



POSSIBLE ILLNESSES AND INCIDENTS

ANTARCTIC RELATED ILLNESSES

Scurvy
Beriberi
Sunburn
Snow Blindness
Frostbite
Hypothermia
Altitude Sickness
Hypoxia
For more information, see *Beyond the Mountains of Madness*.

ACID CONTACT

- Weak acids: 1D3-1 damage per round.
- Strong acids: 1D4 damage per round.
- Very strong acids: 1D6 damage per round.

DROWNING, SUFFOCATION

- Roll CON x10 or less on D100 in the first round; CON x9 or less in the second round; CON x8 or less in the third; and so on down to CON x1 per round.
- Failure costs 1D6 damage plus 1D6 each additional round until rescue. Make no further CON rolls.

FALLING

- Per 10 feet or fraction over first 10 feet: +1D6** points of damage. With a successful jump roll to prepare oneself, lose 1D6 fewer hit points.
- Climbers with failing Climb rolls have slipped and possibly fallen. Climbers who are roped together each receive a bonus 10 percentile Climb skill increase. The climber is safe if his or her result is equal to or less than the augmented chance. If the roll still fails, the character falls, and the climber immediately above the falling climber must now attempt a Climb roll.

FIRE DAMAGE

- Serious burns** (the total must exceed half hit points) cost APP, CON, or DEX as well as hit points.
- Small fire:** 1D6 damage per round. Luck roll to prevent flaming clothes or hair. Luck roll or First Aid roll to put out fire on person.
- Large bonfire:** 1D6+2 damage per round. Hair and clothes allame.
- Room in flames:** 1D6+2 damage per round. Luck roll each round or begin suffocating.
- Conflagration:** deadly, each a special case.

EXPLOSION

- Calculate effect in terms of the blast's strength and the radius of effect in yards. Example: a stick of dynamite does 5D6 damage in the first two yards, 4D6 in the third yard, 3D6 in the fourth, and so on. Each victim takes separate full damage. Doubling a charge increases the damage by half.

WHEN IT GETS REALLY COLD

- At -25°F (-32°C)**
Photographic film becomes brittle.
- At -50°F (-45°C)**
Flashlights cease to function as the chemical batteries fail. (Batteries last a long time in such cold, but often must be warmed first.)
- At -55°F (-48°C)**
Kerosene freezes and electrical cable insulation becomes brittle.
- At -60°F (-51°C)**
Breath freezes, as does non-freezing ink.

WIND-CHILL TABLE

Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth, and also the home of the world's highest steady winds. Summer temperatures rarely rise above freezing, even on the clearest days, when 10° to 20°F are "pleasant" temperatures. A typical blizzard brings temperatures of -50° to -70°F. The interior may reach temperatures of -120°F, cold enough to precipitate carbon dioxide from the atmosphere!

Actual Temperature, in Fahrenheit		wind speed							
	+30°	+20°	+10°	0°	-10°	-20°	-30°	-40°	-50°
10 mph	+16°	+3°	-9°	-22°	-34°	-46°	-58°	-71°	-83°
20 mph	+4°	-10°	-24°	-39°	-53°	-67°	-81°	-95°	-110°
30 mph	-2°	-18°	-33°	-49°	-64°	-79°	-93°	-109°	-123°
40 mph	-5°	-21°	-37°	-53°	-69°	-84°	-100°	-115°	-133°

Cross-index the thermometer temperature with the wind speed to learn the apparent temperature provoked by the wind-chill factor.

Ambient temperature decreases approximately 1°F for every 300 feet of altitude. At Lake's Camp (altitude 12,000 feet), the typical temperature is 40°F lower than at the Ross Ice Barrier on a similar day.

At 20,000 feet, the height of the Plateau, the temperature will be 67° colder than at sea level. Average wind speed at that altitude is 40 mph in the open sky, 20 mph on the protected ground of the Plateau!

CREVASSES

Crevasse are cracks in the ice, often very deep ones. They frequently have shelves and plateaus on the way down, which may save unroped explorers. Crevasse can be obvious, or be covered by a thin, treacherous crust of snow which is difficult to spot until the walker falls through. Characters should make use of bamboo poles to probe the ground ahead, and rope themselves together. Skis and snowshoes help spread weight, and thereby lessen the dangerous of injury.

Whenever a party crosses unknown ice or snow, the keeper should decide if a crevasse field is present. If there is, roll on the Crevasse Table. If the party is on foot, rather than on snowshoes or skis, add 10 to the dice roll; if the explorers are probing the ground ahead with poles, subtract 10 from the roll.

D100 RESULT

- 01-50 Field crossed; no difficulty encountered.
- 51-80 Crevasse discovered; the party must backtrack or go around.
- 81-95 Crevasse discovered by accident; someone falls D10 feet and gets stuck or falls on a ledge. A successful **Climb roll** is needed to get out (-20% penalty if not helped from above). Falling damage may apply.
- 96-99 Crevasse catches a sled and team. Dogs, sled, and driver all fall D20 feet before the fall is stopped. A successful **Climb roll** is required for the driver to get out -20% penalty if not helped from above). Sled and dogs are not retrievable without help from the surface. Falling damage may apply to dogs and driver.
- 00 Large deep crevasse catches a sled and team. Dogs, sled, and driver all fall 3D20 feet and must be rescued from above. Falling damage applies.

FROSTBITE TABLE

Including wind-chill, human tissue freezes at -5° and -6°C (21°-23°F). Exposure to low apparent temperatures prompts frostbite. Characters who are exposed at the temperature and for the period of time indicated on the table get frostbite. Immediate treatment, by a successful First Aid or similar skill, avoids this; failure of the roll moves the character onto the table below. Correlate apparent average temperature with duration of exposure, then determine degree of frostbite. The table is written for exposed or poorly protected flesh. To calculate exposure times for characters properly dressed in their expedition clothes add 90°F to the Apparent Temperature.

Degrees of Frostbite at Apparent Temperatures

temp °F	1 st degree	2 nd degree	3 rd degree	4 th degree
+30°	all day	days	n/a	n/a
+20°	16 hours	all day	days	n/a
+10°	12 hours	all day	days	n/a
0°	10 hours	16 hours	days	n/a
-10°	5 hours	12 hours	16 hours	days
-20°	2 hours	10 hours	12 hours	days
-30°	1 hour	5 hours	10 hours	all day
-40°	30 minutes	2 hours	5 hours	16 hours
-50°	20 minutes	1 hour	2 hours	12 hours
-60°	10 minutes	30 minutes	1 hour	10 hours
-70°	6 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	5 hours
-80°	4 minutes	10 minutes	20 minutes	2 hours
-90°	2 minutes	6 minutes	10 minutes	1 hour
-100°	1 minute	4 minutes	6 minutes	30 minutes
-110°	seconds	2 minutes	4 minutes	20 minutes
-120°	seconds	1 minute	2 minutes	10 minutes

Characters exposed long enough to a low enough apparent temperature get frostbitten. However, immediate treatment, by a successful First Aid or Medicine roll, avoids the injury. Failure moves the character to the appropriate degree of injury.

The first sign of frostbite is a reddening or yellow-gray tone to the skin, followed by blisters 12 to 24 hours after exposure. The danger of frostbite increases if one gets wet, or if blood circulation becomes restricted in some area.

- First degree frostbite** can limit mobility for several days, if on the hands, arms, feet, or legs.
- Second degree frostbite**, signaled by blisters, causes severe lesions and weeks of painful healing.
- Third degree frostbite** begins to penetrate below the skin, and large, hard dry crusts form over the injury; painful aching pains begin a week or two later. Typically a couple of months are required for recovery.
- Fourth degree frostbite** kills tissue down to the bone. Dry gangrene will set in. The affected tissues become black, dry, and mummy-like over about twenty days, about the time when an amputation should be performed. For more information, see *Beyond the Mountains of Madness*, "Frostbite Table."

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

This can be performed by anyone with Pilot or Mechanical Repair of 20% or better, or by anyone who has been taught to prepare an aircraft to start in extreme cold. A normal preflight check in the Antarctic should take 30-45 minutes.

With proper precautions, an engine will stay warm for perhaps two hours before the oil freezes. Starting an engine consists of warming the motor for approximately an hour with a kerosene blowtorch blowing hot air into a canvas hood completely covering the engine. When the engine is warm, prewarmed oil is poured into the engine, and the engine can be started.

- Heat the fuel lines and engines so that fuel flows freely.
- Check free motion and proper tension of all control cables to the wings and tail.
- Ensure no unwanted buildup of snow and ice on the hull, wings, tail, or inside the fuselage.
- Check to make sure all flaps move correctly.
- Lubricate the engine and important moving parts.
- Check interior systems.

AIRCRAFT FAILURE TABLE

ACCUMULATE CHANCE	EFFECT
5%	chance of failure for any flight
5%	each time maintenance is not performed
5%	extended flight above 18,000 feet
varies	unusual situation or known bad condition of aircraft

AIRCRAFT MALFUNCTIONS

D10 RESULT

- Engines:** ignition failure, cracked engine block, frozen drive shaft, lack of lubrication, etc.
- Control Cables:** too loose, too tight, missing, broken, frozen in place, tangled, etc.
- Fuel systems:** clogged or broken fuel lines, leaky tanks, broken fuel pumps, etc.
- Landing Gear or Skids:** missing, loose, or broken wheel, loose, bent, or missing skis, missing tail skid or wheel, fractured undercarriage, loose or broken guy wires, etc.
- Fuselage:** warped or broken frame, snow in interior areas, windows popping out or losing seal, doors won't close/open, etc.
- Wings or Tail:** jammed rudder or ailerons (in any position), broken or missing same, icy buildup on surface, etc.
- Interior Systems:** heaters, oxygen, internal electrical, pilot instruments, radio, etc.

INSANITY

Temporary Insanity — 5 or more Sanity points lost in a single SAN roll. See suggestions for insanities in the two temporary insanity tables. Short term temporary insanity lasts for 1D10+4 combat rounds. Long term temporary insanity lasts for 1D10 x10 game hours. Player must roll D100 first; if result is INT x5 or less, the experience has not been repressed — consult the appropriate Temporary Insanity Table.

Indefinite Insanity — 20% or more of current Sanity points lost in one game hour. Effects last for 1D6 months, or as arranged. Keeper and player consult to choose an appropriate mental disorder.

Permanent Insanity — zero Sanity points reached. This effect lasts for years, if not forever. Keeper and player consult to choose an appropriate disorder.

SAMPLE SANITY LOSSES

SAN Loss	Prompting Situation
1	(auto.) remove a head from the Wall of Skulls
0/1D2	each fifteen minutes near the Construct
0/1D3	experience a timeslip
0/1D3	first time hearing Mountains of Madness wind-song
0/1D3	see Duchess the husky die
0/1D3	see an animiculum move
0/1D4	encounter the grisly remains aboard the <i>Wallaroo</i>
1/1D4	see the Black Rat
1/1D4	gaze at the Wall of Skulls
0/1D6	see an elder thing
1D3/1D6	touch the Pilot Stone
1D3/1D6	examine the dissections in Hangar H2
5	(auto.) contact with the Construct
1/1D10	Starkweather smiles from the Wall of Skulls
1D3/1D8	witness the Black Ape
2/2D10+1	your hand or foot is eaten by a shoggoth
1D8/1D20	get too close to the God Trap
2D10/1D100	see the Unknown God

SHORT TEMPORARY INSANITY (1D10+4 COMBAT ROUNDS)

roll 1D10	roll 1D10
1	fainting or screaming fit
2	flees in panic
3	physical hysterics or emotional outburst (laughing, crying, etc.)
4	babbling, incoherent, rapid speech, or logorrhea (a torrent of coherent speech)
5	intense phobia, perhaps rooting investigator to the spot
6	homicidal or suicidal mania
7	hallucinations or delusions
8	echopraxia or echolalia (investigator does/says what others around him do/say)
9	strange eating desire (snow, slime, cannibalism, etc.)
10	stupor (assumes foetal position, oblivious to events) or catatonia (can stand but has no will or interest; may be led or forced to simple actions but takes no independent action)

LONGER TEMPORARY INSANITY (1D10 x10 GAME HOURS)

roll 1D10	roll 1D10
1	amnesia OR stupor/catatonia
2	severe phobia (can flee, but sees object of obsession everywhere)
3	hallucinations
4	strange sexual desires (exhibitionism, nymphomania or satyriasis, teratophilia, etc.)
5	fetish (character latches onto some object, type of object, or person as a safety blanket)
6	uncontrollable tics or tremors, or inability to communicate via speech or writing
7	psychosomatic blindness, deafness, or loss of the use of a limb or limbs
8	brief reactive psychosis (incoherence, delusions, aberrant behavior, and/or hallucinations)
9	temporary paranoia
10	compulsive rituals (constantly puts on and takes off mittens, praying, walking in a particular rhythm, never stepping on cracks, checking one's gun constantly, etc.)

