

PSFS NEWS

VOLUME V NUMBER 1.

OCTOBER, 1944

PSFS MERGED WITH PSFS!

At last the Philadelphia Futurian Society and the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society have merged and become one society. The name Philadelphia Science Fiction Society has been retained.

This was a big step to take, and I am sure that all of you will approve it. I am sure that this is the step that you all wanted me to take.

It means a great deal. There is no room for two separate societies in the city, both devoted to the same aims. "In Union There Is Strength"--and that old adage still holds good today. It means that we can have a strong society now even while the war is going on. It means that, when the war is over and the rest of you are back home again, we will have one of the strongest, most powerful science fiction clubs in the

history of fandom.

Since the former Futurian Society had held elections just before the merger, it has been deemed advisable to allow the officers to continue in that capacity, with the provision in the agreement that an election will be held after the war.

These officers are:

President--Albert Pepper
Secretary--Joseph Selinger
Treasurer--Jean Bogart

Elsewhere in this issue are the minutes of the meeting for October 8th, at which time the two clubs were combined. A meeting was scheduled for Oct 20 but the weather was so bad that few could make it, and an informal discussion was held. I shall continue as editor of NEWS.

-- Oswald Train

* * * * *

Midnight

MINUTES -- OCT. 5

Midnight!
And I must hurry
Down this lonely road.
On my left
The dark woods,
With its dank odor
From the day's rain,
Booms high above me.
Reaching out
With threatening arms,
As if to clasp me
To its rotted bosom.

The meeting was held at the home of Al Pepper, Chairman, with the following in attendance:

- Al Pepper, chairman
- Jean Bogert, treasurer
- Joseph Selinger, secretary
- Vivian Selinger, member
- M. De Conant, member
- Oswald Train, member
- Guy Vendter, member

On my right
The ancient graveyard,
With its ghostly tenants
Who sleep on to eternity,
Or don't they?
The moon appears
Spotlighting the stones.
Did something move?
Faster, run faster!
How quiet it is,
Like a tomb!
Hark! What was that?

A vote was taken on the resignation of Samuel Mason and at Mason's request to a member, why his resignation (which had been accepted at a previous meeting) should not have been considered.

Members voted unanimously to accept Mason's resignation, even though he had asked that it be re-considered. It was brought out that Mason's conduct was generally found to be unbecoming to a member of the PSFS and his conduct was a handicap to securing and keeping new members.

A noise!
Muffled thumping!
Is -- SOMETHING -- after me?
Faster, run faster!
Pray, fool, pray!
"Our Father, Who--"
But wait,
That sound, thumping,
Why, it's ME,
It's my own HEART!
Beating like a drum,
THANK GOD!

During the meeting a union of the members of the Philadelphia Futurian Society and the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society was proposed and unanimously agreed upon, with Oswald Train representing the members of the PSFS in the armed forces. It was agreed that the name "Philadelphia Futurians" be dropped and all present would become members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society with the following stipulations:

Ahead of me
Like the Promised Land,
The open fields unfold.
There in view
At last,
Sanctuary, my Home,
Sacred, blessed ground,
Bereft of all fears,
My haven in the storm
Of the unknown
There are no fears
In my home!

(a) When the members of the original PSFS (now in the armed forces) return, it shall be their voting privilege to determine if they want to retain the new members and elect new officers.

(b) Dues to be paid at meetings without fail. (If a member

--Albert Pepper

misses a meeting, he pays dues for the meeting he missed and the meeting he attends.) Dues to be 50¢ per month or \$3.00 per annum.

H. P. LOVECRAFT

(c) Members to vote on books to be purchased by the club with club funds. Two have been purchased or ordered.

- 1. Incomplete Enchanter
- 3. Beyond The Wall of Sleep

(d) Club funds to be used to meet the expenses incurred in publishing the club paper and any other business expenses incurred by club officers.

1st Note: This does not refer to any funds held by the treasurer of the original PSFS. The original funds are to be retained intact by the original treasurer until members return from the Armed Forces. The funds to be used are from dues collected from members of the PF and now present members of the PSFS. The present treasurer reported \$12.00 in the treasury at the start of the meeting.

2nd Note: The title "Philadelphia Futurians" to be discontinued, and it may be used as S. Mason so desires.

A discussion was also held on the works of A. Merritt, and a general discussion concerning new members, and on securing science fiction books to be sent to members in the armed forces. Also that all members (including the ladies) contribute material to the club paper.

It was also agreed that no intoxicants would be served at any of the meetings and political discussions would not be permitted. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at the home of De Conant on Friday, Oct. 20th.

10/8/44

--Joseph Selinger, Secy.

(A few points of interest on H. P. Lovecraft, as told by Mr. Harry Brobst to Joseph Selinger.)

I do not know just where to begin this narrative, but since this is not a full life's history, but only a very small part of it, I may as well start in the middle and work both ways.

To begin with, H. P. Lovecraft was influenced by Edgar Allan Poe, Ambrose Bierce, and especially by Lord Dunsany, the author of the Cthulhu mythology.

He was semi-recluse, and did not have many associates. However, he did carry on an extraordinary amount of correspondence.

Lovecraft looked much taller than his five foot ten because of his thinness and his pallid countenance. I think his eyes were dark grey and that his hair was a greying black.

He was a ghost writer, and several so-called writers paid him to write stories under their names.

Lovecraft wrote on quite a few different subjects, one of which was a text book on English grammar. Why he did this is an interesting story and will be told some other time. He was a great friend of Harry Houdini, the late magician, and wrote most of his (Houdini's) books for him.

He wrote mostly for his own enjoyment, though he had little or no superstitions of his own, not being a superstitious person by nature.

