

On the last day of the visit Belknap and I went to see Werten in Paterson and had a very pleasant time. That same midnight I took the homeward coach---and was delayed an hour at dawn in the exquisite colonial village of Hampton, Conn. while a steep hill was sanded. The scene was so delightful---ancient houses, white steeple, boughs brilliant with delicate snow---that I was sorry when the stage resumed its trip. Didn't see Morse after all---for which I'm rather glad. He has many gifts, and much taste in many fields, but affected, sissified posers give me a pain in the neck. Wandrei seemed very cordially disposed toward you---as indeed his letter has doubtless demonstrated.

Congratulations on the rose garden---and upon the restored (if not surpassed) level of the moon pool. Heavy snow here around Poe's Birthday, and two spells of hellish cold since. I've been out of the house just twice since my return on Jan'y. &th---in each case to a lecture at the college.

Glad you appreciate the Hodgson material, which is really extremely distinctive. Some day, perhaps, "The Night Land" (which so resembles your Californian story) will get back into circulation.

I was greatly pleased with the appearance of the Mts. of Madness instalment in Asteounding---my first cover design, and several good inside illustrations. The illustrator must have read my description of the Things very carefully, since they are represented with astonishing faithfulness to the visual image I originally had. Hill-Billy is setting up "Innsmouth" for simultaneous publication in M.T. and as a book. I've recently read the first set of proofs. This, if it appears, will be my first book of any sort aside from paper-covered brochures. There will be 200 copies, but Hill-Billy thinks he will have papier-mache mats made of the pages so that plates can later be recast if demand arises. I greatly doubt the demand.

Have you a sketch of Cthulhu ---in the exact position ascribed to the statuette in the story---which either you or I made in 1934? I did have a copy, but it seems to have vanished. The reason I enquire is that CAS has an idea of some day carving a precise fac-simile of the hellish image in the tale---dimensions and all---and would like a sort of guide. I seemed to recall that we had one about when the famous bas-relief was made. If you have the thing, I wish you'd lend it to Klarkash-Ten. He, by the way, has probably told you of the unexpected demand for his images which has arisen. It would be singular indeed if this versatile genius were to end up after all as a successful sculptor instead of as a poet or fantasiste!

Just received the new Phantagraph, poorly printed by Wilson Shepherd. Wellheim thinks that the feud between you and Shepherd might be smoothed out if the two of you would carefully compare notes. Shepherd thinks you have failed to return something to him which was coming to him. Possibly the loss of something in the mails is responsible for the misunderstanding. Typegraphically, Shepherd is obviously a beginner---even Hill-Billy (who now prints Leedle Shoolie's Fantasy) seems like an accomplished craftsman in comparison.

Glad now I didn't buy "Place of Hawks"---Little Augie having sent me a free copy, together with a new British anthology (contributions by Blackwood, Cynthia Asquith, etc.) called "My Grimest Nightmare". Haven't had time to read any of this---or anything else.

I am desolated by the removal from the neighbourhood of two of my best friends---black and white Pres. Peter Randall and his tiger brother Stephen, of the Kappa Alpha Tau fraternity. Their human family had to leave when the mortgage on their ancient home was foreclosed. The old clubhouse reef looks barren indeed without their familiar sprawling forms---I must find out whither they have moved! Mr. Perkins, however, is still going strong, and the boarding-house family have decided to keep his little black-and-white brother. Regards to all at Cassia. Yr. obt. Servt.,

HP

1936-37

Lowell, Howard Phillips