

SHADOWS OF CENTRALIS MONTHLY MAGAZINE[©]

#44



Shadows of Centralis Monthly Magazine: Issue #44 (December 2025)

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SHADOWS OF CENTRALIS MONTHLY MAGAZINE®

Issue: #44 (December 2025)

Welcome to the December 2025 issue of Shadows of Centralis Monthly Magazine, the essential old school publication for players of Space Battles and Shadows of Centralis, as well as enthusiasts of pulp and the golden age of fantasy, science fiction, and horror.

For players of Shadows of Centralis, this month's magazine has a number of features to enjoy. Of particular interest will be the Shadows of Centralis: Sacred Writings article, which details many of the Orb's most important and powerful grimoires and sacred tomes.

Bringing new rules, scenarios, further background material, and more, the first supplement for Space Battles is set to be released in early-2026. In preparation, this month's Spacefarers article provides an informative recap of the game's main factions, while also allowing for an easy introduction for newcomers to the spaceship tabletop wargame.

As a special seasonal treat, this month's Coffee Mutterings article brings together four much-loved classic horror features, as we compile the profiles of Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Vincent Price, and Boris Karloff.

Huzzah!

John Wombat



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"Beware the Shadows..."

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RETRO RULESETS

PREMIUM PULP PUBLICATIONS

Wombat Wargames: Fusing old-school rules mechanics with innovative new features, while drawing on literary and aesthetical inspiration from the classic age of weird fiction and pulp publications, Wombat Wargames is an independent publisher of wargaming rules, books, and magazines. In homage to the wonderful wargaming and pulp worlds of yesteryear, every one of our A5-sized publications have a distinctive and unashamedly old-school feel to them.

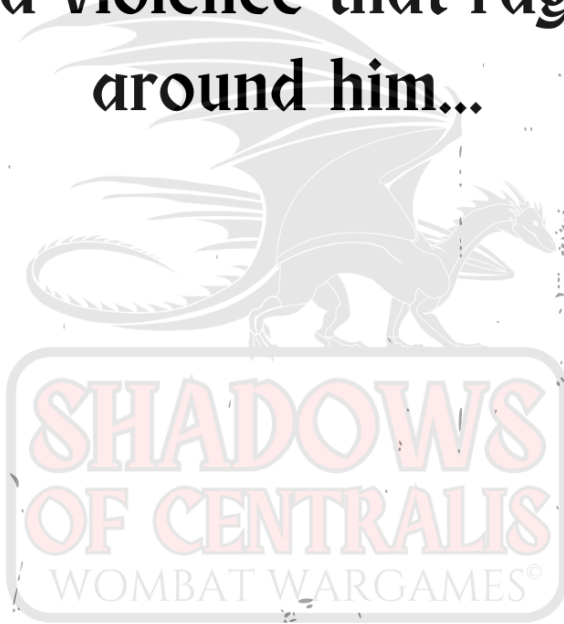


Making our products available for worldwide purchase via Amazon, as well as specially selected stockists, while working with some of the best figures in the wargaming hobby, Wombat Wargames offer retro-inspired, high-quality products. Among our most recently released titles are Space Battles: A Spacefarers Guide, Shadows of Centralis (3rd Edition), Pulp Fiends Volume I: Seabury Quinn, Starfarer: An Authorised Biography of Poul Anderson (2nd Edition), Poul Anderson Collected Works: Volumes I & II, Wargaming Interviews: Volumes I, II & III, and Blanche: The Rise of Grimdark.

Monthly Magazine: Released on the 1st of each month, Shadows of Centralis Monthly Magazine is an A5-sized, 114-page, full colour, premium paperback magazine which covers Wombat Wargames' flagship system, Shadows of Centralis, along with Space Battles, the exciting retro-fuelled spaceship tabletop wargame by world-renowned rulesmith, Rick Priestley. Including detailed interviews, we regularly feature a host of wargaming personalities. Further to this, as we champion the golden age of pulp publications, the monthly magazine also includes special features on classic science fiction, fantasy, and horror.

WWW.WOMBATWARGAMES.COM

**As he powered through the
broken line, slaying without
mercy, he delighted in the
crazed violence that raged all
around him...**

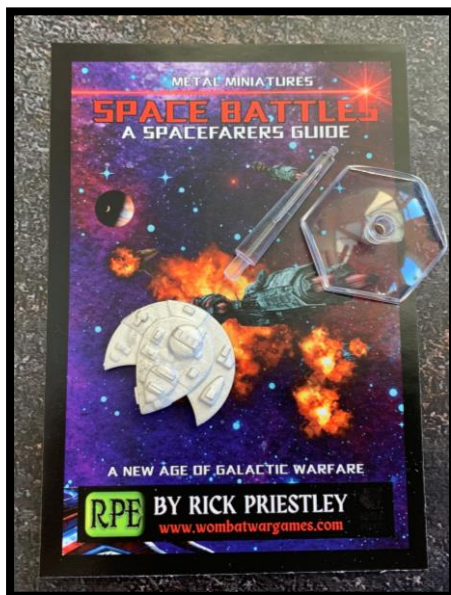


WOMBAT WARGAMES: LATEST NEWS

Space Battles, H.G. Wells & More!

