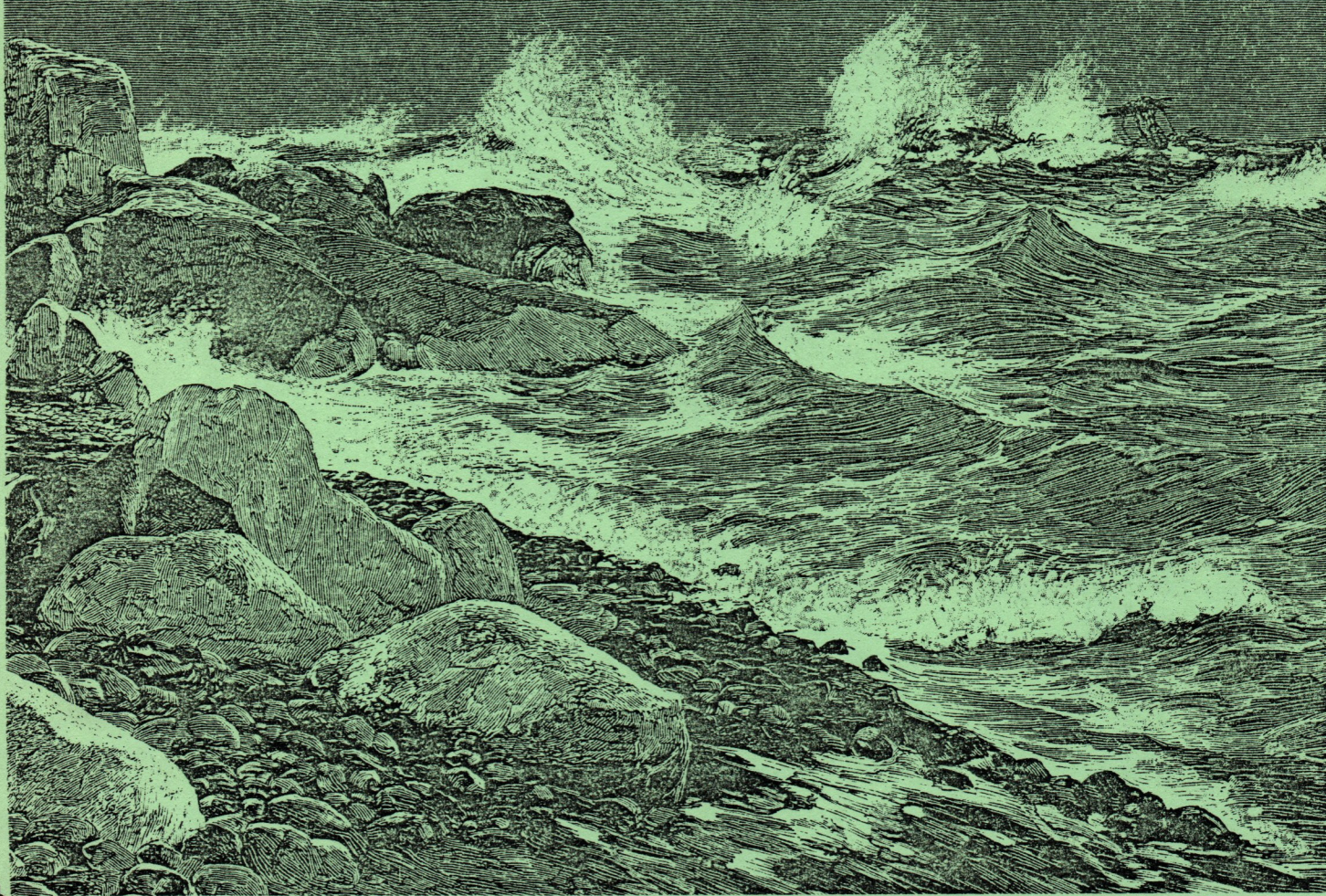


Eldritch

Leanings

No. 4







# Eldritch Leanings

## No. 4



This issue is written and published for the 16th mailing of The Esoteric Order of Dagon, Oct. 31st (Hallowmass) 1976, by; William E. Hart, 222 N.Muller #75b, Anaheim, Calif. 92801. Tel.(714)535-1201.

### PRESSED FOR TIME

It looks as though I'm going to have a fairly full schedule for the next few weeks (possibly months), so I'm not going to make this as long of an issue as I'd like to. I'm starting to get into overtime at work, and as I said I would, I've also begun going to school two nights a week to learn the printing trade (watch out Randy). This means that part of the time that I normally devote to reading and collecting, will now be diverted towards study time to become a well paid (hopefully) printer in a field I'm sure I'll be able to enjoy.

