



ELDRITCH LEARNINGS NO. 8

This issue is written and published for the 20th. mailing of The Esoteric Order of Dagon, Oct. 31st. (Hallowmass) 1977, by William E.Hart, 222 N.Muller #75b, Anaheim, Calif. 92801. (714) 535-1201.

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I'm going to try and make this my shortest issue to date; the top reasons for this are: 1. Jean and I are presently going to school three nights a week. 2. We've made the big jump, and have bought a house about four blocks from here, so we are spending our time and money trying to get everything ready to move (which we should be doing about the end of October if we don't run into anymore problems than we have so far). 3. With the W.F.C.III being held here at the end of the month, I want as much capitol on hand as possible. What it all boils down to is that for the moment, I'm short of time, money, and for that matter, energy. If we are able to get moved right away into the home we now have in escrow, our new address will be: 913 W. Knepp, Fullerton, Calif. 92632. Buying this house will mean our having to pay more than double per month what we're now paying for our apartment, so that will also cut into my hobbies severely, but I'm sure it's going to be worth it!

Thanks to the information I've received from Dirk, I'm going to cancel my proposed "A Chronological Survey of Events In The Fiction Of H.P.Lovecraft", because I'm now aware that this work has already been done by S.T.Joshi, and will be published in the near future; also, with the cancellation of this project, I'm returning to my original project of indexing Selected Letters I-V.

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COMMENTS ON THE 20th MAILING

OO - Joe Moudry - I'm glad to see we finally got the dues amount changed to make it a little more workable.

THE MOUNT EREBUS QUARTERLY #6 - Joe moudry - Your discussion of bibliographic terms proves that the printing bug has really bitten you hard; I'm starting to get into the deep end also, but I have to admit I haven't got to the point where I'm always carrying a line gauge or make-up rule in my pocket.

BOOK MARKER - Joe Moudry - I'll save this fine looking place-holder.

DARK MESSENGER READER #12 - Crispin Burnham - Interesting tale— I'll look forward to seeing how you revise it for sale. // Your new ribbon and typewriter copied beautifully!

IBID XIX - Ben Indick - I've never read any of Baum's books, but I believe your very fine essay may change that.

ARKHAM HOUSECLEANING - If you received any money from me before you read this, it just means I broke down and couldn't resist your goodies. // I fully agree with your thoughts on the "Lovecraft Cult", and also on your feelings about being a "fan". // Your mention of a Lovecraft concordance makes me feel that this might be a much much more worthwhile project than my barely started "Chronological Listing"— never can tell where this will lead... // Hope they got everything patched-up in Akron.

DUNWICH - Ken Faig - Fascinating wealth of material on Dunwich; it almost seems as if the destruction was deliberate by "unknown" or "outside" forces— very strange indeed!

THE WORKS OF - Micheal Beasley - A couple of notes: It was probably just a typo on your part, but Lovecraft's middle name was Phillips, not Philip as you have it. "The Terror From the Middle Span" which you refer to, I believe should be "The Horror...", and would have to be filed more under Derleth than Lovecraft as this is one of Derleth's post-mortem collaborations. // Did you have a chance to read Dave Schultz's material on dreams before you wrote this? If not, try to get a copy from him.

DE TENEBRIS #3 - Ken Faig, Jr. - I thoroughly enjoyed all of your Dunwich material, but I can't help imagining how much research and speculation time could be saved if someone could turn up an H.P.L. letter wherein he states that he was aware of Dunwich and Swinburne, and that they both influenced his work!

THE MOSHASSUCK REVIEW #1.1 - Ken Faig, Jr. - If ever I get to Providence, I'm going to have as many of your notes as I can find with me. Each transcript of your notes always opens up a multitude of avenues for research— I hope I get the chance to follow through.

THE BYAKHEE STOPS HERE! - Lawson Hill - I see you and I had about the same feelings for the H.P.L. film mentioned in Starlog.

LETTERS FROM LENG - Robert M. Eber - Bob, I think you need a new typewriter, or a lot of proof-reading; I spend a lot of time trying to make out what your typos are supposed to be (e.g., "thany you", "little too dary", etc.). // Visiak's piece could start the hunt for more of the same.

MAGGOTVILLE NEWS #3 - Mark E. Sprague - Blumstein's piece, while containing many errors, was still enjoyable to see, as I'm sure we're all glad when H.P.L. has his name in the paper. // "Zarukana", nicely done!

CHARNEL GLYPHS #4 - Lawrence A. Baker - Now days, I believe I'd be happy to just get my money back from T-K Graphics. I've already purchased all the items they owe me— from other dealers.

LITTERAE DAGONIS - R. Boerem - Wilson's cartoons have always been one of the highpoints in Playboy to me (other than the obvious feminine ones that is), but your final summation is very true.

THE HUNTER OF THE DARK #5 - Barry R. Hunter - I had a feeling "Skull-face" might have been the book— Speaking of which, I talked to a young couple at a recent con' who were trying to sell their copy for \$125.00. They said they only paid \$25.00 and didn't really want to sell it, but if anyone was willing to pay \$125.00, they'd be more than happy to part with it (wonder why?).

