

These notes presuppose that one has obtained bibliographic information on HPL from the several sources: THE DARK BROTHERHOOD (Arkham House 1966); NYCTALOPS or BIBLIOTHECA: H.P. LOVECRAFT (David Sutton's publication) of Eddy C. Bertin's lists, or the revisions of Jack Chalker's index forthcoming from Mirage Press.

Many of the younger Lovecraft addicts have recently been brought into contact with the Master through paperback collections, notably those of Lancer, Beagle and Ballantine, and find themselves interested in learning more about the man's work and what others have said about him.

There are two ways for the confirmed Lovecraftist to obtain desired material: either purchase the originals or photocopy them. In the 1940s through the 1960s much Lovecraft material was obtainable in volumes published by Arkham House and edited by August W. Derleth and, initially at least, Donald Wandrei. However, the average number of copies of any one edition of collected Lovecraftiana never exceeded 3,500 and was sometimes as low as 1,200. Consequently many of these volumes are now out-of-print (o.p.), obtainable only in the rare book market, if they may be obtained at all. Because of the hold which Lovecraft has on many of his readers, these "reminiscence books" have often been purchased as keepsakes so that for the most part, they may be expected to be out of the marketplace for good.

Many must, therefore, give up the wish for originals and devote themselves to the collection of reproductions of the o.p. materials or their study at an institutional or public library. It is usually possible to obtain photographic copies at ten cents a page or so, which is sufficient for short pieces but hardly practical for a volume of several hundred pages. The recently out-of-print Arkham House editions may be available from various book dealers at less than the reproduction costs of a library copy.

Much Lovecraftian material may be found at Brown University Library, together with many of Lovecraft's manuscripts and letters. This material is non-circulating and must be photocopied there, at a considerable increase in cost.

The next richest source of published Lovecraft material is the Library of Congress. LoC has been very helpful in sending my local university library some of the books I needed. However, when the material could be found at other libraries, LoC will not send their copy but will instead inform one where the book may be found. Because of this policy, LoC is not a panacea for all book problems, although these librarians will help one locate the book in question.

The following is a sampling of the more interesting Lovecraftiana and some sources to be contacted for interlibrary loan:

One of the most essential books is THE DARK BROTHERHOOD. In addition to the bibliography mentioned above, it contains other articles and interpretations of Lovecraft. The libraries of Duke, Emory and Louisiana State Universities have, and will loan, copies.

Emphasizing the rarer material - there are two editions of THE COMMONPLACE BOOK, which differ interestingly but not substantially. The first (Futile Press, Lakeport, California 1938) was edited by an HPL friend, R. M. Barlow. Seventy-five copies were printed in hard-bound edition and LoC has No. 38. The other edition (annotated by August Derleth) can be found as a part of THE SHUTTERED ROOM AND OTHER PIECES (Arkham House 1959). This has been long out-of-print as well, but the Duke University Library has the book and will send it upon request.

Some of the books which I needed in preparing my

THE PENNACOOK MYTH

There are many in New England India these tales are most are singular Tribal legends of "the old ones" These creatures live on earth, in the stars where They are numerous "Winged Ones" fl Voices like a be Indians feared settlement Frightful element Outpost

The Great world is ne after

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER

My Dear Sir: I have read with great interest the Brattleboro Reformer's print (Apr. 23, '28) of your letter on the recent story of bodies seen float

I have certain evidence of mysterious things do indeed the woods on the high which nobody visits. I seen any of the things