### QUICKIE BOOK NOTES

To say I'm behind in my reading right now would be an understatement to end them all! Between work and school I've lost a lot of reading time, but on top of that I've aquired over 200 items to add to my list in E.L.#3 (as of 10-7-76). So far I've only had time to scan most of the new arrivals, but as I have time I will read everything. A few of the items I've received are as follows: The Diversifier #14 (which was the H.P.L. issue that sold out almost immediately, and by the way, this contains the first professionally published story by our own E.O.D.er Bob Eber (The Dark Tower)); Selected Letters IV & V (I haven't read much in these yet, but I would like to know how Vol.V was supposedly printed on the same paper as Vol.IV, and yet with only a thirteen page difference (437 to 424 not counting Roman numeraled pages), ends up being over a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch thicker than Vol.IV? I've also heard it through the grape vine that Donald Wandrei finished editing IV & V before he left Arkham House, and that the present volumes were copied from copies of his manuscripts that he left behind when he took the originals with him. It has also been told to me that when Vol.IV came out, it was compared to Wandrei's manuscript by some of the Twin Cities gang, and they were found to be identical. I hope someone (perhaps James Turner who will receive a copy of this) will be able to shed further light on this, as I'm sure we would all like to know whether these volumes of selected letters were selected and edited by James Turner as the books say, or if they were actually exactly what Donald Wanrei had prepared?; Nyctalops 11/12 (this double issue is worth well over the \$4.00 asking price, what with the F.B.Long interview, The Strangest Company wherein Scott Connors tells us of all the goodies Randy Everts has but fails to advertise, and for people like myself who never knew very much about Donald Sydney Fryer, the second half of this double issue is either written about or by D.S.Fryer; Runes of Ahrh-Eih-Eche & Fantasy Crossroads #'s 6-7-8 (these publications are some of the best short run press items I've seen in a long time! And at the price, they can't be beat.)

QUICKIE BOOK NOTES CONT.

THE ADVENTURES OF JULES de GRANDIN, THE CASEBOOK OF JULES de GRANDIN, and THE SKELETON CLOSET OF JULES de GRANDIN, all edited by Bob Weinberg for all of us who can't afford the issues of WEIRD TALES these stories first appeared in, Popular Library will be bringing out at least three more collections of de Grandin edited by Bob by the end of the year (order these books from Bob and have them autographed). THE DARK CHAMBER (this is the Popular Library reprint of the 1927 Viking Press original that Roger Bryant referred to as the Ancestor of the Ancestor. I read this recently and it is a much finer book than Derleth's, but the ending wasn't as shocking or as moving as it could have been; Still, it is interesting to read some of the lesser known books that H.P.L. discussed in S.H.I.L.); THE LAST CELT (I was glad to finally receive this but I was rather disappointed when I found out that most of the biography section was just reprinted material from other sources that I already have. I also believe that without the extra wide margins at top, bottom, and sides (1 and 3/8 to 2 inches), this book could have come out in a much smaller and cheaper edition.) ; KHALED: A TALE OF ARABIA (this is the 1891 original of the story which was reprinted in the Ballantine Adult Fantasy series in Dec. 71) ; And along with these books I have numerous hardcovers and paperbacks to list, not to forget some rather interesting albums I've turned up, i.e., A HORNBOOK FOR WITCHES recorded on Caedmon Records by Vincent price (TC 1497).

OF CON'S AND RELATED EVENTS

On Sunday September 26, at the ripe old age of 23, I finally attended my first Con.. This was Casual Con 5, held here in Anaheim, just a few miles from my house. As far as Con's, I guess this really wasn't much more than a Huckster's room with a couple of films going in two side rooms. But for me this was like a field day for browsing. I added a number a books to my collection and had a chance to dig through a large number of pulps that were way out of my price range (but fun to look at just the same). While there I ran into Reg Smith, and together he and I met William (Bill) Crawford (the publisher of H.P.L.'s first book). I'm sure Reg will be talking about some of the things Bill had to say, but for me, one of his most amusing comments came about when Reg asked him how he liked publishing Lovecraft's first book for him, and Bill replied in all seriousness, "I didn't publish it for him, I published it for me." After talking with Bill we went over and talked to Ken Krueger of Shroud Publications (also The publisher of THE DREAM QUEST OF UNKNOWN KADATH in the 50's and the whole Library Lovecraftian recently with Vol.4 due out soon). Ken Krueger told us of a number of things including his first meeting with August Derleth; If I remember what he said correctly, this happened right after RHODE ISLAND ON LOVECRAFT came out and Derleth was mad over the use of material without his permission. Ken was in Providence sitting down talking with Robert Barlow when Derleth walked in, came up to Ken, and said, "I'm going to punch you in the face". According to Ken, that was his first (and I assume), and most memorable meeting with August Derleth.