SPECTRAL ANALYSIS #11 - Gary Kimber - You're review of Rollercoaster, where you mention "sensurround" reminds me of a little tid-bit I picked up while taking the Universal Studio's tour recently; As was amply demonstrated to the group I was with, the secret behind "sensurround" is not the vibration, but the fact that the frequency and the sound level affect the inner ear, and temporarily throw off your equilibrium, thereby incredibly enhancing the sensations of the audience. // Re: your comment to Reg Smith about mail-order booksellers; I've found Bob Weinberg to be one of the fastest (never takes over two weeks from the time I send out my order--usually 11 days), most efficient, and most reliable dealers that I do business with; so much so, that I recommend him to anyone who's interested in the field. Now, with my feelings, if you've found James Hurst or The Brissons to be better, I'd at least like to know more about them; please give me their addresses (in a mc so that everyone else can have them too) as I've never even heard of either one of them before (but I'm always looking for more reputable dealers). // Chaput's artwork is fantastic! If you want to share him, give him my name address and #; I'd especially like to see more like the 3rd and 4th pieces in the portfolio in the middle of your zine—being a Dungeons & Dragons fan I flipped over these! Encore!!

OUTRE' - J.Vernon Shea - your comment to Bob Eber about "To Quebec.." fits my situation to a "T"; I anxiously awaited the book, only to find myself leaving it on the shelf! // As to your question to me, sooner or later a copy of each of my issues reaches Bloch; in other words, yes I send him my zines (and sometimes hand deliver them), but sometimes I'm just a little slow getting copies out.

TOOTH & NAIL 19 - Jim Webbert - ?????!????!

DRAKE'S POTPOURRI - David Drake - I would imagine I'll still be lividly green with envy over your trip when you read this... // Thanks for letting me know Campbell was Dreadstone, at least for for books; this is something that I wasn't aware of till now.

ZARFHAANA #11 - Glenn Lord - T-K Graphics bankrupt? There goes my money-- Damn! I don't know what new kind of funny business they're trying to pull, but on 9-27-77, after a few people said they had gone bankrupt, I received their latest catalog; They won't get me again!

EFFORTS FROM CHURNING FINGERS 7 - Randall D. Larson - I truly enjoyed "Gods in the Depths"; this is the kind of poetry that keeps me interested in poems; you do show a fine talent with this one. // "Purple Swine"'s ending is very reminiscent of "Revenge" in the 5th Pan Book of Horror Stories.

CRUMBLING RELICKS #13 - Chet Williamson - Yes I finally read "Rime Isle", and didn't find the humorous and lively side of Fafhrd and the Mouser that I've always enjoyed. I had a chance to ask Fritz about the somber way the story was handled and why he did what he did with Fafhrd; his reply, along with much interesting material related by him, was recorded by me onto a 120 min. cassette— regretfully, while taping Alan Dean Foster on the flip side (discussing Star Wars #II) the tape jammed and broke. As soon as I fix the tape I'll transcribe some of it. After my problems with the tape I'll never use anything over 90 min. again. A little side note: I don't know if it will ever be used on the silver screen, but one of the things that takes place in Foster's script, is a scene where the princess, Luke, and the droids end up on a planet where the many races there worship so many different deities that everywhere you turn there is a temple, and when they are being chased far underground by Lord Vader and his troopers, they run into an ancient temple where they find this giant statue of this strange, squatting, winged, tentacled faced creature, and Foster said "yes, if that sounds familiar, your right, it's your old buddy Cthulhu straight out of H.P.Lovecraft". I don't know if I can even picture Star Wars & Lovecraft combined. Back to Fritz Leiber; His latest Fafhrd & Mouser story (which takes up where Rime Isle ends, and shows how Fafhrd, whom has always been a bowman, copes with his problem) will appear in the next issue of THE DRAGON magazine (issue no. 10), and may be purchased from TSR Hobbies, Inc. P.O.B. 756, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The price on the Dragon has been \$1.50 up to issue #9, but with issue 10 they're expanding from 30 pages to 40, so if you are interested, send \$2.00 to be safe.

AFTER MIDNIGHT #11 - Reg Smith - Your faith in my ability to fit into the printing trade because of the look of my zines, reminds me that it was my interest in making a presentable zine for this a.p.a. that lead me to finally decide on a career in the field— Thanks everybody!

THE ARKHAM ANCHORITE #14 - Joe Moudry - Your continuing essay on Stevens will undoubtedly cause me many hours of digging and searching through my own books; but I believe from reading your comments, the pleasurable reading will compensate for it in full.

GRUESOME CARGOES #1 - Tom Campbell - Welcome! And thanks for contributing even before membership. One thing I might mention: It's Cthulhu instead of Cthulu.

TREISTE H.P.L. FOLDER - Dirk Mosig - Many thanks for getting the extra copies!

THE MISKATONIC - Dr. Dirk W. Mosig - For the second time in this mailing I found myself giving into the green-eyed monster again while reading your trip report; I hope you'll be able to run some transcripts of the event in a future issue of The Miskatonic. // Interesting piece by John Rieber--- has he written anything else of merit?

PHOTOGRAPHS LOVECRAFTIAN - Dirk W. Mosig - I hope to send for these in the very near (if I haven't by the time you read this) future.

THE GREAT DEBATE - Dirk W. Mosig - Two comments: No I wouldn't advise drinking the water in Santa Ana (or Anaheim, or anywhere else in this county). Around here we usually drink bottled water. And, no, route 66 doesn't quite go to Santa Ana, but can take 66 to 15, 15 to 91, 91 to 57, and 57 into Santa Ana.

THE INHABITANT OF THE LAKE #2 - Bernadette Bosky - Sorry you won't be out for the Con. // Once again, I'm enthralled by your poetry, and amused by both your comments and artwork. // Since you appear to be having a love affair with books, as I am also, I feel sorry for your parents having to support a "book junkie's" habit. // As I mentioned in my letter, if Jean and I get moved into our home, I'm going to knock out wall between the two front rooms and line all of the walls with ceiling high book-cases and fantasy artwork (e.g. a huge full color original oil of "Smaug" in his lair, plus suitably Lovecraftian pieces). I won't be able to fill (or build) all the cases right away, but I eventually will have a very full library of my own. // Got a big kick out of your pictures ---- Let's see more!

LOVECRAFTIAN RAMBLINGS VII - Kennett Neily - I now have four new places to write to thanks to your notes---Muchos Gracias! // The ring sounds tempting.

CONTINUITY VOL.III NO.IV - Scott Connors and George Wetzel - It seems your joining the ranks of new publishers and book dealers-- Good Luck! Fascinating research by Wetzel.

CTHULSZ - David E. Schultz - Have you made your own cross references to H.P.L.'s stories, or do you just use Cochran's indexes and notes of your own? // Enjoyed your essay!

DEAR AUGUST - Randy Everts - The other side of the coin, i.e., letters written by Lovecraft's correspondents are always welcome; even when they weren't written to him, but just discussed him....Thank you!

NOCTURNE - Harry O. Morris, Jr. - I hate to admit it, but, I failed your Rorschach ink-blot test, and will have to immediately commit myself to Quigly's Sanitorium & Cut-Rate Deli in Arkham for observation.

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LAST MINUTE NOTES OF INTEREST

For those of you interested in Lovecraft's influence on the underground comics: The latest issue of Star Reach (#10) once again has a Linda Lovecraft adventure entitled "Nymphonecromania" wherein an insulted Vizir tries to offer her body to "...Uncouthlu, son of Cthulu". The Vizir has Linda inside his power source, a colossal globe called the "Heart of Kadath"; and who should arrive just in time to try and spoil the Vizir's plans? None other than the man Linda met while working as "a dancer in a Casbah in Ulthar", the man who helped her escape to his house in "Sarnath" where in he taught her the ways of literature, sorcery, and first love, the Vizir "Vahmet's opponent was Abdul Alhazred, also known as the 'Mad Arab'.." If your intrigued, there's more in this story about the "NECRONOMICON", Cthulhu (spelled properly after the first mention in the tale), and other things Lovecraftian. Copies are available for \$1.25 plus 35¢ postage and handling (mailed flat, 1st Class); From Star Reach Productions, P.O.Box 385, Hayward, CA. 94543.

For Robert E. Howard fans: John McLaughlin of The Book Sail at 1186 N.Tustin St., Orange, Calif. 92667, has a complete set of The Howard Collector; asking price--\$375.00.....Spread the word. I'm sure he would take less if the right offer was made. He doesn't normally carry this kind of material but he got this because it was a complete (all issues near fine) set, and he knows how hard complete sets of anything are to obtain.

For anyone working on (or knows someone who is working on) a quality hard-cover book by or about Lovecraft: Dr. Walter J. Daugherty, personal photographer to Forry Ackerman, and fan extraordinaire, has on a number of occasions told me of four paintings he has hanging in his home that I feel are of interest to us all. The four spackle paintings were done many years ago by Fritz Leiber, to illustrate four scenes from Lovecraft's stories. None of the paintings have ever (to the best of my knowledge) been shown in any book or magazine, and Walt says he wouldn't personally have them printed up, but, and here comes the interesting part, he told me this past weekend (10-16-77) that if anyone is doing a high quality book, not a fanzine or paperback, but a really nice hardcover, and is willing to reproduce them in full color (as black & white would not do them justice) he will loan them these paintings for the book, free of charge, just as long as Fritz Leiber gets credit for painting them, and Walt Daugherty gets credit for loaning them. If anyone can take advantage of this generous offer, contact Walt at: 115 So. Catalina St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004, or call (213) 383-5607. Good Luck. I haven't been able to verify it yet, but Walt says he's been told the paintings are mentioned somewhere in the Selected Letters Volumes. Anyone able to prove or disprove this?

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COVER CREDIT

Cover this time borrowed from an illustration book by Mark Saeve; Science Fiction Anthology; I'll let everyone guess the title of the story. (hint--it was written in 1896)