

THE PHANTAGRAPH

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VOL. 4

NOV-DEC 1935

NO. 2

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The Phantagraph is issued BI-MONTHLY by The Terrestrial
Fantascience Guild at Oakman, Alabama. Copy 10c. 6 issues 50c



HOW I GET MY INSPIRATION

by A Weird Tales Author

There is a vague, unfounded rumor current that in order to indite a story for *Weird Tales*, it is necessary to write with a pen dipped in human blood. That is a lie. I know, because I once wrote a story with a pen dipped in chimpanzee blood, and the editor accepted it. He never knew the difference.

A fundamental requisite, however, is the possession of some antique book. At present the ancient manuscripts used are these: *The Book of Eibon*, *The Necronomicon*, *The Mysteries of the Worm*, *Unaussprechlichen Kulten*, *Cultes des Goules*, and *the Black Book*. All these may be purchased from Panurge Press for \$1.49, prepaid. They will be sent to you in a plain sealed wrapper.

Other references are indispensable. Suppose you are writing a story about tailsmans and prophecies. You will need to refer to such magazines as *Signs and Invention*, or *The Omen's Home Companion*.

Then, too, you must exercise a vocabulary. Practice using such words as ANTHROPOLITH, VIVISEPULTURE, NACROCOSMIC, TERATOLOGICAL, ANTHEOPOMORPHOSIS, NOCTAMBULIST, NYCTAPHOBIA, NYCTALOPTIC, etc. Fifteen minutes a day devoted to writing down such words will not only provide you with a vocabulary, but will also give you writer's cramp.

Always write your stories at midnight, preferably in a pitch-dark room. Stories should be written on the skin of a gander. That usually gives the readers goose flesh.

Follow the above rules and you can't go wrong. If, however, for some strange reason these hints fail you, always remember there is one more infallible way to break into the pages of *Weird Tales*.

Write a letter to the ELRIE.