

# ELDRITCH LEANINGS







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Esoteric Order of Dagon, Feb.5th, 1976,  
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I know I'm wasting my time even bothering to ask, but I'll try anyway...  
If anyone has any of their past publications, for sale, or out of the goodness of their heart, to give away, please let me know, so that I may catch up on some of the things I've missed in past mailings.

You might notice, I didn't try to ask for whole mailings (as I know there isn't a single copy anyone would be willing to part with).

Right here at the beginning, I believe some sort of introduction is needed... As you'll probably be able to tell by glancing, or reading through (hopefully) my publication, I am not now, nor have I ever been, or considered myself, a writer. In fact, until I started this "Dagonzine", I had never even used a typewriter! And so, I'm afraid this is my first experience before the keys. What I am though, is a collector of weird fiction, centered around H.P.Lovecraft and related authors. In the past few years, I did spend a considerable amount of time collecting occult books, and studying the fields of psychic and paranormal phenomena, but most of that's behind me now (even though I still have my books and related material in my library) .

It was just recently that I became aware of the E.O.D., and from what I heard, I knew that I would be missing a very great opportunity by not joining. To do this, I went out and bought an electric typewriter, a new desk lamp, and plenty of correction paper for all of my mistakes (which I expect to have a large number of!). This then is the culmination of my first efforts. Hopefully, some of you will get a chuckle from reading about how I got started, and I also hope you'll let me know if any of you had similar beginnings. Since the only mailings I've seen, are at least a year old, I'm going to wait until I receive my copy of the 13th mailing, before I start making mailing comments. Until then, here's my story...

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How I Discovered H.P.Lovecraft and the E.O.D.

-or-

Oops! There Goes the Family Fortune

by William E. Hart

Back in early 1971, I was browsing through a paperback book rack, when I spotted a rather macabre looking book, with the title, The Tomb and Other Tales, by an author I had heard of, named H.P.Lovecraft. With my natural (or un-natural, as you will) morbid curiosity, I decided to give the book a try. To say I enjoyed it, would be an understatement! This was the first time since I was a small child, that a book had actually given me one of those feelings that makes you look around in the dark after you've turned off the lights, even though you know there's nothing there. I was hooked instantly, although I didn't realize it at the time.



It was a few months later, while visiting my then girlfriend, now wife, that I noticed a paperback book entitled, *The Colour Out of Space and Others*, on one of her bookshelves. Needless to say, this became the second book in my Lovecraft collection. After this I began to search every book rack that I came within eyesight of, for more of the same. Finally, after much futile effort, my hunt became successful... I was looking through the Science Fiction section of a Walden's book store, when I found, not one, but five Lovecraft books: *At the Mountains of Madness*, *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*, *The Tomb & Other Tales*, *The Lurking Fear & Other Stories*, and *The Lurker at the Threshold* (with? August Derleth). These five books were inside a cardboard slipcase, which I wanted, along with all the books, except for *The Tomb*. I must have done something right that day, because the clerk let me purchase the whole set, minus *The Tomb*. I was ecstatic! With the acquisition of those four books, my Lovecraft collection had tripled in size.

After reading this group, I began to realize two things. First, almost all of these stories, added together, were beginning to form something more than just single stories (I didn't have a name for this yet, but it wasn't long before *"The Cthulhu Mythos"* became a part of my vocabulary). Second, I realized that I had just scratched the surface of a mountain of material, just waiting for me to find it. Over the next two years, I found seven more paperbacks: *The Dunwich Horror* by H.P. Lovecraft, *Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos Vol. 1* (edited by August Derleth), *Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos Vol. 2* (edited by August Derleth), *The Survivor & Others* by H.P. Lovecraft and (?) August Derleth, *The Shuttered Room and Other Tales of Horror* by H.P. Lovecraft and (?) August Derleth, *The Doom That Came to Sarnath* by H.P. Lovecraft, and *Lovecraft: A Look Behind the "Cthulhu Mythos"* by Lin Carter.