After having such a good time at the Casual Con, my wife and I decided to go to Bill Crawford's Con called the 6th annual Fantasy Faire which was held on Oct. 1-3, and turned out to be a lot of fun except there was a fairly poor turn out of Con goers. On the one day that we went, we were extra lucky in getting a chance to meet a totally unannounced guest, the very gracious, charming, warm, beautiful (I still don't believe she's 66), C.L. Moore; who did an unprepared discussion on herself, her writings, and her days with Henry (Hank) Kuttner. She also mentioned that she wrote a number of the scripts for the old Sugarfoot t.v. show, and a number of the scripts for Maverick. Sometime if your watching the reruns of these shows, just watch the credits for Catherine Kuttner. Some of the other guests we got to meet and talk with were: George Clayton Johnson (co-author of Logan's Run), Marion Zimmer Bradley (the Darkover series), Jim Danforth (special effects), Ray Bradbury (this man needs no credits), A.E. van Vogt (author of Slan, a copy of which he signed for me), and I mustn't forget the Guest of Honor who dropped in a day ahead of time, Bob Clamptt (all of you Beany and Cecil fans out there can eat your hearts out; There's a rumor going round that Cecil is related to the Deep Ones, and that Beany's last name is Whately). All in all we had such a good time that we're going to finally become regular Con goers; How about that, even my wife is starting to get into all of this with me, I guess she just figures that if you can't beat them, you might as well join them. And that's just what she's done.

#### LOVECRAFT DISCUSSED IN THE EYRIE

While attending the afore mentioned Con, I picked up two more issues of Weird Tales to add to my collection. With the addition of these two, I found myself with the huge sum of five actual copies of the magazine. The two issues I got on this trip are: May 1952, and Sept. 1952; Two of the cheapest issues I could find. I knew the Sept. issue contained a poem by H.P.L., but until I got home I hadn't noticed anything Lovecraftian about the other one. To my great (and happy) surprise, both of them contained some rather interesting and amusing letters in The Eyrie which pertained to H.P.L.. Since I have no idea how many of you other E.O.D. members have these issues, I've decided to reprint the letters from these two issues so that everyone that hasn't seen them will have a chance to see what a few people in the early fifties had to say about "Grandpa Theobald". Please note: I am copying these letters verbatim; so please don't attack me for the spelling and mistakes, i.e., "H.P.L.: A MEMOIR, published by Arkham House"!

The Editor, Weird Tales  
9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

Just a very brief note to let you know how much I enjoyed seeing H.P. Lovecraft's "Horror at Red Hook" in print again. I am sure many of your older readers were glad to read it again, and you have given the younger generation a new world to explore. I should imagine you would find it feasible to reprint many more of his tales due to the fact they are essentially timeless, and in only a few instances does their style or allusions to current events date them.

Thank you very much.

J.T. Crackel, Indianapolis, Ind.



LOVECRAFT et AL

And so the above letter brings us to our suggestion—in the last issue—that the fans undertake to enlighten our younger readers about the Lovecraft legend. We knew we should be in for a flood of correspondence; we were, we are grateful. Our own suggestion to young reader Paulive is that he read August Derleth's H.P.L.: A Memoir, published by Arkham House. From there on we'll let our readers take it:

The Editor, Weird Tales  
9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

The letter by Robert Paulive certainly calls for an answer in the pages of Weird Tales, so here is my contribution to same. I have been reading Lovecraft's stories ever since I discovered a book of them eight years ago, when I was ten years old; he is my favorite author, and the wonderful mythology he created is my favorite subject matter in a fantasy story. The Lovecraft or Cthulhu Mythos is a series of stories by Lovecraft and several of his fellow-writers, having a similar background and based on a pantheon of Elder Gods and demons created by Lovecraft. August Derleth, in his biography of HPL, says that the Cthulhu Mythos was in turn based varied characters, places, and situations from several stories of early writers— Ambrose Bierce, Poe, Arthur Machen, and Robert W. Chambers. Lovecraft created the "Necronomicon" of the mad Arab Abdul Alhazred, and included passages and fragments of it in many of the stories of the series; he also wrote of the shadow-haunted and cursed towns of Arkham and Innsmouth, where much of the action of the Mythos takes place, and of the hidden places of the earth where ancient evil waits, watchful and ready to spring forth upon the world— Irem, the City of Pillars; R'lyeh, where dead Cthulhu lies sleeping; Ya-N'thlei; and the hidden Plateau of Leng.

Robert E. Briney, Wilmette, Ill.

H.P.Lovecraft was born in 1890. He was early attracted to books (he wrote practically all his life); some people claim he read every book in his grandfather's huge library, and remembered everything in it. Early in his writing career he started writing weird tales; first he imitated the style of Lord Dunsany and then started developing his own oft-imitated style. This style describes the mysterious and terrible actions of the gods which Lovecraft names the Old Ones. Some of the most important of these Old Ones are Cthulhu, high-priest of the gods; Azathoth, shapeless Ruler of the Universe; Nyarlathotep, messenger of the gods, and many others. The "Necronomicon," by the "mad Arab Abdul Alhazred," together with other books, figures importantly in the Lovecraft circle lore. The general atmosphere of Lovecraft in his stories is one of morbid preoccupation with the thought of nearing doom; but hints are made of a great obscene rejoicing to come when the gods wake from their timeless sleep beneath the seas and become as powerful as they ever were. The Cthulhu cult meets to pray for the coming of this rising of the gods. Naturally, none of these cults or books or gods ever existed (I hope!) but Lovecraft describes them vividly indeed. Lovecraft died in Providence, his home town, in 1937, in his forty-seventh year. Writers of the Lovecraft group still carry on his tradition and make his memory and his writings known the



world over.

