituel crumble et tartelettes, pour la traditionnelle collation du Kalem, ont participé au bonheur de la soirée !

New York Times, le 9 décembre. Washington, 8 décembre — Des preuves attestant que le Dr William McGovern, l'explorateur d'Oxford qui s'était lancé début mai dans une expédition dans la région inexplorée des sources de l'Amazone, était vivant et en bonne santé le 1er novembre, ont été obtenues aujourd'hui par le *New York Times* auprès d'un voyageur qui vient de rentrer de Manaus, au Brésil, mais qui, pour des raisons personnelles et officielles, a refusé que son nom soit divulgué. Selon lui, le Dr McGovern a été vu à Manaus. L'inquiétude quant à la sécurité du Dr McGovern est palpable aux États-Unis depuis la publication d'un télégramme en provenance de Londres dans le *New York Times* du 4 décembre, indiquant que l'explorateur était entré dans la région amazonienne comme prévu, mais qu'aucune nouvelle certaine n'avait été reçue de lui depuis le 20 août et que, à moins d'obtenir rapidement des informations sur sa localisation, une équipe de recherche serait envoyée depuis Iquitos, au Pérou. Le voyageur qui garantit l'exactitude de l'information selon laquelle le Dr

McGovern était sain et sauf le 1er novembre affirme que le Dr McGovern est arrivé à Manaos à la fin du mois d'octobre et qu'il est resté dans cette ville au moins jusqu'au 1er novembre. « Je connais bien le Dr McGovern et je l'ai reçu à Manaos juste avant qu'il ne parte pour son voyage d'exploration. » a déclaré aujourd'hui le voyageur, commentant les informations selon lesquelles l'explorateur n'avait pas donné de nouvelles depuis plusieurs mois. « Alors que je me préparais à quitter Manaos le 1er novembre, j'ai appris que le Dr McGovern était arrivé dans la ville. C'est un ami personnel qui m'a apporté cette nouvelle, après avoir invité l'explorateur à dîner. Cet ami m'a dit que le Dr McGovern était en bonne forme, qu'il avait raconté de nombreuses expériences intéressantes de son voyage en Amazonie et qu'il était accompagné de quelques Indiens indigènes. « Il est possible, voire probable, que le Dr McGovern ait quitté Manaos il y a plusieurs semaines. D'après ce que j'ai appris juste avant de quitter Manaos, il avait l'intention de reprendre son travail en pénétrant dans le district du Rio Negro, puis de traverser les Andes pour se rendre à Lima et de là, remonter la côte ouest jusqu'au canal de Panama. S'il a suivi son programme comme prévu, son objectif était de se rendre directement à New York pour prendre un bateau à vapeur à destination de Liverpool. D'après ce que j'ai entendu à Manaos, je pense que le rapport du Dr McGovern sur son voyage dans la région adjacente au cours supérieur de l'Amazone s'avérera très intéressant. » Le voyageur a exprimé l'opinion que le Dr McGovern avait probablement réussi à franchir les Andes et qu'il remontait maintenant la côte ouest en direction du Panama.

Fears for Dr. McGovern, Brazil Explorer, Dispelled by His Arrival at Manaos in October

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Evidence that Dr. William McGovern, the Oxford explorer who set out early in May on an expedition to the untraveled region of headwaters of the Amazon, was alive and in good health on Nov. 1, was obtained here today by THE NEW YORK TIMES from a traveler who has just returned from Manaos, Brazil, but who for personal and official reasons declined to permit the use of his name. Dr. McGovern, he says, was seen at Manaos.

Anxiety for the safety of Dr. McGovern has been felt in the United States since the publication of a London cable dispatch in THE NEW YORK TIMES of Dec. 4 stating that the explorer had entered the Amazon region as scheduled, but that no definite word had come from him since Aug. 20, and that unless information soon was received as to his whereabouts, a searching party would be dispatched from Iquitos, Peru.

The traveler who vouches for the accuracy of the information that Dr. McGovern was safe and well on Nov. 1 states that Dr. McGovern reached Manaos in the latter part of October, and that he remained in that city at least until Nov. 1.

"I know Dr. McGovern well, and entertained him in Manaos just before he started on his trip of exploration," said

the traveler today, in commenting on reports that the explorer had not been heard from for several months. "As I was preparing to leave Manaos on Nov. 1 the news came to me that Dr. McGovern had reached the city. It was brought to me by a personal friend who had entertained the explorer at dinner. This friend advised me that Dr. McGovern was in good shape, that he had narrated many interesting experiences of his journey into the Amazon country, and that he was accompanied by some native Indians.