Working with Rick Priestley, Wombat Wargames are in the final stages of putting together *Space Battles: A Spacefarers Guide Companion*, the first supplement for Rick's *Space Battles* game. As well as compiling the best *Spacefarers* articles to have featured within the pages of *Shadows of Centralis Monthly Magazine*, this supplement also boasts new scenarios, special rules, further background material for the game's vast galaxy and unique factions, and more besides. Full release details are set to be announced in early-2026.

Available exclusively via RPE Miniatures & Games, the range of official, all-metal *Space Battles* models has recently been expanded with the release of spaceships for the game's Xixan faction. We're delighted to report that more models are in the pipeline, with fleets of the Xixan set to be further bolstered, while more models will be released for the Orzo also. As this wonderful range of retro-fuelled models grows further, there will be more releases to follow, including, among others, vessels for the esoteric Spectral Fleet.



Traditionally sculpted, all-metal miniatures, a growing range of official Space Battles models are available exclusively via RPE Miniatures & Games.



Sculpted by Rick Priestley, using Milliput, the above Anthozoan battleship is a perfect example of the traditionally sculpted, retro-fuelled miniatures that make up the official range of Space Battles models.

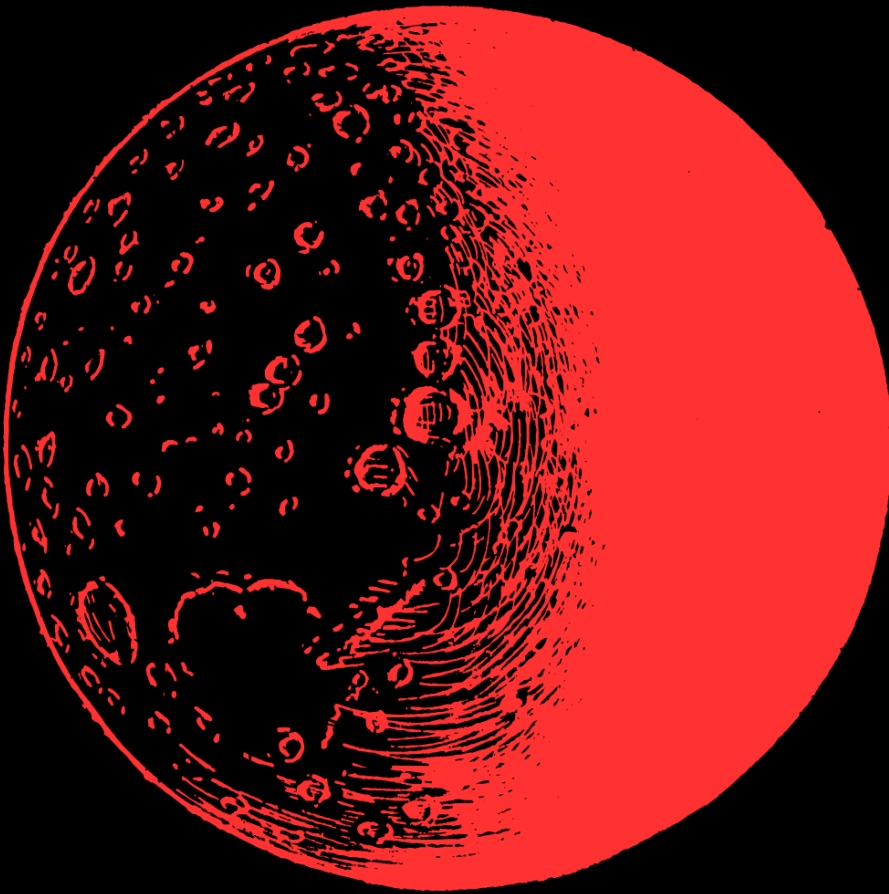
Earlier this year, with *The Writings of H.G. Wells: Volumes I & II*, Wombat Wargames released their first two volumes of collected H.G. Wells works. Continuing to champion this trailblazer of science fiction literature, with release details set to be made available over the coming weeks, *The Writings of H.G. Wells: Volume III* will see more of Wells' works compiled.

Championing yesteryear's masters of mystery, flagbearers of fantasy, heroes of horror, servants of science fiction, and most skilled suspense savants, Wombat Wargames are vociferous celebrants of the pioneers of pulp literature. As Wombat Wargames collaborates with one of the most important and unique artists of the last fifty years, we will soon be announcing a very special, extensive series of books which pays tribute to one of weird writings' greatest wordsmiths. All will be revealed soon!