Steven Nickman, Ventnor, N.J.

In regards to Mr. Paulives query in the March, '52, issue of WT: The volume known as the "Necronomicon" is, alas, the fertile creation of the late and without a doubt, great master of horror fiction, H.P. Lovecraft. The Cthulhu Mythos is a great part of his imaginative conception of a hideous world of "might-have-been." As are the fabulous towns of Arkham, Dunwich, Kingsport, and dreaded Innsmouth. Perhaps it should be explained that Lovecraft wrote two distinct types of fantasy: the regional and grimly realistic tales of cosmic horror, typified by such tales as "The Dunwich Horror" and "The Shadow Out of Time"; the other type were his "Dunsian" pieces like "The Cats of Ulthar" and the short novel, "Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath."

Leif Arjen, Rockford, Ill.

The chronology of Lovecraft's "Necronomicon" was so convincing that many a book dealer has been called on to supply a copy! Lovecraft also created as supplements to his Necronomicon the "R'ley Text; the Book of Dzyan, and many more.

John Gatto, Uniontown, Pennsylvania

Although the characters, books, places, incidents, names, etc., etc., that are used in the Cthulhu stories are fictional it is interesting to observe that both Bob Michael of the Werewolf Bookshop and book agent Philip C. Duschnes have at one time or another advertised as having for sale copies of the "Necronomicon"—Mr. Michael's edition was priced at \$999,999.00 (that's right — nine hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-nine dollars) while Mr. Duschnes wanted only \$375 for his copy. In the face of such contradictory evidence I can only refer Mr. Paulive to any competent and comprehensive biography of Howard Phillips Lovecraft—and let him make his own decision!

Irving Glassman, Brooklyn, N.Y.

We have a further long letter from a reader who tells of his experience when he actually handled the "Necronomicon." This we hope to print in our next issue.— Editor Weird Tales.

(I should have stated before hand that all of the above letters were from the May '52 issue, and the following letter is the only H.P.L. related piece from Sept.'52 issue. Perhaps somebody else can reprint the above mentioned "Necronomicon" handling experience; I would, but I don't have that issue yet (give me time and I will though)).

The Editor, Weird Tales  
9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

THE OTHER SIDE SPEAKS—  
and MOST CONVINCINGLY



I have read with interest, and some amusement, the reverent letters sent by inveterate readers of H.P. Lovecraft in response to your request. However, with some misgivings and the suspicion that I shall not be very popular, I dissent from the general adulation, and admit that I do not greatly admire either the literary style of Mr. Lovecraft or the "Cthulhu Mythos." Amid the general acclamation, I feel called upon to submit my minority opinion, hoping to induce, thereby, a more critical attitude toward a seeming folk-hero of fantasy writing.

Excepting some stories, and I by no means intend a blanket indictment of all of Lovecraft's work, I think that his style is prolix, affected, turgid, and labored. It is full of obvious and ill-concealed strivings for effect—"posing," it might be called. Lovecraft apparently lacked the ability to tell a plain tale and tell it straight. He lacked the clarity and objectivity of a writer such as Ambrose Bierce, who evoked horror by a direct, clear, impeccable prose and added to its effect by a matter of fact detachment.

Not even the most enthusiastic followers of Lovecraft, in Sauk City or elsewhere, can claim for him reticence and detachment. These two qualities, in my mind, are necessary for a good "ghost story," and Lovecraft lacked both completely. He always indicated the feeling supposed to be evoked in the reader with the use of the adjectives "terrible," "horrible," etc., on every page, and his style is so difficult to follow in many cases that one is often at a loss to know what is supposed to have taken place.

As for the Mythos: A ghost story, like any other, should be creditable enough to evoke in the reader "the willing suspension of disbelief." While perhaps one does not have to believe in ghosts to write about them, although it certainly helps, the writer must be able to suspend his own disbelief to make his story ring true, and Lovecraft utterly failed in this. All of the devices such as the invention of mad Arabs and the "Necronomicon" cover an obvious lack of sincerity, and, I fear, set the indelible and undesirable mark of the hack upon much of Lovecraft's work. And, if this be true of the master, how much more so of the pupils and imitators, who have attempted to perpetuate the "Mythos." In the majority of his stories, Lovecraft utterly failed to convince me of the possible reality of his elder gods and whatnot, undersea kingdoms, and other assorted unworldly flora and fauna. I am no sceptic: I am morally certain of the possibility of preternatural invasion of man's affairs, and am not at all hesitant to say so in print. Perhaps hence derives my enjoyment of well-written ghost stories, so that I feel that your efforts in the direction of exploring the Mythos are as hollow as brass and tinkling cymbals, and, frankly, pretty much a waste of print. Better concentrate on getting some authors with a discipline in grammar, a sense of balance, and a real ability to write. August Derleth has this; it is frequently wasted on imitations of Lovecraft.