ODD PHENOMENA AND WEIRD SKIES

The following are some bizarre and interesting conditions the explorers may encounter. All are natural, but may be interpreted otherwise by the adventurers.

- Explosions:** in extreme cold, when a glacial field is covered by shadow after a period in the sun, it contracts explosively. Explosions can be single or in clusters sounding like heavy gunfire.
- Glories:** often occurring simultaneously with halos, a glory is a radiant nimbus seen around the edges of a shadow or any central figure.
- Green Sky:** when the sun is close to the horizon, the sky is cloudless, and there is snow on the ground; a section of sky turns grass-green. Sometimes the band is very large.
- Halos:** rings of light around the sun or moon caused by thin layers of ice crystals refracting sun or moon light. Multiple cloud layers may cause multiple halos.

- Mirages:** as in the desert. Distant scenes reflected over the horizon, often upside down, sometimes moving through the sky at alarming speeds.
- Rainbow Breath:** ice crystals freezing in the breath when exhaled catch the light at the right angle to be seen by someone else as rainbow shimmer.
- Sun Crosses:** caused by ice in the upper atmosphere — bars of light radiate outward from the sun like a cross. Spectacular when concurrent with a halo.
- Snowbow:** sometimes called "white rainbow," a halo occluded by the ground.
- St. Elmo's Fire:** blue auras and sparks lingering around antennas, people,

- etc. Caused by static electricity in extreme dry cold.
- Spatial Disorientation:** the very clear air in the Antarctic makes judging distance tricky. Explorers have seen large mountains far off, to discover they were small humps in the snow a couple miles distant. A fumbled Spot Hidden or Navigate roll might trigger this.

Miskatonic University®
Antarctic Expedition Pack
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ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION PACK

Containing all manner of newspaper clippings for use with the BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS epic campaign, or for your own personal amusement. *TO USE:* Trim each clipping just along the cropped newsprint and linework. Each is backed with period advertisements.

Star-Breeze

New York's Finest Daily

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THE WEATHER

Cloudy, with probably occasional rain today; tomorrow fair, colder

Friday, May 26th 1933

Editorial Offices:
247 Fifth Avenue

Noon Edition, Three Cents

MID-AIR ON HOUSE

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"ANTARCTICA OR BUST!"

RENOWNED ADVENTURER SETS HIS SIGHTS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

New York City (AP) World famous explorer James Starkweather announced today that he would lead a party of scientists and explorers into uncharted parts of the Antarctic continent this fall.

Starkweather, accompanied by geologist William Moore of Miskatonic University in Arkham, Massachusetts, intends to continue along the trail first blazed by the ill-fated Miskatonic University Expedition of 1930-31.

The Starkweather-Moore Expedition will set sail in September from New York City. Like their predecessors, they intend to use long-range aircraft to explore further into the South Polar wilderness than has ever been done before.

"This is not about the South Pole," Starkweather explained this morning, in a prepared speech in his hotel in New York. "Many people have been to the Pole. We're going to go places where no one has ever been, see and do things that no one alive has seen."

The Expedition intends to spend only three months in Antarctica. Extensive use of aeroplanes for sur-

veying and transport, according to Starkweather, will allow the party to chart and cover territory in hours that would have taken weeks to cross on the ground.

One goal of the Expedition is to find the campsite and last resting place of the twelve men, led by Professor Charles Lake, who first discovered the Miskatonic Range, and who were killed there by an unexpected storm. The mapping and climbing of the mountains in that range; and an aerial survey of the lands on the far side are also important goals.

"The peaks are tremendous," Starkweather explained. "The tallest mountains in the world! It's my job to conquer those heights, and bring home their secrets for all mankind."

MOB ATTACKED STALIN'S HOME IN WIDE REVOLT, TOKYO HEARS

TOKYO, Tuesday, May 23 — Private information reaching Tokyo states that discontent due to famine conditions is so acute in Soviet Russia that a mob attacked Joseph Stalin's house in Moscow on Jan. 20 and was driven off by troops after 400 persons had been killed.

*"Many people
have been to
the Pole.
We're going to go
places where no
one has ever been,
see and do things
that no one alive
has seen."*

"We have the finest equipment money can buy. We cannot help but succeed."

Starkweather, 43, is a veteran of the Great War. He has led expeditions into the wilderness on four

Continued on Page Two

Other reports from Siberia, partly corroborated by information reaching military circles here, indicate the farmers are in widespread revolt. Serious disturbances occurred at Irkutsk, and 80,000 men are said to have joined the revolt, including Communists and Red soldiers.

The Japanese discount a good part of these rumors, but they come from too many sources to be entirely ignored. It is believed these disturbances are much more serious than the Soviet Government

Continued from "Antartic or Bust," p. 1.
 continents, and was present on the trans-polar flight of the airship (Italia), whose crash near the end of its voyage on the North Polar ice cap received worldwide attention.

Moore, 39, a full Professor of Geology, is also the holder of the Smythe Chair of Paleontology at Miskatonic University. He has extensive field experience in harsh climates and has taken part in expeditions to both the Arctic and the Himalayan Plateau.

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Pillar-Riposte

New York's Finest Daily

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THE WEATHER
Clear and hot, with occasional wind today; tomorrow clear, hot and higher humidity

New York, Sunday, September 3rd 1933

Editorial Offices:
247 Fifth Avenue

Morning Edition, Three Cents

Seattle Street Wrecked by Blast

SEATTLE, March 5 (IP) — A mystery explosion tore a hole in the middle of Ashworth avenue in the Wallingford district shortly before 1 p.m. here today. Police said there was nothing to indicate what caused the blast, which shattered plaster from the walls of nearby homes. No one was on the street near the spot when the explosion occurred.

COMMANDER DOUGLAS TO JOIN EXPEDITION

FAMED SEA CAPTAIN RETURNS TO ANTARCTIC WATERS

New York (UPI) — Commander JB Douglas, famed sea captain and former master of the brig "Arkham," will return to Antarctic waters later this year.

James Starkweather, world explorer and leader of the forthcoming Starkweather-Moore Expedition to Antarctica, announced today that Douglas has agreed to come out of retirement and captain the Expedition's ship on their voyage of discovery.

"Commander Douglas will be an invaluable addition to our expedition," Starkweather said. "Not only does he have a personal knowledge of many of the dangers and hazards of the South Pole, but he is an accomplished explorer and adventurer. The expedition will benefit greatly from his experience of the harsher climes and his keen inquiring mind. I look forward to providing this country's most note-

continued on page 4 col 2

Father of Girl Elopee Charged With Murder

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Ca., — Murder charges were filed today by officials against G.A. White accusing him of shooting to death Thomas Moses, who eloped two weeks ago with White's 14-year old daughter, Audrey. The girl testified against her father last night at the Coroner's inquest, accusing him of which she termed the "cold-blooded killing" of her

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LOBE

September 4, 1933

Two Cents

WOMAN OF EDUCATION ADDS POISE TO STARKWEATHER EXPEDITION

New York (AP) — Captain James Starkweather, leader of the Starkweather-Moore Antarctic Expedition, divulged the latest addition to his excursion to the South Pole today: Miss Charlene Whinston, botanist and cum laude graduate of Bowdoin College, is the newest member of the team.

Captain Starkweather expressed his concern that intelligent and talented women not be excluded from scientific ventures as his upcoming journey of exploration, and announced that he wished to do his part in advancing the enlightenment of the age.

"I was only too happy to honor Miss Whinston's request with an invitation to the Antarctic expedition," he told reporters today in his suite at the Amherst Hotel. "Her credentials as an educated member of the scientific community are excellent and I am sure she will be a valuable member of the team we have assembled for this voyage."

Professor William Moore, the expedition's other head, could not be reached for comment.

Do Your Golf Clubs Fit You?



If they fit you, the right length and weight for you, you will improve your game. See Charles MacLeod and Benjamin Goddard, Golf Club Fitters, 175 West 57th Street, New York City. They will fit your clubs to your height, weight and swing, and will also fit you with clubs of other makes. Send for "Voluntary Swing" booklet. Custom-made clubs fitted to your swing. Complete information on golf clubs. Write for FREE "FITTING" booklet. The club and actually try them out. See Charles Golf Fitters, Inc., 118 N. Riverside, N.Y. City, N.Y.

FREE FOR TRIAL

worthy scientists with a means to enrich our understanding of the natural world."

Douglas, a twenty-five year veteran of the Merchant Marines, was sailing master of the *Arkham* on its 1930 voyage to the Antarctic with the now-famous Miskatonic Expedition. He retired from the sea in 1932.

Commander Douglas could not be reached for comments. Starkweather has promised interviews with the Commander beginning on September 7, by appointment.

Police Chief Tired, Demoted at Request

BROOKLYN, (UIP) — Saying he was tired of the turmoil of his job. Police Chief Font Webster resigned today as asked City Manager Fred Nighbert to demote him to the rank of patrolman — which Nighbert did.



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FAMED SEA CAPTAIN MURDERED!

WATERY DEATH FOR COMMANDER DOUGLAS

New York (AP) — J.B. Douglas, fifty years old, was discovered last night in the water off Battery Wharf. Two fishermen brought the unconscious mariner ashore after an assault by person or persons unknown.

Commander Douglas died on the way to the hospital.

A respected officer of the Merchant Marine for many years, Douglas will be remembered as the captain of the SS Arkham, one of the vessels which carried the Miskatonic University Expedition to the Antarctic in 1930.

Douglas was reportedly in New York City to speak with the leaders of the Starkweather-Moore Expedition, which will leave in a few days. The expedition expects to retrace the route of Douglas' ship three years ago.

Thomas Gregor and Phil Jones, sailors resident in New York City, were returning to their fishing boat Bristol when they heard muffled cries and ran to see what was happening. They spotted a man running away and some agitation in the water.

MRS. ROOSEVELT MAKES JIG-SAW PUZZLE OF OFFICIAL ETIQUETTE

Washington (IP) — The century-old Withe House wore a startled airtoday, as though listening to the sound of shattered precedents.

One day with dynamic Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as mistress, and the pattern of red-tape embroidered official etiquette was snipped into as many pieces as a jig-saw puzzle.

A fist lady who greeted her dinner guests at the door instead of waiting for them to assemble and then make ceremonious decent!

While Jones ran after the fleeing man, Gregor dove into the cold waters of the harbor and found a motionless figure there. He heroically pulled the unconscious man out of the water and onto the dock. He attempted to revive the drowned man. Meanwhile Jones, who had lost the quarry, went for help.

Police later announced that Commander Douglas had been bludgeoned about the head and began to search for his murderers.

Anyone with information about this terrible crime, or about Mr. Douglas' whereabouts on the night of the murder, should contact Detective Hansen at the Battery Precinct Station.

A White House hostess served tea in east room!

A President's wife who had dined with women of press with promise that she'd talk

publication and who, indeed, ready had been "interviewed" her new home

Washington had never seen the like, and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt's figure became symbolic of an clamorous proclamation as the cap dwellers talked the social transformation that appeared had taken place with the "deal."

The first function was that afternoon "te original planned for thousand, but summing the portions of a mal receipt. Three thousand

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMANDER J. B. DOUGLAS

Jeremiah Barnes Douglas, Commander (ret.) United States Merchant Marine, aged fifty years, died September 5th in New York City.

Douglas served as an officer in the Merchant Marine during the Great War. He retired from the Service as a Commander in 1926 after twenty five years. He then captained his own vessel, the Arkham, notably on an expedition to Antarctica in 1930-31. He retired from active life in 1932 to his home in New Hampshire.

Known as "J. B." to his family and friends, Douglas is remembered as quiet, forthright, and a stout friend to all. He is survived by his brother Philip.

A graveside Memorial Service will be held September 8th, 11 A.M., at Saint Brigit's Cemetery in Brooklyn.

If you are concerned about your future . . .

