

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Temple of Jupiter Ammon

IN THE
Jyfflophone
THEATRE

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LUDO FORE PUTAVIMUS

We began *Dark Adventure Radio Theatre* as a way to dramatize Lovecraft stories in a manner that felt both entertaining and harmonious with the aesthetics and time period of his writing. Over the years we've adapted most of his major works, and we've branched out into works by other authors and created original tales for the series. For this episode, we were inspired by a mention in one of Lovecraft's letters of Count Byron Khun de Prorok.

De Prorok was a real-world adventurer and somewhat shady treasure seeker who led some fascinating and well-publicized expeditions during the 1920s and '30s. His thrilling adventures in the Sahara, the Yucatan and beyond were documented in books he authored at the time. We were tantalized by his rather brief chapters recounting an expedition into the Libyan desert of western Egypt to the Temple of Jupiter Ammon. We used this vague description as a springboard to build an entirely new and fictionalized adventure to this unusual historical locale.

Alexander the Great, is, of course, an entirely real historical persona, but the location of his final resting place really has been lost to history and there are some who theorize that it might be near Siwa: a small town built on the edge of an oasis in the vast desert near the Egyptian and Libyan border. This part of Egypt was indeed claimed by Italy following the first world war. There really are sacred lakes and islands in the region that no native boat has visited since ancient times. There really are (or were) networks of tunnels connecting the temple to other places, and rumors of buried treasure. There really are eerie "singing dunes". The inhabitants of Siwa really did tolerate, and even celebrate, same-sex relations between men (although they don't anymore...). The legend of the ravens leading the way to Djebel Si-

kander is an actual one. De Prorok really did pioneer the use of motion picture cameras in archaeology (though, sadly, most of the films he made have since been lost).

Although we have pulled a lot of apparently real places and people from de Prorok's narrative, listeners will, we hope, quickly realize that we've taken a lot of liberties with the story. We've added some Lovecraftian elements, added new characters and given them motivations that have no connection whatever with the actual historical figures involved.

Today little is left of the Temple of Jupiter Ammon, but it remains one of those "strange far places" that captivated Lovecraft's imagination: a locale steeped in history and mystery. We thought there could be no better (nor bigger) sandbox in which we could set a new dark adventure.

—SB and ARHL

"Africa has always been the land of superstition and of the dark arts. The Sahara is the home of the dreaded Djenoun of the Tuareg; is the home of the Djinn of the Arabs; the dwelling place of the Shetans, Afrits and Ghuls of the Siwans. I have seen medicine men in the dark caverns of the Troglodytes; I have looked upon devil-bewitched souls in the Hoggar; I have seen strange old witches in the abandoned parts of the upper ruins of Siwa town. They are ancient creatures, horrible to look upon, with dyed red hair and with skin not unlike that of the mummies found in the Djebel Muta...."

...If ever there was a place where ghosts should roam, and haunting noises be heard, it is here on Djebel Muta, where we made our home for ten weeks. The hill of mummies is honey-

combed with long dark passages, eerie caverns and bat-infested tombs. We explored endless funereal sepulchers, one leading into the other, with rows of the dead lying in their mummy wrappings and grinning sardonically down upon us...."

...Here we find the ruins of one of the most famous temples of antiquity. Here stood the Temple of Jupiter-Ammon; here, under the tall, graceful trees, came the illustrious of the past ages to consult the mystic oracle. Here came Alexander the Great to inquire if he was indeed the son of Zeus, and here he was received with divine honor by the priests, departing even greater than he came — a living god!"

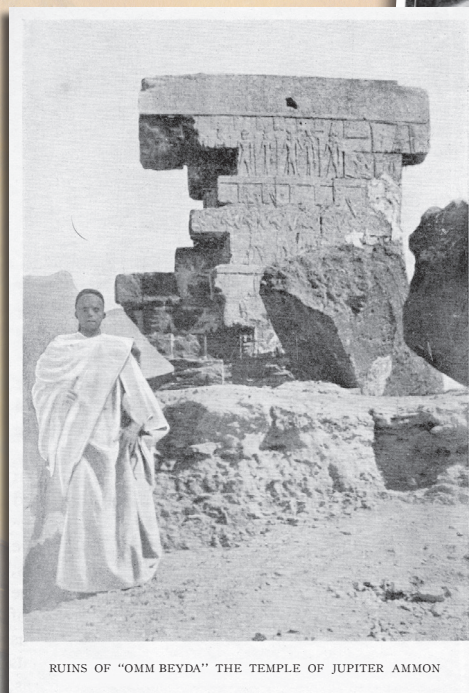
—Byron Khun de Prorok,
Mysterious Sahara (1929)

The Players

Yeni Alvarez Letitia D'Ayala
Rick Batalla Bassel Saeed
Sean Branney Jim Whitman, Ph.D.
Kacey Camp Trixie
Ken Clement Lester Mayhew
Matt Foyer Max
Larissa Gallagher Barbarella Bucci
Andrew Leman Johnston-Lavis, Sheik Darius
Dick Lizzardo Matteo Sportari
Zak Robertson Omar
William C. Stephens Ali Ford
Kevin Stidham Count Byron Khun de Prorok
Josh Thoemke Announcer
Time Winters Schöttler

The Staff

Written by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
Original Music by Troy Sterling Nies
Cover and Disc Paintings by Darrell Tutchtton
Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney
Italian Translations by Barbra Bucci
Egyptian Translations by Don Frew
Recorded, in part, at Horse Latitudes Studio by Marco Moir
Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman
For more fascinating information, visit:
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RUINS OF "OMM BEYDA" THE TEMPLE OF JUPITER AMMON



Mummy from Djebel Muta, "The Hill of the Dead."

Photograph from
Mysterious Sahara (1929),
by de Prorok

Photograph from
Siwa: The Oasis of Jupiter Ammon (1922),
by C. Dalrymple Belgrave