"It is possible, even probable, that Dr. McGovern left Manaos several weeks ago. It was his intention, as I was informed just before I left Manaos, to resume his work by penetrating the Rio Negro district, then to go over the Andes to Lima and thence up the west coast to the Panama Canal. If he carried out his program, as indicated, it was his purpose to go direct to New York to take a steamer for Liverpool.

"From what I heard in Manaos I am of the opinion that Dr. McGovern's report on his trip to the country adjacent to the headwaters of the Amazon will prove highly interesting."

The traveler expressed the opinion that Dr. McGovern had probably successfully passed over the Andes and that he was now on his way up the west coast bound for Panama.

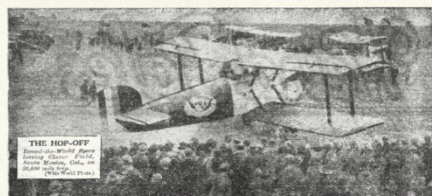
Weird Tales

The Unique Magazine

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January 1926 25¢

Stories by ELI COLTER, H. P. LOVECRAFT and OTHERS



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Weird Tales

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Contents for January, 1926

Cover Design.....Andrew Brombach
"Dr. Liza told the man on the table, strapped him down, and prepared for a weird operation."

Stealer of Souls.....Charles Hilan Craig 5
Complete Novellet—Early Revenge of Red Jankie, the Handblack

On the Dead Man's Chest (Part One).....Eli Colter 21
Four-part Occult Serial—Spirit Return

The Dead Son.....Raoul Lenoir 29
Elli Emily Clings to Life, Though Its Skeleton Lies in the Desert

The Black Crusader.....Alicia Ramsey 39
He Risen from the Grave to Threat the Despoiler of His Tomb

(Continued on Next Page)

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(Continued from Preceding Page)

McGill's Appointment.....Elsie Ellis 47	A Five Minute Tale
The Mystery Under the Sea.....Donald Edward Keyhoe 49	Submarine Pirates—the Gum Cables—and a Giant Devilfish
Adam, to Lilith.....E. Hoffmann Price 59	Verse
The Avenger.....H. Thompson Rich 69	Weird Drama in One Act
The Fair Pastie Pys.....Arthur Edwards Chapman 63	Fragments From a Fourteenth Century Manuscript
The Sands of Dee.....Charles Kingsley 68	Verse
Weird Story Reprints	
No. 7. Wandering Willie's Tale.....Walter Scott 69	Stevie Seeks out Redgander's Wraith in his Appointed Place
The Gong Ringers.....Hasan Volkmann 81	Two Strokes of the Bell, and the Gong Ringer Fell, a Bloody Carpe
The Waning of a World (Part Three).....W. Elwyn Backus 86	Four-part Serial Novel About a Voyage to Mars
The Tomb.....H. P. Lovecraft 117	Jerus Hyde Learns Unstable Secrets in the Tomb of His Ancestor
Lenore.....Edgar Allan Poe 124	Verse
The Byrie.....125	A Chat With the Readers

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Sedibus ut saltem placidis in morte quiescam.—Virgil.

IN RELATING the circumstances which have led to my confinement within this refuge for the demented, I am aware that my present position will create a natural doubt of the authenticity of my narrative. It is an unfortunate fact that the bulk of humanity is too limited in its mental vision to weigh with patience and intelligence those isolated phenomena, seen and felt only by a psychologically sensitive few, which lie outside its common experience. Men of broader intellect know that there is no sharp distinction betwixt the real and the unreal; that all things appear as they do only by virtue of the delicate individual physical and mental media through which we are made conscious of them; but the prosaic materialism of the majority condemns as madness the flashes of supersight which penetrate the common veil of obvious empiricism.

My name is Jervas Dudley, and from earliest childhood I have been a

dreamer and a visionary. Wealthy beyond the necessity of a commercial life, and temperamentally unfitted for the formal studies and social recreations of my acquaintances, I have dwelt ever in realms apart from the visible world; spending my youth and adolescence in ancient and little known books, and in roaming the fields and groves of the region near my ancestral home. I do not think that what I read in these books or saw in these fields and groves was exactly what other boys read and saw there; but of this I must say little, since detailed speech would but confirm those cruel slanders upon my intellect which I sometimes overhear from the whispers of the stealthy attendants around me. It is sufficient for me to relate events without analyzing causes.

I have said that I dwelt apart from the visible world, but I have not said that I dwelt alone. This no human creature may do; for lacking the fellowship of the living, he inevitably draws upon the companionship of things that are not, or are no longer, living. Close by my home there lies a singular wooded hollow, in whose twilight deeps I spent most of my time; reading, thinking, and dreaming. Down its moss-covered slopes my first steps of infancy were taken, and around its grotesquely gnarled oak trees my first fancies of boyhood were woven. Well did I come to know the presiding dryads of those trees, and often have I watched their wild