SAFETY should be your very first thought when you consider your investments. Yield is important, of course, but it should be no higher than is consistent with safety . . . safety of both principal and interest. If you are concerned about your future and the future of your family you should have a copy of the simple, easy-to-understand booklet, "How to Invest Money." We shall be glad to send you a copy entirely without charge.

Write for booklet N-107

S.W. STRAUS & CO.

Investment Securities Incorporated

STRAUS BUILDING
505 Fifth Avenue
at 46th St., New York

Michigan Ave.
at Jackson Blvd., CHICAGO

STRAUS BUILDING
79 Park Street, SAN FRANCISCO

— ESTABLISHED IN 1862 —



With Byrd from Pole to Pole

AMONG the most important articles of equipment for polar exploration are firearms, ammunition, and cutlery. Naturally, such equipment is selected with great care. It is a high tribute to the reliability, accuracy, and sturdy construction of Remington products that they were selected for Rear Admiral Byrd's expeditions to the North and South Poles.

You can find no better guide in selecting your own sporting equipment than the judgment of these intrepid and successful explorers.

Remington Equipment that went with the Byrd Expedition to the South Pole

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|---|--|
| .30/'06 Springfield Express Mushroom Kleanbore Cartridges | Model 30 Bolt Action Express Rifles—30/'06 caliber |
| .45 Colt Auto. Kleanbore Oilproof Cartridges | Model 12C Repeating Rifles—.22 caliber |
| .30/30 Express Mushroom Kleanbore Cartridges | Model 29 Repeating Shotguns—12 gauge |
| .303 Savage Kleanbore Cartridges | Rem Oil |
| .22 Long Rifle Kleanbore Cartridges | Gun Grease |
| Buck Shot Loads 00 | Powder Solvent |
| BB Loads | Sheath Knives No. RH33 |
| 12 ga. Nitro Express 2 Ch. | Butcher Knives No. K4116 |
| 12 ga. Nitro Express 4 Ch. | Butcher Knives No. K4126 |
| | General Utility Knives No. R3843 |

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, Inc.
Originators of Kleanbore Ammunition
25 Broadway New York City

Remington

SOUTH AFRICA



Explorers like Byrd have usually achieved their travel exploits at the expense of untold physical hardships and personal discomforts.

The traveler in South Africa can enjoy some of the world's most marvelous sights... experience many thrilling and unique adventures... in a delightful climate... with all the comforts of modern hotels and up-to-date railroad and motor facilities.

High points of interest that lure tourists from all over the world to this land of romance and colorful contrast are the incomparable Victoria Falls... Kimberley's famous Valley of Diamonds... the deep Rand Gold Mines... the great Kruger wild game preserve... Zimbabwe's mysterious ruins... the glorious Drakensberg Mountains... the wonderful Congo Caves... picturesque Bantus, with their fantastic ceremonies, war dances, and witch doctors.

For information about special rates for independent towns, send for Booklet OD 1 to director

South Africa Travel Bureau
Room 557, 11 Broadway, New York City

Wife of Trust Company Chief Commits Suicide

Chicago (IP) - A woman identified by police as Mrs. M.M. Dunbar, 40 years old, wife of the vice president of the Union Trust Company of Indianapolis, ended her life with poison this morning.



See Europe by motor with a congenial House Party Tour—all expenses, \$395 to \$1007. Weekly sailings until Sept. 2. Itineraries include Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Ask for free Booklet "E30" about Europe.



Go West to Yellowstone, the Pacific Northwest, Canadian Rockies, Colorado, California... by special train, steamer and motor. All expenses, from Chicago, \$155-\$280.

Ask for free Booklet "DW" about the West

The TRAVEL GUILD

Dept. 314, 180 North Michigan, Chicago
622 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Scott's Creeping Bent for Perfect Lawns!

Soil in six weeks. A rich, velvety stretch of lawn that chokes out weeds before they can grow. A deep, thick, uniform turf that's everlasting and that makes your home a beauty spot.

The New Super-Lawn

Instead of sowing seed, you plant stolons or the chopped grass—and in a few weeks you have a luxuriant lawn like the deep green pile of a Turkish carpet. Can be planted any time, but fall is the best time to plant. Grows anywhere except in extreme south. Read all about this unusual grass in our illustrated booklet, "Bent Lawns," which gives full planting instructions and explains soil requirements, mailed on request.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.

360 Main Street

Marysville, Ohio



To men who don't send coupons

GENTLEMEN: Men have told us "Why, I never sent a coupon for a sample in my life." And it is true, many men do not.

Yet men by the hundreds of thousands have broken that rule to try Palmolive Shaving Cream. For we confess that words are inadequate to describe to you its advantages and virtues.

And we rest our case entirely on how the product itself impresses you. YOU are the judge and jury. Your bathroom is the courtroom.

We feel that we should warn you of one thing, however. If you mail the coupon the chances are strongly against your ever returning to old style shaving methods again. For our statistics show that 86% of the men who make our free 7-day test, become wedded to Palmolive.

PALMOLIVE RADIO HOUR—Broadcast every Wednesday night—over WEAJ and 39 stations associated with The National Broadcasting Co. 6923



7 SHAVES FREE

and a can of Palmolive After Shaving Talc
Simply insert your name and address and mail to Palmolive, Dept. M-850, P.O. Box 375, Grand Central Post Office, New York City.

(Please print your name and address)

LEXINGTON TRAGEDY

New York (AP) — A shocking scene greeted police at the P. W. Lexington mansion on Fifth Avenue today. They came to investigate what appears to be the death of one of New York City's greatest industrialist at his own hand.

Percival Woodrow Lexington was discovered in his study dead from a gunshot wound to the head. Police initially suspected foul play from the disheveled nature of the study.

"But there are obvious powder burns on his head and right hand," said Police Detective Ronald O'Meira. "That coupled with the position of the body and gun lead us more toward a self-inflicted wound than foul play."

But his daughter Acacia does not agree. "Daddy wouldn't kill himself. These buffoons are looking for an easy answer to keep from doing any real work," the distraught young woman said. "I vow I'll find my father's killers and make them pay."

Meanwhile an anonymous Wall Street source has hinted that the Lexington fortunes were severely over-extended.

The sky in New York society has grown dimmer this evening and the murky surroundings of this death surely spurs further inquiry.

OREGON FACES

PETIT CHA GOVERI

SALENS 30 (IP) — copy of tion that neglect e filed agai Julius L today.

P. W. Goldsbor county, fi tion with State Ha The Si tion de Meier "i void of ship nec office of that the of the of error incompe (the Co' his inatte ties • • (the Stat impossi tion," ar the reaso forth, th the Stati demands

WALTON
New York's Finest Daily

WATER WEATHER
Overcast, with likely rain today; fair, colder, and w

Editorial Offices: 247 Fifth Avenue

Bulldog Edition, T

DARING RESCUE OF HEIRESS

Del. cir- nes her the rton and ing ou- uck on. nes, Roy of igned wo- while ose, the d it- l be- oor. t at ated of a nute

Nairobi (INS)—The dark continent where the wonders of nature can turn on man and prove deadly has shown once again that wherever European man goes, so goes chivalry. Wireless reports out of the Belgian colonies in Africa tell of the daring rescue of our own socialite scamp Acacia Lexington by the daring Englishman, Captain James Starkweather.

Lovely Lexington has been touring the regions of darkest Africa dominated by the mighty Lake Tanganyika. Savages fight daily with alligators longer than a Deussenberg to ensure the passage of commerce in this wild region. Against the advice of her elders, Lady Lexington insisted upon seeing the fabled giraffe mating grounds of Eyasi. Un-

der the expert leadership of Captain Starkweather the band braved the wilderness and arrived at the plains of tall swaying grasses the giraffes find so compelling for their very survival.

The wild beasts, gentled by our own lovely Lady Lexington, came within a few feet of the party without making threatening gestures. Lady Lexington's presence was so compelling that when she came upon a baby giraffe in the grasses, she immediately tamed it and was able to even embrace it briefly before it returned to its herd, earning her the nickname among the savages as 'The Woman Whom the Giraffes Love.'

On the return trip to Nairobi, sudden rains caught the party crossing a branch of the mighty Nakuru river. The party was nearly lost as savages panicked under the onslaught of the rain

and river. Brave Captain Starkweather rallied the natives and had them chop trees and fashion rafts to carry the supplies to safety. A personal trip by Captain Starkweather to a nearby village procured enough canoes to carry the party across the river. The crossing was treacherous but under the skilled hand of Captain Starkweather the entire party made it to port in time for Lady Lexington's return trip to America.

We'll all be thanking Captain Starkweather for the safe return of one of the brightest lights of our social season. Hurrah for him and hurrah for chivalry!

Mary Wister, Kin of Novelist, Wed

Philidelphia (IP) — Miss Mary Channing Wister, daughter of Owen Wister, the novelist, and Andrew Dasburg, an



The Matthews "46" De Luxe Sport Cruiser . . .
10 other handsome models to choose from.

Staunch and Husky

MATTHEWS CRUISERS



YOU can take a Matthews single or double cabin 38 or 46 foot model out to sea in any kind of weather. Their husky hull design, combined with a fine bow flare and fast underbottom construction, guarantees your safety; cushioned shock, makes your Matthews the ideal long-distance cruiser or commuter. Speeds from 15 to 30 miles per hour await your choice, with twenty-four spacious cabin arrangements to sleep four, six or eight, at prices that have never been duplicated in boats of such staunch design or unexcelled cruising comforts.

Respective brochures in Matthews "38" or "46" Cruisers mailed upon request. No obligation to purchase.

THE MATTHEWS COMPANY
Port Clinton, Ohio
300 Bay Side



BEAUTIFUL AS MEMORY—IMPERISHABLE AS FAITH

Determine that the monument you erect shall be as beautiful and as imperishable as the ideals that inspire it.

Counters of so distinctive and enduring character as the Rock of Ages is found only in a single quarry that has penetrated far beneath the surface of the wooded

Mount Vernon Hills. It is extremely hard and infinitely fine of texture . . . impervious to time and the elements.

Winey mountains, Rock of Ages is a dark bluish-gray, richly brilliant, sparkling with a rich color.

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Each Rock of Ages monument is a masterpiece of art, designed and constructed by the Rock of Ages Granite Company. Your local monument retailer will tell you about it . . . and he will gladly and cheerfully assist you in making the choice of design.

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THE MATTHEWS COMPANY
ROCK OF AGES CORPORATION . . . DAKES, VERMONT
Without obligation, please send me my FREE booklet, "How To Choose A Monument."

Name _____ Address _____

For real vacation enjoyment
A NEW WOLLENSAK
COMMANDER
AMERICAN MADE

You will enjoy your vacation much more if you take a new WOLLENSAK COMMANDER with you.

4-Power, it gives a field of view of 300 feet at 1,000 yards. Eyepiece lenses lend themselves quickly to all eyes, eliminating pupillary adjustment. Center screw focusing arrangement permits quick and accurate focusing. Supplied in a handsome leather case.

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DIRECT TO RIO—12 DAYS
No Intermediate Stops

THE FOUR PRINCES

FORTNIGHTLY service on the famous "Prince" ships provide for the first time to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Montevideo with 17-day service to Buenos Aires.

Accommodations for first-class passengers only. Reservations and literature at authorized tourist agents or Furness Prince Line, 34 Whitehall St. (where Broadway begins), or 565 5th Ave., N. Y. C.

Prince Line Service has been continuous between New York and South America for 25 years

FURNESS Prince LINE

ROUND WORLD TOURS
108 Days
23 Ports
\$680

JAMES BORING'S Cruises

Round-the-World, Dec. 3rd
Unfailing personal attention and very moderate rates, so characteristic of all James Boring's Cruises, are now available on a World Cruise. As always, a ship especially built for cruising—the luxurious Cunard S. S. *Samaris*. From New York Dec. 3rd and from San Francisco Dec. 21st, westward, to the most famous places and many others of unique interest. Rates, \$1,600 up, cover all necessary expenses, including extensive shore trips.

West Indies, Jan. 24th to Feb. 11th
The club-like Cunard cruise ship *Caledonia* sails Jan. 24th on James Boring's *Seventh West Indies Cruise*. Visits Bermuda, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Havana, and Nassau.

Mediterranean, Feb. 14th
The splendid S. S. *Calgarrig* of the White Star Line sails Feb. 14th on James Boring's *Sixth Annual Mediterranean Cruise* . . . to every bordering country—rates, \$740 up.