One day, I Decided to stop by a book shop, and look through their catalogue to see if there might be any books by or about Lovecraft that I didn't have yet. I think I went into shock!.. Not only did I find a couple of paperbacks listed that I didn't have, but I found a number of hard-covers with titles I had never heard of, from a place called, Arkham House... I had the book dealer order two books for me from them, and in about one week I not only had my books, but I also had the mailing label from the package with Arkham House's address on it. I immediately wrote to them asking for a catalogue, and it wasn't long before I began ordering my own books. After I had ordered, recieved, and read most of the books That I was interested in, I found that Arkham House had published a number of books that I had missed, and they were now out of print. By this point, I was determined to find copies of the ones I thought might be interesting to me, so I started to frequent used and rare book shops within the local area, and I found one place that had a nice collection, a store called, *The Book Sail*. Not only did they have a fine collection of rare and o.p. titles, but John McLaughlin, the owner of *The Book Sail*, turned out to also be a collector of weird fiction, and H.P. Lovecraft. Stuart Schiff can correct me if I'm wrong here, but John says he used to own the "White Ship" manuscript, but he sold it to Jerry Larson for about \$500.00, and then he in turn, sold it to Stu, who so generously reprinted it in *Whispers to share it with us all*.



I eventually purchased a number of o.p. Arkham House titles from The Book Sail, including: The Dark Brotherhood, Selected Letters Vol.1, The Mask of Cthulhu (signed by Derleth), and The Trail of Cthulhu (inscribed by Derleth). I also found out that John has about the first six years of Wonder Stories, and Amazing Stories. In case anyone is interested, John's address is; The Book Sail, 1186 N.Tustin St., Orange, Calif., 92667. Anyone that would like a catalogue, or is looking for something in particular, drop John a line. While on the subject, if anyone has any Spider pulps, John is always in the market for them.

Towards the end of 1974, I found myself reading about a book by J.Ramsey Campbell, entitled, The Inhabitant of the Lake and Less Welcome Tenants (which I still don't have a copy of). Now the thing that intrigued me about this book, was that I had read in a couple of places that most of the stories in it fit into the "Cthulhu-Mythos". At that time, anything that even hinted at being "Mythos" material, drew me like the proverbial moth to the flame. I checked with John at The Book Sail, and he said he had a copy at one time but sold it. When I asked him to keep a look-out for a copy for me, he told me that if I was really interested in finding it right away, I should make a trip up to Hollywood and look through some of the shops up there. He also gave me the names of a couple of places that he knew carried quite a bit of Lovecraft and Arkham House Material.

On Feb.21st., I made my first book hunting trip to Hollywood, and what a trip it was! In a matter of a few hours, I saw more in-print and out of print Arkham House books, Lovecraft letters, post-cards, and associated materials than I could have ever imagined in my wildest dreams! I think I went out of my mind, just like a starving chimpanzee turned loose on a banana plantation. My wife began to panic, as she realized that in my state of mind, the family fortune(sic), could easily dwindle quite rapidly to nothing more than parking change!

Luckily, I was able to keep my spending limited, and still pick up a few interesting items: The Revised H.P.Lovecraft Bibliography by Mark Owings with Jack L.Chalker, The Fantastic Art of Clark Ashton Smith by Dennis Rickard, The Last of the Great Romantic Poets by Donald Sydney-Fryer, and last but not least, Thirty Years of Arkham House by August Derleth. As I was paying for these items, something happened that has had a profound effect on me ever since.. The clerk asked me if I had ever heard of a book entitled, The Readers Guide to the "Cthulhu Mythos"!!!

I had never heard of the book (or heard anyone pronounce Cthulhu), but I was definately interested! As it turned out, the store had sold its last copy of the book (SHIT!). Luckily though, the clerk was able to give me the address of Harry Morris and The Silver Scarab Press, whom the clerk said would be able to send me information about the "Readers Guide", and possibly other items that might be of interest to me. When I got home that day, I immediately sent a letter off to The Silver Scarab Press, and within two weeks I ordered everything Harry Morris had available, except for "Ahas-verus" by Helmut Wenske, which I did order a little while later.



