

Eldritch Leanings

No.10

This issue is written and published for the 22nd. mailing of
The Esoteric Order of Dagon , June 1st., 1978, by William E. Hart,
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As is evident by noticing the absense of a cover this time, this is my penny pincher's issue. I'm trying to save everything I can for my trip to Phoenix for the WorldCon in August and September, and that fact combined with an unbelievable shortage of time, is the reason I'm not including some of the things I said I would this time. I'm so behind in everything right now that I haven't even had time to read our last mailing; therefore, no mailing comments this time.

Two additions to my Lovecraft notes inside this issue: Astral Dimensions No.6 also contains an article by Joseph Payne Brennan, which discusses Lovecraft; and STARLOG No.15 which I just purchased yesterday (5-19-78) contains new information about the Lovecraftian film "The Cry of Cthulhu", which includes a color picture of one of the pre-production sketches, and the comment that American International Pictures has an option on the proposed epic. I don't expect much from this, but I'd still like to see it happen. Someone should contact Cinema Vista, and see if we E.O.D.ers could get a look at some more of the sketches and possibly get an interview with the people behind this project, and maybe even offer any assistance we can give them.

Five days ago (5-15-78) I received a very disturbing letter from Ken Neily, concerning the fact that since the 16th. mailing none of the E.O.D. mailings have been sent to the John Hay Library. I personally want copies of every mailing to be sent to them without delay, and if they aren't, I want an explanation now, in print for all to read in the mailings. I'm appalled that they've been held back the past few mailings without a single mention of this fact by Joe; The only way I can imagine mailings not being sent out to Brown is if Joe gave all the extra sets out (to waitlisters & friends) instead of worrying about Brown; if this is the case, I would consider the act unforgivable; I only hope there is a very valid explanation forthcoming, and that Brown will very soon receive the mailings Joe owes it. I'm going to keep your letter Ken (which I sicerely thank you for!) but I'm going to make a copy of the petition and send it to Joe.

I've got to pull this sheet out of the typewriter now, so I can make it to the print shop before they close, but before I do I just wanted to say I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the WorldCon in Phoenix (we're arriving on 8-29-78 and staying until 9-5-78) and I'm ready for a gigantic a.p.a. party. As they say, "be there or be square"! After this month, I'm taking a few semesters off from school, and maybe then I can finally work on the index.

LOVECRAFT APPEARANCES
in
NEW BOOKS & MAGAZINES

THE VISUAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION; \$7.95, 352 pages- oversize paperback (7½x10¼) Harmony Books ISBN 0-517-531755 (hardcover 747). Excellent study of s.f. with numerous mentions of Lovecraft, including a photograph and mention of the publication of his first story "The Alchemist" in 1916 and his first appearance in Weird Tales with "Dagon" in 1923; both notes and picture are part of a very worthwhile chronology of s.f. which covers the period from 1805 till the end of 1976. Apart from being a welth of material on s.f. (including sections on fandom and media) practically every page contains photographs of magazine and book interiors and exteriors, with almost every other page being in full color. This book, originally published in Great Britain by Pan Books in '77 is well worth every penny, and is one of the best of its type I've yet seen.

NIGHTTOUCH; \$5.95, 160 pages- oversized paperback (8x10) St. Martin's Press ISBN 0-312-57348-0 (hardcover 347-2) 1977. This is without a doubt, one of the strangest horror anthologies I've ever seen; once I get a chance to read more of it, I may find it to be one of the best. The editors (Gerry Goldberg, Stephen Stroschuk, and Fred Corbett) have compiled an odd blend of macabre fiction (including Lovecraft's "Cool Air", and his Zealia Bishop revision "The Curse of Yig"), poetry, and stills from many horror films. Each of the stories is interspersed with many quotes from people such as Carl Jung, Mary Shelly, H.P.L., and many others. If your looking for something different in a horror anthology, this interweaving of philosophy, psychology, poetry, media, and horror may just be your cup of tea. (I'm still not sure how I feel about it.)

THE ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION IDEAS AND DREAMS; \$8.95, 173 pages- oversize hardcover (9½x13) The Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd. 1977 ISBN 0 600 38248 6. This is the companion book to David Kyle's first book of this type "A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION" published in '76 by Hamlyn. As with the first book, this is primarily a visual study of the pulps and their predecessors, with an interesting commentary and history thrown in; and as in the first book, whenever you talk about pulps and s.f., you'll find numerous mentions of H.P.Lovecraft. For looks alone these books are well worthwhile.

