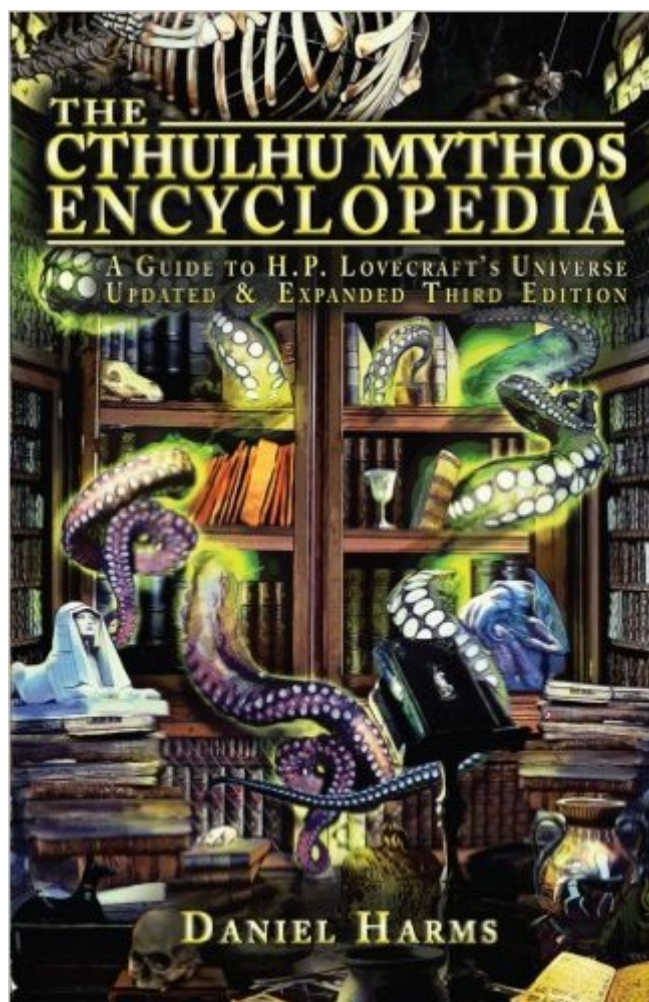


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The Cthulhu Mythos Encyclopedia



Synopsis

The third edition of this popular and extensive encyclopedia of the Cthulhu Mythos[®]; updated with more fiction listings and recent material[®]; this unique book spans the years of H. P. Lovecraft[™]'s influence in culture, entertainment, and fiction. The expansive entries make this reference invaluable for anyone knowledgeable about the Cthulhu Mythos and a much-needed resource for those longing to learn about the cosmic horrors from past and present decades.

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Customer Reviews

First I suppose I should say what this book is not. It is not a bibliography of all the books, chapbooks, stories or web fiction that use or are about the Cthulhu mythos. With the explosion of mythos sites on the internet and the rapid pace of publication by small presses, such an endeavor would be out of date before it ever hit press. Mr. Harms cites Chris Jarocha-Ernst's A Cthulhu Mythos Bibliography and Concordance from 1999 as useful in this regard. I have used Glynn Barrass' similar chapbook from Rainfall Books as well. A continuously updated online reference would be invaluable for collectors and fans but alas there is nothing definitive. I really enjoy EP Berglund's site, The Reader's Guide to the Cthulhu Mythos ([...]) but it has been under construction for some time now. As far as I can tell, The Ultimate Mythos Book List ([...]) has not been updated in 2 or 3 years. What this book does provide is a detailed description of those entities, characters, tomes, places and critters that populate the worlds of Cthulhu Mythos fiction. Mr. Harms makes no pretense about being comprehensive; monsters that may appear in only a single story will not show

up here. Fortunately, Mr. Harms lists his own criteria for inclusion so there is no ambiguity: all entries from the second edition, entries from the first edition where there was a groundswell of popular demand, and things found in two different works by two different authors, or appearing in major Cthulhu Mythos novels. Thus you certainly find the Hounds of Tindalos but you won't find T'loal (not that you would want to; the novella was abysmal). There is likely quite a bit of RPG material that has been excluded as well, although I found a citation on Delta Green.

This is a resource that I keep beside me on my writing table while working on new books of Cthulhu Mythos fiction. Not only does it answer questions concerning every aspect of the Mythos, but it can also be a source of inspiration for new Mythos fiction; for one can read over the entries and find some line of reference that is so tantalizing that it makes one ache to write a story based on that entry. One important aspect is that after each entry there is a listing of the core stories, by H. P. Lovecraft and others, in which the entry subject is featured; such as this, following the main entry on Nyarlathotep: "See Abbith; BOOK OF AZATHOTH; BLACK RITES; Brotherhood of the Black Pharaoh; Byagoona; Cthugha; Cthulhu; Dreamlands; Eibon, sign of; elemental theory; Fable of Nyarlathotep; ghouls; gods of Earth; Great Old Ones; gugs; hunting horrors; Koth; Million Favored Ones; moon-beasts; NECRONOMICON (appendices); Nephren-Ka; N'gai, Wood of; Nophru-Ka; Old Ones; Other Gods; Outer Gods; Prinn, Ludwig; Set; SEVEN CRYPTICAL BOOKS OF HSAN; shantaks; Sharnoth; Smith, Morgan; S'ngac; Stygia; World of Seven Suns; Yegg-ha; 'Ymnar. ("The Faceless God", Bloch; "The Shadow from the Steeple", Bloch; THE LURKER AT THE THRESHOLD, Derleth and Lovecraft; DELTA GREEN, Detwiller, Glancy, and Tynes (G); MASKS OF NYARLATHOTEP, DiTillo and Willis (G); THE FUNGI FROM YUGGOTH, Lovecraft; "Nyarlathotep" (prose poem), Lovecraft (O); "The Rats in the Walls", Lovecraft; THE BURROWERS BENEATH, Lumley; ELYSIA, Lumley; "The Worm of Urakhu," Tierney. Thus not only do the entries explain the nature of the thing, but they lead us to core Mythos tales in which the entry is fictionally evoked; and we learn of other things to which the entry is related. I've never heard of Nophru-Ka, nor Ymnar.

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