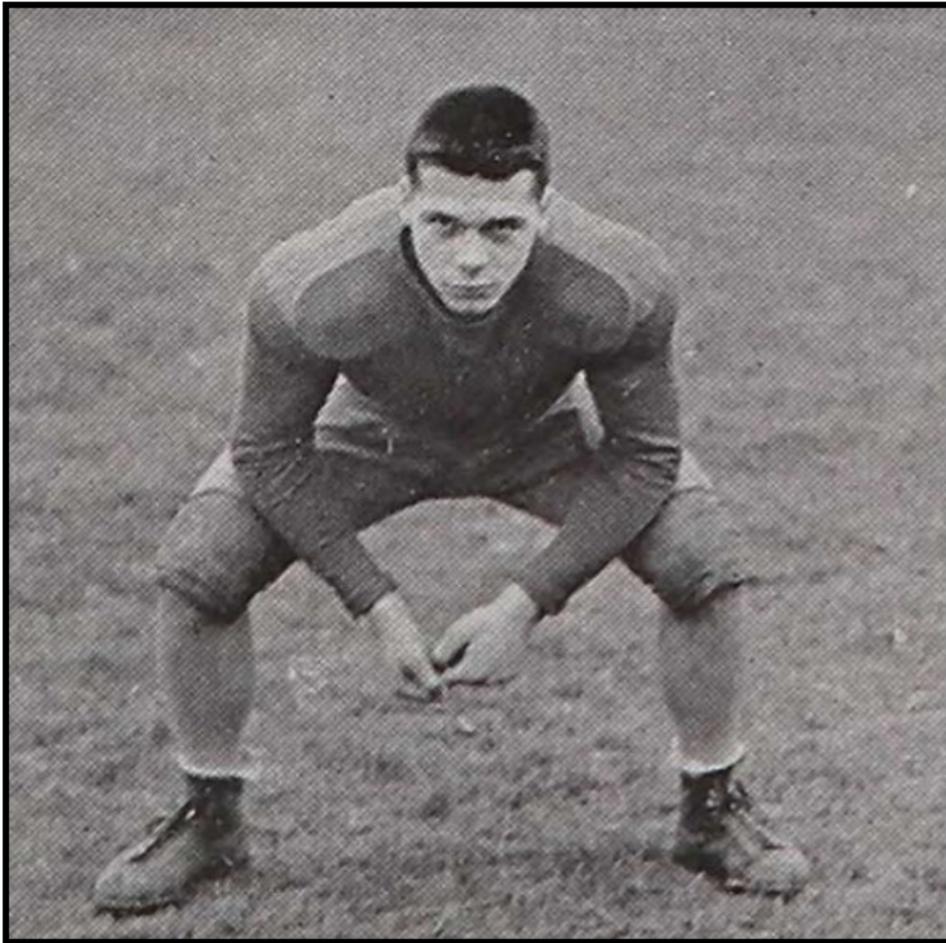


FARMERFAN

Volume 1 | Number 3

Summer 2022



**WOLD NEWTON FAMILY
JESUS ON MARS
CTHULHU MYTHOS**

FarmerFan

Volume 1 | Issue 3 | August 2022

FarmerCon XVII / PulpFest 50 Issue

Editorial: Farmer of the Gridiron

Great Scott!!: by Atom Mudman Bezency

Atom Mudman Bezency traces the lineage of Richard Prather's Shell Scott.

Jesus on Mars: A Review by William H. Emmons

William H. Emmons reviews another classic Farmer science fiction novel, Jesus on Mars.

From Leopold to Leo: An Expansion of the Bloom Family by Sean Lee Levin

Sean Lee Levin digs into the genealogy of the Bloom family.

Welcoming The Freshman by Jason Scott Aiken

Jason Scott Aiken takes a look at one of Farmer's Cthulhu Mythos tales.

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Cover image is from the 1936 Peoria High Yearbook.

Editorial: Farmer of the Gridiron



Photo from 1936 Peoria High School Yearbook

Welcome to the third issue of FarmerFan, published in anticipation of FarmerCon XVII at PulpFest 50. It's our hope that you are reading this on your travels to the convention, or if not attending, we hope this will help bring you there in spirit.

Once again, I believe we have a well-balanced issue of Farmerian articles for you to enjoy.

Atom Mudman Bezency takes us to Los Angeles in examining the lineage of Richard Prather's detective, Shell Scott.

William H. Emmons provides us with our science/speculative fiction hook-up as he reviews Farmer's *Jesus on Mars*.

Sean Lee Levin explores the Bloom family portion of the Wold Newton family tree.

Your editor takes a summer class at Miskatonic University in appreciation of "The Freshman."

Speaking of school, this issue's cover is from the 1936 Peoria High School Yearbook and features Philip José Farmer's senior football picture, looking every bit the athlete as Paul Janus Finnegan.

It's interesting to note the team was named the Hunters. According to the yearbook, the Hunters went 7-3 Farmer's senior year. (Presumably) Farmer's coach had this to say about

him in the yearbook:

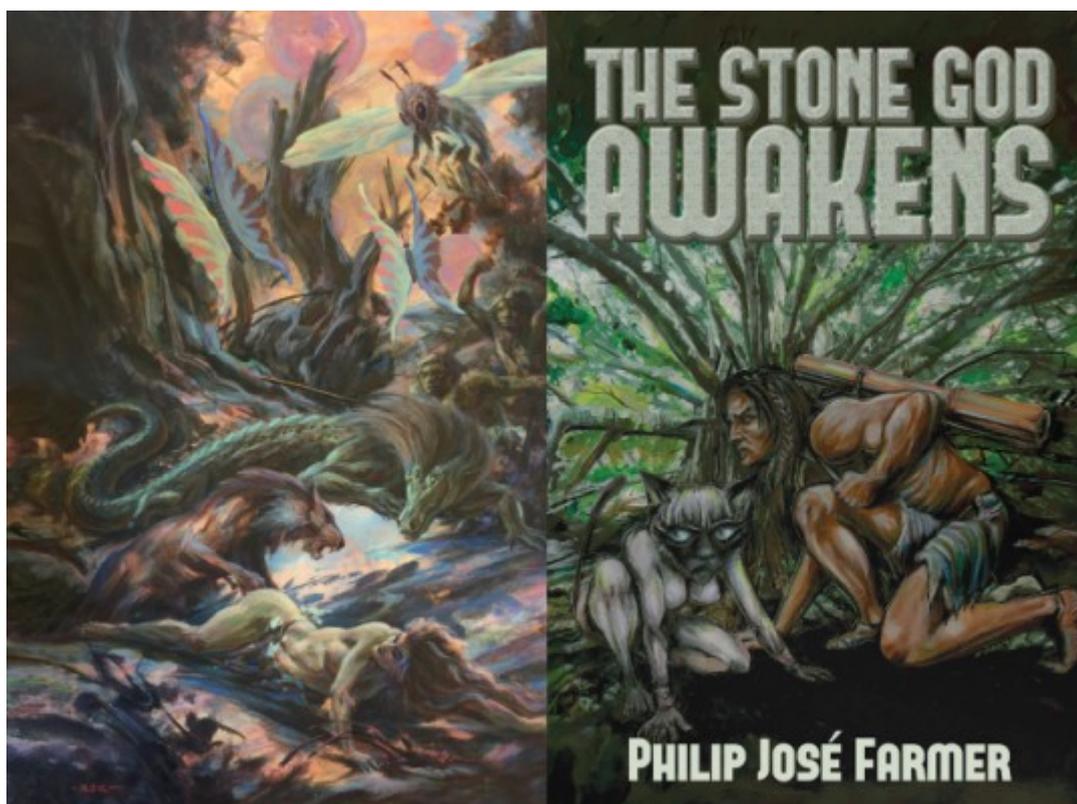
"As a plunging halfback, Phil was all that could be asked for. It was seldom that one man alone could bring him down. He was very strong on defense, being one of the hardest tacklers on the team."

Keep in mind that at this time it was still common to play iron man football, where players would play both offense and defense. As you can see, Farmer was clearly a threat on both sides of the ball. Farmer went on to play football in college at Bradley Polytech, but injured his foot. He did letter in track, though, which he also participated in during high school.

With summer sadly coming to an end and a new school year and football season on the horizon, this felt like an appropriate cover image to utilize.

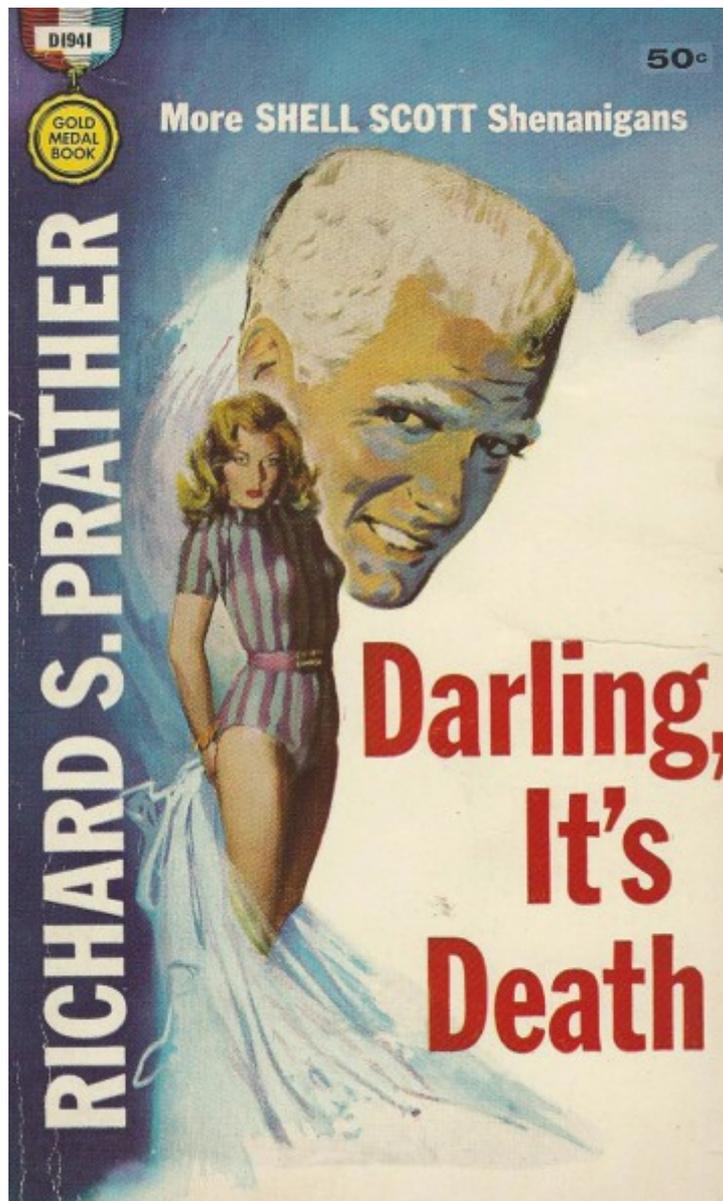
Summer's not over yet, though. So feel free to grab a cold beverage of your choice and kick back with this latest issue of FarmerFan.

Jason Scott Aiken
8/01/2022



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Cover art by Baryé Phillips

Great Scott! Speculations on the Lineage of a Los Angeles Detective By Atom Mudman Bezecny

When speaking of possible members of the Wold Newton Family in the second Addendum of *Tarzan Alive*, Philip José Farmer says the following: "...there are three other grey-eyed candidates to consider. One is [Richard S. Prather's] Shell Scott; the second, [John D. MacDonald's] Travis McGee; the third, [Ross Macdonald's] Lew Archer. Scott is strong and courageous, and his adventures are amusing. He has created much havoc among evil men, but his detective abilities seem to tend more toward blundering around than toward keen deduction. Aside from the grey color of his eyes, and the chance that he may be descended from the Scotts who were also the ancestors of William Sherlock Scott Holmes, he has little to recommend him." The key word in that last sentence, *little*, stands distinct from a more precise word, *nothing*.