At about this time, I was layed-off from my job, and not knowing how long this would last, I had to watch my finances quite closely. Therefore, it was August before I could resume collecting and reading new materials in the weird-fiction line. It was also in August when I decided to sit down and compare the materials that I had on hand with the listings of "Mythos" stories and books in The Readers Guide to the "Cthulhu Mythos", and this is where my search turned in a new direction... I was looking through the listing of Mythos related books, and I noticed a book called, "H.P.L.," edited by Meade and Penny Frierson, which, from what I could see, was packed full of "Mythos" stories and articles. As you can probably guess, I had to have a copy!

Noticing that "H.P.L." was published in 1972, I feared that I might be too late to find any copies still in print, so I decided to do something I had never done before... I looked in the back of the "Readers Guide," and I found Meade's address, then I called information in Alabama to see if his phone number might be listed. I think before I go any farther, an explanation is required here, as to what I mean by saying, "something I had never done before". No, I don't mean looking up a phone number. What I'm referring to, is me, a nobody, a common working (10 hours a day, six and sometimes seven days a week at present) class serf, being preposterous enough to think I could have the audacity, to call and harass, a publisher and editor (visions of Derleth or Randolph Hearst)!

Meade's number was listed, and I told my self, "Why not?", and I went ahead and dialed the number. What luck! (again), Meade was home when I called, and we had, (for me at least) a very enlightening conversation. Meade told me he still had a few copies of the second edition of H.P.L., and some back issues of his publication The Unnamable. He also asked me if I had seen Skull #4 (an underground comic with a couple of Lovecraft stories in it). As I had never heard of his publication, I asked him to explain what it was, and this is when I was first told about the E.O.D. and its quarterly mailings. This Dagonzine before your eyes shows how I felt about what Meade told me. This was the first time I really had a chance to talk with someone with the same interests as myself, and I was trying to take advantage of the moment by asking as many questions as possible. One of the questions I asked was, whether or not there were any collectors in my area that I might be able to acquaint myself with. He gave me the names and address' of two E.O.D. members: Reg Smith in Santa Ana, and Bob Eber in Long Beach (So. Calif. for you easterners). In this one call to Meade, I not only found out about the E.O.D. and some of its members, but I was also told about Stuart Schiff, and his fantastic publication "WHISPERS".

After my conversation with Meade, I wrote to Stuart Schiff asking for more information about "WHISPERS" (which I now have a subscription to), and I made plans for contacting Reg Smith and Bob Eber at the earliest date. So far I haven't contacted Bob (Hey Bob give me a call, my #'s in the front of this zine), but I have contacted, met, and conversed with Reg on a few occasions.



Visiting Reg, is like going to a library that's completely dedicated to weird fiction, and finding out that the curator can answer almost any question you might have about the materials and their authors. Reg has the finest private collection I've ever had the pleasure to see, and I'd like to thank him here and now, for allowing me to view some of his treasures, and especially for allowing me to borrow some of his E.O.D. mailings (which I promise to protect with my life!). Hopefully, some of Reg's knowledge of weird fiction will rub off on me, because whenever I talk with him, I realize how much I have yet to learn. I just hope I'm not too much of a pest! That, my friends, just about concludes my introduction to H.P.Lovecraft, and the E.O.D., and brings me back up to the present.