ALBERT W. 118 SALTONS ARKHAM, MASS May 8, 1928

HENRY W. AKELEY, F.D.#2, Townshend, Windham Co

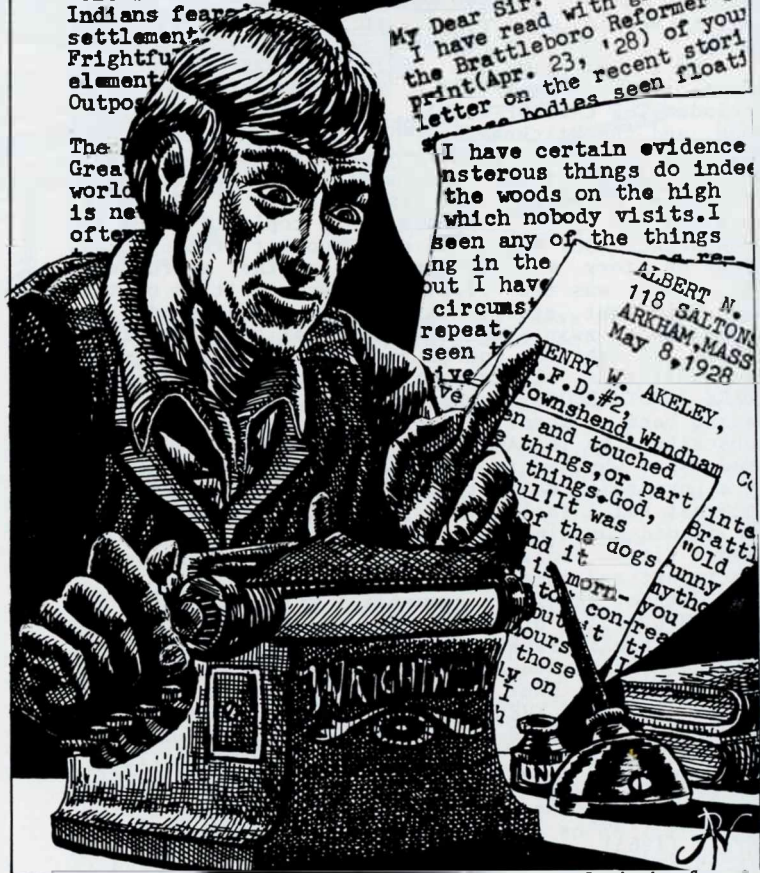
en and touched things, or part things, God, will it was of the dogs "Old

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dissertation could not be sent because of their fragility, so I had to have the material I wanted copied at the university. Such was the case of BEYOND THE WALL OF SLEEP (Arkham House 1943). Fortunately, some of the material in this book has been reprinted in more accessible volumes so that I could keep the library copying fees to a minimum.

The Asa G. Chandler Library at Emory University has a copy of MARGINALIA (Arkham House 1944), edited by Derleth and Wandrei. They will lend it, although their copy is well worn and fragile.

Lovecraft's long essay, Supernatural Horror in Literature, as published by Ben Abramson of New York in 1945 is in the Library of the University of Illinois. This edition is exactly the same version as is printed in DAGON AND OTHER MACABRE PIECES (Arkham House 1965), except for the short introduction by Derleth, which may be of some help.

THE LURKER AT THE THRESHOLD (Arkham House 1945) is available at the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, Maryland; however, it has been rendered much more accessible of late by the Beagle Books paperback edition.

A volume containing minor fiction available elsewhere but other material as yet unreprinted is SOMETHING ABOUT CATS AND OTHER PIECES (Arkham House 1949). The well-worn copy at Duke University Library will be made available upon request.

The Indiana University Library has DREAMS AND FANCIES (Arkham House 1962). This book may possibly be of some use itself, although the stories in it are reproduced elsewhere. There is a 50 page section of Lovecraft letter excerpts containing specimens from the to-be-published 1932-1937 period. All of the other letters except one have been printed in the first 3 volumes of SELECTED LETTERS OF H. P. LOVECRAFT (Arkham House 1965, 1968, and 1971).

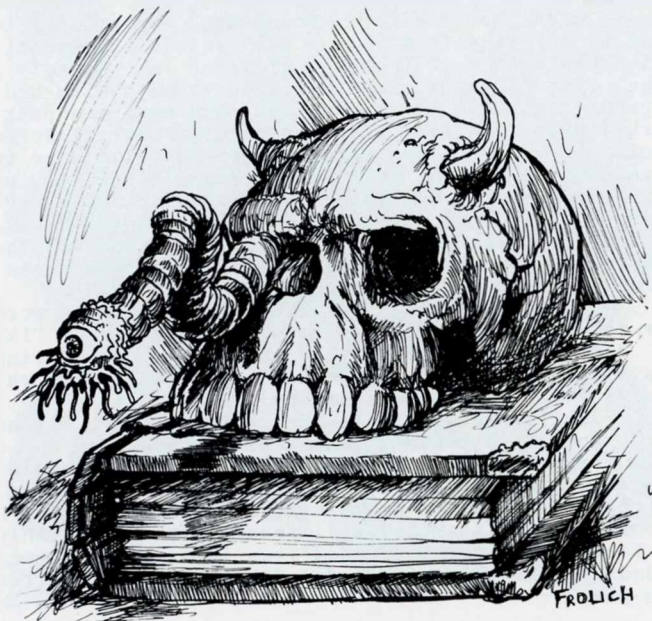
Two books that I have found of special interest are by August Derleth. One of these, the nearest thing to a biography of Lovecraft, is entitled H.P.-L.: A MEMOIR. It too was published by Ben Abramson in New York in 1945. Its length is 120 pages and the copy which I used is owned by the University of North Carolina library. The other Derleth volume is much smaller - a forty-two page chapbook, in fact. Its contents include articles on the Mythos, the unfinished manuscripts and the writing habits. The book also includes the brief but informative Barlow Journal and 4 Lovecraft letters. It is SOME NOTES ON H. P. LOVECRAFT (Arkham House 1959), and both the Yale University and University of Indiana libraries have the book, the latter permitting its loan.