Farmer was quick to incorporate Lew Archer into the Wold Newton Family, connecting him

to WNF member Enid Challenger shortly after questioning his placement. He implied later in *Tarzan Alive* that Travis McGee was also related, being the grandson of Wold Newton Family member Ultima Clayton and her husband John McGee. But Shell Scott's link to the Wold Newton Family was left a mystery—if Farmer had information on his exact genealogy, he never revealed it.

In this essay I hope to answer the question of Shell Scott's placement in the Wold Newton Family, with the understanding that my conclusions may differ from those of others who have speculated on this enigma. This essay also deals in part with a detail previously observed by fans of the Shell Scott books: the fact that Scott, with his powerful 6'2" frame and tanned skin, strongly resembles James Clarke Wildman, Jr., despite not being one of his close relatives.

In my research, I have determined that Farmer was correct in his theory that Shell Scott is related to the old Scots-English family Scott, from whom Sherlock Holmes is descended. Other descendants of the Scotts include Sir Walter Scott, the author of *Ivanhoe* and many other novels; Jefferson Scott, from Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Man-Eater*; Willie Scott, companion of Henry Jones, Jr.; and, in one possible future, Montgomery Scott of the U.S.S. *Enterprise*. None of these, save for Sherlock Holmes, have a strong genetic connection to the Wold Newton Family, and we can conclude that Shell Scott is not a descendant of Sherlock Holmes or his siblings—else Farmer would have considered him more important.

Dennis E. Power's Wold Newton article "Big Valley, Small World," part of his "Wold Wold West" series of essays, offers a few mentions of Shell Scott. When discussing the characters of the TV series *The Big Valley*, Power suggests that Victoria Barkley's maiden name was Scott, and that she had an older brother who moved to California during the Gold Rush. This older brother was Shell Scott's grandfather. He presumably shared his sister's platinum blonde hair.(1) My sources indicate that a Sheldon Scott lived in the area of Los Angeles in the second half of the 19th Century; he is likely the man Power discovered in his research.

But Sheldon Scott cannot be Shell Scott's grandfather, due to chronological issues. Shell states in *Case of the Vanishing Beauty* (1950), the first Scott novel, that he was starting kindergarten "a quarter of a century ago." If we assume that Scott was five years old when he entered kindergarten, and that *Vanishing Beauty* is set circa 1948, this means he was born in 1918. This aligns with what we know about Scott's career in the Marines. Sheldon Scott was probably born sometime in the 1820s, based on his sister Victoria's likely age at the time of the events of *The Big Valley*, which is commonly dated to the late 1870s. I think it is more likely that Sheldon Scott is Shell's great-grandfather or even great-great-grandfather.

A good number of public records pertaining to Sheldon Scott survive, which gave me the following information.

It appears that Sheldon Scott married fairly late in life, around the age of 45 or so. In 1869, he took as his bride a woman named Wilhelmina Clayton. Wilhelmina's brother, Robert Clayton, was a notorious "regulator" known for his violent killings of cattle rustlers—as a supporter of the Confederacy, Robert Clayton expanded his name to Robert E. Lee Clayton later in life. His exploits were depicted in the film *The Missouri Breaks* (1976). The Claytons were the children of the promiscuous General Sir William Clayton by his affair with an Irish-American woman, Anna Malloy.(2) Through their father, Robert and

Wilhelmina possessed the Wold Newton Family genes, and the Clayton family's gray eyes. Wilhelmina passed these on to her and Sheldon's daughters, Martha and Cecilia.

In 1888, Martha, the elder sister, married a Swedish immigrant named Sjoman, but was widowed only a year into her marriage by a mining accident. She became restless, and took to adventuring. In the course of her travels she became involved with an older man, a former buffalo hunter and gunman named Jonas Trapp.

Jonas Trapp is an interesting figure, as surviving photographs of him indicate he looked quite similar to James Clarke Wildman, Jr. I have found no birth records for him, and the novel which was based on his adventures, Al Dewlen's *The Night of the Tiger* (1956), is unhelpful in this regard. Despite this, my research has pointed me towards John Brian Clarke Wildman, the second son of Doc Wildman's ancestor Sir John Clarke Wildman. John Brian was the less favored of Sir John's sons. Knowing that his older brother Patrick would inherit the Baronetcy of Clarke Wildman, John Brian opted to move to the southern United States to seek his own fortune. He abandoned his dreams of riches when he fell in love with and married an unknown Comanche woman, who gave him a son, Matthew Clarke Wildman.

Matt Wildman became a famous trail boss and the father of at least one son, Brian. However, before he settled down and married, Matt had an affair with a young prostitute, Jenny Trapp. She was Jonas Trapp's mother.

From the Wildmans, Jonas Trapp inherited a strong, bronze-toned physique and handsome features. Trapp was not descended from those present at the Wold Newton meteor impact but nonetheless proved to be a very skilled fighter, both unarmed and with a gun.(3)

In 1873 Trapp was a poor cowboy married to the wealthy Jessie Larkin of Cold Iron, Texas. In order to earn the approval of his wife's aunt, Trapp set out to build a fortune, and spent eleven years hunting bison. Upon returning to Cold Iron with the money he earned, Trapp was ambushed, robbed, beaten, and branded by a gang consisting of town drunk Elwood Coates, crooked banker Brooks Durham, and sinister dandy "Johnsy Boy" Hood. As if this weren't enough, Jessie had started up a romance with Brooks Durham in Trapp's absence. But Jessie truly loved Trapp, and he fought for her, taking revenge on his assailants and recovering his fortune in a series of spectacular confrontations. Despite Jessie's affirmation of her love, Trapp was left sickened by violence, and he rode off into the sunset to find himself, leaving Jessie behind.

It took years of wandering before Jonas was able to forget the sting of his broken heart. Meeting Martha Sjoman was a big part of his recovery; he found solace in her love, and at the first chance he married her. They became the proud parents of a son, Matthias. However, when Matthias was only a few years old, Martha was killed by a snakebite. Jonas Trapp was once again left heartbroken, and traveled to Los Angeles to tell Martha's sister Cecilia, of whom Martha had said much, about the tragedy.

