THE CRY OF THE CRICKET
The Cry of the Cricket is the official organ of The Esoteric Order of Dagon. Volume 6 represents the 6th mailing of the Order, May 1974. Published for the Order by the present Official Editor, Roger Bryant (P.O. Box 8198, Akron Ohio 44320). Toadstool Typo 56.

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* I think if Mr. Hedge plans to contribute further, maybe he should pay a buck and get on the waitinglist.

**The Company of Democles** The following people owe the indicated number of pages. They must be in by August 1, 1974 in order to retain membership. (See also dues section under the roster, a few pages hence.) Boerem-4; Everts-2; Pumilia-6; Schiff-4; Schultz-6; Sherman-2; Wallace-6.

Wall, since I have space here, I'll list those people (all charter members) who owe $2 dues before the next deadline: Adams, Bryant, Everts, Frierson, Indick, Mosig, Pumilia, Schiff, Schultz, Wallace, Webbert.

The Deadline for the Next Mailing: August 1
The Roster: membership

New Members' Names in Capitals: dues by mlg #

1. Fred C. Adams, RD #1 Box 498, Lemont Furnace PA 15456 7
2. Frank Bambara, 8835 Central Ave., Montclair CA 91763 10
3. SSgt Edward Paul Berglund 472-64-7335, Box #67 Co A DLIWC, Presidio of Monterey CA 93940 10
4. Mike Blake, 71 South Bend St., Pawtucket RI 02860 10
5. R. Boerem, 1041 LaDeney Dr., Ontario CA 91762 9
6. Roger Bryant, P.O. Box 8198, Akron OH 44320 7
7. Crispin Burnham, 1051 Wellington Rd., Lawrence KS 66044 10
8. Tom Collins, P.O. Box 1261, Stuyvesant Sta., New York NY 10009-8 8
9. Robert C. Culp, 2563 Hunter Terrace, Fort Myers FL 33901 10
10. Charles DiCicca, 148 Chester Ave., ProviDence RI 02907 10
11. Dave Drake, Box 904, Chapel Hill NC 27514 8
12. Robert M. Eber, Box 330 NCQ, Univ. Conn., Storrs CT 06268 10
13. R. Alain Everts, P.O. Box 854, Madison WI 53701 7
14. Mike Feinberg, 4 Cypress Ave., Oakhurst NJ 07755 10
15. Meade Frieson, 3705 Woodvale Rd., Birmingham AL 35223 7
16. Chuck Harmon, 47 Emery Dr., Bourbonnais IL 60914 10
17. George S. Howard, 2004 Hasley Dr., Oklahoma City OK 73120 10
18. Ben Indick, 428 Sagamore Ave., Teaneck NJ 07666 7
19. Glenn Lord, P.O. Box 775, Pasadena TX 77501 10
20. Harry Morris Jr., 500 Wellesley SE, Albuquerque NM 87106 10
21. Dirk W. Moses, Dept. of Psychology GSC, Americus GA 31709 7
22. J.L. Mourey Jr., PO Box 1205, Tuscaloosa AL 35401 10
23. Doug Nathman, 4 Shore View Circle, Indialantic FL 32903 9
24. Joe F. Pumilia, 1017 Key, Houston TX 77009 10
25. Stuart D. Schiff, 5508 Dodge Dr., Fayetteville NC 28303 7
26. David E. Schultz, 3019 N. 7th St., Milwaukee WI 53210 7
27. Chris Sherman, 700 Parkview Terr., Minneapolis MN 55416 11
28. Rich Small, 117 S. Meridian St #3, Tallahassee FL 32301 9
29. Frank Staup, 21091 Red-Flr Ct., Cupertino CA 95014 10
30. Bill Wallace, 2210 Enfield #12, Austin TX 78705 7
31. Jim Webber, 1415 Barcelona Dr., Akron OH 44313 7
32. Robert Weinberg, 10553 S. Kenneth, Oak Lawn IL 60453 8
33. Chet Williamson, Box 13, Rheems PA 17570 10

As noted on the roster page, all those whose number in the right hand column is 7 owe $2 dues before the next deadline.

