

Auburn, Calif.
Oct. 4th, 1933.

My dear Richard:

I am surprised to find that your last letter to me was dated July 22nd, and fear that a lot of water, both pure and impure, has gone seaward in the interim. Anyway, I had meant to write before this.

It was good to know that The Double Shadow pleased your taste so well. The title story is my own favourite. I have read Where Their Fire is not quenched, which you ^{read} compare to A Night in Malneant, but am not sure that I see any resemblance. Some one else commented on Malneant as a prose-version of Poe's Ulalume-- which it perhaps is, in a sense.

Yes, I have read Blackwood's Tongues of Fire (quite recently) and think it contains some fine things. I think, however, that there are even better stories in some of his other collections, such as The Listener and John Silence. The Man who was Milligan does have a certain likeness to The Willow Landscape, though I had not read it when I wrote my fantasy.

Re The Worm Ouroboros, by E. R. Eddison: I think you can still get a copy from The Union Library Association, 118-120 E. 25th St, New York, at the knock-me-down price of 79 cents. They specialize in publishers' remainders, and occasionally have something good.

The Necronomicon, The Nameless Cults, etc., are all apocryphal, more's the pity! Many readers inquire about them, taking it for granted that they exist. The Book of Eibon, I may or may not have told you, is my special contribution to this mythopoetic library. I have recently written a tale, The Coming of the White Worm, which purports to be the IX Chapter of Eibon. The Necronomicon was originated by H.P. Lovecraft. Howard, I think, fathered Nameless Cults. The cross-references in the July W.T. were certainly striking!

I have not yet finished The Infernal Star, but hope to complete it, together with some other half-written items, before the end of the present year. The summer was a slack period with me; and there has been much illness in the family to interrupt my work.

The verse collection is still up in the air, but maybe it will materialize some time. As to illustrations, I dunno. If I ever have any leisure, I may attempt a few myself. As to British publishers, there is a probability that they would be more appreciative of my work than American houses.

Wright has recently accepted two good tales of mine, The Flower-Women and The Death of Malygris. The revived Astounding Stories, taken over by Street & Smith, has just bought The Demon of The Flower, a tale that has gone begging for two years. I understand that Strange Tales (the title) has been bought by someone, and will also be revived. So, if the NRA doesn't fizzle there are prospects of an improved market for fantastic material. Incidentally, I have given away some ^{old} tales to The Fantasy Fan, whose ad you will note in W.T., and am also contributing poems and articles to it.

Congratulations on your scholastic attainments and fraternity honours!

I'll try to enclose a recent poem with this.

Best regards, as ever,

Clark Ashton