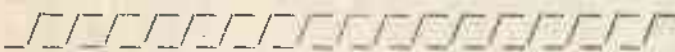
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Most of his friends were authors like F. Hoffman Price (who, by the way, is an excellent cook), August Derleth (who was his protege) and many others; he knew Robert Bloch by mail only.

H. P. Lovecraft was a very good friend of the late Henry S. Whitehead, also a great writer of weird fiction. Whitehead, an Episcopalian minister, and Lovecraft, together with Clark Ashton Smith, formed the great trio of writers for Weird Tales.

(Harry Brobst was the last person to see Lovecraft alive, outside of his aunt and the physician).

More notes on H. P. Lovecraft will be given in a future issue.



AS W. F. G. W. S. I

John V. Baltadonis was made a sergeant recently. Hewas on Kodiak Island for some time, and was recently sent to the AleutiansSergeant Milton A. Rothman was home recently on a furlough. He has spent most of his army life on the West Coast--California and Oregon. After his furlough he went to Camp Crowder, Mo., (JVB was there for a while, too), and he must be kept pretty busy for we haven't heard from him since so haven't got his new address yetPvt. Joseph J. Fortier is in Florida with the Army Air Force. Joe spent a recent furlough in Philly, but no one was at home when he called. Better luck next time. Joe is engaged to a lass from Philly, Anne Knowlton, and he reports a wedding is set for the beginning of the year.....Pfc Robert A. Madle became a married man since he entered the army, and he and his wife, Billie, were

up here last June when he had a furlough. For a long time now Bob has been stationed in the Signal Office at Camp Sutton, North Carolina....Lieutenant Bernhard Larsen, the highest ranking PSFS member to our knowledge, is in the Chemical Warfare Service, and when last heard from was stationed in Maryland. He promised to support the PSFS as much as possible. Ben Lesser and his wife, Lee, now reside in Camden, New Jersey. Ben was drafted into the army last December, and served eight months before receiving a medical discharge, due to an old ailment that was aggravated by army life. Ben is enthusiastic about the new lease on life by the PSFS, and the meeting of November 5th will be held at his home.....William Stockbrande is still in Philly, and is a war-worker employed at the Edw G. Budd Company. Bill was interested in getting the club back on its feet, but we have been out of contact with him for a while now; however, he will probably be attending the meeting when he has the time.....Philip Young has not been heard of for some time now. A year ago we had a letter from him, but none since then. If you read this, Philip, please get in touch with us. We need you now.....Mrs. Dorothy Lorch was a member of the PSFS before the war, and more recently a member of the Futurians. We hope to be able to arouse her interest in the club's activities again.....Albert Pepper was also a member of the PSFS before the war. We had an old address and all the notices and papers sent there were not forwarded to him, nor were they returned. Al became a member of the Futurians, later was elected President, and is now the President of the PSFSDoes any one know anything at all concerning the whereabouts of John Greer? He appears to have disappeared into thin air,

and he was at one time a very active member. Last time we heard of him, Jack Agnew met him while working at Cramps Shipyard.....Jack O'Day is an enthusiastic member of the PSFS but unfortunately he has never been able to attend meetings because he came along after the suspension of activities and life was at its lowest ebb. At present Jack is also in the army and is in Texas with a tank destroyer outfit. We are sure that Jack will prove to be an invaluable member when we return to normalcy.....Corporal James Hevelin, USMC--Rusty to you--is a Californian, but a Philadelphian by adoption. At the time of the suspension of activities Rusty was President, and is now on duty somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. Rusty is engaged to Miss Catherine Madle, Bob's sister.....Pvt. John J. Agnew has been in the army for about a year now, and is at present in the Southwest Pacific. Jack has actually been known to write a few letters since going overseas.....No information at present on Bud Waldo. Have heard nothing for more than a year. Bud is probably in the army now, for the last time we saw him he was expecting to be called.....John Newton, a PSFS member for a number of years now, has been in the army for quite some time. He is in the Field Artillery, and has been in the Pacific area for a few months now.....Sgt. Thomas Whiteside is soon to be discharged from the army, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to attend meetings. Tom is a married man now, having taken that important step shortly before being called by his Uncle Samuel.....Alexander M. Phillips has been in the army for a long time now. Lex is stationed near Cairo, has had furloughs in Palestine and other places in the Near East. Several years ago Lex was given the job of getting us a gavel, and he did at last, right in the quarry at King Solomon's Mine.....Oswald Train is at

home, and has managed to keep the PSFS alive. Now that he has been instrumental in bringing about the merger with the PFS, he says that things are just getting started. Ossie is now a foreman at his shop, by the way.....Robert G. Thompson has not been contacted as yet, but the chances are very good. We only hope that he is still interested in the PSFS, and that he still has the list of addresses he had when he was secretary.....Pvt. William Lenihan, a wounded soldier in Italy, may become a member of the PSFS. He wrote to Jee Selinger, asking for information, and he was written to. A reply should soon be received. He is a native of Philadelphia.....The whereabouts of Charles H. Bert, a member of the PSFS since the very beginning way back in 1935, are still unknown. Charlie was one of the most valuable and most active members, and any information will be appreciated. Last time we saw Charlie was in early 1941. He was expecting to be drafted into the army, and was in LA at that time. He hasn't been heard of since then. William Schott was reported to have enlisted in the United States Navy shortly after Pearl Harbor. Does anyone have any information?.....Can you tell us anything about any of the following members: Sam Mineo, Bernard Quinn, Russell Eddy, and Michael Levanios.....We had hoped to be able to give you news of the newer members similar to that given here, but there was not enough time to prepare the material. It will definitely appear in the December issue, however.....In future issues, there will be more articles written by members of the PSFS, and several others. A few articles are already assigned, and will be appearing soon.