# indicates a new address for this member.
The remaining six vacancies means that I again get to make ---

The Offer You Can't Refuse ... because too many of us own copies of "Al Azif" now. These people are invited to join in the August mailing by sending an initial contribution (50 copies of 6 pages or more -- see Rules) and the amount of dues indicated after their names, before August 1, 1974.

1. Samuel D. Russell, Maple Cottage, Oxford Rd., Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire UK RG3 6YE ($0)
2. Arthur Metzger, 1171 Nee Rd., Cincinnati OH 45238 ($1)
3. Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell St., E. Providence RI 02914 ($1)
4. Randall Spurgin, 326 McGregor Rd., Indianapolis IN 46227 ($1)
5. Ken Faig Jr, PO Box 1228, Chicago IL 60690 ($1)
6. Peggy Gemignani, 3200 NE 36th Apt 907, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33308 ($1)

The Waiting list is now manageable. Those on it are expected to let me know by August 1 (A postcard will do) that they wish to remain on the list. They are also encouraged to contribute zines.

1. Kennett W. Neily, 17 Albert Ave., West Barrington RO 02890
2. Wally Stoelting, 2911 Ashby Rd., Columbus OH 43209

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RULES of the Esoteric Order of Dagon

The Esoteric Order of Dagon is a quarterly amateur press association devoted to weird fiction and fantasy.

Membership in the E*O*D is limited to 39 (trice 13) members who have paid dues of $2 per year (4 mailings) and who fulfill the requirements set forth below.

Minimum Activity is six pages of printed or duplicated material every two mailings. Five of these six pages must be the member's own writing or artwork, and all six must not have been circulated elsewhere prior to the deadline of the mailing in which they are to appear. Any other material, pre-circulated or not, by the member himself or not, may be included as well, but the minimum requirements must be met to retain membership. NEW MEMBERS must have at least SIX pages in their first mailing. (A page is defined as a standard sheet --- such as this one --- but smaller sheets are perfectly acceptable if an equivalent larger number of them is submitted to meet minimum requirements.) 50 COPIES of each submission are required; format and method of reproduction are the option of the member so long as they meet the minimum requirements and are legible. The member is responsible for printing his Dagonzine and sending 50 copies to the Official Editor before the deadline. Zines should be sent in finished (i.e., printed, collated stapled, &c) form.

Deadlines are Candlemas (Feb 5), Roodmas (May 1), Lammas (Aug 1) and Hallowmass (Oct 31). When the deadline falls on a Sunday, the deadline shall be considered to be the PREVIOUS day, Saturday. Direct mailings and postmailings do not count for minimum activity credit.

Extra Mailings will be sold to Waitinglister, members and others at a price to be determined by the official editor.

A Waitinglist is provided when there are no vacancies on the roster. Applicants will be placed on the list upon payment of a $1 fee, which is applicable to the first year's dues, but is not refunded to those who drop off the list. Waitinglists will be sent a copy of each Official Organ, and must notify the Official Editor after receiving it that they wish to remain on the list. Waitinglists are encouraged to contribute zines to the mailings. As vacancies occur, the Official Editor will invite Waitinglists to send the other $1 of dues along with their first printed contribution and join the Order.

Changes of Address should be sent directly to the O.E. be letter or post card; do not expect the O.E. to find a coa in the midst of a zine. In no case should letters to the O.E. be enclosed in bundles of zines unless they are clearly so marked on the outside.

The Official Editor is elected in the Oct 31 mailing for a term of one year (4 mailings). Candidates for the office must notify the present O.E. of their intention to run by Oct 10th. A ballot is distributed with the Oct 31 mailing; the results are announced in the Feb 5 mailing, and the winner takes over after that mailing has been sent out. Only full members are eligible, and only they may vote.