Cecilia Scott was horrified to learn of her sister's death, but was glad to have become an aunt. While Cecilia and Jonas grieved Martha, they both confessed that they found each other terribly attractive. Jonas was surprised by how much Cecilia resembled his late wife; while Cecilia was grateful that her sister had had such a kind, handsome man looking over her. One thing led to another, and Cecilia became pregnant with a son, who was named after his father.

Jonas Scott was raised by his mother, as Jonas Trapp tragically passed away of a heart attack shortly after his son's birth. Cecilia Scott was unable to raise both her son and her nephew Matthias, so she sent the latter child to live with her in-laws in Sweden, the Sjomans. Matthias Sjoman was brought up by the brother of his mother's first husband. He would grow up to become a noted boxer, obtaining the nickname "the Gorilla of Gothenburg." Late in his life he married an unknown woman, and fathered a daughter, Ingrid. Ingrid was a rebellious sort and would join the American hippie movement in the 1960s, often floating in and out of relationships with multiple men. One fictionalized account of her adventures was shown in the giallo film *Oasis of Fear* (1971).

Ingrid was at one point involved with a young man named James Clarke Wildman III, and became pregnant by him. Her son, James Clarke "Chip" Wildman IV, was the grandson of Doc Savage. He would adventure alongside his grandfather in the late '80s, as seen in the Doc Savage comic series published by DC Comics from 1987 to 1990.

As for Jonas Scott, he married Erika Flint, aunt of noted secret agent Derek Flint. Like Shell Scott, Derek Flint's adventures were recounted in a humorous fashion by his biographers. He also tended to succeed by luck as much as by his own skill. Jonas and Erika were the parents of Shell Scott and his twin sister Shelia.(4)

As a descendant of General Sir William Clayton, Shell Scott is definitively a member of the Wold Newton Family. From his grandfather Jonas Trapp, he inherited a great, strong body and bronze-hued skin; from his great-grandfather Sheldon Scott, he received his trademark white hair. He bears the gray eyes of his distant cousins, and with them he has a heroic spirit. Inspired by the deeds of his brother-in-law Miles Banyon and others, he is as great a detective as Travis McGee, Lew Archer, Sam Spade, and the many other sleuths to whom he is related.

- (1) Victoria Barkley sports silver-gray hair in *The Big Valley*. While she is a woman of years, the possibility exists that her hair was always silver-gray. Victoria's daughter Audra is a golden blonde, but this may represent dilution from her father, Thomas Barkley.
- (2) Malloy is probably the "A.M." who appears in the dedication section of the first volume of Clayton's 1888 memoir, *Never Say Die*.
- (3) *The Night of the Tiger* was adapted into a 1966 film, *Ride Beyond Vengeance*. This movie is perhaps most notable today for its origins as an adaptation of the Doc Savage novel *The Thousand-Headed Man*. Jonas Trapp was played by Chuck Connors, who was originally cast to play Doc. It's possible that some of the people involved with the project may have been aware of the familial bond that existed between Doc and Jonas Trapp, which helped make the transition between stories easier.

It is curious that Michael Rennie, who plays Brooks Durham in the film, was set to play Ham Brooks in the *Thousand-Headed Man* movie. So far as I can determine, there is no familial relationship between the two Brookses. Similarly, there is no connection between the ugly, ape-like Elwood Coates and Monk Mayfair, whom Coates' actor Claude Akins was meant to play in the Doc Savage movie. However, I do believe at one point in his life, Elwood Coates had an affair with a woman named Cullin. The son born of that union, Monk Cullin, would grow up to resemble Monk

Mayfair, physically if not in spirit. Monk Cullin became a criminal like his father, and battled against the heroic Lynn Lash, as documented by Lester Dent.

- (4) Shelia Scott is mentioned in Dennis Power's article "The Cartwrights and Their Family Bonanza" as the mother of Jonny Quest's friend and mentor Race Bannon, who shares his uncle's platinum blond hair.

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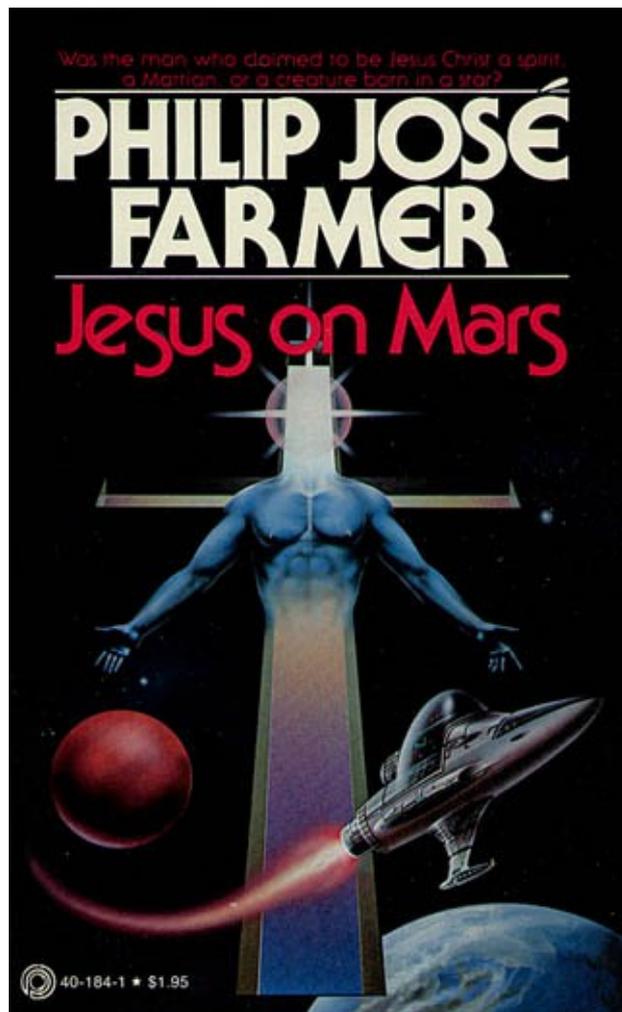
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Cover art by Paul Stintson

Jesus on Mars: A Review By William H. Emmons

One part utopia, one part Christological treatise, one part ambiguous gospel, *Jesus on Mars* (1979) represents the kind of mature philosophical rumination that exemplifies Farmer. Though the novel is less heavy on action and adventure than many of his other works, it is a truly Farmerian romp of the intellect that any science fiction reader interested in speculative religion will enjoy.