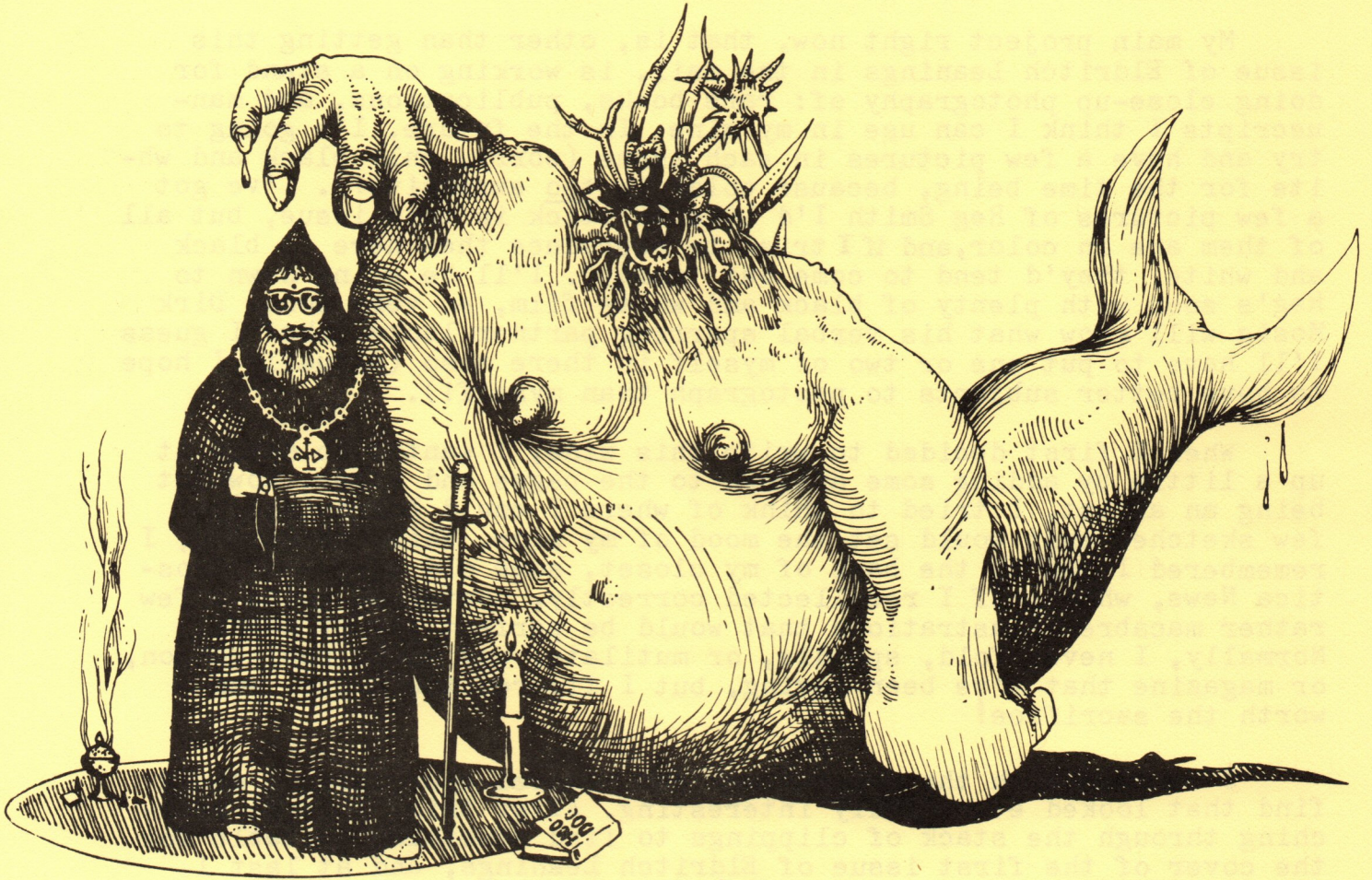
My main project right now, that is, other than getting this issue of Eldritch Leanings in the mail, is working on a stand for doing close-up photography of: rare books, publications, and manuscripts I think I can use in my zine. In the future, I'm going to try and have a few pictures in each issue (sorry, only black and white for the time being, because color is too expensive!). I've got a few pictures of Reg Smith I'd like to stick in this issue, but all of them are in color, and if I tried to reproduce them here in black and white, they'd tend to come out "muddy". I'll be going down to Reg's soon with plenty of black and white film, so very soon, Dirk Mosig will know what his verbal sparring partner looks like! I guess I'll have to put one or two of myself in there also (actually, I hope to have better subjects to photograph than myself!).

When I first decided to write this zine, I wanted to dress it up a little by adding some artwork to the pages and cover. Now not being an artist, I tried to think of where I could borrow(sic) a few sketches that would set the mood of my zine. While pondering, I remembered I had in the back of my closet, some old issues of Gnostica News, which, if I recollected correctly, contained quite a few rather macabre illustrations that would be perfect for my needs. Normally, I never fold, spindle, or mutilate, any book, publication, or magazine that I've been saving, but I figured the E.O.D. was worth the sacrifice!