The Official Editor is responsible for all phases of the E*O*D operation. In particular, he is to produce the mailings on time and make a financial accounting to the membership. He is authorized to change or add to the rules as necessary, but he is enjoined to consider the wishes of the membership in making any major changes.
An Introduction to the E*O*D

The Cry of the Cricket is the official organ of the Esoteric Order of Dagon. People who have written to ask about the Order or are interested in joining it, and others who have been recommended as potential members, will be sent a Cricket as an indication of what we're up to. This page is for them.

The Esoteric Order of Dagon began as an association for Lovecraft fans, and now considers itself "An Amateur Press Association devoted to Weird Fiction and Fantasy." Lovecraft and other authors of similar style continue to bulk large in the conversation, which is as expected.

An amateur press association (apa) is not a fanzine or a club. The apa member prints his own little magazine, in whatever format and with whatever method of reproduction he finds pleasing and/or convenient (see the Rules page, overleaf, for more details), and sends 50 copies of the finished product to the Official Editor. The O.E. takes the various bundles of members' zines and sorts them out, so that each member will receive a copy of every contribution.

We do this every three months, and the member is required to have six pages of material, not previously circulated elsewhere, in every two mailings. For example, if one has six pages in one's first mailing (as every new member must), he does not have to have any pages in his second. He may contribute to his second mailing -- and we hope he will -- but he does not have to. If he does not, he will owe 6 pages in his third mailing. On the other hand, if he puts 3 pages into his second mailing, he will owe three more in the third. In sum, the number of pages a member owes in a given mailing is determined by subtracting the number he had in the previous mailing from 6. These are minimum requirements; any member may submit more pages than what he owes. But doing so will not change the minimum-requirement cycle. That is, even if a member puts twenty pages in his first mailing, he will still owe at least 6 pages two mailings later.

If you are interested, and think you can fulfill these requirements (which amount to one page a month) and can afford $2 per year dues, read on: this little Dagonazine details the current mailings contents, tells you who's in the Order and who's one the waitinglist, and (on the RULES page) tells you in more detail what is expected of you if you join us.

And if you decided you'd like to join the Order, send $1 (half the first year's dues) to the official editor. He'll send you a card telling you your position on the waitlist (or inviting you to join if there are vacancies). You may contribute Dagonazines to the mailing while on the waitinglist, and may buy extra copies of the mailings until you become a full member.

I hope to hear from you. If you have any questions, or want to give the E*O*D a try, please write the present official editor:
Rumblings in the Hills

Ah, me. Here it is the largest mailing ever by far, with more members than ever, and where does it come? In the week that's loaded with overtime, union negotiating meetings, unexpected trips to the hospital, and a convention over the weekend. *whimper*

But, I persevere, even if this may turn out to be the most disorganized Cricket in hisotyr. (THAT is such a lovely typo I'm going to leave it.)

This sixth mailing marks the passing of an era in several senses. On the schedule we began with, 6 mailings would have made a year. We are now quarterly (incidentally, our deadlines -- Candlemas, etc -- could be Imbolc, Beltane, Lugnasad and Samhain, if we were Wicca types), but some signs of our bimonthly origins remains. Charter members -- all of us left out of 19 -- owe dues by next mailing, for example. Say, do y'all think what you've gotten so far was worth your first $2?

Then too, the expansion of the MOD to 39 members is underway. In late March I sent invitations to 13 waitinglisters. Nine of them have taken me up on it, and are represented in this mailing. The other four are still invited to join in August.

(On the other side of the coin, we have lost three members this time. Claire Beck has resigned for economic reasons, Jay Gregory for lack of time. Jay is now an actor on the daily TV soap opera "The Edge of Night". I haven't heard anything from Ken Scher, so he is regretfully dropped for lack of activity.)

Together with this expansion of members and the copy-count, we have a little controversy brewing. That is the problem of what to do with the extra mailings. As we expand to 39 members, there will be many fewer extras than, say, last mailing, but even at maximum membership there should be ten. (Of what happened to the 11th, more later.) Two members have been protesting loudly that extra mailings should not be sold, but limited absolutely to members. I cannot agree completely with that; I think that waitinglisters, at the very least, should be able to get copies of the apa mailings they will soon be participating in. Outsiders, upon seeing a sample of what we do, may be persuaded to join. And, the sale of extras can help the treasury, which -- with rising postage costs, jiffybag prices, paper prices, etc., may soon be needing help badly.