Inquire of local agent or Dept. W38

JAMES BORING'S TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.
710 Fifth Avenue NEW YORK, N. Y.

Heiress Denies Own Tale of Murder

New York (AP) — A startling retraction came today from the daughter of the late industrialist Percival Lexington. Just days after she was claiming foul play and police mishandling of the case, Acacia Lexington came out from the funeral of her father with a very different story.

"With the coroner's report and the physical evidence I have no choice but to face the facts about my father's death," Miss Lexington said.

Earlier this week Lexington claimed that her father's death was linked to the disappearance of a rare manuscript he kept in the study where his body was found.

"I believe that book is still in my father's library," Miss Lexington said when asked about her earlier claim. "I haven't finished cataloging the contents of the house to

see if anything is missing. When it is done I'm sure we'll find the book."

"We know this is a hard time for Miss Lexington," said police detective Ronald O'Meira who investigated the Lexington suicide. "Any suggestions she made earlier were obviously the result of the strain of the situation," O'Meira said.

Percival Lexington was eulogized by several business leaders including fellow industrialist John D. Rockefeller and esteemed banker John Pierpont Morgan. He was laid to rest in a private ceremony at the family's estate in Suffolk County.

Lexington's last will and testament will be read at his attorney's next Wednesday. It is expected that his daughter Acacia will be his sole beneficiary. Questions still remain as to who will run the Lexington enterprises for this young woman.

BOY GANG CHIEF, 15 ADMITS KILLING 'FOE'

SAYS HE STABBED QUEEN 12 FOR "LYING" ABOUT HIM AND VOWED TO "GET" HIM

VICTIM MISSING 2 WEEKS

FOUND BOUND IN CLOSET A VACANT HOUSE TO WHICH KILLER HAD LURED HIM

Bound, gagged and stabbed through the heart, the body of a 12-year-old William Bender, who appeared July 6, was found yesterday in a closet in one of a row of partly-built dwellings, less than two blocks from his home at 110 Bergen Landing Road, Richm-

GLOBE

July 24, 1921 Two Cents

RARE MANUSCRIPT LINKED TO LEXINGTON DEATH

(Special) — A notice from the estate of Percival Lexington warns rare book dealers to watch out for a missing manuscript that could be linked to foul play in Lexington's recent death.

An extremely valuable and rare galley proof of the Edgar Allen Poe book "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym" has been reported missing from Lexington's study where his body was found yesterday.

"Robbery would be a motive for murder," said police detective Ronald O'Meira. "But the physical evidence points to a different conclusion. The book may show up in a few days. It's very difficult for most families to accept the loss of a loved one in this way."

Issuing the notice was daughter Acacia Lexington who previously raised suspicions of foul play and a lax attitude by police in investigating this case.

"This manuscript is unique. I believe it is involved in my father's death," she said. "This manuscript differs greatly from the published version. I fear some collector has killed for it."

The manuscript was to have been sold in public auction today, along with other rare and valuable items from Percival Lexington's collection.

A coroner's report is expected tomorrow. A public service and private family funeral will be held Friday. The public service will be held at St. John the Divine Cathedral at 11 A.M.

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Continued from
"Lexington Sets Sights South"

of anything that men can do. If I am the first, it only means that others will find it easier to follow."

When asked if her planned expedition was in any way affected by the presence of no less than four other parties on the Antarctic ice this summer, Miss Lexington refused to comment.



Graflex equipment taken to Antarctica by Commander Byrd
CAPT. MCKINLEY
for the Byrd Expedition

Nine out

of every ten of the official still pictures of the Byrd Expedition were taken with Graflex Cameras

Sure, Simple, Certain—the superior camera for important pictures. Let your dealer show you.

The CAMERA for More Interesting Pictures
GRAFLIX

ROLAND GAFFNER CORP., ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Former Graflex Corp., Dept. 61, Rochester, N. Y.
I want to see the booklet that tells how more

They are determined to block at the suggestion of Joseph V. McKee, a Republican publican defector of the Recovery Program. The entry of McKee into Mayoralty race inevitably will have the effect of dividing any Tammany support it was said last week in a Republican quarter. The publican sentiment in favor of the coronation of the Fusion Announcement is expected within a week of the two of a big election. A mass meeting will be held, probably toward the end of the week, under the auspices of the Fusion Committee, of Charles H. Tamm, chairman. The meeting will be held at a meeting hall behind closed doors. The National Fusion Club last week Financial I to Meet.

Tomorrow, a check to be given to the Bankers Club under the auspice

Arkham Advertiser, May 30, 1933

From "Intrepid Explorers..." page 1
"We'll have the finest equipment, and skilled men. Geologists-paleontologists—we've got Professor Albemarle from Oberlin, he wants to study weather. Glaciologists, perhaps another biologist or two; the team's not all made up yet, of course. We're not leaving

for another five months!"
"It is important," added Moore, "to try to find Professor Lake's camp and bring home whatever we can from the caverns he discovered. The prospect of a wholly new kind of life, a different taxonomy, is extremely exciting. It would be a shame if, having

found it once, we were unable to do so again."
The two explorers plan to land thirty men on the southern continent, half again more than the Miskatonic Expedition. The expedition is privately funded and owes no allegiance to any school or institution.

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Leica



the camera chosen by eleven members of the BYRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

BECAUSE of its unfailing service on an instant's notice—on the ground or in the air—Leica is invariably the companion of scientists, explorers, professional photographers and amateurs who know and appreciate true photographic excellence. Eleven Leicas accompanied the Byrd Antarctic Expedition. Others were used on the Graf Zeppelin's World Cruise. A compact camera, mechanically and optically perfect. The Leica insures clear, sharp negatives even under adverse conditions of light, weather and temperature. Ideal for snapshots, indoor portraits, sports and action pictures.

The Leica is not a low-priced camera, but a far superior one. The smallest roll film camera with a focal plane shutter, with lens speeds of 1/20 to 1/500 of a second. Weighs less than a pound, fits vest pocket or purse. A single roll of cinema film takes 36 pictures double frame size, and enlargements to 12 x 18 inches or more preserve every detail with amazing beauty and clarity. See this unusual camera at your dealer's—or write for Catalog 1174. E. Leitz, Inc., Dept. 8G, 60 East 10th Street, New York, N. Y.



THE
Leica
FITS VEST POCKET
OR PURSE—WEIGHS
LESS THAN A POUND

"LEXINGTON SETS SIGHTS SOUTH"

**BLONDE BEAUTY
 — TO FLY TO POLE —**

New York City, in a startling announcement from her home in Queens today, millionaire industrialist Acacia Lexington told reporters that she intends to set aside her ledger books in favor of seal furs and snow goggles, in an attempt to be the first woman to stand at the bottom of the world. Lexington, only child of the late P. W. Lexington of this city, has impressed friends and adversaries alike for years with her skilled maneuverings in troubled financial waters. Now she intends to venture into a new realm.

"Today's women are capable of anything that men can do."

Accompanied by a hand-picked team of photo-journalists and wilderness experts the lovely Acacia will cross the Antarctic wastelands in a specially modified Northrop Delta.

"It's about time a woman did this," Lexington told our reporters. "Today's women are capable

Continued on page two

REPUBLICANS PLAN IT FOR FUSION AND DEFECTIONS

**IGN TO BEGIN THIS
 K —LEADERS SEE
 DEFEAT AS BLOW TO
 ROOSEVELT.**

ress of City Cam- City Republicans pre- for aggressive fight for Guardia. National s of the party hold de- f Joseph V. McKee be a blow to prestige sident Roosevelt.

McKee demanded to whether Mr. ardia supported :l Seabury's attacks on nor Lehman. Mr. La ia's reply accused Mr. e of attack on Jews en years ago.

many reported that ters" were returning to nks and said they be welcomed "if they d."

ublicans Plan Fight. V.A. WARN.

Republicans who so re not taken an active i the Fusion campaign eparing to enter the ggressively this week.

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**INTREPID EXPLORERS
 READY EXPEDITION
 (CONT. FROM P.1)**

"We're going back," Stark-weather said. "The job's not done. We're going back, and we're going to finish what was started and bring the whole lot out to the world. It will be a grand adventure and a glorious page in scientific history!"

Professor Moore, sitting quietly to one side, was less passionate but just as determined.

"A lot has changed in the past three years," he insisted. "We have technology now that did not exist three years ago. The aeroplanes are better, brand new Boeing craft, sturdier and safer than before. Professor Pabodie's drills have been improved. And we have Lake's own broadcasts to draw upon. We can plan ahead, with better materials and a knowledge of the region that none of them had when they prepared for their voyage. Yes, I am

optimistic. Quite optimistic. We will succeed in our goals."

When asked what those goals were, the two men looked briefly at one another before Stark-weather answered, leaning forward intently.

"We're going back, and we're going to finish what was started..."

"Leapfrog, gentlemen!" he smiled. "We shall leapfrog across the continent. A base on the Ross Ice Shelf; another at the South Pole. One at Lake's old campsite, if we can find it; and, gentlemen, we plan to cross over those fantastic mountains described by Dyer and Lake, and plant our instruments and our flag right on top of the high plateau! Imagine it! Like a landing strip atop Everest!"

Continued on next page

**BARRICADED MANIAC
 TAKES LIFE IN FIGHT**

**MAN CRAZED WITH DRINK
 DROVE WIFE FROM HOME,
 THEN FOUGHT POLICE**

SHOTS KEPT ATTACKERS OFF

PERTH AMBOY, N.J., July 22 After turning a little one-story, two-room building on the outskirts of this place into an improvised fort, and defending himself for more than eight hours against the attack of policemen and firemen who tried to capture him alive, Anzo Melcino, an Italian laborer, turned his shotgun upon himself and committed suicide this afternoon.

The man was apparently crazed with drink and the desire for money and more liquor. He was seen brandishing a pistol as he entered building at 352 Ellis Street, met by his wife's landlord, Jacob Sprenger. "Let me take that gun," the German told him. "You don't want to get into more trouble."

"Keep out of this," replied the Italian, cursing Sprenger. "I need grappa and money - silver - and plenty of both. I'm going to kill someone today."