I remain a loyal subscriber.

Joseph V. Wilcox  
Albion, Michigan.



COMMENTS ON THE 14TH MAILING

OO - Joe Moudry - I like the idea of having the Annual Achievement Awards, but the past responses speak for themselves; Although, with what little response there has been, it does seem that the winners have been the ones that I thought would have won even with a much larger response. Let's see if we can get a vote on it.

IN MEMORY OF THE DIAMOND SUTRA - Joe Moudry - Your question of there actually being fewer Arkhams floating around reminds me of some of the jumps in prices I've seen of late, i.e., in XENOPHILE No.18 (Oct.1975), Mel Madel (340 Brandon Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137) was advertising for sale a copy of THE OUTSIDER AND OTHERS for \$160.00, and then, five months later, on 3-26-76 I received catalog no.8 from The Book Treasury (6707 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Ca. 90028) with the same book advertised at \$350.00. I really don't believe the Arkham House books are becoming this scarce, but I do believe a few dealers, will squeeze the prices completely out of the range of the many collectors interested in these books. I recently found copies of SOME NOTES ON H.P.LOVECRAFT, and AUTOBIOGRAPHY: SOME NOTES ON A NON-ENTITY, both chapbooks from 1959 & 1963 respectively, now selling (or at least marked) for \$50.00 apiece!!

THE HUNTER OF THE DARK - Barry R. Hunter - Always glad to see someone else listing their collection— / I notice you have H.P.L.'s poem THE GARDEN OF YIN listed under "H.P.L. stories in anthologies!" For someone unfamiliar with this, something like this could almost be the start of a wild goose chase for an unknown H.P.L. story. Case in point; While reading through one of Dirk Mosig's reviews of Lovecraft: A BIOGRAPHY, I noticed mention of Lovecraft's essay SHIL, and for awhile I thought "wow", this must be something that I've missed out on. Of course my bubble was popped when I realized "SHIL" was only the initials for SUPERNATURAL HORROR IN LITERATURE.

THE GHOUL'S COURT ADVERTISER #1 - Kenneth Faig, Jr. - If I lived on the east coast instead of the west, I'd most certainly be one of the people to hunt for the "Great Meadow Hill Country Clubhouse"! I do hope someone succeeds in finding something left of it. It's a great sorrow to me to think that if I ever get to Providence, a great number of H.P.L.'s favorite haunts will be gone. / Another very fine issue— keep up the good work!

THE UNNAMABLE NINE - Meade Frierson III - Many thanks for the book notes. / "To Climb A Sacred Mountain" seems to bring thoughts of Dunsany, H.P.L., and Clark Ashton Smith to mind— Well worth an encore! / Is there any truth to the rumor that Spock has proof that "Cthulhu & Co." are just a bunch of alien juvenile delinquents put here for punishment? / I have yet to determine what my pet skull derives his sustenance from, but I do know that it has been holding mid-night conversations with my bust of Mephistopheles (which rests on the same shelf, directly above my occult books), perhaps they send out (or should I say down) for food. / I'm afraid your mistaken about the pictures at Reg's place; Those books are just the ones in his bedroom (not den), almost every drawer, nook, and cranny in the room is packed with books. /



Your comment to Chet about the cultural desert makes me glad I'm in California; although I'd really like to get together for conversation with more E.O.D. members than I have so far. / I've sent my bag of genuine imported synthetic gold plated dubloons, in the proper amount for my minionship to the NecronomiCon, by Carrier Pigeon, and it should arrive in Alabama in time for the Con. (if that lame bird ever gets off the ground and doesn't take the sea route).

AT THE SIGN OF THE BLACK GOAT #2 - Charles Korbas - I'm sure that I'm expressing the feelings of most of us when I say "we all wish you good health and good cheer", but the E.O.D. is, after all, for discussion of H.P.L. and weird literature related material. So please, feel free to tell us your condition, but try to keep the majority of your zine on E.O.D. related material.

MARGINALIA - Lawson W. Hill - I'm glad to hear future issues (and I do hope there will be future issues) of Science/Fantasy Correspondent will contain the special material included in the Providence Con. version of Vol.1. I thought I was going to miss this.

SPECTRAL ANALYSIS #8 - Gary Kimber - I'm glad someone liked my cover, at the time I used it, Baphomet's horns were the closest thing I could find to teneacles. / Your comment of my using "your" instead of you're reminds me of some of my other mistakes I spotted recently in E.L.#2, i.e., pg.7 to Dave Schultz should read "copy of...", pg.10 to Joe Moudry, 3rd. line should read "article was written..". My use of your, and my habit of dropping words is what happens when I get in a hurry, i.e., this page is being typed on the 17th. of Oct., and I've got to find time inbetween school and everything else to get this finished, printed, collated, stapled, mailed, and to Joe by the 30th. I almost forgot, I haven't as of yet even thought of what my cover will be.

