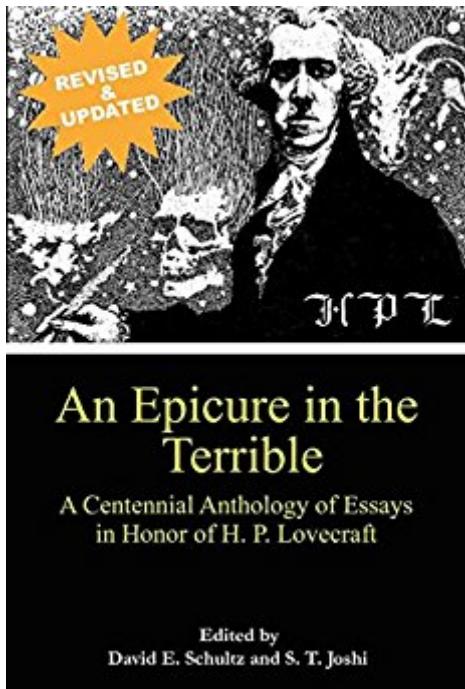


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An Epicure In The Terrible: A Centennial Anthology Of Essays In Honor Of H. P. Lovecraft



Synopsis

When *An Epicure in the Terrible* first appeared in 1991, commemorating the centennial of H. P. Lovecraft's birth, it was hailed as a significant contribution to Lovecraft studies. Its thirteen original essays, along with a lengthy biocritical introduction by S. T. Joshi, contained penetrating work by leading authorities in the field. Among them were Kenneth W. Faig, Jr.'s pioneering study of Lovecraft's parents; Jason C. Eckhardt's analysis of Lovecraft's heritage as a New England Yankee; and Donald R. Burleson's treatment of the key theme of "touching the glass," epitomized by "The Outsider." Other essays in the book deal with such topics as the theme of isolation in Lovecraft's fiction (Stefan Dziemianowicz); Lovecraft's cosmic imagery (Steven J. Mariconda); Lovecraft's progression from a macabre writer to a cosmic writer (David E. Schultz); and Lovecraft's "artificial mythology" and its development (Robert M. Price). Essays by Peter Cannon, Robert H. Waugh, R. Boerem, Norman R. Gayford, and Barton L. St. Armand round out the volume. This paperback edition presents these perspicacious essays to a new readership, and shows the richness and complexity of H. P. Lovecraft's writing-writing that is destined to endure for centuries. Citations to Lovecraft's work have been updated to reflect newer and more accurate editions that have appeared since 1991, and some of the essays have been revised in other particulars.

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Customer Reviews

Joshi & Schultz, editors op.cit. are senior editor for the Esoteric Order of Dagon, an amateur press association journal concerned with the Lovecraftian oeuvre. Joshi won the World Fantasy Award last year. Even 16 years after publication it employs the latest critical techniques for recognizing H.P. Lovecraft as having influenced supernatural horror writing more than any other writer since his death. No other anthology compares with the thematic scope of Epicure or offers as detailed biographical analysis of his eminence as a pulp writer of the '20s & '30s who has finally been elevated to the American literary canon.

Separating Lovecraft from Derleth and the other successors this book provides an enlightening glimpse of what Lovecraft was writing about. This is a perfect jumping off point for anyone looking to get involved with the sort of overarching mythology that has become synonymous with Lovecraft.

A collection of Lovecraft criticism first published for the centennial of his birth, and subsequently revised. As with any critical anthology, not every piece is equally appealing to every reader, but I found the biographical and thematic sections particularly interesting, especially Kenneth Faig on HPL's parents, Jason Eckhardt on Lovecraft's New England roots, and Peter Cannon on Lovecraft's use of the handwritten word in his fiction. If you enjoy Lovecraft and literary criticism, you don't want to miss this one.

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