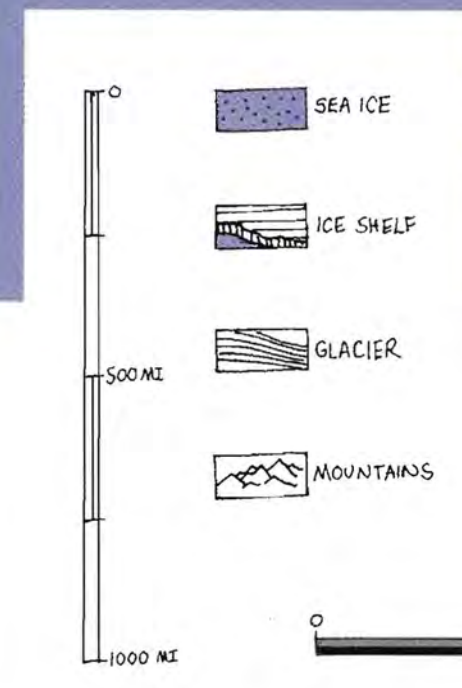
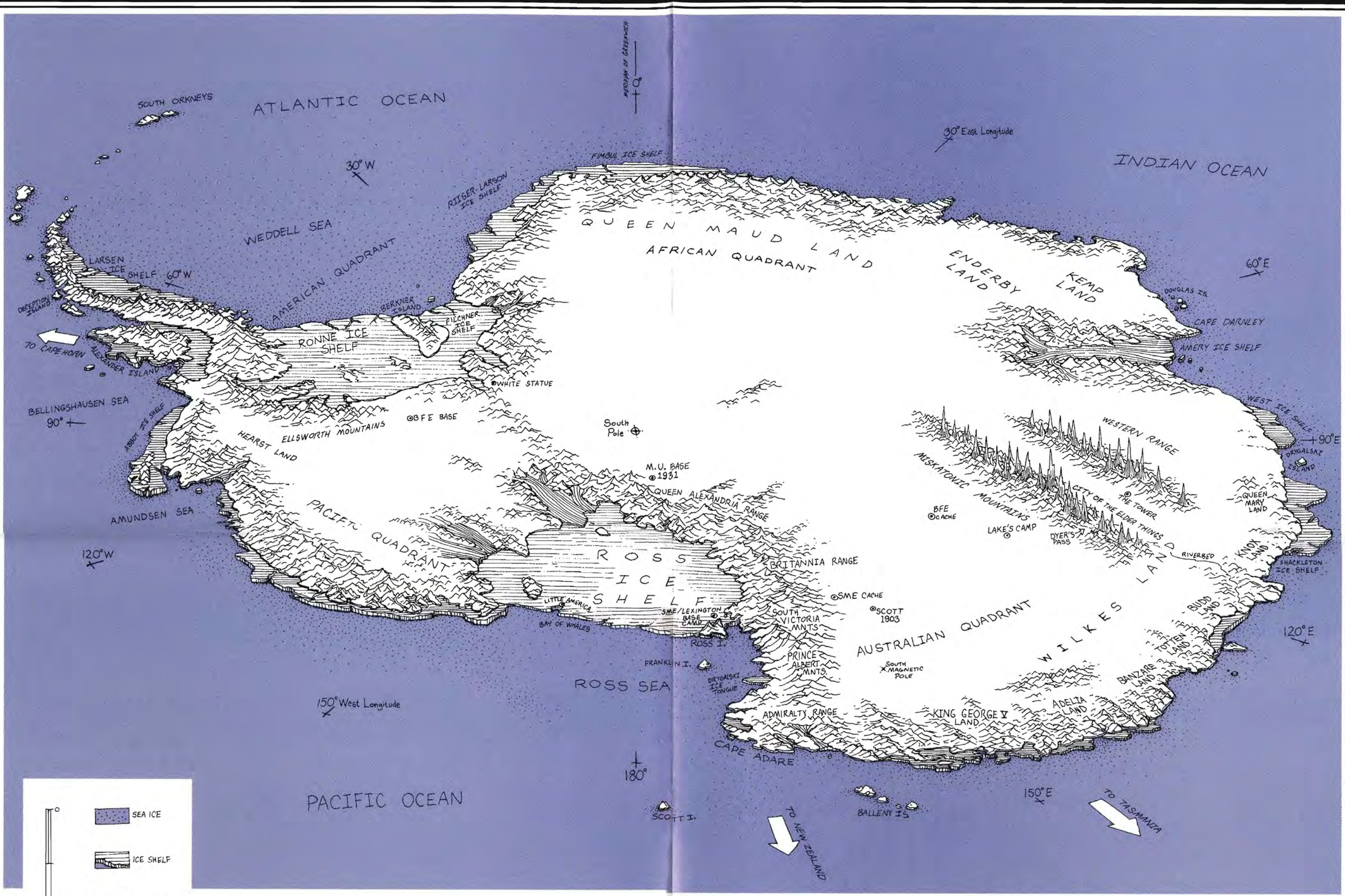
Continued on Page Four

To Display Your Travel Pictures

Fasten them to the walls with Moore Push-Pins, Glass Heads, Steel Points, or with Decorative Moore Push-Pins, 6 colors, 3 sizes. For framed pictures, or heavy wall decorations, use Moore Push-less Hangers, 4 sizes.

Moore Push-Pin Co., Philadelphia





KEEPER'S MAP OF ANTARCTICA

Compiled and drawn by Professor John T. Snyder of the Miskatonic University Cartographic Dept.

**DOCK PASS
PIER 74-B**

SS

Gabrielle

**DOCK PASS
PIER 74-B**

SS

Gabrielle

**DOCK PASS
PIER 74-B**

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Gabrielle

**DOCK PASS
PIER 74-B**

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Gabrielle

WATCH OUT!

for

Switch engines

Trucks

Flammables

Dollies

Cargo booms

Cargo nets

Electrical cables

Taxicabs

Piles of cargo

WATCH OUT!

for

Switch engines

Trucks

Flammables

Dollies

Cargo booms

Cargo nets

Electrical cables

Taxicabs

Piles of cargo

WATCH OUT!

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Switch engines

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WATCH OUT!

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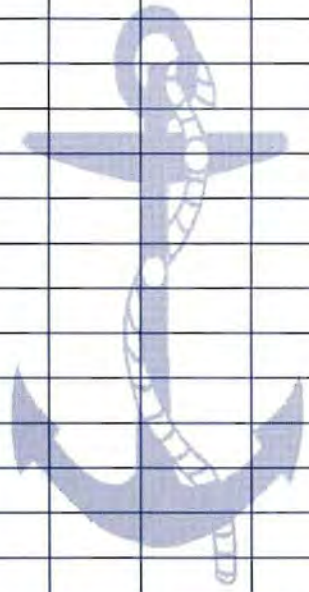
Electrical cables

Taxicabs

Piles of cargo

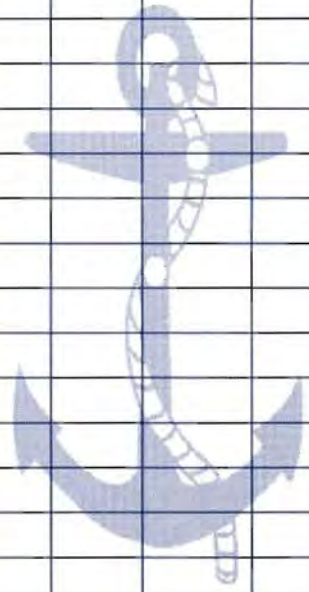
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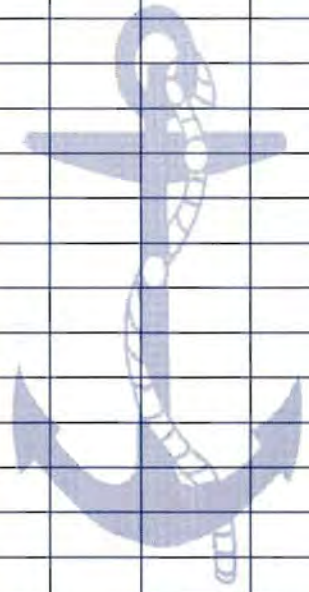
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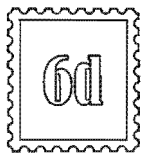
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The American steamer SS Gabrielle shortly before she began her epic and tragic voyage to ice-bound Antarctica.



ADDRESS

*Blankenship Nautical Novelties
Melborne, Australia ©1934*



STARBUCKWEATHER-MOORE



ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1967

S.S. GABRIELLE





04. September 1933

Johann,

Hiermit erhältst Du den Rest des Schriftstückes; studiere ihn bitte sehr sorgfältig. Es ist wohl kaum nötig, Dich daran zu erinnern, daß wenn diese Ausführungen der Wahrheit entsprechen, wir damit den Schlüssel zu einer der größten Entdeckungen der menschlichen Geschichte in Händen halten. Allerdings ist an mir wahrlich kein solch ein Abenteurer verloren gegangen, als das ich es wagen würde Dich auf dieser Expedition zu begleiten, aber ich wünsche dir Hals und Beinbruch bei deiner Jagd.

Poe hat diesen Text bearbeitet, so daß manches vielleicht verwirrend dargestellt ist; aber ich bin mir sicher, daß Du in der Lage sein wirst, die Wahrheit von der Phantasie zu trennen.

Lämmle

March 22. – The darkness had materially increased, relieved only by the glare of the water thrown back from the white curtain before us. Many gigantic and pallidly white birds flew continuously now from beyond the veil, and their scream was the eternal *Tékeli-li!* as they had retreated from our vision. Hereupon Nu-Nu stirred in the bottom of the boat; but upon touching him, we found his spirit had departed. And now we rushed into the embraces of the cataract, where a chasm threw itself open to receive us. But there arose in our pathway a shrouded human figure, very far larger in its proportions than any dweller among men. And the hue of the skin of the figure was of the perfect whiteness of the snow.

CHAPTER XXVI

Shocked from our passive trance, Peters and I took the oars from the bottom of the canoe and stroked powerfully, trying to make headway towards the great figure. We could not say precisely what it was, but without a doubt, whatever lay near the statue was a better fate than the crushing and drowning death that the cataract promised. The now-apparent roar of falling water approached at a tremendous pace, but we clung grimly to our only salvation, throwing ourselves mightily into the task. We could see it only on occasion, for great amounts of mist and the ash-like powder often obscured the figure. Still we struggled on, grasping at last at what might have been our one chance for life. Both Dirk Peters and myself cursed for having lapsed into the strange, dreamy apathy of the previous days, only to be awakened to the fatality of our situation by the awful proximity of the onrushing cataract.

Owing to the great velocity with which the water rushed ahead, we were indeed fortunate to achieve the great figure. It had not moved, and as Peters touched it, virtually in the grasp of the waterfall, we saw that it was an immense statue of some sort, carved entirely out of some brilliant marble-white stone. By the time we had reached it, the haze and ash were so thick that we could seldom see even each other. Peters clung to one leg of the shrouded form with his mighty arms, and screamed over the thunder of the falling water that I was to climb to the front of the boat with him. Moving next to him, I saw through the blinding white storm that the great statue had been constructed on the very edge of an island, on the very lip of the monstrous cataract. We had not seen this land before due to the haze that surrounded it, added to the fact that the island itself was almost entirely white in its appearance, no doubt due to the density of the powdery ash and steam. Peters clung to the leg of the thing while I stepped onto the great foot, and then I held the boat while Peters leapt nimbly onto the other leg. The spray was extremely painful, for the water was so hot that even small droplets were enough to raise blisters. As soon as he was out of the boat, the current tore it from my hands. Our meager supplies, along with Nu-Nu's body, were swept into the roaring chasm, to who knew what chambers on the sea's dead floor.

From the legs of the statue, it was only a slight jump to the pale and sandy island.

Whatever the ash in the air was, it was indistinguishable from the bone-white sand that made up the shore of the island, and was nearly the same color as the pale and strangely fleshy vegetation that covered the land. The air was constantly roaring with the cataract, and it is a wonder that we could make ourselves heard by shouting. Having lost our supplies, our first order of business was to find some sort of food. Peters suggested we try to eat the oddly liquescent flesh of the white, trembling plants that grew no more than two feet out of the white sand, seeing as the many white birds of the island seemed to use it for their own sustenance, and we did so. Although it jerked and quivered when cut and oozed a pale liquid at the rent edges, it was not an entirely repulsive meal. In fact it proved to be our sustenance for many days, containing as it did both food and a sustaining amount of relatively fresh water, although the flavor was sharp, as if it had been pickled.

March 23. — The true disadvantage to the fleshy plants was that they were the only thing that grew on the island. While their fortifying powers were quite in evidence in the renewed constitutions of both Peters and myself, they would in no way serve in the creation of a boat or raft. Unless we could find something to help us get off the island, a stand of trees or perhaps some flotsam that washed on the shore, we were doomed to remain there for the rest of our days. And so we set out to explore the island, keeping close to the beach and each other, because the swirling mist and ash were exceedingly thick, thicker even than the Nantucket fogs I had known as a boy, and we did not want to lose sight of each other. We searched for many hours, only to find the beach scoured clean, as if by the white hands of the tremendous statue that stood sentinel on the end of the island.

March 24. — I awoke to Peters shaking me, and pointing to figures which were approaching the island in distressingly familiar canoes, black shapes easily seen through the eddying whiteness. Alarmed, we hid ourselves among the knee-high white plants. Although they squashed oozyly under us, we paid them no mind as we peered across the beach at the canoes of the savages as they approached the island. There were six canoes, which had neither the enormous length nor breadth that the we had seen displayed in the canoes used by the other Tsalalians. These were perhaps twenty feet in length, and contained only three figures, two of whom paddled, and one who stood at the bow. The creatures standing in the boats seemed to be some sort of chantey-man or witch doctor, as a nearly continual wailing ululation came from these figures, very different from the short, harsh tones that we had heard on the island of Tsalal, but punctuated with the familiar Tekeli-li. And each time one of the witch-doctors uttered that dread phrase, all the savages in the canoes would give a shudder, almost all at once. They were obviously terrified of the island and its great expanse of whiteness; possibly this island was the source of the superstitious fear itself. Peters and I had watched the canoes approach for some time when one of them turned, and we saw that, in the bottom, there was a bound human form. I pointed this out to Peters, who quickly began looking at the rest of the boats to see if there were any other prisoners. By the time the savages had landed, we were certain that there were captives in each of the canoes.