BARDIC BLASPHEMY NO.1 - William A. Conder - "DREAM VISITANT"—— If this is the type of thing you'll be bringing to the pages of the E.O.D. mailings, then I for one, bid you a hearty welcome!! Beautifully done! Please do more like this.

LETTERS FROM LENG #8 - Robert M. Eber - Enjoyed your "Cats" essay, but I'm still looking forward to more of your fiction.

EVERMIST (SUM,76) - David R.Warren - Interesting item to pop up in the E.O.D.— I wondered what became of Peggy Gemignani, now I know. You might tell John Alan Little in your letter coloumn that the author of "THE MASK OF CTHULHU" is August Derleth, not Derlith. As anyone that knows me can tell, I hate to see anyones name misspelled.

IBID XV - Ben Indick - You've nobly succeeded in your desire to make me wish I'd been there! I have yet to get together with a large group of Lovecraftians, but believe me, the first chance I get I will. Whenever I talk to anyone with an interest in H.P.L., Arkham House, or weird fiction in general, I find that after the conversation I'm on a psychic "high". After having to keep my thoughts inside for so long (everyone knows what the reaction is when you tell most people



that you collect "weird-fiction"!)), being able to share common ideas is really like a breath of fresh air. Totally exhilarating! / I don't know how, when, or where, but I've promised myself I'll see Dave's film yet. / Chet's poem— funny and poetically perfect for the moment.

DRAKE'S POTPOURRI - David Drake - Catching material like your "The Visionary" and your background notes on "Children of the Forest", makes me really glad I'm part of the E.O.D.. / Interesting notes on Howard— I imagine I'll be reading more and more of his writings as time goes by.

AFTER MIDNIGHT #7 - Reg Smith - Tom, your notes on H.P.L.'s fiction, as summarized in "Lovecraft: A Biography", were new to me as I had completely missed these errors. I believe I missed these because: A. I've only read most of H.P.L.'s stories once, and, B. Because I haven't read or reread any of his stories (except for THE UNNAMABLE & THE COLOUR OUT OF SPACE) of late. As I have time, I plan to reread everything (written by H.P.L. that is), but just now I'm trying to get some of my more recent arrivals read. Many thanks for all of your very thought provoking "Notes From a Snug Room." I look forward to them each mailing, and I'm sure Reg is honored to print them. / Reg, it was great to see the "He" excerpt on your cover, and I look forward to you using some of your other "rare" pieces from pulps most of us will probably never see. / That's quite a promise you've made for A.M. #8 in your excuses dept., I hope we get to see it all!

ELDRITCH LEANINGS #3 - William E. Hart - Item #347 on your list is missing its date; June 1975.

CRUMBLING RELICKS 9½ - Chet Williamson - I'm truly sorry about missing all the material you had lined up, but I'm looking forward to seeing it in the future.

NOCTURNE #10 - Harry O. Morris, Jr. - As much as I thoroughly enjoy hearing about all of your very interesting mail, I'd still like to hear more about H.O.M. and his Silver Scarab Press future publishing plans. Also, how about printing a price list? I hate to see you selling something like Nyctalops 11/12 for \$2 just because someone sent you that amount because they never heard it should be selling for \$4. I'm sure you could charge a lot more than you have been for all of the items you've printed.

NOTES FROM ALLANOR'S CASTLE: V - Dr. Howard J. Duerr - I greatly enjoyed seeing your "Conversation With Derleth", and I hope you'll continue it with as little abbreviation as possible, or no abbreviation at all. Too often we see letters, or excerpts, without seeing what these letters are in reply to— so I especially like seeing yours with Derleth's. Also, we usually see letters that have been edited down (more than twice in some cases), and I think editing of this sort gives a twisted, or slanted, version of the writer, whom, even though he might be long-winded, or redundant, is still being himself, and any change from this, causes it to be part original writer, and part editor (or editor's opinion of where and when to abridge) which is not an original letter, or thought, but someone else's revisionary work.



FROM THE DARK SPACES - Edward P. Berglund - Re. "Weak Signal", I don't believe it. Andy did it. He's successfully combined the "Mythos" or "Y.S.C.O.M." with C.B.—— Too much! / Usually I don't enjoy "amatuer" poetry, but in Andy's case, I not only enjoy it, but I'm constantly looking forward for more. / It's interesting to see how and where J. Ramsey Campbell used H.P.L.'s notes, I only wish that more people that have used "The Commonplace Book" would admit where they got the ideas from.

THE ARKHAM ANCHORITE - Joe Moudry - I can tell by looking at your cover, that your really starting to enjoy working with the different forms of type in the print shop. It won't be long until I can have the same experience myself.

OUTRE (Vol.1, No.2) - J. Vernon Shea - Finding "The Growing Library of Professor Pitts" in your zine this time, was like putting the topping on the cake! / Truly, the revision projects are controversial, but James Wade does have some very interesting ideas. Although I like some (almost all) of your suggestions, as I mentioned to H. Duerr earlier, when something is revised, it may (or may not) be improved, but it's just not the original author (to me, at least) anymore. Believe me though, I have nothing against typographical errors being corrected. / (Back to Shea)—— Sounds like you weren't exactly thrilled with the MadCon?