ASTRAL DIMENSIONS NO.6; \$1.50, 60 pages- softcover (5½x8½) semi-pro magazine. Published by Chris Marler and Mark Jacobs, Mills Cross Rd., Staatsburg, N.Y., 12580. This issue contains an article by Robert A. W. Lowndes entitled "On H.P.Lovecraft's Views of Weird Fiction", and an H.P.Lovecraft portfolio by five different artists. The rest of the issue contains some very fine fiction and poetry, along with artwork to boot; it's a great shame that this is going to be the last issue of this above average semi-pro mag. Get it while you can!

THE DRAGON #12; \$1.50, 32page 8½x11 magazine, TSR Periodicals, P.O.B. 110, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This magazine which is now subtitled "The magazine of Fantasy, Sword & Sorcery and Science Fiction Gaming",

is fast becoming something more than just your run of the mill war-gaming mag; they've diversified to the point where they now have top rate fiction by writers you wouldn't expect to find here, e.g., Fritz Leiber, Harry Fischer, Gardner Fox, Andre Norton, and others that almost make this worth the price just for the fiction. Each issue also contains some of the best photographs and artwork related to the war-gaming field that you can find anywhere, and if you like humour in a fantasy vein, they've got some of the funniest in here; and in case I forget to mention it, each issue usually has color work on the inside, e.g., color funnies pages, along with the beautiful color covers. The reason I have this issue listed under new Lovecraft appearances is because of an interesting, if somewhat debatable article by Rob Kuntz entitled, "The Lovecraftian Mythos In Dungeons & Dragons". This piece is going to be of great interest to all Lovecraftians, and those wargamers with a leaning in that direction; it covers Azathoth, Cthulhu, Hastur, Nyarlathotep, Shub-Niggurath, The Necronomicon, The Elder Sign, Cthuga, Ithaqua, Yig, Yog Sothoth, and under "Inhuman and Partly Human Races...", they cover Byakhee, The Deep Ones, The Great Race, The Old Ones, The Mi-Go, Fungi from Yuggoth, Abominable Snowmen, and last but not least, The Shaggoths. If what I've mentioned hasn't wet your curiosity, I'll also say they mention others, but not in the detail of the ones I've listed here. Rather than comment on this item yet, Ill wait until more people have copies and/or have tried Dungeons & Dragons which can be one of the most enjoyable and funny ways to spend an evening.

THE DRAGON #14, 36pages, same price, size, and publisher as above. As one would expect to happen, this issue contains a piece entitled, "The Cthulhu Mythos Revisited" by Gerald Guinn (if anybody knows this person, let's get him into the E.O.D. fast), wherein he corrects some of the mistakes in issue #12, and throws in some very interesting comments along the way. If your going to purchase issue #12, don't buy it without getting this follow-up to go with it.

DELAP'S F&SF REVIEW MAR/APR '78, \$1.50 8½x11 44page review magazine. Box 46572, West Hollywood, CA 90046. This issue contains a full page review of "To Quebec And The Stars" by Jeff Frane. Frane's final summation "There must be a great deal more of Lovecraft's work surviving in newspapers and amateur journals. One can only hope that it stays there." sums up the mood of the whole review, and will probably stand as the largest cause of slow sales on this book yet.

COSMIC TRIGGER/THE FINAL SECRET OF THE ILLUMINATI by Robert Anton Wilson, \$1.95 pbk. Pocket Books Mar.'78. In this non-fictional(?) work, Wilson explains how he came to include Lovecraft and his Mythos in the Illuminatus Trilogy, and manages to tie Crowley, Fort, and H.P. Lovecraft together into a common line of thought. If you enjoyed the trilogy as much as I did(Ilaughed myself silly) don't miss this follow up.

CHRYSALIS edited by Roy Torgeson, \$1.95 pbk. Zebra Books, Aug. '77. This s.f. anthology contains a very novel story called "Discovery of the Ghooric Zone- March 15, 2337" by Richard A. Lupoff. As you can tell, this story concerns an incident that takes place on the 400th anniversary of H.P.L.'s death. This story also includes flashbacks

to Lovecraft's last days, and what fictionally occurs right after his death. I don't want to give away much of the plot line (it's too good to spoil) but I would like to mention part of Swan Point Cemetary falling into the ocean with guess who's coffin? Don't miss this one!