Anyway, I'd like to hear from you what you think about the matter. Drop me a mailing comment, or a letter if you prefer, and we'll see.

Meanwhile, extra copies are $1 to members and waitinglisters, $2.50 to others. Copies of #5 and #6 are presently available. For now, I'm dropping the idea of a free mailing to waitinglisters who contribute to the mailing. It didn't produce any zines, and there are now fewer extras to be had anyway.

Last Mailing: some of you found yourselves without copies of Tom Collins' 2 one-page zines that were supposed to be the first things in the mailing. This, alas, is because Tom didn't send enough copies, and I failed to catch it before printing the Official Organ. We're both sorry; perhaps if you write Tom, he'll be able to send you copies to make your mailings complete.

One Extra Mailing (in fact, the missing 11th mentioned above) will henceforth be sent to the Lovecraft collection at the John Hay library of Brown University in Providence. Your response to this suggestion was overwhelming. Brown U will have a complete set, since I have obtained a copy of the first five mailings to send them.

Printing Problems: Some waitinglisters (and some present members, too) are having trouble getting zines printed at halfway reasonable prices. If you have your own mimeo or ditto or press, and
would be willing to print Dagonzines for some of these people, please write me giving details of what you can do and at what price. Those of you who are having trouble, please let me know so that I can get y'all together.

Charles Dexter Award Winners were as follows. In the fiction category, Ben Indick and Bob Weinberg tied; both received prizes. In nonfiction, Dirk Mosig's essays edged out Ken Faig's articles by one vote, 5 to 4. Dave Schultz won the poetry category by a substantial margin. Harry Morris took the artwork division, and Randy Everts' various contributions overwhelmingly won him the all-around contribution category. Congratulations to the winners.

Some Aid and Comfort to a beleaguered Official Editor would be greatly appreciated. As we expand, and the size of the mailings grow, the job of putting it all together grows geometrically, or so it seems. There are a few little things members could do that would make it infinitely easier.

1) Please staple your zines with at least two staples down the side of the page. A single corner staple leaves the zine unstable, difficult to pick up, easily torn and easy to stick two or more together. Please, eliminate corner staples!

2) When packing your zines, please don't turn each copy around the opposite way from the adjacent copies (that is, to get staples on opposite sides and thus a level attack). Turn the stack around no oftener that every ten copies; otherwise the collator goes slowly but surely mad.

3) Again, please do not put letters (or dues) inside the bundles with the zines unless you clearly mark the outside of the package "letter enclosed." Otherwise, the notes don't get found until the mailing is being put together. Drop me a postcard separately or paste an envelope to the outside of the package with a letter-denomination stamp on it. And again, don't expect me to find address changes or other necessary information within the text of your zine; I don't read them until after the mailing goes out.

4) Please use my post office box address for all mail; don't send bundles elsewhere; don't waste your money on "special delivery" because it still goes into the box and I pick it up at the same time. If for some reason you must send your package UPS, then and ONLY THEN be sure to use my street address: 1019 Cordova Ave, Akron OH 44320. I'd prefer you use the mails, and I definitely don't want you to use UPS if you're crowding the deadline: they don't deliver on Saturdays or Sundays and they have to find me at home or the package goes back to their warehouse. At deadline time, that could be disastrous.

5) The best time to phone me is still between 10AM and 2PM eastern time, even tho it didn't work too well this time. As I said it was a strange week. But this is the optimum time on weekdays. On weekends, take pot luck anytime. (216) 867-4524.

Well, it's past 3 AM (and I'm tired enough that this Cricket is now getting very informal) and I've said everything I can think of, even if not too coherently. Hope it makes some sense. Perhaps the 350+ pages that follow will make it seem better,

(This issue's cover, which seems to evoke some story or another to everyone who sees it, is a drawing by Dennis Haas of a real home not too far from Akron. It was built in 1892 and presently houses a Woman's Club. Even so, most evocative, what?)