



# An H. P. Lovecraft Encyclopedia

By S. T. Joshi, David E. Schultz

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H. P. Lovecraft (1890-1937) is commonly regarded as the leading author of supernatural fiction in the 20th century. He is distinctive among writers in having a tremendous popular following as well as a considerable and increasing academic reputation as a writer of substance and significance. This encyclopedia is an exhaustive guide to many aspects of Lovecraft's life and work, codifying the detailed research on Lovecraft conducted by many scholars over the past three decades. It includes hundreds of alphabetically arranged entries on Lovecraft and presents extensive bibliographical information.

The volume draws upon rare documents, including thousands of unpublished letters, in presenting plot synopses of Lovecraft's major works, descriptions of characters in his tales, capsule biographies of his major colleagues and family members, and entries on little known features in his stories, such as his imaginary book of occult lore, the *Necronomicon*. The volume refers to current scholarship on the issues in question and also supplies the literary, topographical, and biographical sources for key elements in Lovecraft's work. As Lovecraft's renown continues to ascend in the 21st century, this encyclopedia will be essential to an understanding of his life and writings.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

An H.P. Lovecraft Encyclopedia, edited by S.T. Joshi and David E. Schultz, will please HPL purists, since it focuses on the weird writer's literary work with entries for individual stories, the more important poems and essays, fictional locales and characters (including every member of the German U-boat crew named in "The Temple"). Although Cthulhu and HPL's other "gods" don't receive separate entries, there's an essay-length entry on the Cthulhu Mythos. Other longer entries concisely treat such topics as HPL's juvenilia, letters and travels, but his philosophy gets short shrift for, as the editors state in their introduction: "No separate entry on Lovecraft's philosophical thought is included here, as the topic is too complex for succinct discussion." Despite such selective coverage, this is an indispensable volume.

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From Library Journal

Lovecraft scholars Joshi (founder and editor of Lovecraft Studies) and Schultz (editor of H.P. Lovecraft's Commonplace Book) have compiled an accessible yet scholarly general encyclopedia and chronology focusing on prolific fantasy/horror author H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937). Succinct, alphabetically arranged entries cover Lovecraft's numerous works, which include short stories, sketches, poetry, essays, novels, nonfiction, and letters. Also covered are significant characters, little-known features of the stories, and family members, associates, and critics, as well as people known to have influenced Lovecraft, e.g., Nathaniel Hawthorne. The entries for each work include type of work, word count, estimated date of writing, first publication, first appearance in a volume by Lovecraft, and subsequent appearances in corrected or annotated editions. Plot synopses of Lovecraft's fictional works are included, with at least one citation to a book or article discussing that work. Entries include footnotes and references but no cross references, and the bibliography cites both primary and secondary sources. This detailed encyclopedia is highly recommended for public and academic libraries. Laurie Selwyn, San Antonio P.L., TX  
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Review

..."an exhaustive reference filled with an impressive wealth of biographical and literary lore about one of the best-known writers of supernatural horror in the 20th century....An extensive, scholarly reference especially for Lovecraft enthusiasts, An H. P. Lovecraft Encyclopedia is an essential, core, indispensable reference work for students of Lovecraft's life and work."-MBR: Internet Bookwatch

"This detailed encyclopedia is highly recommended for public and academic libraries."-Library Journal

"Recommended for all libraries, particularly those with Lovecraft or Arkham House collections."-Choice

"This guide is a comprehensive survey of the influences on the writer's work and life and the products of his literary career....the editors have provided a true service to both scholars and fans. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries."-Lawrence Looks at Books/Gale Group.com

"[A] cornucopia of titbits to feed the most dedicated appetite for things Lovecraftian ... the ideal reference work for anyone embarking on a serious study of Lovecraft and his milieu ... [a] fine digest of information ... for those of us with a keen academic interest in Lovecraft it provides a handy, invaluable reference source. 4

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"An H. P. Lovecraft Encyclopedia, edited by S. T. Joshi and David E. Schultz, will please HPL purists, since it focuses on the weird writer's literary work with entries for individual stories, the more important poems and essays, fictional locales and characters (including every member of the German U-boat crew named in "The Temple"). . . . This is an indispensable volume."-Publishers Weekly

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