I went through the whole stack and removed everything I could find that looked even mildly interesting. After this, I began searching through the stack of clippings to find something suitable for the cover of the first issue of Eldritch Leanings, and at last I found what I was looking for... The illustration was from the Feb. 21st, 1974 issue of Gnostica News. It was for an article by P.E.I. Bonewits, entitled, "OOOPS!!", which warned beginning wizards, warlocks, and witches not to bite off more than they could chew. The drawing was perfect, except for one thing (which I planned to change to suit my needs). On the floor by the wizard was a book with HOO DOO written on the cover. I decided it would be a simple matter to change the title to The Necronomicon, and then it would really be perfect! My dreams for that cover were shattered a few days later, when Reg Smith loaned me his copy of the eight mailing. When I came to the last zine in the stack, I found something on the bottom, that wasn't supposed to be there....



What I found, at the bottom of that stack, was a copy of Cry of the Cricket #7, and right there on the front of it, was my planned cover! Not only was it the same drawing, but Roger had changed HOO DOO to AL AZIF. How's that for raining on my parade? At least it's nice to know Roger and I think alike. Just so I won't feel to bad, I'm going to reprint the drawing here in its complete form (that is, with HOO DOO and the poem that was under the drawing)...



Little Willie was a wizard.  
Little Willie is no more.  
For what he thought a Pentagram—  
Just made the Demon sore!!



In order to better show how my collection has grown and branched out in the past couple of years, I've cataloged most of my Lovecraft and Arkham House related items, and listed them here (for my own pleasure as much as anyone else's). I'm leaving a number of items off this list, such as: all of my occult books (although H.P. Lovecraft is mentioned in my 24 volume set of Man Myth & Magic), the majority of my Science-Fiction paperback books (The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction--Bradbury--Poe--Heinlein--Tolkien etc.), and all of the books I have ordered, and I'm still waiting to receive.

The Hart Catalogue of Lovecraftiana  
and related items.

1. Selected Letters Vol.1 ( A.H. 1965 )
2. Selected Letters Vol.2 (A.H. 1968)
3. Selected Letters Vol.3 (A.H. 1971)
4. Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos (A.H. 1969)
5. The Dunwich Horror & Others (A.H. 1963)
6. Dagon and Other Macabre Tales (A.H. 1965)
7. The Horror in the Museum & Other Revisions (A.H. 1970)
8. The Mountains of Madness & Others (A.H. 1964)
9. Dark Things (A.H. 1971)
10. Rim of the Unknown (A.H. 1972)
11. Demons by Daylight (A.H. 1973)
12. Other Dimensions (A.H. 1970)
13. Nameless Places (A.H. 1975)
14. Disclosures in Scarlet (A.H. 1972)
15. Revelations in Black (Neville Spearman 1974)
16. Harrigan's File (A.H. 1975)
17. Black Medicine (A.H. 1966)
18. Portraits in Moonlight (A.H. 1964)
19. Thirty Years of Arkham House (A.H. 1970)
20. The Mask of Cthulhu---signed by Derleth (A.H. 1958)
21. The Trail of Cthulhu---inscribed by Derleth (A.H. 1962)
22. Stories of Darkness and Dread (A.H. 1973)
23. Caller of the Black (A.H. 1971)
24. Collected Ghost Stories (A.H. 1974)
25. Beneath the Moors (A.H. 1974)
26. The Dark Brotherhood (A.H. 1966)
27. The Folsom Flint (A.H. 1969)
28. The Watchers Out of Time (A.H. 1975)
29. Dreams From R'lyeh (A.H. 1975)
30. From Evil's Pillow (A.H. 1973)
31. Mr. George and Other Odd Persons (A.H. 1963)
32. Eight Tales (A.H. 1971)
33. The Face in the Mirror (A.H. 1971)
34. The House of the Worm (A.H. 1975)
35. Nightmares and Daydreams (A.H. 1968)
36. Xelucha and Others (A.H. 1975)
37. H.P.L. Dreamer on the Nightside (A.H. 1975)
38. The Purcell Papers (A.H. 1975)
39. Abominations of Yondo (Neville Spearman 1972)
40. Out of Space and Time (Neville Spearman 1971)
41. Lost Worlds (Neville Spearman 1971)



