**The CALL of CTHULHU**

**By H.P. LOVECRAFT**

TheoldermatterswhichhadmadethesculptorsdreamandbasreliefsosignificanttomyuncleformedthesubjectofthesecondhalfofhislongmanuscriptOncebeforeitappearsProfessorAngellhadseenthehellishoutlinesofthenamelessmonstrositypuzzledovertheunknownhieroglyphicsandheardtheominoussyllableswhichcanberenderedonlyasCthulhuandallthisinsostirringandhorribleaconnectionthatissmallwonderhepursuedyoungWilcoxwithqueriesanddemandsfordataThisearlierexperiencehadcomein1908seventeenyearsbeforewhentheAmericanArcheologicalSocietyhelditsannualmeetinginStLouisProfessorAngellasbefittedoneofhisauthorityandattainmentshadhadaprominentpartinallthedeliberationsandwasoneofthefirsttobeapproachedbytheseveraloutsiderswhotookadvantageoftheconvocationtoofferquestionsforcorrectansweringandproblemsforexpertsolutionThechiefoftheseoutsidersandinashorttimethefocusofinterestfortheentiremeetingwasacommonplacelookingmiddleagedmanwhohadtraveledallthewayfromNewOrleansforcertainspecialinformationunobtainablefromanylocalsourceHisnamewasJohnRaymondLegrasseandhewasbyprofessionaninspectorofpoliceWithhimborethesubjectofhisvisitagrotesquerepulsiveandapparentlyveryancientstonestatuettewhoseoriginhewasatalosstodetermineItmustnotbefanciedthatInspectorLegrassehadtheleastinterestinarcheologyOnthecontraryhiswishforenlightenmentwaspromptedbypurelyprofessionalconsiderationsThestatuetteidolfetishorwhateveritwashadbeencapturedsomemonthsbeforeinthewoodedswampssouthofNewOrleansduringaraidonasupposedvoodoomeetingandosingularandhideousweretheritesconnectedwithitthatthepolicecouldnotbutrealizethattheyhadstumbledonadarkculttotallyunknowntothemandinfinitelymorediabolicthaneventhblackestoftheAfricanvoodoocirclesOfitsoriginapartfromtheerraticandunbelievabletalesextortedfromthecapturedmembersabsolutelynothingwastobediscoveredhencetheanxietyofthepoliceforanyantiquarianlorewichmighthelpthemtoplacethefrightfulsymbolandthroughittrackdowntheculttoitsfountainheadInspectorLegrassewasscarcelypreparedforthesensationwhichhisofferingcreatedOnesightofthethinghadbeenenoughtothrowtheassembledmenofscienceintoastateoftenseexcitementandtheylostnotimeincrowdingaroundhimtogazeatthedininutivefigurewhoseutterstrangenessandairofgenuinelyabysmalantiquityhintedsopotentlyatunopenedandarchaicvistasNorecognizedschoolofsculpturehadanimatedthisterribleobjectyetcenturiesandeventhousandsofyearsseemedrecordedinitsdimandgreenishsurfaceofunplaceablestoneThefigurewhichwasfinallypassedslowlyfrommantomanforcloseandcarefulstudywasbetweensevenandeightinchesinheightandofexquisitelyartisticworkmanshipItrepresentedamonsterofvaguelyanthropoidoutlinebutwithanoctopuslikehead