

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Horror in the Museum



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The Players

Amir Abdullah	Orabona
Sean Branney	George Rodgers
Ken Clement	Lester Mayhew
Matt Foyer	Humphrey, Inspector Brunk
Bernadette Halpin	Hazel, Mrs. Broadhurst
McKerrin Kelly	Eleanor Patterson
Andrew Leman	Richard Carrey, Cameron
Dick Lizzardo	Ostman
Barry Lynch	Kelso
David Pavao	Steven Jones
Kevin Stidham	Jennings, Barker
Josh Thoenke	Announcer
Time Winters	Complaining Man, Brophy

The Staff

Based on the story by Hazel Heald and H. P. Lovecraft
 Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
 Original Music by Reber Clark
 Dark Adventure Theme by Troy Sterling Nies
 Cover and Disc Illustrations by Darrell Tutchtton
 Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney
 Miniature Photography by Davey Robertson
 Calligraphy by Shruti Shankar
 Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

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66 College St.
Providence, R.I.
July 28, 1933

Dear Morse: -

The Horror in the Museum - a piece which I "ghost wrote" for a client from a synopsis so poor that I well-nigh discarded it - is virtually my own work. Glad you found it entertaining. There will be two more Heald tales equally dependent on my pen....

Yours most cordially and sincerely,
HPL

The motif of the statue-come-to-life has been frequently used in literature, from the ancient Greek myth of Pygmalion to the legend of the Golem to the fairy tale of Pinocchio. In his tale of Rhan-Tegoth, HPL turns the trope upside-down.

Lovecraft's references to "The Horror in the Museum" are fleeting at best. The story came about as a "collaboration" with Somerville, Massachusetts writer Hazel Heald around October of 1932. Lovecraft had been introduced to her by their mutual friends Clifford and Muriel Eddy of Providence. Muriel Eddy relates how Hazel joined a writer's club created by the Eddys, with a story in the works. Muriel says HPL joined the divorced Mrs. Heald for a candlelit supper at her home, where he told her that the story needed substantive revision. She goes on to describe multiple visits and extensive correspondence between the two of them, with Hazel growing very fond of Lovecraft and perhaps seeking a more romantic relationship that never came to fruition.

No letters from HPL to Hazel are extant and there's little corroboration from him about the extent of their relationship, but to hear Lovecraft tell it there was neither romance nor much literary collaboration involved. The story was published in the July 1933 *Weird Tales* alongside Lovecraft's own "The Dreams in the Witch House". That same year, the Michael Curtiz film *The Mystery of the Wax Museum* came out, and HPL described seeing it in a letter to Robert Barlow:

Haven't done much cinema-viewing, but I did drop in to see that "Wax Museum" thing - especially since I had revised (in fact, virtually ghost-written) a tale on a similar theme for a client. (You'll see it in the current W.T.) As a story, the film was of course childishly cheap - but it did have some effective horror-touches - especially when the mask falls off & reveals the monstrosity beneath.

Lovecraft scholar S.T. Joshi is highly critical of the tale, hoping that it was Lovecraft undertaking some kind of exercise in self-parody. In the earliest drafts of the script we included Alaska Native characters in the flashback sequence, in the hope that we could cast the roles with Alaska Native actors and bring some desirable diversity to the Lovecraft universe. After talking with a lot of people in Alaska, however, we learned that it's just not that simple. Ultimately they had no desire to be part of the project and we came to realize that our best intentions were a bit misguided. We thank those people for the reality check. But we hope in adapting it to a new medium, we've breathed new life into the tale and made it something Hazel, Howard, and even S.T. might enjoy.

-SB and ARHL

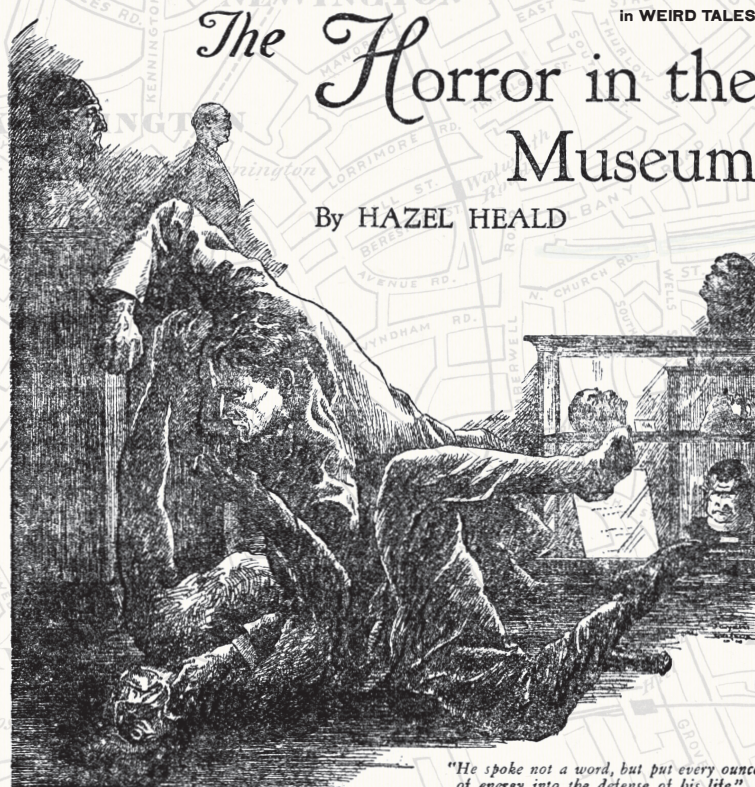


Illustration by
J. M. Wilcox
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in WEIRD TALES

The Horror in the Museum

By HAZEL HEALD

"He spoke not a word, but put every ounce of energy into the defense of his life."