As they were dragging canoes out of the water onto the white beach, Peters and I were shocked to see that the prisoners were white — Europeans such as we had

not seen since our own crew had been killed. It was a sight to almost make one weep — to have friends and compatriots so close, and yet captured by the foul savages. We immediately determined to rescue them, but immediately upon our resolution, the savages each picked up a lance or a club from their canoes, and we quailed, being unarmed ourselves. Peters and I discreetly resolved to remain hidden after that, for only when the filthy creatures had hefted their weapons did they reach into the canoe and bring out the Europeans. They had been trussed up like deer — bound hand and foot to a pole, and carried through the deliquescent undergrowth. It was almost too much to bear, and I heard Peters swear under his breath that we would recover the captives, come brimstone and darkness. There was a light in his eyes that I had not seen before, and I recoiled slightly as I saw it. I thought that there perhaps was a glint of madness in his gaze, and I was afraid.

As opposed to their unusually noisy approach, the disgusting Tsalalians were absolutely silent as they paced across the island. We followed, thankful that the slippery oozing plants did not betray us with noise as a wholesome forest would have done, but rather we squashed quietly on a course parallel to that of the loathsome Tsalalians. After some length, the procession came to a halt at a large stone edifice. It was obvious that the Tsalalians had not built this monument, whatever it was, for while they lived in rude huts, this was a structure composed of blocks of unmortared stone. It seemed very ancient; pitted and worn, as Roman ruins seemed in pictures I had seen on the walls in the academy. They appeared to be gray, although it was difficult to tell under the layers of white ash that drifted from the sky, but our view was too obstructed for us to discern its overall form. The Tsalalians marched directly through a wide archway, easily large enough to admit a team of horses, and disappeared from view. Peters and I waited for a time, unsure as to our next action. If we followed too closely, we would probably be massacred by armed warriors. But we simply could not stand by while the evil creatures sacrificed fellow humans to some obscene paynim god. We were creeping closer to the open archway, when we suddenly heard a great shriek of {Tekeli-li}, repeated a dozen times, echoing from what must have been a substantial distance inside the edifice. We heard the sound of running feet rapidly approaching, and had just enough time to hide in the sickly plants before the Tsalalians came thundering back through the archway at a dead run. Of the captives there was no sign, but the warriors, obviously more used to running than the witch doctors, led the mad stampede of black shapes out of the archway running blindly for their canoes.

Peters and I lay dumbfounded, and then stood up. "Did you count them?" Dirk asked. "No," I replied. "Only thirteen came out," he said matter-of-factly. He grinned in a grotesque fashion. There were only two of the savages left in the structure, and he was anxious to find them. He rubbed his coarse hands together in anticipation, and preceded me into the archway. I had the feeling that he had in mind revenge for the souls of the Jane Guy's crew who had been killed in that terrible ambush. As we entered, I noted that despite the rough, weathered look of the exterior of the building, the interior was smooth, as though it had been

carefully polished. The blocks of stone that comprised the structure fit so exactly that I was not even able to insert a fingernail between them. I thought of stories of the great monuments of antiquity, and a feeling of ancientness settled like dust upon us. There was a worn area in the floor — presumably from the feet of the Tsalalians, for we had seen no other evidence of animal or human on the isle. The structure sloped downward at a fair angle, not quite enough to set us tumbling but enough off level to be noticeable. Down we went, into what appeared to be a hallway. Unfortunately, the light that issued from the archway did not penetrate far into the structure, and neither Peters nor I had any means to make a light, let alone any sort of combustible material with which to sustain it. We proceeded forward with caution, allowing our eyes to use even the tiny amounts of light available to us. We were soon below sea-level, for the air was as damp as could be imagined. The walls sweated in such a fashion that I thought of Jonah in the belly of the whale, so great was the wetness of the air. As the light grew dimmer and dimmer, we were forced to navigate by the touch of the smooth, slimy walls, for we still heard nothing from the captive party ahead of us.

Then suddenly, there was a mad shrieking, as of a group of men in mortal danger. The volume was excruciating, and yet on top of it there was a hideous screeching that seared the eardrums like nothing I had ever encountered before. Dirk Peters was suddenly no longer at my side, but whether he had run ahead or fled behind I could not tell. I moved determinedly towards the terrible cacophony, but I tripped and fell sprawling in the thick darkness below the earth.

CHAPTER XXVII

When I regained my senses, the terrible shrieks had quieted, and a thick, glutinous red light had sprung up from the tunnel ahead of me, and I was able to see. Peters was crouching at a corner of the tunnel, peering down into the unnatural red light. At this time I noticed the noise of activity, such as men loading crates into the hold of a ship. Under cover of these sounds, I crept up to Peters, who was raptly watching the activity beyond the corner. I was about ask him what was going on, when without even looking back, he clapped his hand over my mouth. The other noises quickly subsided, and the silence was suddenly total, and then there was a metallic clank and a curious hissing sound, which receded quickly. As the hissing decreased in volume, so too did the light, and we were soon enveloped in darkness again.

“We have to get them,” Peters said in a low, terrible voice that made my skin crawl. He turned and went a little way down the corridor, towards something I could not see. He blundered in the darkness, and I heard him cursing and the sounds of objects being moved. I could see nothing until there flared a pale, sickly green light. Peters was standing on a block of stone, holding the strangest-looking lantern I had ever seen. There was no metal on it, simply an eight inch tall glass pentagon, which narrowed to a point at the bottom, and was capped by

a flat stone which was topped in turn by a stone ring that Peters held. Inside the glass was a roiling liquid that seemed to be in some way boiling, and it was this that gave out the very strange illumination. I looked away from the queer thing, grateful enough for the light.

Although the tunnel continued, it was very different. This seemed some sort of wharf without water, and certainly it was one of the strangest places I had ever yet been in. Before I had the opportunity to properly look about me, Peters directed me towards a jumble of metallic poles and instructed me to pick out four. I looked at these strange objects, about five feet long, pentagonal, and equipped with a rounded spike about a handspan in length, which jutted off sharply from the very end, razor sharp on the bottom edge. The entire effect was something like a metal scythe, only shorter in every way and set in straight, rigid lines. They were of no metal I had ever seen before — green as verdigrised bronze and yet slightly oily to the touch, although this may have been the action of the damp air in the tunnel. After I had picked four — no difficult task, for they were all virtually identical — Peters hurriedly told me to bring them to him by the wall. There, in a depression set below the rest of the floor, was a slot in the wall, which ran down the dark tunnel, into which I assumed the prisoners had been taken. He thrust two of the poles into holes which had grooves running down to the main slot, with the spikes pointing up.

After that, we lifted one of the stone platforms that was lying on the floor. It was extraordinarily heavy, as it was about five feet wide and rather thick, and we had to rest several times before we were able to place it on the two poles, on which it fit snugly. The platform itself was made of the same stone as the walls, but perfectly pentagonal, with five holes drilled into the center, in a circle. Other than this, the surface was slightly rough, as if unfinished. Before we continued our journey, I suggested that we ought to get some food, since we had no idea how long we would be in that dreadful tunnel. Peters agreed, and sent me up to gather as many of the white plants from the island as I could. As I was returning to the tunnel below, I heard a great hammering sound. Alarmed, I proceeded more slowly, until I came upon Peters, beating the floor with one of the metal poles. While the floor showed considerable damage from the abuse, the pole did not seem to have suffered in the slightest. When he caught sight of me, he shook the pole at me, saying that it was fit for use. "On what?" I asked him. "Them!" he screamed, pointing down the tunnel, and proceeded to have a fit of violent paroxysms, raging around the little room and screaming strange things to himself. I dared not disturb him, lest his anger turn on me.

I deposited my slimy armload of native vegetation onto the stone platform, and Peters and I climbed on board. We each brought three of the odd lamps, in case the fuel for the one providing the current illumination should fail. Peters also brought several more of the metal rods, apparently to use against the kidnapers. I quickly discovered that these would fit into holes in the front and back of the platform, and we hung our lamps on these. When all was in readiness, Peters took hold of one of the bars supporting the platform and turned the long spike at the end. The stone raft dropped and lurched, and we were quite suddenly moving at a fair rate of speed. The only sound to

our conveyance was the strange hissing that came from the wall we were passing so near to, like some indefatigable snake. The walls were smooth, so I did not initially notice our great velocity, but upon looking back, I could no longer see the end of the passage.

Presently, I noticed that there were disks occasionally set into the walls just above the slit along which we were traveling. Owing to the rapidity of our motion, I was unable to determine what they were. We traveled through the tunnel for hours, neither one of us saying anything to the other, with only the slight hissing of our transport to break the silence. At no other time did I come so close to sheer and utter hopelessness as I did in those first hours descending in that horrible, endless tunnel. The walls were monotonous and the green light made me feel ill. We carefully rationed our vinegary leaves, so eating was infrequent. And so we had nothing but each other to destroy the monotony of the stygian way, and yet I was afraid to say anything to Peters. He seemed very affected by the events previous to our attaining transport. What was going through his mind, I could in no way guess, but he was full of evil looks and violent temper, so I returned to my tedious observation of the walls.

The tunnel was hewn out of the living rock that connected the island to the sea floor. That it had been made by the repugnant Tsalalians was impossible, since there were no seams in the rock, and the walls and floor appeared very smooth. Although there were no clues to the making of the tunnel, there were occasional jogs and lifts along the way. While the majority of the ride was as smooth as oil on water, sometimes there would be a little sway, or a rise that would make the raft shudder a little, and lose some of its velocity, only to resume it some seconds later.

Of other life there was no sign. I never saw anything of the red light I had seen earlier, only the septic green of our own light. Whoever had taken away the prisoners had completely vanished from our sight. But Peters was determined to catch them; to a much greater extent than I was. But we had no idea of there was any way to excite our mode of transport to an even greater velocity. Indeed, I was completely in the dark as to the action that made our platform move so rapidly — it was Peters who had known how to engage whatever mechanism propelled us. The mechanism of the platform required no effort on our part, and the walls rushed by too fast for examination. Blackness surrounded us, cut only by the wan, spectral light of our lamp. Peters squatted, a dark and frightening shape at the other end of the platform. Weariness overcame me, and I lay down, head pillowed by the slick vegetation that served as our feeble store of food. Lulled by the monotonous hiss of the cavern, I was soon overcome by sleep.

I awoke to perfect and utter darkness. I could hear nothing but the faint hissing of our transport and, after a panicked minute, Peters' slow, labored breathing. He was not dead, then. I felt around the platform, hoping to be able to reignite our odd light source, for although the light was nauseous, it was better than the crushing darkness that currently surrounded us. By feel alone, I was able to make my way to the fore of the platform, and found the pole upon which the lamp hung. I felt my way up the oily pole, careful not to encounter the sharp edge of the spike, and onto the rough surface of the lamp.

Immediately, there was a sharp tearing sensation along my hand, and the lamp immediately sprang to life, almost literally. I had not before been able to observe the action of the lamp, but now I had a particularly horrible opportunity. A faint glow began in the depths of the glass, radiating from a small, lumpy form at the top of the glass container. After a second, it rapidly grew, both in size and luminosity. Very quickly the mass had expanded enough to press firmly against the sides of the lamp, roiling as I had seen it earlier. I looked at my hand, expecting the palm to be bloody, but there was no mark upon it at all. It was an unpleasant feeling, and I hoped that I would forever after be spared repeating the experience. Our progress continued unabated, the walls rushing past us at great velocity.

Words cannot describe the tedium of the journey — to be confined to a space no more than twenty-five square feet, alone save an insensate companion, rushing through the darkness towards some unknown goal. I spent as much time as possible sleeping, and remain unsure how long the terrible journey lasted — three days at the least.

At last, there came a slowing of our strange method of transportation, along with a distinct cooling of the air. All through the tunnel the air had been warm and humid, but now it turned chill, and water ran off the walls in streams, pooling into ice-scummed puddles on the floor. This was especially worrisome as Peters and I had no clothing against the cold, and no means of procuring any. We turned a corner, the first in the whole hellish journey, and came to another of the peculiar wharves. But it was obvious that our odd method of conveyance was not going to stop, although it had slowed considerably. The platform was at the height of our raft, so it was a natural thing to simply step off, leaving the raft to continue its journey into the darkness alone.

We were in a maze of tunnels that led in several directions, and from one there was the faintest glimmerings of clean, wholesome light. Despairing from our inability to find any signs of passage on the cold stone floor, we jumped in alarm at a loud, confused chattering that came down from the lit corridor. Up this barely-lit cavern, something was moving — a shifting, flapping sound echoed around us, accompanied by strange squawking and hooting noises. Peters took one of the oily rods in one hand and the pale green-glowing lantern in another. I took another bar, and followed closely behind him.