Earth has sent out the first manned mission to Mars to uncover a crashed spaceship newly discovered on the surface. When the expedition arrives, they find a seemingly utopian society of Jews, human and alien alike, living underground beneath a nuclear-powered "sun." The Earth people are told that inside the sun dwells the titular character of the novel, the literal Jesus Christ.

Farmer provides an elaborate backstory for how such a society could exist. In the first century C.E., the alien Krsh abducted many humans, including the thirteenth disciple

Matthias and his Libyan Jewish followers. A battle with an enemy alien starship caused the Krsh and their human captives to crash-land on Mars. Matthias and his disciples slowly began to convert the human survivors of the crash. Then with the miraculous advent of Jesus on Mars, the alien Krsh were also converted to Judaism. With Jesus as their guide, the Krsh and humans built a society based on theocratic laws. For example, adultery is illegal and homosexuality has been engineered out of the genome. While the astronauts hail from democratic socialist societies with secular laws, they're strongly impressed by how the Martian Jews have built a society seemingly free of crime and want.

Each of the four astronauts has a different religious background. The protagonist Orme is a Baptist who believes in the literal truth of the New Testament. Bronski is a secular Jew whose father is a rabbinical scholar. Danton is a staunch atheist from a Roman Catholic background. Shirzai is a liberal Muslim. Over the course of the novel, Farmer speculates how each religious background would react to the discovery of the real Jesus at the center of a near perfect society on Mars. Importantly this Jesus differs from that of the Gospels. He performed no earthly miracles. And there was no earthly resurrection. However, on Mars he performs miracles.

Miracles take both scientific and quasi-magical forms throughout the story. The Martian Jews, human and Krsh alike, are exceptionally long-lived due to treatments they take. The astronauts are given special drugs to help them learn the Krsh language more quickly. Jesus levitates Orme and resurrects a beheaded ram. Jesus promises that through Krsh science some day the long dead will be resurrected.

The goal of Martian society is to prepare a return to Earth and convert the masses to Martian Judaism. Orme grapples with what a destructive force the return of Jesus to Earth promises to be. Jesus reminds Orme that he has not come to bring peace but the sword.

Farmer throws the reader a curveball just when one is convinced of the veracity of the Messiah's pedigree. Talking with Orme, Jesus speculates that he, the very Messiah, might actually be an energy being from a solar system with a blue sun. This would explain the long periods he spends in the false sun's nuclear reactor. Despite this Orme converts. Still he continues to have his doubts, and suspects Jesus may be the Biblical Antichrist. Indeed his attitudes towards Jesus continue to evolve until the final pages of the book.

It's clear that for the irreligious Farmer religion offers something that secular salvation schemes do not. It's not happenstance that the Earth in *Jesus on Mars* is divided between a democratic socialist camp and a communist camp that have failed to resolve social

problems in the way Martian Jewish society has. Christ is offering the people something their socialistic governments cannot. His immortality treatments and manna machines are more than super-science, they're the tools of a trickster come to transform the world.

And being a trickster Christ is very likely not the genuine article. He himself introduces the idea that he might be an energy being from a planet orbiting a blue sun who has simply mastered powers that all humans could have someday. In his final decision to side with Jesus, Orme recognizes God may be working through an energy being.



Italo Svevo as Leopold Bloom, Matthew Broderick as Leo Bloom

From Leopold to Leo: An Expansion of the Bloom Family By Sean Lee Levin

James Joyce's iconic novel *Ulysses* delves in some detail into the backstory of its protagonist, Leopold Bloom. Leopold was the only child of Rudolph Bloom (nee Virag), a Hungarian Jew, and the former Ellen Higgins, the daughter of Julius Higgins (nee Karoly). He married Molly Tweedy in 1888. Their first child, Millicent ("Milly"), was born in 1889. Their second, Rudy, was born in 1893, only to die eleven days later.

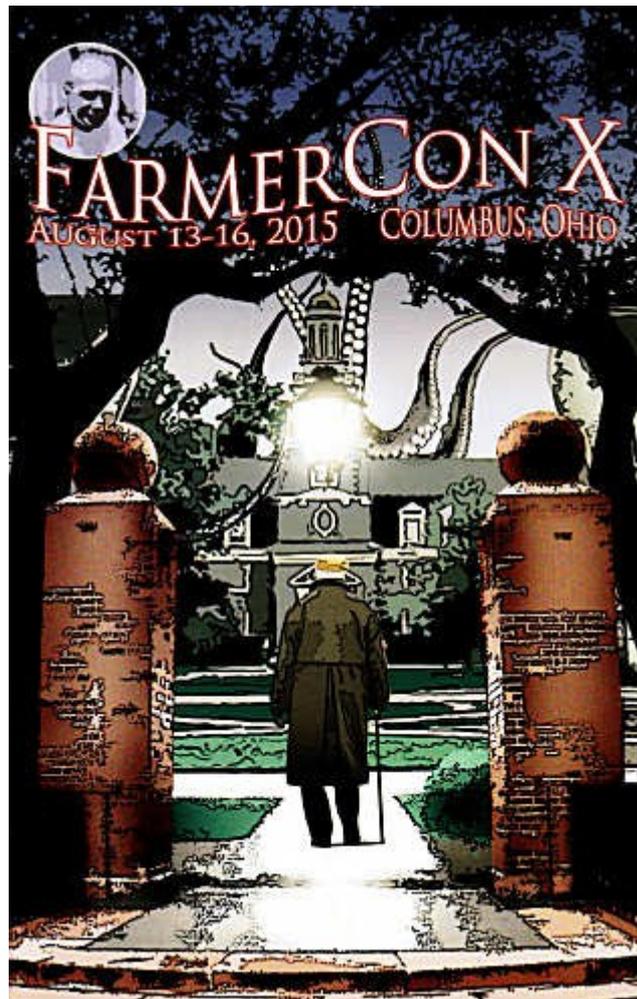
Philip José Farmer elaborated on Leopold's family tree, and connected him to the extended Wold Newton Family, although Leopold was not directly descended from those present at the fateful meteor strike on December 13, 1795. In *Tarzan Alive*, Farmer revealed that Julius Higgins had two siblings. One was John Jansenius, the father of Edith, the Duchess of Greystoke, who was in turn the mother of William Cecil Arthur Clayton, the 7th Duke of Greystoke. Farmer and Win Scott Eckert's novel *The Evil in Pemberley House* reveals that Edith also had an affair with Bulldog Drummond's nemesis Carl Peterson, then using the alias of the Comte de Guy, resulting in a son named Carlo Deguy, whom the Duchess claimed was actually her adopted son. Carlo had two children of his own, Richard and Carla. Julius' other sibling was Agatha Jansenius, who married Fitzwilliam Bennet Darcy, whose parents' courtship is chronicled in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Their daughter Athena married John Clayton, the 5th Duke of Greystoke and Edith's brother-in-law, and they were the grandparents of a certain jungle lord.