42. Genius Loci (Neville Spearman 1972)
43. The Opener of the Way (Neville Spearman 1974)
44. Tales From Underwood (Neville Spearman 1974)
45. Skull-Face Omnibus (Neville Spearman 1974)
46. Jumbee and Other Uncanny Tales (Neville Spearman 1974)
47. Far Below and Other Horrors--inscribed THANKS TO(R.W. 1974)
48. A Catalog (Grill) of Lovecraftiana (Mirage 1975)
49. Something About Cats and Other Pieces (Books for Librarys 71)
50. Worse Things Waiting (Carcosa 1973)
51. Lovecraft: A Biography (Doudleday 1975)
52. Ahasverus---signed (Wenske 1973)
53. The Fantastic Art of Frank Franzetta I (Scribners 1975)
54. Lovecraft at Last 781/1000 (Carrollton Clark 1975)
55. The Pulp (Bonanza 1970)
56. Nyctalops #7 (Silver Scarab Press 1972)(YEA HARRY!!)
57. Nyctalops #8 (Silver Scarab Press 1973)(HIP HIP !!!)
58. Nyctalops #9 (Silver Scarab Press 1974)( THANKS!!)
59. Nyctalops #10 (Silver Scarab Press 1975)(BEAUTIFUL!!)
60. Science Fiction Art (Bounty Books 1975)
61. Fantastic Science Fiction Art (Ballintine 1975)
62. 2000 A.D.-Illustrations From the Golden Age of Science Fiction Pulp (Regnery 1975)
63. Reader's Guide to the Cthulhu Mythos (Silver Scarab Press 1973)
64. The Revised H.P.L. Bibliography (Mirage 1973)
65. H.P.L. 2nd. ed.-Beautiful job Meade!! (Meade & Penny Frierson)
66. Toadstool Wine (Lithoprinted by Edwards Bros. Inc. 1975)
67. Weirdbook #9 (1975)
68. Skull #4--Special H.P.L. issue (Last Gasp 1972)
69. Witchcraft & Sorcery #10 (Fantasy Pub.Co. 1974)
70. The Devil Ground (SHROUD 1975)
71. The Fantastic Art of Clark Ashton Smith (Mirage 1973)
72. The Last of the Great Romantic Poets (Harry again(SSS) 1973)
73. Lovecraft/Garcia (Shroud 1975)
74. H.P.L. Supplement #3 (Good ol' Meade Frierson III 1974)
75. Supernatural Horror in Literature-- as revised in 1936  
781/1000 (Carrollton Clark 1974)
76. Weird Tales in the Thirties (Reg Smith 1971) Gracias!
77. Xenophile #18 Lovecraft issue (Nils Hardin 1975)
78. Charleston 92/150 (The Strange Co. 1975)
79. Medusa: A Portrait 96/500 (Oliphant Press 1975)
80. Dark Horizons #11 (British Fantasy Society 1975)
81. The Chaos Spawn (Shroud 1974)
82. Whispers (WOW!) Vol.1 no.1 I'm Hooked! (Stuart Schiff)
83. Whispers Vol.1 no.2
84. Whispers Vol.1 no.3
85. Whispers Vol.2 no.1
86. Whispers Vol.2 no.2-3
87. Sword & Scorcery---Special 1975 Annual, contains: Queen of the Black Coast by Robert E. Howard, L.Sprague de Camp: Sword and Satire by Sam Moskowitz, and The Cloud of Hate by Fritz Leiber (Ultimate)
88. Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction-- contains excerpt from Lovecraft: A Biography by L.Sprague de Camp (Mercury Press Jan.-1975)
89. The Mind Parasites (Oneiric Press 1972)
90. At the Mountains of Murkiness (Ferret Fantasy Ltd. 1973) YUK!



91. Supernatural Horror in Literature (Dover 1973)
92. The Arkham Collector: Nos.4-10 (A.H. Win.69-Sum.71)
93. WT50 inscribed (Forever grateful Bob! (Robert Weinberg 1974)
94. Zothique (Ballantine Books 1970)
95. Conan (Sphere Books 1974)
96. At the Mountains of Madness & Others (Beagle Books 1971)
97. The Tomb & Other Tales (Beagle Books 1970)
98. The Lurking Fear & Other Stories (Beagle Books 1971)
99. The Case of Charles Dexter Ward (Beagle Books 1971)
100. The Lurker at the Threshold (Beagle Books 1971)
101. The Doom That Came to Sarnath (Ballantine Books 1971)
102. The Shuttered Room & Other Tales of Horror (Ballantine 1973)
103. The Survivor & Others (Ballantine Books 1971)
104. Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos Vol.1 (Ballantine Books 1973)
105. Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos Vol.2 (Ballantine Books 1973)
106. The Dunwich Horror (Lancer Books 1963)
107. Lovecraft: A Look Behind the Cthulhu Mythos (Ballantine 1972)
108. The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath (Ballantine Books 1973)
109. Fungi From Yuggoth & Other Poems (Ballantine Books 1971)
110. The Colour Out of Space & Others (Lancer Books 1969)
111. The Horror in the Museum (Nine Stories)(Beagle Books 1971)
112. The Transition of Titus Crow (Daw Books 1975)
113. The Burrowers Beneath (Daw Books 1974)
114. Stories From "Sleep No More" contains stories by: Bloch, Smith, Whitehead, Blackwood, Howard Wandrei and others (Bantam Books 1967)
115. The Years Best Horror Stories Vol.1 "A witch's brew of sf grue!" contains stories by: Bloch, Lumley, Campbell & others (Daw Books 1972)
116. The Years Best Horror Stories Vol.2 "The pick of the nightmare crop" Bloch, Lumley, & Campbell ride again.(Daw Books 1974)
117. The Years Best Horror Stories Vol.3 --Bloch didn't make it this time, but just about everybody else did!(Daw Books 1975)
118. Detours Into the Macabre-Thanks Again Reg!(Pan Books 1974)
119. Tales of Horror and the Supernatural (Arthur Machen) (Pinnacle Books 1971)
120. The Complete Short Stories of Ambrose Bierce Vol.1? (Ballantine Books 1971)
121. H.P.Lovecraft--rock group's 1st album, contains The White Ship and others. (Philips PHS 600-252)
122. H.P.Lovecraft II --rock group's 2nd album, contains: At the Mountains of Madness, Keeper of the Keys, Electrallentando, and others. (Philips PHS 600-279)
123. Lovecraft-Valley of the Moon--rock group's 3rd album, good rock music, but with this album the group dropped the H.P. and the Lovecraft influence that went with it.
124. H.P.Lovecraft--album with dramatizations of two Lovecraft stories: The Outsider and The Rats in the Walls 33/1000 (Lava Mt.-Huckleberry HPL 235 1975)

I'm going to close this first issue of Eldritch Leanings with the words to the song "The White Ship", from the group's first album, but before I do, I just want to say one thing... I know I'm only #17 on the waiting list, but I can't just sit around and miss everything while waiting to get asked to join! So everybody keep an eye out for E.L., because I'm going to be in the mailings from now on!



The White Ship

The White Ship has sailed,  
and left me here again.

Out in the mist,

I was so near again.

Sailing upon the sea of dreams,  
how far away it seems,  
sailing upon the White Ship.

All through the night,  
here in my darkened room.

Sails of white,

across the misty moon.

Floating across the sky,  
burning into my eye,  
sailing upon the White Ship.

Out of my mind,

nothing for.

Alone on the shore,

but that's how it goes.

Everyone knows,

how the wind blows,

upon the White Ship.

Out of my mind,

nothing for.

Alone on the shore,

but that's how it goes.

Everyone knows,

how the wind blows,

upon the White Ship.

The White Ship has sailed,  
and left me here again.

Out in the mist,

I was so near again.

Sailing on the sea of dreams,  
how far away it seems,  
sailing upon the White Ship....

repeat and fade to fini