LITTERAE DAGONIS No.12 - R. Boerem - I'm glad you took the time to revise and reprint your "The Continuity of the Fungi From Yuggoth". I missed "The Dark Brotherhood Journal No.1" (and all of the others too), so this was a bonus for me. Was there a title for the song? And, are there any other verses?

THE QUEBECKER 1 - Joel Ruimy - I'm going to keep an eye out for all of the future developments on the H.P.L. documentary—— If, and when, this is ran on t.v., I just might rent a video-tape recorder, and tape it for my H.P.L. collection. / While "La Maison du Nord" was not weird-fiction, it's still one of the best pieces of "amatuer" work that I've read for quite awhile. / All in all, a very fine first zine; Welcome!

ZARFHAANA No.7 - Glenn Lord - I don't believe I've ever read any of Mashburn's material, but I will as soon as I locate any. It would be interesting to find out what other stories Price and Mashburn had planned on using; I would write Price and ask him, but I know he's busy working on (correct me if I'm wrong) three different books, and really doesn't have time to be bothered by the likes of me.

EFFORTS FROM CHURNING FINGERS 4 (Does this number refer to the quantity of fingers?) - Randall D. Larson - It sounds like the publishing world missed out on a new "high" in "lows", when "Comic Knowledge" didn't make it off the ground. That title sounds like it's also a takeoff on the movie "Carnal Knowledge". How about an English a.p.a. zine, like, "Fandom Under Command of the King". You can follow that up (or down) with, "Supernatural Horror In Theatre", or for S.F. buffs "Phantasy Inside Space Ships".



THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL - Randall D. Larson (transcriber)- I haven't had a chance to read this yet, but I'm a fan of the movie, so give me a little time and I will.

TOOTH AND NAIL 15 - Jim Webbert - I really couldn't get my head into what your trying to say. Are you sure you're talking about weird-fiction? I know you think you understand what you thought I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not exactly what I meant.

INTO THE NAFUD DAHI - Robert C. Culp - I only wish you had screened your pictures before printing— Interest and thought provoking just the same.

ALL RANDY EVERTS MATERIAL- W.V. Jackson— probably the best thing in this mailing; You never fail to surprise me with the goodies you can come up with! / Postcards- many thanks. / Lovecraft Collector- Truly, Ray Zorn was one of the pioneer H.P.L. collectors; Is he still with us? Market averages can really set one to thinking of the Forties as, "the good old days"! / I said W.V. Jackson was probably the best of this mailing, "The Californian" material is also pushing for tops. / H.P.L.: A Symposium- I had the original of this, but not the errata sheet. / Last but not least, "Horror at the Horseshoe"- Alas and lack aday, another one I missed. / Many, many, thanks for everything!!

CONTINUITY - Scott Connors - In discussing factions of the E.O.D., I almost feel as if I belong to a third one; In my case, as I've already stated before, I'm not truly a "fan", or a writer, or an essayist, but I am a collector (pack rat my wife calls me) that doesn't want to feel like he's taking something a lot of people have worked hard to make, without giving something in return; So I at least: Do more than six pages per mailing, I try to have something to say to everyone, and, I try to have a visually pleasing zine. / Many thanks for the book notes!

CTHULSZ - David E. Schultz - Your discussion of "The Fungi From Yuggoth" was extremely well written, and enjoyable, and also goes to show why you're in the Necronomicon and I'm not; I just don't have the time (or inclination) to do that much research.

