4-1-2017

Editor to Editor: Letters between a Lovecraft Fan and Poe Scholar

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Dear Mr. Derleth,

Yes, I suspected Dyalhis was dead. I never met him, but believe he was the eccentric gentleman who once visited a coin dealer of my acquaintance here, and made a great impression. He was not unpleasantly eccentric, I judged, and I was very sorry I missed him.

It is too bad there is difficulty about paper for a book like Lovecraft's. His work is LITERATURE with a capital L, in my opinion, and publication thereof is to my mind part of the record of American culture.

I have written this deliberately, because sometimes officials in charge of such matters as releases of paper may be interested in a professorial opinion. The fact Lovecraft printed his work so largely in pulp magazines must lead to persons not acquainted with its scholarly and artistic merits to underestimate it. But there is no real intellectual basis for a judgment based on where a man prints his stuff; it may be excusably misleading, but it is not truly valid.

Use this as you like --- for the record I add that it is certainly unsolicited. I do not set myself up as a great critic, but have been recognized as a respectable one by the late Professor Saintsby, whom I knew well; and I was a pupil of some rather distinguished men, such as W.P. Trent and Brandre Matthews, and at a distance, of the gentleman whose name I have spent so many years in studying, Mr. Poe.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Ollive Mabbott.

Associate Professor of English, Hunter College.

I may add that all the books from your press seem to me chosen for good style and high imaginative qualities. I wish I could say as much for the larger commercial presses in general.