There were a number of white penguins—larger than any bird I had ever seen before — milling about, the mouth of the cavern. From our vantage, the light behind them was almost intolerably bright, already surpassing the loathsome light that emanated from our lantern. But with the increase of light also came an increase in the chill. A freezing wind gusted down the cave, and Peters, shivering with the cold, hefted his pole and in a trice, broke the neck of one of the birds. “You get one, too,” he said, his breath already steaming as he began to skin the wretched thing with the razor-edge of his pike, “we can wear their pelts against the cold.” This seemed reasonable to me, and it was the work of but a moment before I had killed another of the things. Oddly, they did not flee, despite seeing two of their company struck dead in their midst, but continued to mill about as confusedly as before. But when I was engaged in the gristly task of

cutting it open, I noted that the eyes were a milky white, all but useless. Like Peters, I skinned the creature, and then turned the whole skin inside-out so that the minute feathers would keep my skin warm. We guessed that the cold outside the tunnel would be even more intense than inside and, even though I rapidly followed his example, I was shaking violently by the time I was done. The polar cold was unimaginably fierce. Even through the penguin hide, I could feel the chill working into my bones. By this time, Peters was feasting on the raw meat from his penguin — the first food other than the vinegary plants we had had in some time. We did not bother to bring any supplies with us — we had no hope of building a fire, and anything we carried with us would probably freeze before we got any significant distance away from the tunnel. Even so, just before we left the site of our butchery, Peters, after some careful maneuvering, pulled an organ from each of the piles. One he thrust at me as he chewed on the other. I ate the raw, bloody liver — and it sent the blood singing in my veins. Thus fortified, we proceeded towards the end of the tunnel and the clean light of day.

A scene of unutterable horror greeted us at the mouth of the cavern. The temperature plummeted as we approached the entrance, and we stepped out into the light. It was excruciatingly bright, reflected not only from the murky skies but from the thousand drifts and embankments of snow that surrounded us. To the ordinary eye, the light was diffuse and dim, but to those such as we who had been immured in the very depths of the earth's bowels, darker than any night, even this wan light was nearly unbearable. The nauseous light of the lamp had in no way prepared our eyes for the wholesome light of the sun, despite the overcast sky and the sun's low angle. There was nowhere to look to rest our eyes; everywhere there was the blinding whiteness of sky or snow, piercing our eyes like silver-white daggers. We stood and blinked — covering and uncovering our eyes to shield us from the reflected glare — and beheld yet another terrible revelation. As our eyes adjusted, we began to make out the outlines of the rock formations that the snow had drifted against, squat and black in contrast to the unyielding brilliance of the snow. The more we could see, the more we saw that the outlines were too regular for anything of nature's construction. Whatever it was and whoever had built it, the blocks of stone and suggestively regular corridors between them could be only one thing. It was a ruined city — unutterably ancient — built and then abandoned on this freezing Antarctic waste.

Great and ancient it was — with open arches and tumbled causeways, many of the great works thrown down by some unimaginable cataclysm. Everything had an unsettling queerness to it — the incalculable age of the city itself, the gaping holes choked with snow, and an indefinable but decidedly repugnant otherness of the entire place. The only sounds were those of the wind as it thrilled and roared through the ruined streets. There were paved courtyards swept clean of snow, with five avenues leading from them, hemmed in by five blank stone walls. There were no signs of inhabitation, only the terrible desolation and loneliness of ages; the march of time slowly grinding this strange metropolis into oblivion. I stood, dumbfounded by this incredible and monstrous landscape, but Peters shook me from my passivity and pointed to the undisturbed snow at the cavern's mouth.

Whatever we were tracking, it had not been this way. The snow was deep and

fresh, white as an unwritten page waiting for the first defacing scratch of a pen. Snarling in anger, Peters stalked back into the darkness of the cavern, and we again set a raft of stone into the wall, and after loading our meager stock of food and other equipment, continued down the passage. But our time in the darkness was much less this time. After no more than three or four hours, our ride ended, and we drifted into another of those dry wharves. This time, however, there was only one tunnel, and it lead directly to the surface.

As harrowing as the sight at the previous tunnel had been, our view from this one was even terrible. No more than a mile away through blasts of snow and wind, yet clearly visible, was the image of a titan tower — a lair of giants, dragons, or some other fabulous and abhorrent creature, for it was far too great to have been erected by mere human hands. It soared above us, hidden behind a swirling, freezing veil of ice and snow, taller than any medieval tower or citadel. And then we saw the brilliant blue light which hovered about its cap, like Saint Elmo's fire about a mast, and I knew, I knew to my soul that this was nothing else but a primordial lighthouse — I can think of no other thing it might have been as the light, dazzlingly bright in the polar gloom, lanced from its top — guiding ships from God knew where to this most desolate of ports. It was a sight that I can never erase from my mind; grand as a square-rigger's mast, terrible as lightning on the sea. There clung to this unholy edifice a hideous feeling of monstrosity, as if this were not something native to this earth, but an enormous, blasphemical tower of Babel erected to mock God and all of His good works. I tried to run, but I could not — I was captivated, involuntarily fascinated by that elder tower of eons long past — as if it were calling to me, urging me to come towards it. I stood frozen, freezing; when Peters nudged me, and I was able to look away from that titan horror. I immediately had the urge to run, but successfully fought it down. To panic and run in this wilderness of snow was to die.

My only hope that we could get away from this awful place of elder madness was crushed by Peters' excited pointing to a trail on the ground. Although it was not fresh — even now there was a light fall of snow and ice — it was definite evidence of recent passage. Utterly crushed, not even daring to believe we should come through the venture alive, I followed as Peters pursued the trail of the captives directly towards the antediluvian ruins.

CHAPTER XXVIII

For an interminable time of freezing cold that we followed that track; I have no conception of how long that dreadful mile took us, for we were unable to even lift our eyes the cold was so utterly numbing to mind and body. Snow and sleet blew all around us, and it was all we could to watch our ice-laden feet follow each other down the trail in the inches-deep snow. Ice formed on our lashes, and our breath froze ere it left our bodies, forming a second, frozen beard on our lips. We toiled on and the snow got worse, the wind driving against us mercilessly. Our

previous agonies were nothing compared to what we now endured — our erstwhile coats freezing to our bodies, the wind a sledgehammer that drove us from the path, which we knew was leading us to some horrible ending of gruesome death. Twice I fell, only to be picked out of the freezing snow and urged on by Peters. A third time I stumbled, and absolutely could not go on. I lay in the snow, waiting for the merciful oblivion of death, the dark closing in, when Peters kicked me sharply. I threw up an arm to ward off his abuse, unable to cry out, for my lips were frozen shut. "Get up!" he cried. "Up, you miserable wretch!" And with that, he hauled me bodily out of the snow and shook me as if I were nothing but a child. This had the effect of bringing me back to my senses and sending the blood feebly back to my limbs. I gathered myself — more afraid of Peters than I was of the spire of death — and trudged on. Soon, we were walking in the shadow of the dreadful pharos itself.

We continued to stumble, half blind, wholly insensate, until my foot struck something in the trail and I again fell headlong. Peters aimed a fierce kick at me, then suddenly stopped, his face contorting with rage and terror. I followed his gaze, and saw that I had tripped on a human body. Whoever he had been, he was unrecognizable now; his head had been caved in by a powerful blow and his blood had frozen to ice in his long, blonde hair. Although the sight was ghastly, it was in some horrible manner comforting, for we at least knew the mysterious captors and their prisoners had come this way, even if not all of the captives remained alive.

Only a few yards from the pitiful remains, the trail entered the base of the appalling tower. Immediately, we found ourselves on a circular ramp that descended into the depths of the earth below the tremendous lighthouse, and a small amount of packed snow and ice to show us that our quarry had descended within. As we followed this trail, we noted that around this ramp, the walls of the building were covered in carvings — bas reliefs that were too frightening to contemplate for long. We hurried down into the darkness, afraid that we might see too much, Peters in the lead. It is fortunate that Peters had remembered to keep hold of his lamp, for darkness was almost immediate, as within the tower there was no hint or the awful blue light that beckoned. Although there was no snow to hold a trail, he detected a slight trail of ice that continued into the lower depths of the structure.

If the tower above was dead, then below the surface it was alive. We passed dozens of darkened hallways, and from many of these there came sounds of work or activity, the hiss of steam or the clank of metal being worked. Each of these was in perfect rhythm, even more perfect than the best sea-chantey. At times, we looked into entrances or archways, but at no time did we see any living soul, only great disks and plates of metal and stone and other, less identifiable substances that blasted foul air and turned and twisted to no recognizable purpose. Fearful of that which we did not understand, we exited from these rooms in haste. We did not explore the silent passages. As we descended, we noted that the air was becoming warm and damp again. Soon we were all but sweating in our penguin-skin overcoats, but we did not take them off. Our icy beards melted off painfully, and we stopped once to restore life to our limbs, shaking off the

effects of the cold as quickly as possible; we did not know what would be required of us for any rescue attempt.

Eventually, we came to a place where we heard the rasp of human breath, and saw the thick red glow we had seen at the beginning of the terrible tunnel so long ago. Ever cautious, Peters retreated and left our lamp some distance away from the archway, crept up to the entranceway, then signaled me to silently join him. Once there, I saw the four captives, hands still trussed in the primitive ropes made by the Tsalalians, in addition to two of the filthy savages. All lay on a block of stone which rose off the floor of the chamber, apparently dazed in some way. There were carvings on the block, but I could not make them out. Although I could not see the entire chamber, I could see that it was vast and contained several large crystalline structures of some unknowable purpose. The air wafting out of the room was tropical — damp and hot, almost to the point of steaming. I signaled to Peters that we should make an immediate rescue, but he shook his head minutely, his stony features imprecating dire results if I made any attempt. We continued to study the chamber, when there came a queer shuffling sound, and there stepped into my view, a Thing.

There are many things that Man does not yet know about the Earth, and this was one of the most horrible. For it is a conceit of mankind that there are no other intelligences on this Earth than himself, and that the Lord gave him dominion over all the beasts and fishes. This is not the case, for there are other, stranger Things that live amid the polar wastes, Things shaped like whalers' barrels, only taller and more slender, with thick, ropy tentacles below and a curious starfish-shaped head crowning the whole. Its color was a dirty greenish gray, mottled in some areas, and it walked. Great God! I cannot swear whether it was animal or plant, but the Thing walked; clumsily, as if uncomfortable with ambulation, but walk it did, shuffling along on the five powerful tentacles that sprang from its base like the roots from a great tree. I here swear to God in Heaven that this thing was not simply alive, but also intelligent, possessed of a malicious mind at least as great as the brains of men, but evil, as foul as any demon or devil. Without a doubt, these were the creatures that had raised that horrible, hell-spawned beacon that rose above us like the arrogance of Lucifer himself, for only minds of such malice could have created something so grossly malevolent.

The dreadful Thing moved toward one of the defenseless captives and picked him up easily, with only one limb. As soon as the victim was lifted off the carven stone upon which he had rested, he began to thrash and scream horribly, but he was held fast by the Thing's tentacle. Peters and I were paralyzed with horror, knowing that there was nothing we could do as the poor wretch was carried some several yards to a pit in the floor. With incredible strength, the hellish thing carelessly flung its screaming burden headfirst into the cavity. His screams stopped immediately, replaced by a curious churning sound, as if he had fallen into mud, but we held no hope for him in this awful place. I averted my eyes and covered my ears in a futile attempt to shut out the sounds of the dying man. The Thing merely stood by, impassive as the rocky walls while the muddy slopping slowly tapered off. With sudden action, it reached into the hole in the floor, and, with a care it had not previously shown to the man, raised up what was left of our

poor fellow. All that had been a man was gone, and there was only left the pinkish-white net of his sinews, attached to the thick cord of his spine and the pudding-like lump that was his brain!

Paralyzed with fear, sickened with revulsion, we could do nothing but watch as the Thing draped the pitiful sinews of our fellow man over its tentacle and folded it into a neat package, much as a mother tenderly folds the dress of her small child. It then shuffled out of the room by some exit which I was not able to see. Soon after it was out of sight, I leapt down to free the captives. No sooner had I sprinted across the floor and come to the side of the captives than I was struck immobile. Nearly out of my mind with terror, lest the cursed Thing should return and treat me as it had our other compatriot, I attempted to command my limbs to action, but to no avail. I was utterly frozen in place, unable to even move so much as my eyes. There was a weird radiance around certain of the carvings on the stone, and it seemed that it was these symbols that had clamped onto my brain, immobilizing me.

Again, Dirk Peters saved me. Noting my sudden and idiotic stillness, he knocked me sprawling with a powerful blow to my back. As soon as I fell, I was again able to move. Guessing that this was some foul action of the unholy altar upon which the captives were placed, Peters and I carefully removed the three white men from their imprisonment on the stone block. As soon as they were clear of the stone, they began to thrash and struggle. We quieted them, quickly explained that we had the means to escape, and, using the sharp edge of the providential rod, cut them free. Within a few minutes, our work was done, and we remaining five retreated from that terrible room.

We left the Tsalalians to their gods.

Outside in the corridor, we began to run, intending to run all the way to the tunnel, leaving this accursed lighthouse far behind us. Peters led, showing his marvelous dexterity by snatching the still-lit lamp from the floor without slowing his pace. As we fled up the corridor towards the surface, one of our new companions glanced back and let out a despairing cry of horror. The Thing had returned, and was pursuing us! For all its clumsy ambulation, it was horrendously swift when aroused. We ran still faster, but we were tired, hungry, and cold. The Thing steadily gained upon us, issuing an odd, almost musical piping that did nothing but increase our terror. We were hopeless now, knowing that even five of us had no hope of overpowering even one such creature. Finally, in desperation, Peters threw our sickly-green lamp at the creature, more as a gesture of defiance than in hope of doing it harm. To our surprise, there was no explosion. The glass shattered, and the seething liquid within expanded hungrily. Although Peters had thrown short of the mark, the Thing was unable to stop or turn swiftly enough to avoid its peril. At its first touch, the light turned from the familiar ulcerous green to the thick, vile red we had seen in the tunnel. The liquid, growing madly and increasing in brilliance just as rapidly, swiftly covered the tentacled Thing, which, overbalanced, crashed to the floor like a felled tree. Completely enveloped, the Thing flopped for few seconds, then stopped, and the red light burned and shimmered like a roaring bonfire. The edges of the entrapped Thing began to soften horribly as the glowing, bubbling

mass corroded or melted the Thing in some way. And then, of its own volition, the liquid mass moved, seeming to have sucked its victim dry, and seeking more sustenance, reached with bright, fiery red feelers in our direction.

Terrified by what we had released, we fled like madmen. Soon we were out of the accursed lighthouse, and the deathly cold of the polar weather oppressed us with its might. Words cannot describe the piteous suffering we went through on our return, for our new companions were but lightly clothed and obviously on the verge of collapse. We continued at a loping jog, praying that the exertion would warm us enough to allow us to reach the tunnel. Half-way there one of the strangers collapsed, and Peters was obliged to carry the unfortunate soul. Although the wind had slackened, the snow fell even more thickly, so that there we could not feel the call of that titanic, hellish beacon. By the time we reached the safety of the tunnel, our lope had degenerated into the desperate shuffle of the bone-weary. Peters still carried one of the men, so I supported the other two, for tired as I was, my privations were surely as nothing compared to those of these three.

After finally reaching the tunnel, we quickly moved our new comrades into the warmer interior. Presently, after being fed some of the sharp, fleshy leaves that remained on our raft, our companions began to revive. Peters and I then removed our ghastly attire, for it would quickly grow too warm for the wearing of it, and, as it thawed, it would certainly begin to stink and rot. We were quite relieved to see that nothing had been disturbed in our absence; there had been no monstrous penguins to eat the pale, squishy leaves. All five of the remaining lamps were there, much to our dismay — especially in light of the greedy nature it had displayed on the Polar Thing. We handled these very carefully, afraid of releasing the luminous substance within. When we were all restored somewhat, we clambered aboard the movable platform. Peters, obviously understanding the mechanism much better than I, fumbled with the metal rods for a few minutes before they settled with a crunch, and we began to move, this time away from the horrible city of the Pole.

CHAPTER XXIX

When we were sure that we were not immediately pursued, Peters touched one of the lamps. It sprang to eerie, greenish life, and in this shifting light we took our first good look at our fellow survivors. They were sturdy men, for despite all they had been through, pale and weak but with their spirits unbowed. We continued for some time, neither of us speaking, haunted by the fear of pursuit. But eventually one of their company broke the silence, and we learned that they were crewmen of a bark named the *Discovery*, out of Oslo, named Vredenburgh, DeLance and Marburg. They told us that their hope was that their ship might still be at the shore where that had left it, laid up for repairs. Originally they had been a hunting party of eight, until they had run afoul of the repulsive Tsalalians. Three of their party had been killed in a terrible ambush, and the five survivors

taken as hostages. The man whose head was split open by the Polar Things was named Gunnarsson, an mighty man who had waited until the freezing cold was almost intolerable before attempting to free his fellow-hostages. One of the Things had killed him with a single swift, enormously powerful blow, splitting his head open like a pumpkin. Their other companion who had died so horribly in that awful city had been named Johansen, but they could not bear to talk of him for long. They wept for their comrades, and Peters and I gave them such scraps of comfort as we could.

Hours and days passed, and for a time there was nothing but the monotonous hiss of the platform and the vast miles falling behind us. It had been a long time, far beyond any counting, when Vredenburg saw a movement just beyond our range of light. Peters touched another lamp, and the nauseous light brightened. Following us, and gaining at a rapid pace, were no less than three of the terrible Polar Things, riding their own platform and encouraging it in some way to overtake ours. Vredenburg and Marburg screamed and clutched at themselves, paralyzed by approaching doom. Peters swore, and seeing nothing else with which to defend ourselves, threw one of our remaining lamps at it. The lantern shattered on the floor of the tunnel, leaving only a glowing spot that was swiftly left behind us, doing no damage to our pursuers. We all gasped in utter horror, but then DeLance shouted that we should throw two or three of the remaining lanterns together, in the hopes that we would have a better chance of hitting the creatures. This we quickly agreed on. Peters and I activated the lamps, for I felt that the frightful draining sensation would certainly be nothing compared to the horrors that awaited us if we were captured and returned to the polar city. At DeLance's count, we hurled the lamps, glowing greenishly, down the tunnel at our pursuers. We were fortunate; two of the three lamps broke on the Polar Things' platform. As before, the liquid sought out the living creatures, the putrid green glow turning a no-more wholesome red as it touched the Things. The Things frantically swatted at the liquid, attempting to remove it from themselves, but only succeeded in spreading the noxious stuff around, bringing about their dissolution all the faster. As the hungry stuff overwhelmed their platform, one Thing attempted to get off the platform despite the high rate of speed at which it was moving. But the virulent stuff, radiating the swirling red light of a burning house, actually reached out and pulled the Thing back onto the platform, and devoured it. There was no denying now that the substance was alive, and then panic struck us, for the other platform still gained on ours. It was clear that in a matter of minutes, the two would touch, and we would be food for the blazing red horror. We wept, cursing DeLacie for his thoughtless action, and Marburg began to pray.

But hope and salvation sprang from nowhere. Even as we stared, horrified, at the seething, red liquescence that surged towards us, it stopped and, turning, smashed through a weak part of the wall, and was wholly gone in a matter of seconds. We were at a loss, unable to believe our escape. Our platform rushed onwards, leaving the new horror we had created behind us. But abruptly, our movement stopped. We were thrown forward headlong and sprawled severally,

like dice thrown by a clumsy gambler. The impact was tremendous, as our rate of speed had been very great, but I did not suffer any broken bones. As I picked myself up, I felt a rumbling in the stone of the tunnel. I tried to gather my companions, hoping to collect them together in preparation for a collapse of some section of the tunnel, when, from behind us, there exploded the blazing monstrosity, its size incalculably magnified, its light shining brighter than the sun. We felt, rather than saw, it rush up the tunnel like a juggernaut, so powerful and swift that we were unable to do anything but cringe in fear that it would crush us utterly. But it slowed quickly after the initial rush, and stopped less than ten feet from the edge of our platform.

It was not enough to shield our eyes from the brilliant mass, we had to actually turn away from it and keep our eyes closed to make the light tolerable at all. Blinded, we gathered each other and what little equipment we could lay our hands on, and retreated away from the brilliantly-lit monstrosity as fast as we were able. We all had sustained some bruises and aches from our rough treatment, but Peters was the one who was most badly injured. As soon as the light was merely bright, DeLance examined him and found his arm to be broken, although he did not complain of the pain. DeLance bound the arm tightly, to prevent the bones from grinding together, while the rest of us took stock of our situation. We had two of the metal poles, one remaining lantern — which we treated with great care — and only two handfuls of our slowly decaying fleshy leaves. Rationing the food, we plodded along, our pace torturously slow, and I felt myself getting weaker and weaker. Vredenburg led the way, the tunnel growing slowly dimmer and dimmer as the we moved away from the horrible source of our luminescence. We walked for a day, and yet still we did not need to light our last lantern before we came to the end of the tunnel, on the island near the boiling sea. With glad hearts we attained the surface of the island, to find it much changed. Whatever the plume had been, it was gone, and also the roar of the cataract to which we had grown so accustomed to. Marburg and Vredenburg ran down to the sea, and found it still extraordinarily hot, but the powerful current which had dragged us to the island was gone, presumably linked inextricably with the strangely missing cataract.

While Vredenburg, Marburg, and DeLance whooped and cheered on the sandy white beach, eating the pale leaves that had sustained Peters and I for so long, we two sat down, our limbs weak from exhaustion. My head rang as if a cannon had been fired nearby. As the other crew ran on the beach, I watched Peters stumble and fall to the ground. Trance like, I started to walk over to him, but found that I had abused my body too fiercely. My joints cramped, and like Peters, I collapsed onto the sand.

I can only report that I experienced nightmares the like of which I never have before, and that I spent several weeks delirious and raving, from what cause I cannot guess. I know I would have died had not our three companions taken it upon themselves to care for us. For we awoke some time later, to see the sturdy beams of a ship above us, and felt the rolling of the sea under a great ship.

It was some time later that Vredenburg came down to see us. He explained

that we were on the explorer's ship Nancy, and that Peters and I had been ill for some weeks. When I asked him how we had come to be here, he briefly recounted how we had arrived on the Nancy. Without the current, it had been an easy thing to take the Tsalalian canoe from the shores of the island and paddle out into the sea while Peters and I lay groaning and helpless in the bottom of the canoe. The further away from the island they moved, the colder it had become. After a few days, we had landed on a drifting ice-floe. They had set to work butchering several seals and wrapping us in the skins, each day keeping we two invalids warm and fed, and never leaving us alone, for fear the Tsalalians might find us. I cannot find the words to express my gratitude to those three brave souls who kept us alive as we awaited rescue. And rescue did come: after two weeks on the ice floe, a passing ship, the exploration brig Nancy, found us and took us aboard. After telling his story, Vredenburg impressed upon me that I should tell no one about our adventures, or anything about the city on the Pole, for, as explorers, the Nancy's crew would certainly wish to investigate that terrible place on the ice. I agreed to this, and the following day was well enough to join the crew.

But there was always a distance between us and the rest of the crew of the Nancy. While they believed our story about being shipwrecked, they could not but notice that there was some oddness to us, and that what little gear we carried was of unusual manufacture. Peters and Vredenburg were especially close-mouthed, fearing the curiosity of the crew. Their resistance to questioning was so adamant that they nearly started a few fights with those who asked too much. We were fortunate that the Nancy had completed her primary mission, and that she was returning to her home port of Liverpool, for our notoriety had quickly risen among her crew.

We arrived in Liverpool, where I worked as a barman for some years in order to accumulate enough money to finance my return to America. Of the minor mishaps we suffered as we sailed north, I shall not tell, for they are trivial compared to the terrors and trials that preceded them. Once a man has seen certain things, the mundane world seems ordinary and adventures that once thrilled the blood do not seem worth telling. This is the end of my journal, for I am not the boy who started it. I have starved, frozen, been subject to pirates and Things beyond description. I am no longer as I was. When we return to America, I shall not seek out my father and his home in Nantucket, for I am too changed and the memory of my boyish innocence will do nothing but haunt me. I am no longer the child that my friends knew, if indeed any of them recognize me as the boy who ran away from home to sail the sea. I know now that there are things of which men ought not know, and places they ought not go. I will make my living away from the sea, away from the great waters that see so much. I shall go inland, and never wish to see the world again.