A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by L - 2007/04/06 18:41

So I had my new DoE Room Set for about five hours before I managed to lose my Necronomicon.

:(

I remembered placing it in my Fenryll bookshelf, and it falling out. But it was so late, I couldn't remember if I'd picked it up, or what.

So this morning, in the hour I had available, I searched the table with all the new stuff, I searched the floor, I searched all obvious places. When I got home at the end of hte day, I looked in sofa cushions, I moved the furniture around and looked under shelves and couches and chairs. I turned the place inside out.

Finally, I crawled around on my belly like a snake until I finally found it by the door to the balcony. I doubt I'll ever know how it ended up there.

Sigh.

but at least I have it back now. That was ... unnerving.

L

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Kradlo - 2007/04/06 19:19

You must have forgotten the mystic words again.

It's "Klaatu, barada..... nickel? Necktie? Nocturnal?"

Oh, well, close enough, right?

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Stefan - 2007/04/07 01:06

What is this Necronomicon everyone keeps mentioning? I still play first edition so i am pretty unfamiliar with many new spells or supliments...

Seriously, perhaps my subconscious might have saw some book with a face somewhere, but actually, I wasn't trying to copy anything...does anyone have a picture of it?

Thanks!

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Shadox - 2007/04/07 01:47

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Stefan,

Here you go....

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Necronomicon

-Shadox

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by weaverjk - 2007/04/07 02:38

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LOL!

What cave do you live in, Stefan? (just teasing!)

We're talking about a cult hit man! ;) The first movie of the series that I watched was The Army of Darkness. Of course I had to go back and watch the previous two or three. Fun stuff.

Hope you watch and enjoy.

JKW

Wow, Shadox, that's a long history on that word.
I only know it from the Evil Dead series of movies, starting with the third or fouth in the line, the Army of Darkness. Each movie in the series is a humorous horror flick.

"In Army of Darkness, it is established that the only way to safely open and use the Necronomicon ex Mortis (without unleashing the evil powers within the book) is to speak the words "Klaatu barada nikto" before touching it. "

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_Darkness

Okay, HERE you go....Trailer with shots of the book (although, not close-ups and not the mouth biting Ash's hand).
http://www.movie-list.com/a/army-of-darkness.html
You've GOT to watch the Army of Darkness. It was funny.

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Kradlo - 2007/04/07 11:21

Well, being old has its advantages, I guess. The Necromonicon is the creation of the literary genius Howard Phillips Lovecraft, the true master of horror and one of the three biggest pulp writers during the 1930s (along with Clark Ashton Smith and Robert E. Howard). The Necronomicon was a fictional book that contained knowledge not meant to be known by man (but we're curious anyway). The book figured prominently in many of his stories, and it's become an icon for evil texts. H.P. Lovecraft's works include The Call of Cthulhu, which has inspired many writers throughout the years, and spawned a RPG from Chaosium (and a D20 version from WotC).

And the words "Klaatu barada nicto" come from the movie The Day The Earth Stood Still, with Michael Rennie. They were the words to the robot Gort (I think that was his name) to cancel the destruction of the earth.

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by L - 2007/04/07 11:32

Yes, and to add the one point that is crucial for this context -- in Sam Raimi's Evil Dead films, it is depicted as a book with a scowling face on its cover. It looks remarkably like a brown version of the Tome of Evil included in the DoE Room Set. Taking my cue from a few other forum members, I just started thinking of it as the Necronomicon.

Speaking of which, that tome is pretty cool. It'd be neat to have an Evil Accessories Set, something like the treasure and magic items set but for narsty narsty playing. Not necessarily just the DoE, but anything eeviil. A pile of skulls and bones, a nasty spiked dark magic mace, etc.

L

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by zoroaster100 - 2007/04/07 11:48

Stefan, it is interesting you developed a similar book independently. From the Wikipedia entry, it appears that Lovecraft claims the idea came to him in a dream. The creator of the movies Evil Dead and Army of Darkness came up with a similar idea, apparently also independently, based on Mesopotamian and Egyptian myhology. In Lovecraft's stories, the man who wrote it was a madman who heard the whisperings of these secrets from crickets in the desert. Perhaps you had similar inspiration?

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by jackattack - 2007/04/07 12:25

Thanks for the history, Kradlo. It's nice to see that someone remembers the classics.

An interesting note (to me, anyway) on the intellectual property that is the Necronomicon. In the 1920s and '30s, pulp authors were fairly relaxed about copyright, and let their friends and colleagues use various plot devices; thus, the Necronomicon was used by a number of different authors who expanded on the content and background of the book. This led some people to believe that the Necronomicon was a real book of occult knowledge (rather like a very successful opera production of "Die Niebelung" led people to believe that Vikings wore horned helmets). Over the years, counterfeit productions of the Necronomicon have been written and sold to credulous collectors.

Faces on/in books are a long-time classic, as are books that open like mouths to bite. Lots of people have come up with very creative, very eerie designs based on this theme. One might even say that it is part of our cultural subconcious, if you believe in that sort of thing.

Or maybe the crickets really do know something that we don't... and shouldn't.

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by jkratzer - 2007/04/07 14:11

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jackattack;

That's really NOT very cricket - but it DOES bug me sometimes.

Jim

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by Stefan - 2007/04/07 14:39

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Wow...I do live in a Cave...well, although i never saw Army of darkness, I should have known what Necronomicon was...just about every hooror fan seems to refer to it somewhere...I'm sure it was swimming around in my subconsciousness when I decided to throw in an Evil Book to the DOE Set...uncanny though, how it resembles the Army of Darkness cover....hey isn't "Klattu baratta, Nicto" taken from the "The day the earth stood still"? no mention of that in the Wikipedia...

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A day without the Necronomicon

Posted by weaverjk - 2007/04/07 17:47

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And the words "Klaatu barada nicto" come from the movie The Day The Earth Stood Still, with Michael Rennie. They were the words to the robot Gort (I think that was his name) to cancel the destruction of the earth.
Cool. I was wondering if those words had any background. Thank you for sharing their origin. My memory isn't great, so I don't remember the specifics of the movie, but I do remember watching the B&W movie on T.V.. :)

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by jackattack - 2007/04/07 19:02

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That's really NOT very cricket - but it DOES bug me sometimes.Jim
Patience, grasshopper.

I think the Necronomicon was used in all three of the Evil Dead movies, of which Army is the last. K-B-N was used as an incantation (that would allow one to safely bind the book's evil) as kind of a double-edged inside joke -- using one of the most famous classic sci-fi quotes as magic words, instead of coming up with original gobbledy-gook.

Okay, many of us know how the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still" finished, but how many know how the original short story "Farewell to the Master" ended?

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Kradlo - 2007/04/07 22:05

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Abdul Alhazred heard the buzzing of crickets, which tells us that Jiminy was far more sinister than Pinocchio ever suspected.

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Celtchief - 2007/04/08 00:21

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Also of Note
In Return of the Jedi two of the skiff gaurds for Jabba were named Klattu and Baratta, at least the action figures that Kenner put out had that name.. Lucas's little nod to the genre methinks...

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A day without the Necronomicon
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2007/04/08 00:42

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Yes it was a delebirate nod, He gave the nod to all three.
Barada , was the name of one of the Klatooinans, which is a name that got used twice, they never used Klaatu outright, but the species was a derivation of it.
Others (WEG) later made the Klaatu a sub species of the Nikto. The Nikto were named all along as Nikto, but WEG wanted the final Klaatu in, not realizing that Klaatu was in the Barada already.

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