

Finally, Mailings

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This issue is written and published for the 28th mailing of The Esoteric Order of Dagon, for Oct. 31st., 1979, by William E. Hart, [redacted], Fullerton, Calif. 92632. Telephone [redacted]
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*It seems to me that I'm beginning to make a habit of missing our mailings; not only did I skip the last one, but I've barely read the last two. If I ever manage to get a clone of myself, I'm sure the two of us will be able to almost keep up with all of my hobbies...

This issue marks my debut as a self publisher; with the purchase of a Heyer, model E mimeograph from Sears, I'm now free of the xerox money bandits, and I can also save a large sum from not having to burn up my gas every time I need a couple of things ran off. Since buying my mimeo, I've been trying to find a booklet or piece of literature that would give handy and creative hints on how to get the most out of a mimeograph, but I can't seem to find anything. The so called instruction booklet that came with mine is just about useless. If any of you that are currently printing your own zines could print a list of does and don'ts, or a small bit of advise on this, I, and I imagine, a few others, would be very grateful. Thank you.

Just last night (10-25-79) I finally picked up my latest toy which is going to add one more drain to my already strained finances; as a consolation to myself for not being able to make it to the World Fantasy Con in Providence this year, I decided to finally get the Video Cassette Recorder that I've wanted for a long time. The unit I selected is the JVC VIDSTAR HR-6700U, which is JVC's version of the 6 hour VHS system. Not only can I get 6 hours onto one cassette, but this system also has a few features that really make it special: it has a single frame mode, which freezes the action, it has a slow motion mode, which allows you to slow everything down to one-thirtieth through one-third of normal speed with its variable speed control, and it also has a double speed, and triple speed mode. To really top it off, all of the unit's variable speeds (stop, slow, double, & triple) can also be controlled from its remote control unit that comes with the system. Now I'm going to end up spending a fortune on tape so that I can fully enjoy this system. Oh well, it's only money...

I'm very sorry to see that Dirk has had to leave the Order; I've always felt that he added that much needed touch of class to our group. Perhaps we could keep his name on the waiting list to at least make sure he receives the mailing every three months anyway... Hope so. I'd be willing to pay for his waitlist fees, and his copies of the mailings, how about it Bosky?

RELATED COMMENTS ON THE 26th MAILING

CRICKET- Bernadette Bosky - I loved your cover, and think you should enlist your father more often. / It seems I've been left off of the contents page; that gave me quite a fright; I was running late, and I wasn't sure I would make the deadline, and when I couldn't find my name I thought I was a gaffer for sure!

WALPURGIS - Peter Reichensperger - I find it amusing that as many, if not more, of Derleth's stories are mentioned than Poe's are in the HPL Selected Letters volumes; I can't help but think that this was due to Derleth's editing, and not to the actual feelings of H.P.L.. / I think you and Indick should have teamed up on this project since you're both researching along the same lines. Thank you both for these efforts!

SPIDER BITE - Larry Baker - When you missed the Sandra Dee "Dunwich", you really didn't miss much at all!

NEMESIS - Michael Roden - Some of your work is very reminiscent of the work of Dennis Tiani; are you familiar with his art? If not, try a copy of DRAWING CLOSER TO THE GRAVE, available from Harry Morris, Jr., and his Silver Scarab Press. / I've always enjoyed seeing H.P.L.'s poetry illustrated, please do more!

CRUMBLING RELICKS - Chet Williamson - Your experiences with Three Mile Island sound like the basis for a new type of horror story—a true one! / I don't know if I've been asleep too long, but I somehow missed the family relationship between Marc & Paul Michaud; Thanks for filling me in on this.

IBID - Ben P. Indick - It seems you've gotten on the same indexing job as Peter Reichensperger; any idea which of you started first? / Please pressure Everett for more "Howard" tales!; and Daniels for more of his excellent poems. / Reading your mc's was like enjoying a comfortable fire-side chat; that means a lot to me when I'm sitting at my workbench at work during my breaks, escaping into the mailings—Only trouble is, I go into shock when the bell rings and I have to return my mind to the job at hand. Oh well.

OUTRE - J. Vernon Shea - The junk film article made me think it might be a worthwhile business to get into; only problem is, I'm too nice a guy. / You really should take the time to read THE HOBBIT and the LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy; they're the books I used to get Jean started on Fantasy Literature. I may have to reread them again soon myself.

PSYCHOTIC EPISODES - Dirk Rausch - Neverhaving tried L.S.D., I missed your experience with weight loss; but being a confirmed drinker, I haven't had too many good weight losses either...

SELECTED LIST... - Roger Bryant - Many thanks Roger; I can never remember where everything is, and this list really helps!

NIGHT GAUNTS - Mollie L. Werba - My warmest welcome to you Mollie! /

I'd like to hear more about you & your background. / What? No listing for "squamous" or "ruggose"? / As I sit here rereading your poem "Happiness", I'm also watching a Charlie Brown special on t.v.; I think this just adds to my already enjoying it! Please, encore!

CTHULSZ - David E. Schultz - I still tend to side with the holistic approach to H.P.L. that Dirk Mosig has; your work and research into themes in the works by Lovecraft still tend to fascinate me though.

LETTERS FROM LENG - Robert M. Eber - Phantasm was your typical schlock film filled with bumbling characters, who, faced with murder, kidnapping, strange creatures, etc., never seem to get around to calling in someone who could help, i.e., the Police—This was one of the many things that put me off in JAWS; the townsfolk pay out \$10,000.00 to get rid of "Bruce", instead of calling the Coast Guard which in real life do this kind of job for free! PHANTASM's it-didn't-happen-but-it-did ending is pure garbage for the bed wetting nine year olds!

ACOLYTE INDEX - Glenn Lord - Thank you for this; what else can I say.

SEPULCHRAL SPAWNING NO.4 - David Oreno - My wife and I both got a big kick out of the homey family portrait on your cover. / And I for one, look forward to larger issues from you.

SELECTED SCRIBBLINGS VIII - Peter Cannon - You've shown a very valuable similarity between H.P.L.'s writings and those of the more "traditional" writers; I'll probably make copies of this to give to friends, Thank you!

OBSEQUIAL INCUBI #3 - Mark E. Sprague - As soon as I can finish indexing my anthologies I'll have to take the time to reread some of my Hawthorne. / Enjoyed your back cover!

DRAKE'S POTPOURI - David A. Drake - Lovecraft's rewriting (of his dreams) would also make me question his (or anyone's) recollection of his dreams; If I have a particularly vivid dream, I can almost guarantee if I tell it to three people, there'll be three variations of the same story, not because I'm lying, but because time has a way of smoothing out details from dreams. / I'm definitely looking forward to getting a copy of HAMMER'S SLAMMERS.

BYAKHEE PRINTS - Lawson Hill - I've really begun to dread H.P.L. being even mentioned in connection with CRY OF CTHULHU; nuff said?

WULKINS #1 - Mark Alessio - With your musical talents, and interest in music of the Middle Ages, perhaps you'd like to meet some S.C.A. members in your area; if so drop me a line and I'll send you names and addresses of the people in your area.

STARRY WISDOM #2 - William Fulwiler - Your story's ending made me wonder, if I had all the pages--- I have six, were there more?

EFFORTS FROM CHURNING FINGERS 12 - Randall D. Larson - Normally when someone gives away story endings while reviewing short story collect-

ions, it turns me off of buying the book, but in the case of your comments on Frederic Brown's book it worked in just the opposite way; you've also made me decide to read some more of my many Bloch books. Thanks loads!

THE DARK MESSENGER #16 - Crispin Burnham - Your cover reprint was great! / I keep forgetting to order ELDRITCH TALES 4&5, and by now 6; I hope to correct this oversight soon!

THE ARKHAM ANCHORITE #21 - Joe Moudry - I'm always amused to see one of us give the ever optimistic cry of, "I hope to soon get to those things I've put off for sooooo long!"; I truly believe this habit we all have is what always gives us something to look forward to.

DAEMONIC STRANGENESS 1 - David Bass - Let me extend a hearty (or in my case, Harty) welcome to you; and let me say I'm always interested in hearing anyone's thoughts on Clark Ashton Smith.

TOOTH AND NAIL - Jim Webbert - Please print the rest of Dave Smith's story, so that I can sit down and read the whole thing in one sitting!

MARGINALIA #1 - George Wetzels - It's very nice to see you've finally started your own E.O.D. zine; now I won't have to dig through everyone elses publications looking for the little gems you've been known to submit to our order. / I found myself fascinated with your "Grill" discussion.

UNQUIET #23 - Tom Collins - Knowing the cost of going to the movies nowadays, I'd sure like to know how much you had to spend to see all of the films you went to between Jan. and April of '79.

THE INHABITANT OF THE LAKE #7 - Bernadette Bosky - Very well done study of dialect (you put us all to shame with this effort); I greatly look forward to the next installment.

MIRAGE ON LOVECRAFT - Randy Everts - This reprint by itself, is worth the price of E.O.D. membership; thank you Randy, I needed a copy of this one! Truly a golden nugget.

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RECENTLY READ BOOKS

THE BLACK CASTLE, by Les Daniels: For a first novel, this is an excellent story. Les has added some very refreshing touches to the too often overworked vampire theme. This entire novel takes place during the Spanish Inquisition, and creates some very original plot twists including the Grand Inquisitor having a Vampire for a brother; as you read this novel, you start to realize the vampire isn't the only monster in the plain sense of the word. Paperback published by Berkley @ \$2.25.

RAVEN 4: LORDS OF THE SHADOWS, by Richard Kirk; Pbk. by Corgi Books, at about \$2.95: The 4th volume in the continuing adventures of Kirk's hard-fighting but sensual female sword & sorcery character, Raven, the "Swordmistress of Chaos". Jean and I both have been enjoying this

series, and we tend to both jump at the chance to be the first one to read each new book. This series has many horror elements woven into it, and I would have to consider it one of the best series in the S. & S. genre using a female instead of a Conan type barbarian. The sex in these books is sometimes low-key, but always stimulating, and fitting with the rest of the story line. Human characters with human needs.

IN THE MOONS OF BOREA, by Brian Lumley, Jove Books, \$1.75: For those like myself who can still enjoy what Brian Lumley has done with the Derleth Mythos, this was another enjoyable romp with de Marigny, and his time clock, and it just left me looking forward to the next in what I expect to be a long line of what is becoming the "Lumley Mythos", which is not to be confused with that of anyone else, because Lumley is definitely being original in his books, and has created something related to Lovecraft's universe, but something that's also pure Lumley.

CONAN AND THE SORCERER, Ace Books, \$1.95, and CONAN: THE SWORD OF SKELOS, Bantam, \$1.95, both by Andrew J. Offutt, are two of the best and most enjoyable Conan pastiches I've read in a long time. Both novels together (Skelos is the sequel to Sorcerer) tell of Conan's adventures as a young man, just after his experience with the "Tower of the Elephant". Andy is a born story teller, and was a natural for bringing back the proper spirit to the tales of Conan. I've recently purchased the Karl Edward Wagner Conan novel THE ROAD OF KINGS, and if it's as good as Karl's other works, I'll be happy to see Karl and Andy both continue adding novels to this series. If you're a Conan fan, you might also try the De Camp, Carter, Nyberg, Bantam editions of CONAN THE SWORDSMAN, and CONAN THE LIBERATOR, both \$1.95.

DRACULA IN LOVE, by John Shirley, Zebra Books, \$1.95: Here's another book that manages to add something to the vampire theme, but doesn't manage to come up to the level of THE BLACK CASTLE. This novel has to do with what happens to a young man who finds out his father was the king of the vampires himself, Dracula; and what happens when dear old dad shows up and wants his son to join his father in his rightful place of authority. A number of twists make this book worthwhile, and one scene, with Dracula in surplus Army fatigues, carrying a submachine gun to shoot victims with is unforgettable.

NIGHT'S MASTER, and its sequel DEATH'S MASTER, both by Tanith Lee, DAW Books, \$1.75 & \$1.95, are two of the best Fantasy-Horror novels I've read in the past few years. Both are classified as "Adult" novels, and they most certainly are. Both novels are comprised of a series of interrelated story like chapters, which combine to create a tale that spans more than a thousand years, but to the Demons involved, is like an episode in life. A very fine underlying theme of horror in these two books makes them a must for any Horror or Fantasy fan.

Every once in a while I'll decide to read a group of books by one author all at once, and I'll usually end up going through a handful of books before I burn out on the author. This is what I recently did with Graham Masterton; CHARNEL HOUSE, Pinnacle Books, \$1.95, was interesting, but after reading THE MANITOU the plot seemed too much like a rehash of his first big seller; plus a person can only take so much of his good always conquering evil plot line. I was hoping Masterton

wouldn't fall into the formula writing trap after having a hit with MANITOU, but THE DJINN, and THE SPHINX, and CHARNEL HOUSE all had the same basic formula of someone discovering an evil older than mankind, and always being able in the end to defeat it; and to top it off, four of his books including REVENGE OF THE MANITOU, all have the same character (Harry Erskine) in them to defeat the monstrous evil in each story. For those interested in Lovecraftian trivia, there is a very thinly disguised Cthulhu in REVENGE, wherein he is called Ka-tua-la-hu. At least in his sixth book he finally got away from his formula tales, and did something a bit more original with PLAGUE, wherein mankind meets its match in the ultimate disease.

A READER'S GUIDE TO SCIENCE FICTION, by Searles, Last, Meacham, and Franklin, Avon Books, \$2.95: This handy little paperback gives an overview of a few hundred writers, including H.P. Lovecraft. This is one of the best "guides" of its kind that I've seen for awhile. It also has a list of Hugo and Nebula award winners; up to date series lists; and an incisive history of Science Fiction.

THE CALL OF THE STARS, by Enki Bilal, Flying Buttress Publications, \$2.95: This 8½ x 11 softcover book contains four very Lovecraftian illustrated stories, that are quite similar to "The Music of Erih Zann".

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QUICKY ANSWERS TO MC'S FROM #27

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Mollie L. Werba - The S.C.A. is nation wide (with branches in Canada and the U.K. also); in your area, which is part of the Middle Kingdom, contact any or all of the following to find out who's in your area: Seneschal Rory O'Tomrair (Edward S. Tonry), 215 College, Elgin, IL 60120; Dragon Herald Daemon de Folo (F.L. Watkins) 805 Green St. #1, Urbana, IL 61801; Chronicler Fionn MacGiollapadraig (Michael Langenfeld) P.O. Box 288, Monee, IL 60449 (312) 534-5155; Lady Olwen of Buckland (312) 553-6594; Lady Gregria Delacroix (S. Brainard, Naperville, IL. 60540 (312) 961-2138; Steven Casey 307 Geneva Ave., Bellwood, IL 60104 (312) 547-7818; Andrea Dubnick 1361 West Estes, Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 761-2603; Lisa Diercks 1934 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 743-6595; these people should be able to put you intouch with enough people to get you started into the S.C.A., if so, Welcome to our family!

Dirk Rausch - Just four days ago I had someone else explain to me why as they put it I was a Castellan, and not a Chatelaine; I'm really glad about this too, I needed that \$6000.00 for other things.

J. Vernon Shea - As you know by now, I wasn't able to make it to the World Fantasy Con this year, but maybe next time.../ Your comment about Knighting taking a long time and being boring is very true for someone that doesn't know (or care) what each part of the ceremony is for; The first coronation I went to lasted a few hours, while Jean and I sat on hard wooden church pews suffering through the whole thing; Now that I know more about what everything is for I enjoy it.

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