

Agenda for the Royal Society

TO: All Fellows of the Royal Society of London.

**RE: Lost papers of the Fellowship of Adventurer Scholars for the
Revelation of Mythology and the Advancement of Natural Philosophy.**

BY: Sir Thomas Middleston, Fellow

Submitted and distributed this 3rd day of June, 1903.

As we, The Royal Society, grow wiser with the times, we must review the import of papers submitted over the course of this last century. The rationale for this assertion is the simple fact that knowledge is forever in a state of flux; none may master knowledge, for it is not a thing with a shape, but rather an evolving creature such as was suggested by Mister Darwin. As the years have progressed, so too has our collective comprehension of the natural world. Thus, it stands to reason that we are presently capable of a quality of evaluation which is greater than that which would have been previously provided. This is due entirely to the success of our stated endeavor, and the direct result of countless efforts in the matter of advancing and improving Natural Knowledge.

Having made such advances, it is to be expected that our present comprehension might reveal validity in that which was previously rejected, or falsehood in that which was previously lauded. Therefore, I move that a committee be established to review all papers and submission of a seemingly scientific nature, so as to prevent both the loss of revelation to the ignorance of the age and the adoption of falsehoods for the same reason. For while we see through eyes informed by the wisdom of previous days, we must strive to sift from this wisdom any associated ignorance as well as solutions thus derived.

To this end, I ask that specific attention be given to the papers submitted on behalf of The Fellowship of Adventurer Scholars for the Revelation of Mythology and the Advancement of Natural Philosophy; I present this despite admitting to some uncertainty as to where best to begin when concerning accounts such as these. It is a universal truth that all stories have a beginning. But it is untrue that the beginning and the origin of the story are the one and the same. Rarely in the crossroads of lives do beginnings reflect origins; rather such origins are oft lost, forgotten in the immutable rush of the past toward the present.

It should therefore be noted that while few men are aware of the exploits of The Fellowship of Adventurer Scholars for the Revelation of Mythology and the Advancement of Natural Philosophy, fewer still are aware of the events which inspired the inception of this collective. In fact, the phrase ‘obscure repute’ may best describe this collective as a whole.

There are few among the Royal Society who are aware of the exploits of this Fellowship; this due primarily to the fantastical nature of those accounts which were submitted to the Society for review and consideration. While it may be difficult for those of us who experienced such events to give credence to these papers, we must at least consider them.

It has been documented that this collective—better known as The Fellowship of Adventurer Scholars, or more simply, The Fellowship—was formed with the intent of invigorating The Royal Society of London. Natural Knowledge must be pursued with an energy of discovery and a passion for expedition. It had reportedly seemed to them that, while the esteemed members of the Royal Society were the bastions of science and knowledge in this modern age, a certain tendency toward stagnation had insulated the Society, creating undue-skepticism and doubt where inquisitiveness, intrigue, and wonder had previously reigned. For this reason the Fellowship acquired few friends within the Royal Society.

Our records indicate that several accounts were submitted by the Fellowship with the intent of garnering acceptance and membership within the Royal Society. It was understood at the time that one Friedrich Von Helsing aspired to chronicle these affairs, and that he did

so under the commission of the office of the Fellowship Secretary. What could not be known then, neither by the Society, the Fellowship, nor young Helsing himself, was that future events would soon set upon the mind of this gentleman a perception of petty naiveté amongst those who he so revered.

It is the opinion of this writer that it was that which would erode any interest which he once held in such affairs. From these events, it followed that he would instead distinguish himself as an itinerant scholar of folklore and mythology. (For verification of the above claims, please refer to both the Society annals and Von Helsing's archived journals as indicated in the End Notes.)

At the time that the Fellowship presented their accounts, none suspected the effect that Von Helsing's future actions would bestow upon questions regarding the veracity of these accounts, nor upon that of those studies which earned him the recognition and renown with which we are all familiar.

While no member of the Society has yet questioned the intent of their submission, nor the decency with which they were presented, recent revelations have caused some to reexamine these accounts in the event that they may indicate the early signs of either a manic tendency or some other form of lunacy. Some have even suggested that Von Helsing's complete works, both these early accounts and his latter treatises, be discarded with the same scorn as have the contents of his recent manifesto.

To the contrary, I present to you the argument that these early works be re-examined on the merit of their scientific principles rather than in light of the madness of their author. I argue that we ought to avoid the hubris of casting judgment upon the contents of these accounts merely because we wish to appease our own concerns and fears regarding the sanity of a once great colleague.

For these reasons, I submit to you a formal motion that the contents of these accounts be examined in light of recent scientific developments.

The Fellowship Journal; First Letter

* Begin excerpts from the field journals of Friedrich Von Helsing, submitted and archived within the Royal Society Library, September 1839.

These being the words of Friedrich Von Helsing, written on behalf of the Fellowship of Adventurer Scholars for the Revelation of Mythology and the Advancement of Natural Philosophy.

Given the primary aspect of the venture upon which my cohort and I have set, I shall endeavor to chronicle our sojourn, not for the sake of posterity, but instead for objective reflection and the subsequent evaluation of our travels. Only through the sober and logical lens of the written word will these travels be quantifiable and subject to the deepest of scientific inquiries.

Being men of science, we are constrained to seek to continue the work of the natural philosophers, whether this exploration be that of the inner workings of the human mind or the outer workings of the larger world. It behooves us to explore the darker elements of the mass psyche and bring the light of reason to such superstitions as have haunted the minds of lesser men for ages past and even unto our current time.

As stalwart defenders of our era, we will arm ourselves for this venture with the principles of enlightenment, and through the process of *full disclosure*, we will reveal truths thus far unknown. Our rod shall be reason, our staff empiricism.

We will embrace the spirit of the skeptic insofar as it is appropriate, and we will subject each case to the rigors of evidential proof. Should our studies reveal a truth, then this chronicle will serve as a record and firsthand account such that we might best prepare a treatise for the review of our peers. Should our studies reveal a falsehood, we shall take it upon ourselves, as defenders of the defenseless, to shed light upon the villains and reveal them as scoundrels and charlatans.

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