Much of the interesting material on Lovecraft has been published in magazines over the last 35 years. Yale University stocks Joseph Payne Brennan's MACABRE and also has the Howard Phillips Lovecraft Memorial Symposium (in the Spring, 1958 issue of FRESCO), edited by Stephen Eisner. The symposium includes several articles by friends of HPL. Another good source for the symposium is Northwestern University Library, which also has THE READER & THE COLLECTOR.

Other libraries in Providence than Brown University's can be consulted and there is, when all else fails, the New York Public Library. They charge a minimum fee for duplication, so I recommend that all articles needed be secured at one time, if one must use their services.

One final note: I found an informative series of Lovecraft articles in H.P.L.: MEMOIRS, CRITIQUES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES, edited by George T. Wetzel. It contains 84 pages, most of which are useful; the LoC has a copy and will lend it. (Ed Note: elsewhere in this magazine is a revised and expanded version of Mr. Wetzel's article on the Cthulhu Mythos from this book.)

This is not an extensive gathering of material by any means but what is here may, I hope, prove useful to some Lovecraft aficionados who are in the midst of discovering more about the complex, creative mind of HPL.



TO MOUNT SINAI

(Dedicated to George F. Haas)

Grim mountain, on your lowering slopes I stand,
Cowed by the sound of thunder in the skies,
While your dark crown of cloud spreads o'er the land
And stirs my mind to yet more dark surmise . . .

Cowed by the sound of thunder in the skies,
I sense beneath your flanks those monstrous Things
That shall one day awaken and arise
And - oh, to stifle these mad visionings!

I sense beneath your flanks those monstrous Things,
Grim with a hatred vast as outer space,
That lurk and strain to burst their prisonings
And rise in power to smite the human race.

Grim with a hatred vast as outer space,
Those sleeping Powers shall one day wake and rise
To smash this Earth as with a giant mace
And strew its shards across the darkened skies.

- Richard L. Tierney

MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS

Grim ranks of frozen spires rear high to face
The world like walls that guard far lands of dream -
White, ivory fangs whose jagged summits seem
To lance the skies and pierce the fringe of space.
No life survives in that Antarctic clime,
And yet the demon wind that pipes and shrieks
Among those spires is like a voice that speaks
Of evil things in accents old as time.

No man has seen beyond that range of snow
The vast, black city sprawling grim and cold,
Yet dreamers speak of monstrous things of old
That ooze through vaulted corridors below,
While some have warned of what may rise again
From the black gulfs to face the world of men.

- Richard L. Tierney

MANY-COLUMNED IRAM (Based upon a legend from THE ARABIAN NIGHTS)

Upon what ethereal scenes
of vanished splendor have I gazed?
What wild, unhallowed, lost desmesnes
form brief immemorial dreams
That haunt my mundane days? What means
that horrific hand etched on beams
Of porphyry whose purple sheens
lie dulled from sand and time, and mazed
With necromantic tale of queens
who sleep in dust beneath the hazed
And shrouded moon? - a tale that keeps
its lost lament in the pale gleams
Of starlight. Yet, one man careens
into that land of mad extremes,
And reads the tale on pillared screens
and reels out in the desert - crazed.

Doomed now to oblivious night,
lost Iram rusts, ever-autumned.
Rare, exotic, her golden sight
paled to mere insignificance
Allah's paradise, holy-white -
her palaces, many-columned,
Set thick with gems whose blinding light
lit all with golden radiance.
Enraged at man's audacious might,
did Allah with horrific hand
Crush the pomp and power of this sight
and smite to shards this wondrous land?

- Walter Shedlofsky