Farmer further expands on Leopold Bloom's family tree in *Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life*, where he reveals that Milly married one Richard Cordwainer Bird, a photographer. Their son, Jason, an acrobat and Vaudevillian, married Rhonda Rassendyll, the sister of Allard Kent Rassendyll (the shadowy vigilante whose exploits were chronicled by Walter Gibson and others) and Bruce Hagin Rassendyll (aka the famed World War One ace, G-8), and the half-sister of Richard Wentworth (aka the Spider). Jason and Rhonda's son was Cordwainer Bird, the irascible science fiction author turned mainstream writer and implacable foe of the New York Literary Establishment.

My own research has uncovered an additional branch to this family tree. Jason Bird was not the only son of Richard Cordwainer Bird and Milly Bloom. Jason had an older brother

named Solomon Bloom Bird. In 1922, a teenage Sol read James Joyce's novel about his grandfather Leopold Bloom. Although the book is often a challenging read for a youth (and indeed many adults), Sol was greatly impressed with it, and decided to drop the bird from his name, becoming simply Sol Bloom, to his father's chagrin. In his twenties, Sol married Amanda Munch, whose nephew John was to become a policeman, working first with the Baltimore P.D.'s Homicide Division before transferring to the N.Y.P.D.'s Special Victims Unit, and finally becoming a special investigator with the New York City D.A.'s office. Sol and Amanda named their son Leopold after his great-grandfather.

Leopold Bloom II, or Leo Bloom as he was usually called, was a somewhat neurotic child, forming an attachment to the blue blanket he slept with, even carrying a piece of it as an adult. Leo grew up to become an accountant, with one of his clients being shady producer Max Bialystock. While auditing Bialystock's accounts, Leo realized that under certain circumstances, a play that flopped could actually make more money than a hit. Max convinced a reluctant Leo to partner with him in such an endeavor. Recruiting a number of eccentric individuals, they put together a musical called *Springtime for Hitler*, but things did not go as planned, and the duo ultimately wound up in prison. Famed comedy writer and director Mel Brooks was greatly amused by this story, and after interviewing Leo and Max, adapted it into a film called *The Producers*, which later spawned a stage musical of its own, which in turn was adapted as a theatrical film. After serving his sentence, Max went on to be a Hollywood producer in the 1980s, even making a film version of *Springtime for Hitler*, as revealed in Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier's story "Doctor Omega and the Producers." Leo Bloom's final fate is unknown, but your humble author would like to think he got time taken off his sentence for good behavior and stayed far away from the corrupting influence of Max Bialystock.



Cover art by Keith Howell

Welcoming The Freshman By Jason Scott Aiken

One of Philip José Farmer's most well known short stories is "The Freshman," set within H. P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos and taking place at Miskatonic University. According to *Tales of the Wold Newton Universe* the germ for "The Freshman" was a dream Farmer had where he was an elderly student at a strange university rushing for a fraternity. It first appeared in the May 1979 issue of the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* and has most recently been reprinted in *The Philip José Farmer Centennial Collection* from Meteor House, edited by Michael Croteau. It's also currently available in *Tales of the Wold Newton Universe* from Titan Books, edited by Win Scott Eckert and Christopher Paul Carey.

The short story takes place in the late 1970's and is set exclusively at Miskatonic University (or M.U. as Farmer refers to it in the story). Farmer doesn't feature the surrounding city of Arkham in the tale, which is a shame, but I think focusing on the campus was the right move. Still, it would have been interesting to see his take on 1970's Arkham, too.

I like to describe "The Freshman" as a kind of eldritch version of Harry Potter, but of course predating Hogwarts by a number of decades. Farmer's main character is not your typical college Freshman, either. He is none other than Roderick Desmond, a sixty-year-old noted

writer of occult novels. I have to admit, when I picture Desmond in my mind, I picture Farmer. Desmond has left his overbearing mother, who is in her eighties, back home to enroll in M.U. He has some resentment for his mother, and her sixty years of smothering him plays a part in the story.

Farmer takes us through Desmond's first day at M.U., beginning with him registering for classes in an old gymnasium that has seen better days. Despite the deteriorating gym, Desmond notes that their sports teams have been league champions for many years, winning by often high scores against schools with greater enrollments. As someone who attended a few summer basketball camps at small colleges while growing up, I can vividly picture what Farmer is describing, not only when it comes to the old gym, but the campus as a whole. In addition to the appearance of the campus itself, Desmond also notes the appearance of the students, noting something off or unusual about a few of them. This could be a side effect of practicing dark magic or perhaps decades of human and other species intermingling in the Arkham area.

Desmond is registering for classes in the COTOAAHD (Committee of the Occult Arts and History Department). The elderly chair of the committee is none other than R. Layamon (surely a tuckerized tribute to the late horror novelist Richard Laymon) who is aware of Desmond and his writing career. Layamon even remembers turning down Desmond's request to mail him a xerox copy of "the book" which is most likely a reference to the *Necronomicon*. As a matter of fact, Layamon is impressed with a paper Desmond authored detailing the non-Arabic origin of Abdul Alhazred, who as most Lovecraft fans know, penned the original copy of the *Necronomicon*.