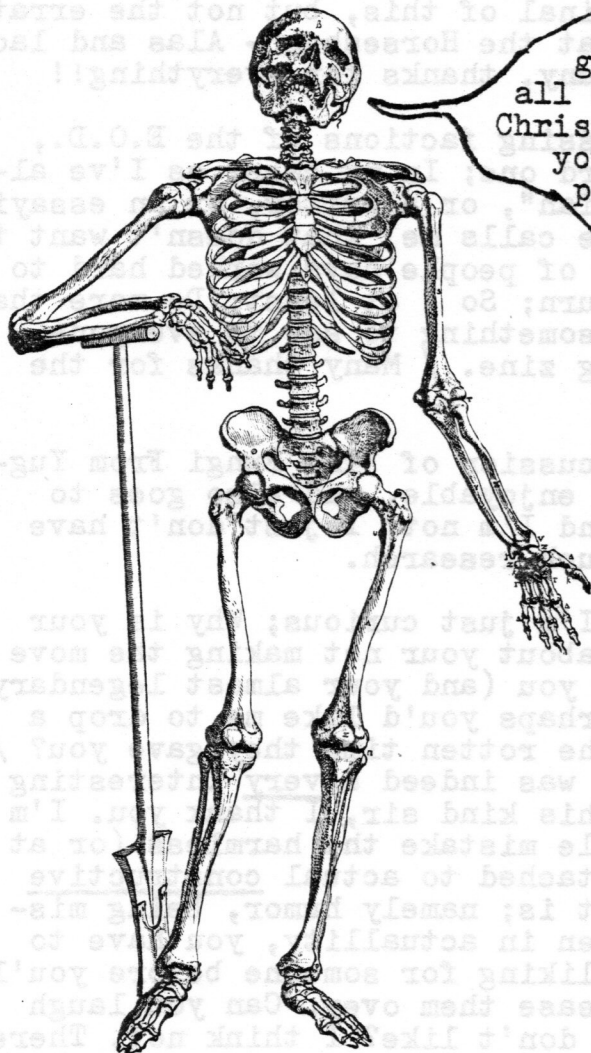
THE MISKATONIC - Dr. Dirk W. Mosig - I'm just curious; Why is your cover illustration reversed? / Sorry about your not making the move out; I was looking forward to meeting you (and your almost legendary collection). From what I've heard, perhaps you'd like me to drop a bomb at a certain local college for the rotten time they gave you? / "Some Current Motives and Practices", was indeed a very interesting and worthwhile item to reprint; for this kind sir, I thank you. I'm afraid there are times when some people mistake the harmless (or at least, meant to be harmless) humor attached to actual constructive criticism, for something other than it is; namely humor, being mistaken for heated personal attacks; when in actuality, you have to have a deep admiration, respect, and liking for someone before you'll bother to remember the incidents to tease them over. Can you laugh and have a good time with someone you don't like? I think not. Therefore, drink hale and hearty, and bring on the comraderie!



"Fate Has A Way", showed Bradofsky to be an imaginative romantic, which probably explains why he never went very far in the "weird genre". / Please let us know where we can find more material, by, or, about, J.W.Shoffner.!! / Once again you've given us another fine, but untitled or credited back cover. How about being a bit more enlightening?

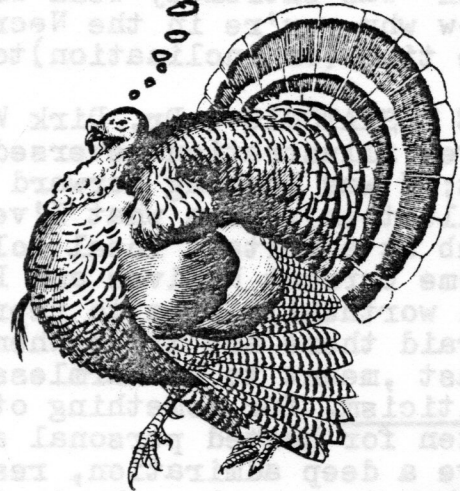
LOVECRAFTIAN RAMBLINGS V - Kennett Neily - You mention Golden Goblin Press; I'm not familiar with this, can you give us an address? As you'll be able to tell by looking through my last collection listing, and my future ones, I have been buying a number of the items that you've been good enough to bring to our attention.

UNQUIET 15 - Tom Collins - I'm glad to hear that THE ROOTS OF HORROR IN THE FICTION OF H.P.LOVECRAFT will finally be published. I sent my money for this and a number of others(including T.G.L.Cockcroft's INDEX TO WEIRD FICTION) to T.K.Graphics, back in Jan. of this year; As of today (10-20-76) I still haven't received any books or refunds, I guess it's about time I get off my duff and try to get everything straightened out.



Well friends, that's about all I've dug up for now; so I'm going to finish here by wishing you all an enjoyable Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!!!! (As you all can see by looking at my picture here, I'm going to have to eat this bird right away to put enough weight on to make it through the Winter.)

THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS!





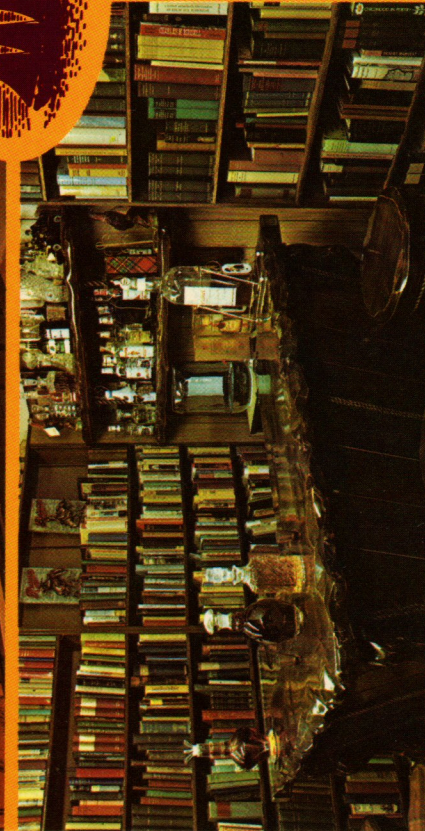
**RARE  
BOOKS**



**The Book Sail**

ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

**FINE  
BOOKS**



**WE BUY AND SELL COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARIES**