

The Scroll of Set

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[1] Set-V Conclave Update

- by Glinda

It seems appropriate to begin this article by noting some of the distinctions between Temple of Set Conclaves and ordinary political party or fraternal club conventions. Most conventions are designed for the actual benefit of the elite leadership, with the mass-membership on hand to applaud, vote, and orgy.

As with the Temple as a whole, Conclaves are designed and intended to benefit each individual to the greatest possible extent. While there are a few private meetings for the Priesthood and the Council of Nine, most Conclave business is conducted in general sessions and informal gatherings in which every Setian is welcome to participate and comment. Similarly our scheduled social activities are open to all Initiates, so that there is maximum opportunity for everyone to make new friendships and re-energize old ones.

To get an idea of Conclave atmosphere, see the post-Conclave reports in *Scrolls* #IV-2 (Set-I), #V-9 (Set-II), #VI-6 (Set-III) and #VII-4 (Set-IV). [While Set-IV was unfortunately the occasion of a distressing crisis in the Temple, it also enabled the Temple to address and resolve that crisis constructively. Set-V, we trust, will return to the traditionally pleasant climate of the first three Conclaves.]

We always try to pick a Conclave location which will double as an attractive vacation site. We know that many Setians use their vacation time [and \$s] for Conclaving, and we want them to get their time/\$s' worth. The location is also important for those Setians who bring family along, since it is always nice if mate and/or kids have many interesting options while Setian is engaged in Setians-only business or ritual events.

Set-V is no exception. Under separate cover you will be receiving some current brochures from the city of Santa Cruz and the Holiday Inn where Set-V will be located. Santa Cruz is a beautiful little seaside resort town about 90 miles south of San Francisco. It's one of the #A-1 places where SF-people go to party on weekends, sort of comparable to how LA-people use Palm Springs. The SC weather is generally warm and sunny, even in early October [when we'll be there], and almost everything in town is within a few minutes' walking

distance. [It is less than 5 minutes' walk from our HI to the main shopping street, which is a mall crammed with artsy little shops and such.]

Santa Cruz also has a very famous beachside amusement park, the "Boardwalk", which ought to be a good place to wear out your kids if you plan to bring them along. Or to wear yourself out, if you're still a kid, It too is just a few minutes' walk from the HI.

As you radiate out from Santa Cruz, as you'll see in the brochures, there are many other interesting things to do. About 45 minutes' drive from SC is the AMORC's Rosicrucian Park, which is about 4 square blocks' worth of scaled-down ancient Egyptian architecture. Very kitsch, particularly with suburban San Jose homes on all sides, but always fun to see - particularly its Egyptian Museum, which Magistra Wendall tells us has been upgraded since the Temple's last expedition there on 12/18/XI, which we all enjoyed very much.

Because Conclaves occur so rarely, we try to squeeze every bit of usable time out of them. Set-V goes from Thursday eve to Sunday morning, and during that period the only large block of tour/recreation time is 1-6 PM on Saturday. That's enough to do a lot of fun things. But if you want to do **everything** that's fun to do in & around SC, you may want to arrive a day or so early or depart a day or so late.

Now a quick overview of the Set-V schedule as it is shaping up: Thursday 10/4: Arrival time. Hospitality room open at HI throughout the evening for hellos and munchies. Friday 10/5: First general meeting, reports, and presentations. IV°+ and I°-III° discussions. Order meetings. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner on your own. After dinner, High Priest's reception for all Setians. Late evening: I°-II° and III°+ ritual Workings. Saturday 10/6: C9 meeting. III°+ meeting. I°-II° meeting. Second general session in the late AM. Afternoon free for touring & sightseeing. Conclave banquet. Evening Conclave Ritual for all Setians. Sunday 10/7: Brunch and farewells. We will fine-tune this as necessary, but there's the general idea. Detailed schedules will be available when you get to the HI.

If you would like to make a personal presentation on some subject relevant to the magical or philosophical concerns of the Temple, please contact Magistra Lilith Sinclair, Conclave Coordinator, c/o the Temple Office as soon as possible with (a) a brief description of your topic, (b) the amount of time desired, and (c) special equipment needs [such as slide projector]. We will do our best to handle requests in this area. No presentations unrelated to Temple concerns can be scheduled.

It looks as though it's going to be one great Conclave. Beautiful locale, very nice hotel, lowest-price time, good-weather time, lots of things on the

agenda, and a lot of fellowship to be charged up again since Set-IV two years ago. This is where we all take a look at the Temple as it has been in the past, as it is now, and as we think it ought to be in the future - and then all figure out how best to move it in that direction. By all means don't miss it!

[2] **II° Recognitions:
O'Brien, Grady, Flowers**
- by Betty Ford III°

It gives me great pleasure to formally announce the recent Recognitions to Adept II° within the Temple of Set of: Aime O'Brien, by Priest Robert Menschel; Jim Grady, by Priest Roger Whitaker; and Stephen Flowers, by Priestess Betty Ford.

"They shall drink from the deepest part of the river. The north wind shall breathe upon them to their refreshment. They shall speak without sound, and shall hear answers unheard." *Xeper*.

[3] **The Amazing
Herschell Gordon Lewis and his
World of Exploitation Films**
- by Roger Whitaker III°

Preface

Is this an article or is it a book review? I guess that it's really both. The tool of a Black Magician is **information**. It really is. Take time to think about it. The most powerful magician will be the one who has the most information.

The sword will be [and has been in many cases] replaced by the computer as an extension of the magician's will. Does that notion strike you as odd? Remember Clarke's first law: "In its most advanced stages, science will be indistinguishable from magic."

This preface is to let you know that information - valuable initiatory information - can be gotten from the oddest places - exploitation films, for instance. Look at the 20-some odd disciplines on your reading list, and perhaps the point can be driven home.

When you do find something interesting in your researches, let all the members of the Temple know by contributing it to the *Scroll*. You can be sure we are all interested.

Book Review

The Amazing Herschell Gordon Lewis and his World of Exploitation Films by Daniel Krogh with John McCarthy. Foreword by H.G. Lewis. Published by Fantaco Enterprises, Inc. Price \$14.95 in a very nice coffee-table edition. Includes a black & white and color photo section.

What does exploitation film making have to do with magic, initiation, and the Temple of Set? A lot. But we have to start at the beginning and define more precisely what we are talking about. An exploitation film is a film that exploits current trends, taboos, and topics of general interest.

Exploitation film maker H.G. Lewis, who made his films from the early 60s to the early 70s, is the grandfather of 'em all. Even before Roger Corman. Don't go looking for one of Lewis' films on cable or late-night television; most of his work is still considered too graphic for television. However one of Lewis' films entitled *2,000 Maniacs* is still in distribution twenty years after it was made. Keep on the lookout for it; it is a great film.

But on the importance of Lewis' work as it relates to you and me: His importance in the exploitation film-making field lies in the fact that Lewis had the uncanny knack of picking trends before anyone else had even considered capitalizing upon them. Lewis was doing nudies way before Russ Meyer; he was doing gore films while George Romero was still in high school; he was doing "good ol' boy" Southern-oriented multi-car chase/car crash/outrun-the-sheriff movies before any of us had heard of Burt Reynolds; and I could go on. I should that Lewis always came out with a profit, came out on budget, and on schedule. **Always.**

The point is that H. G. Lewis could spot general trends and movements of popular taste [or lack thereof] before anyone else. When he spotted one of these areas, he made his move, made his money, and went onward.

Now if you don't think **that** ability is important in magic [and even politics], then think again and re-read your copy of Anton LaVey's *Satanic Bible* and your *Crystal Tablet of Set*. In fact read all of the RL-1 books in your reading list. Spotting movements that are both contemporary and historical is very important work for the successful magician. Mr. H.G. Lewis deserves mention because he is a **master** at it.

The Amazing Herschell Gordon Lewis and his World of Exploitation Films begins with a foreword written by Lewis himself. The book then goes into a history of Lewis' film-making, movie by movie. The author, Daniel Krogh, is well-suited to write this long-overdue book about Lewis. Krogh was part of the Lewis film-making crew for a number of years, and is a close friend of Lewis.

H.G. Lewis himself is now working very successfully in the advertising business in Florida. Lewis has B.A. and M.A. degrees from Northwestern University, a Ph.D. from Midwestern University, and has taught English at the University of Mississippi. He is also a hypnotist, experienced

in marketing & advertising, and has much practical experience in the commercial & industrial field of film-making.

Lewis quit film-making because the profit margin for the time spent making his low-budget films was not high enough. It is good news that Lewis is now being offered the chance to make more films [undoubtedly with much larger budgets], due to his still-growing popularity among movie fanatics. Only time will tell if the silver screen will once again be bombarded with such advertising promotionals as:

A ghastly tale drenched with goutts of blood spurting from the writing victims of a madman's lust!

No wonder the man has a Ph.D. in English!

This book is exceptional in two regards: the man himself and because his films are good - very good. If you enjoy exploitation films, then you must have this book. If you are a magician and a lover of exploitation films, there is much gold to be found among Krogh's reminiscences.

The lessons to be learned as a magician aren't about the making of exploitation films, and neither are they about how to come in under budget and on schedule. Rather they are the principles of being conscious of the existence of popular trends, and of exploiting these trends within the context of your own interactions with the world. If you can do this, you will certainly "make a profit"; and perhaps if you consider the matter deeply enough, you will sense a "power" in this type of consciousness, a power that has moved entire nations.

Mr. Herschell Gordon Lewis, my hat is off to you. And Mr. Daniel Krogh, thank you for a long-overdue look at this amazing man.

Filmography

The Prime Time 1960
Living Venus 1960
The Adventures of Lucky Pierre 1961
Daughter of the Sun 1962
Nature's Playmates 1962
Boin-n-ng 1963
Bloodfeast 1963
Goldilocks and the 3 Bares 1963
Bell, Bare, and Beautiful 1963
Scum of the Earth 1963
2,000 Maniacs 1964
Moonshine Mountain 1964
Color Me Blood Red 1965
Monster a Go-Go 1965
Sin, Suffer, and Repent 1965

Jimmy the Boy Wonder 1966
Alley Tramp 1966
An Eye for an Eye 1966
The Magic Land of Mother Goose (Santa Visits)
1967
Suburban Roulette 1967
A Taste of Blood 1967
The Gruesome Twosome 1967
The Girl, the Body, and the Pill 1967
Blast-Off Girls 1967
She-Devils on Wheels 1968
Just for the Hell of It! 1968
How to Make a Doll 1968
The Psychic 1968
The Ecstasies of Women 1969
Linda and Abilene 1969
Miss Nymphets Zap-In 1970
The Wizard of Gore 1970
This Stuff'll Kill Ya 1971
Year of the Yahoo! 1972
Black Love 1972
The Gore Gore Girls 1972

[4] Tools for Life #2

- by Dennis K. Mann III^o

Ah yes, dear reader: Once again it's time for your humble servant to leap into the breach of human knowledge and see what's there to be found!

This time I'm offering information on sale items, and ways to save your hard-earned dollars. [My mother used to enjoy sales; she would buy a sweater and tell my father she had saved him \$51 on it. He would reply, "Yes, but you spent \$130 in saving me the \$5."]

Well, these sales can work the same way: You can calculate that you have saved seventy cents on the dollar with your purchases, but the multiple thirty-cent purchases may soon run you into spending lotsa dollars. I will, however, leave the matter of your book budget up to you.

Some services that specialize in saving you money in this fashion are: (1) Barnes and Noble Bookstores, (2) Publishers Central Bureau, (3) History Book Club, (4) Marboro Books.

I have not heard from this last firm in quite some time, and would suggest contact with them by means of a postcard. In fact contact all of them by that means, asking for a copy of their latest catalogue.

Whatever your taste, you will find all sorts of things to appeal to the various facets of your Setian nature - and soon will discover with dismay just how much all of the desirable/discounted books are really going to cost!

Advertisements for the History Book Club appear in major national publications with some regularity, and generally offer you three or four books of your choice for ninety-nine cents, so long as you buy four more during the next calendar year. After that you are free to continue or else end your membership.

The other clubs mentioned are open-ended. You can buy as much or as little as you want, but not responding to their catalogue offerings for approximately 4-6 months will get you removed by their computers from their mailing lists; that's the voice of experience speaking.

You must also shop with care. Firms #1, #2, and #4 include current paperbacks and back-issues in their selections, generally with little or no discount. They also sell "special import" or "special selection" books at "special value" prices. Translated into English, this means they are selling them for whatever they think they can get away with.

After all these warnings and caveats, why do I recommend their services? Simple. You've been in a bookstore, and seen a copy of *Mornings on Horseback* by David McCulough. This is a book about the young Theodore Roosevelt - a first-class biography by an excellent writer. List price \$19.95. Sale price \$5.98. Essentially you are paying \$6 for a \$20 book - a savings of 70%. Same prices for *Indecent Exposure* by David McClintock - a very useful book on the consequences of the lust for power in Hollywood. Books such #6P, #14H, and #16I have made their appearance in these catalogues for heavy discounts off the listed prices. Other books that I have picked up in the last year have included such titles as *Human Sacrifice*, *Treason Against God* (a history of the offense of blasphemy), *A Dictionary of Symbols*, and *The Magician, the Witch, and the Law*.

In short these services are but tools in the hands of every member of the Temple. I have always been impatient of stumbling around in the dark, looking for a door when I did not know that there was a requirement to have the key for it to open. This information is a lesser key for your knowledge and for your future. The list of services has not been provided for exclusively Setian purposes, since the services cater to every taste. However for those on limited budgets who love books, these folks are invaluable. May you find them delivering their catalogues to you regularly in your future.