While we are on the subject of books, while waiting in line Desmond observes a youth with long canines sporting a paperback copy of *The Collected Works of Robert Blake* in his back pocket. Robert Blake is a character in a trilogy of short stories by H. P. Lovecraft and Robert Bloch. These are "The Shambler from the Stars" by Robert Bloch where Blake is the narrator, "The Haunter of the Dark" by H. P. Lovecraft where Blake is the main character, and "The Shadow from the Steeple" written by Robert Bloch that stars a friend of Blake's. As you may have guessed, the character of Robert Blake is an analogue of Robert Bloch. Bloch was friends with H. P. Lovecraft as a young man and became friends with Philip José Farmer and Bette Farmer later in life. I think the inclusion of *The Collected Works of Robert Blake* is a nice tribute to Farmer's friend.

It should also be noted that Farmer included Robert Blake in the Wold Newton Family tree as well in *Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life*. Farmer indicates Blake is a descendant of Phileas Fogg's daughter Wanda Fogg, and is therefore a cousin (or perhaps second cousin) of a certain Paul Janus Finnegan, also known as Kickaha. I think we all know which author Kickaha is based on.

Layamon also seems to know a fair share about Desmond's family, including his mother and late father. Layamon's words about his mother possibly living to be a hundred cause Desmond to become enraged, but he keeps it fairly contained, but Layamon still notices it. Layamon admits Desmond into COTOAAHD then the frosh leaves the gymnasium, suspicious about how Layamon could so accurately know what he was thinking.

In addition to Cthulhu Mythos elements Farmer creates his own lore surrounding the local Native American tribe, the Tamsiqueg. Farmer was interested in Native American culture a great deal, having Cherokee blood himself according to his biographical blurb in the March 1946 issue of the pulp magazine *Adventure*. Desmond seems to be quite familiar with the

Tamsiqueg and observes landmarks of their existence as he travels around campus. The lore about the heroes Mikatoonis (a wordplay on Miskatonic) and Chegaspit is of particular interest. In the lore Chegaspit is killed, but Mikatoonis survives and turns a group of evil giants to stone using a magic club, and in the process creates the nearby Tamsiqueg hills. But Cotoaahd, the chief giant, is able to free himself every few centuries and sometimes a sorcerer can set him loose. It is surely no coincidence that the acronym for Layamon's department matches the name of this titan. This original lore plays a far greater part in the story than any other elements. Desmond is able to view some rare pictographs related to the tribe when he visits a private library on campus, at a fraternity house of all places.

Farmer's dream becomes a reality for Desmond as he is recruited by Layamon's fraternity, Lam Kha Alif. Unlike most universities where fraternities and sororities have Greek names, at M.U., the organizations have Arabic names, with the exception of the House of Hastur. It's at the Lam Kha Alif fraternity house where the story really picks up and Desmond begins to wonder about Layamon's intentions towards him. Needless to say, sorcery is involved and Farmer includes two characters with sorcerous literary roots who are both students at M.U.

Wendell Trepan, a young man whom Desmond met earlier in the day, shows him around the fraternity house. Trepan indicates his most infamous ancestor is Rachel Trepan, a Cornish witch from the hamlet of Tredannick Wollas, near Poldhu Bay. Credit to FarmerFan's own Sean Lee Levin for discovering the connection to "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Levin points out Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson vacationed near Tredannick Wollas during the course of the story.

Another student that Lam Kha Alif is anxious to recruit is Bukawai, a Gabonese student. It's said that he comes from a long line of African witch doctors. His ancestor, whose name was also Bukawai, is the witch doctor who appeared in *The Jungle Tales of Tarzan* by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

The above references, along with the earlier Robert Blake reference, firmly set "The Freshman" within Farmer's Wold Newton Universe, in addition to the Cthulhu Mythos.

When it comes to Cthulhu Mythos nods in "The Freshman" Farmer includes a few references but some are not as obvious or center stage as the Necronomicon or Robert Blake references. He does mention a few deities by name such as Yog-Sothoth and Hastur.

He buries the bone a bit, too. Such as the strange creature that keeps pushing the Coke bottle out of the mouse hole in Desmond's dorm room. Although never seen, I believe this to be a reference to Brown Jenkin, the rat-like human-faced familiar of the witch Keziah Mason in Lovecraft's "The Dreams in the Witch House." The creature in Desmond's wall could possibly be Layamon's familiar.

Then there are the ROTC canons from the Spanish-American War that appear to have seen some possible action at sea, or possibly underwater, judging by the verdigris (according to Wikipedia, the common name for a green pigment that can be obtained when copper, brass, or bronze is weathered and exposed to air or seawater over time and other means). Desmond points out that steel should not be subject to verdigris, so perhaps the cannons have copper-plating. I believe the implication is these cannons were used against the Deep Ones, from Lovecraft's novella *The Shadow over Innsmouth*, at some

point in the past. We know from the original story that the United States government sent a submarine after the Deep Ones sometime after July 16, 1927, during the Prohibition era. I'm sure that wasn't the first time mankind has attacked them.

Those who have read the original Lovecraft stories might find it odd that occult studies and magic are being used and studied so openly on campus. Sure there were characters who made use of the university library to study the occult texts on their own and Herbert West conducted his secret reanimation experiments, but all of this was independent of assigned school work, this was not a focused part of the curriculum as seen in "The Freshman." Fritz Leiber another Science Fiction Grand Master actually opened the door to this possibility with "To Arkham and the Stars" first published in *The Dark Brotherhood and Other Pieces* by Arkham House in 1966 predating "The Freshman." Leiber's story is lovingly peppered with references to Cthulhu Mythos tales, featuring and mentioning a great deal of characters, locations, and events from Lovecraft's work.

Lovecraft himself is also a character referenced in the story, called "the late Young Gentleman of Providence" by other characters. While some fans of the Cthulhu Mythos don't enjoy Lovecraft being portrayed as a character in stories or him "knowing the real truth," from a wider Farmerian Wold Newtonian perspective this practice is perfectly valid. In this case I think it makes for a sweet ending to the tale.