CRIES OF TERROR edited by Anthony Masters, British pbk. 50p 191 pages, Arrow Books Ltd. '76. This horror anthology contains Lovecraft's "In The Vault", and his C.M.Eddy revision "The Loved Dead". This is one of the many books I purchased on 5-6-78 when I had the great privilege of being able to take the grand tour through Forry Ackerman's "Ackermansion". What a tour that was; it was even topped off by being taken upstairs by Forry so that we could see the more private areas of his home, along with his most precious collectors items. One of the many things I was surprised to see other than the fact that Forry keeps most of his rare Lovecraft books (both foreign and American editions) in a special case in his living room (which is about the size of my whole house!), was that he has a collection of paintings done by people that most of us only know as writers, e.g., Robert Bloch, Ray Bradbury, Charles Beaumont, and an excellent "Cthulhu" by Richard Matheson. I'm not sure how many of you are aware of this, but Forry has a four car garage that has been converted into a warehouse for his duplicate material, and right now that whole building is full of pulps, books, magazines, fanzines, and everything else you can imagine, and it's all for sale; Forry doesn't have time to make any lists, and he's not a dealer, but if you take a handfull of the stuff to him and ask him, he'll give you a fair price on it. I'm not sure whether he wants to sell anything over the phone or not, but it doesn't hurt to ask. If you have some specific item your looking for, Forry's phone number is (213) MOONFAN. If your in the so. California area on any fridays, he has people call him then to see if he's going to have an open house the next day. If any of your are lucky enough to have already been there during one of his saturday open houses, or you think you'll get the chance in the near future, you'll never forget the experience!

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC PRESENTS "THE BOOK OF LISTS", \$2.50 pbk. Bantam Books Feb.78. This almanac style book contains something for everyone, including all of us Lovecraftians by having a list of "10 Memorable Books That Never Existed" which includes as book #6. NECRONOMICON by Abdul Alhazred, and then goes on to explain who created it (H.P.L.) and what it basically was.

SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE by Alan Dean Foster, \$1.95 pbk. A Del Rey Book, Apr. '78. This is the Star Wars sequel that I mentioned in a previous issue where I quoted Foster as saying he was going to include Cthulhu. Apparently George Lucas decided to not use this as the screenplay for Star Wars II, and so they've just released it as one of the many "Further Adventures of Luke Skywalker" that we'll be hearing about. As promised, Foster did include Cthulhu, but here you'll find him called Pomojema. The first description we get of Pomojema is on page 180 and leaves no doubt as to who he really is; "A colossal statue was seated there against the dark wall. It represented a vaguely humanoid being seated on a carved throne. Leathery wings which might have been vestigial swept out in two awesome arcs to ei-

ther side of the figure. Enormous claws thrust from feet and arms, the latter clinging to armrests on the throne. It had no face below slanted, accusing eyes—only a mass of Medusian, carved tentacles." I don't think any unsuspecting Lovcraftians could miss that description even in their sleep. All in all it's a pretty good book, and doesn't leave you with too many loose ends as some books will. I'm hoping that Lee Brackett's first draft that she finished before her very untimely death will make the best of all the Star Wars sequels.

WEIRD LEGACIES edited by Mike Ashley, British pbk. 60p, 160 pages, Star Books '77. This is a fascinating anthology in which all of the stories come from the pages of Weird Tales, including the H.P. Lovecraft-August Derleth "The Survivor"; this book also contains work by Robert E. Howard, Mary Elizabeth Counselman, Ed Hamilton, Francis Flagg, Clark Ashton Smith (with Lin Carter), Eric Frank Russell and Leslie F. Johnson, Ray Bradbury, Robert Bloch and Henry Kuttner, along with some extremely good biographical notes by Mike Ashley. Well worth the money. I think Bob Weinberg carries this along with most other inprint British horror anthologies.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF EVIL edited by Christopher Lee and Michel Parry, \$1.25 pbk. 208 pages, Warner books Jan.76. If someone else has already mentioned this, I'll apologize here and now for being redundant. This book is the same as Star Books (British) '75 CHRISTOPHER LEE'S 'X' CERTIFICATE, with the slight change that the type has been reset, which causes the original 176 pages to come out to 208 pages; It contains some mentions of Lovecraft both in the intro and in the preface to at least one of the stories, but does not include any actual Lovecraft stories. This horror anthology includes three pieces from Weird Tales.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF EVIL #2 edited by Christopher Lee and Michel Parry, \$1.50 pbk. 224 pages, Warner Books Oct.76. Another worthwhile horror anthology, and this time it contains H.P.L.'s "The Lurking Fear".

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A LETTER FROM E. HOFFMANN PRICE

As I'm sure that everyone is now aware of the passing of Leigh Brackett, this letter might be dated news, but I felt there would be more than enough interest in seeing it, so I'm reprinting it in its entirety. As you can tell, the original went to Karl Edward Wagner, who according to the contents of this letter is a "prospective" publisher of Leigh's collection of stories; this was news to me, but I think that the quality of publishing Karl and Dave Drake have shown with Carcosa, would be a fitting tribute to the talents of one of our greatest female writers! I'll be one of the first to send my money in. For the record, I received my copy of the letter on 3-23-78

I hope to see as many of you as possible at IguanaCon in Phoenix!!!

NOTE TO EDITOR: thank you for your recent mailing. You may use all or any part of this letter, or in your own wording present the facts given. This is going to various publishers, none of whom may have an exclusive. I set out early March 21 on my final Transcontinental Geriatric Grand Prix Road Race, to return latter part of June. Your communications will not, repeat, NOT be forwarded. E. Hoffmann Price.

Dr. Karl Edward Wagner
Carcosa
P.O. Box 1064
Chapel Hill, N.C. - 27514

March 19, 1978 6:30 AM.

E. HOFFMANN PRICE
POST OFFICE BOX 406
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94064

Dear Karl:

When I returned yesterday from buying a set of metric box end and socket wrenches for Osai San, Loriena told me that during my absence Celia Crowley phoned to give us the news we had been dreading---our good friend, outstandingly important to us, Leigh Brackett Hamilton, died 10:00 AM, in the hospital where she'd remained since surgery, third surgery during past couple of years. Cancer, intestinal, and recurrent. This time did it for her. Dr. & Mrs. Crowley had phoned us March sixth saying that Leigh's number was up---in coma practically all the time. When Loriena phoned a week ago, Celia said, "hanging on, but only a matter of days---" Dr. Robert cut in on the extension, "Days, hell, hours----" yet she continued until we began vain wonderings---not really hoping, yet we recalled inexplicable "true facts" of Dr. Robert's experience, events which went against all surgical history, science, logic.

So, we settled down to firing joss sticks, and drinking bon voyage glasses of rum until running out of rum and waxing overburdened by memories, happy and also, grievous----

Having apparently made a good recovery from surgery Jan. 1977, she busied herself, disposing of Edmond's library, and of the 30 acres of ground, largely wooded, about a mile from the center of Kinsman, Ohio. This done, she built a summer apartment in the oversize home of her sister in law, Adeline (Mrs. Porter) Sherwood, a widow. We saw Leigh at Octagon, Santa Rosa, October 22-23, 1977, and again, at her winter home in Lancaster November 8-9-10, and had some comprehensive talks with her, concerning her new outlook and prospects.

The "chemo-therapy" appeared to be doing well, and that she was and had been responding well.

Leigh enjoyed fine holidays, including New Year's day with old friends, Ray Bradbury and his family. Then something went wrong with blood count---chemo therapy went sour---but, no alarm, merely revise treatment. (Robert Crowley, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, was not handling the chemical treatments.)

That Leigh was optimistic is indicated by the construction of that Ohio summer residence apartment, and by her getting rid of a Porsche 914 which was proving to be a headache on wheels, as had been the other Porsche---they'd kept one in Kinsman, its mate in Lancaster. She got an Audi 5000 and deemed it a great improvement. Much happy talk, old-friend talk. Now the unhappy ending. Far as I know, the heir is Edmond's nephew, Richard Alderdice, (son of the late Betty Hamilton Alderdice).

For us, this is a grim sad business. I'll not detour to see the Crowley's when I set out Tuesday morning (21st Mar.) on safari. It's a tough package for them --they and Leigh and Edmond were neighbors in Lancaster. and old friends in Ohio, prior to the purchase of the California winter home.

As prospective publisher of Leigh's collection of stories---brief me when you accept subscriptions, or orders---you may find some of the over-loaded script I have hacked out this morning. Please feel free to use whatever facts you consider useful.

All good wishes to you & Barbara.