Leiber's story takes place somewhere between 1959 and 1966 judging by references made to a black mass in celebration of Castro (most likely Fidel Castro), segregation protests, and the International Geophysical Year (July 1, 1957 through December 31, 1958). Fritz Leiber, who shared a friendship via correspondence with Lovecraft, and indeed Lovecraft mentored the young Leiber, appears to be the narrator of the tale. The plot depicts him traveling to Arkham Massachusetts and visiting Miskatonic University.

Leiber meets with seven Miskatonic University Professors Emeritus at the university in a place they call Emeritus Alcove. These are all characters from Lovecraft's original works. The seven are: Professor Albert Wilmarth, Chairman of the Department of Literature ("The Whisperer in Darkness"), Professor Upham, Mathematics ("The Dreams in the Witch House"), Professor Francis Morgan, Medicine and Comparative Anatomy ("The Dunwich Horror"), Professor Nathaniel Peaslee, Economics and Psychology (*The Shadow Out of Time*), Professor Wingate Peaslee, Psychology (*The Shadow Out of Time*), Professor William Dyer, Geology (*At the Mountains of Madness*), and Professor Ellery, Physics, ("The Dreams in the Witch House). Most of these men are quite elderly at this point, with Dyer (who is well into his nineties, but not as old as the elder Peaslee) is the informal chairman of the group. From their conversations it is evident they've been and are actively studying Cthulhu Mythos-related matters. By this point the university even has the Pickman Nuclear Laboratory which Ellery oversees that conducts Cthulhu Mythos-related studies into objects uncovered in past Lovecraft tales.

Reading Robert M. Price's introduction to *Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos* (in which "To Arkham and the Stars" appears) he indicates the following about Leiber's story: "It has proven to be a seminal Mythos tale, as in it we first see the depiction of Miskatonic University as having, as it were, a Mythos Studies Department.... Leiber's Miskatonic University is home to a formidable team of scholarly experts (most from experience) in the no-longer-secret Mythos: the surviving protagonists of Lovecraft's own tales." One of the tales Price goes on to mention is "The Freshman" and exclaims "the seed planted by Leiber has attained fantastic growth."

Another aspect of Leiber's story that carried over into Farmer's is the Miskatonic University quadrangle. The only reference to a quadrangle in Lovecraft's writing is an allusion to the one at Columbia University in "The Last Test," Lovecraft's revision of Adolphe de Castro's "A Sacrifice to Science." It's hard to believe, but "To Arkham and the Stars" and "The Freshman" have never reprinted in the same anthology, which is a shame because they would make excellent companion pieces.

While some people may not enjoy the overt presence of the occult and Cthulhu Mythos studies at Miskatonic University, I think looking at the broader body of Cthulhu Mythos work, including Lovecraft's and Leiber's, and following the natural progression over the course of decades, it would make sense for the secrets to come to the service by the time of not only Farmer's tale, but Leiber's. A large number of strange events occurred and even stranger beings were encountered during the course of the early 20th century in Lovecraft's original tales. I'm sure the intervention of Dr. Henry Armitage (Chief Librarian), Professor Warren Rice (Classical Languages), and Dr. Francis Morgan (Medicine and Comparative Anatomy) in September 1928 in exterminating the titular "Dunwich Horror" would surely have started something, too. As time progressed, the sharing of information in the world became easier and no doubt the public would find out about the strange events taking place in the areas surrounding Arkham and Miskatonic University.

It would be expected that the scholarly survivors of these episodes would study what they uncovered and, especially being all from the same university, assist each other in doing so. By the last 1950's or early 1960's it appears they had been doing just that judging by the Emeritus Alcove at the University in "To Arkham and the Stars." By the time of Farmer's tale in the late 1970's the study of strange phenomena and the occult appears to have become a staple of campus life with COTOAAHD (which apparently has higher standards for its students than MIT does for engineering students) and other sorcerous and occult activity, apparently at some cost given the physical state of the campus and the students. One has to wonder what Miskatonic University is like in 2022. Does it even exist?

While I'm sure it's not what every Lovecraft fan had in mind for a tale set at Miskatonic University, I think Farmer did a great job of bringing Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos into the modern times of the era with "The Freshman." There's also just enough of Farmer's references, puns, and trickster-like prose to ensure the reader that they are without a doubt reading a Philip José Farmer story.

About the Fans/Writers

Atom Mudman Bezecny is the editor-in-chief of the independent pulp press Odd Tales Productions, a position she has occupied for four years. Her previous publications include the novels *Tail of the Lizard King*, *Deus Mega Therion*, *Kinyonga Tales*, *The New Adventures of the Flash Avenger*, *Flint Golden and the Thunderstrike Crisis*, and *The Return of the Amazing Bulk*, a canonical sequel to Lewis Schoenbrun's superhero film *The Amazing Bulk*. She is also the author of many short stories, including a series starring her original heroine Bloody Mary. Her stories can be found at www.oddtalesofwonder.com.

William H. Emmons is the host of the Planetside Chats videocast on Youtube and a regular contributor to the SFFAudio Podcast. William is @Planetstories39 on Twitter. He is a communist agitator and general ne'er do well. He lives in Eastern Kentucky with his fiancé, elderly dog and an ever increasing number of feral cats.

Sean Lee Levin discovered Philip José Farmer's work as a teenager in 2002 and has been obsessed ever since. A lifelong resident of Chicago, Illinois (the same state Farmer resided in), Sean spends much of his spare time reading, watching movies, and writing. He is the author of *Crossovers Expanded: A Secret Chronology of the World* Volumes 1 and 2, published by Meteor House in 2016. He is currently looking to get a Western story published. You can find Sean's blog, which contains his movie reviews and other cool things, at <http://seanlevin.blogspot.com/?m=1>.

Jason Scott Aiken came to know of Philip José Farmer's work just a few weeks before Farmer's passing in February 2009. Aiken's journey to Farmer was concurrent to his discovery of pulp magazines and culminated with him attending FarmerCon VI at PulpFest 2011 in Columbus, Ohio. Aiken has been attending FarmerCon and PulpFest ever since and also hosted and produced *Pulp Crazy*, a podcast dedicated to pulp authors, literature, and themes. In addition to Farmer and Pulp fandom, Aiken has had short fiction published by Black Coat Press, Cirsova, and Paizo Publishing. He can be found online at jasonscottaiken.com and pulpcrazy.com.

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