THE WRITINGS OF H.G. WELLS

VOLUME I



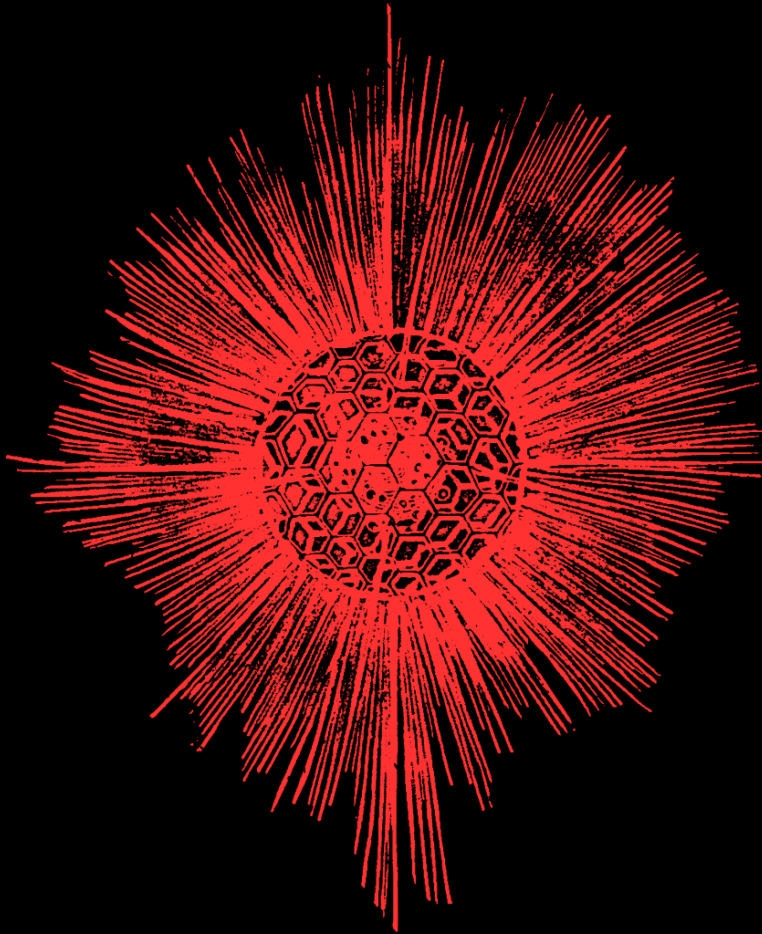
TWELVE SHORT STORIES

EDITED BY JOHN WOMBAT & RUTH MOREIRA

Includes: The Stolen Bacillus, Aepyornis Island, The Plattner Story, In the Abyss, The Crystal Egg, The Star, The Man Who Could Work Miracles (A Pantoum in Prose), The Stolen Body, A Dream of Armageddon, The New Accelerator, The Valley of Spiders, The Country of the Blind.

THE WRITINGS OF H.G. WELLS

VOLUME II



THIRTEEN SHORT STORIES

EDITED BY JOHN WOMBAT & RUTH MOREIRA

Includes: The Flowering of the Strange Orchid, In the Avu Observatory, The Treasure in the Forest, The Remarkable Case of Davidson's Eyes, Pollock and the Porroh Man, The Argonauts of the Air, Under the Knife (Slip Under the Knife), The Story of the Late Mr. Elvesham, A Story of the Stone Age, The Red Room, A Catastrophe, The Hammerpond Park Burglary, Filmer.

OUTSIDE REPORTS

Outside Reports details the latest news and releases from some of the other wargaming and hobby companies. This month we look at the new additions to North Star Military Figures, as well as the latest work from John Robertson of Myriad Miniatures.

North Star Military Figures stock a wide range of models and games, including Oathmark. While the Oathmark rulebook and supplements are produced by Osprey Games, the respective models are the result of an ongoing collaboration between Osprey Games and North Star Military Figures. Recent Oathmark model releases include a box of plastic multi-part Human Heavy Infantry, as well as two different sets of respective metal command figures. Michael Anderson designed the plastic set, while Mathias Rapp sculpted the metal models.



Oathmark's Human Heavy Infantry. This set of multi-part, hard plastic figures allows for the construction of thirty warriors. © North Star Military Figures/ Osprey Games.



Queen. © North Star Military Figures/ Osprey Games.

In support of the Human Heavy Infantry plastic models set, there are two different metal command packs. One pack includes a queen, wizard, and musician. The other pack includes three different champion figures.

As well as the Human Heavy Infantry models and respective command figures, North Star have also released some monster models for Oathmark, in the form of metal ogres (sculpted by Michael Anderson) and a metal surma model (sculpted by Jason Weibe).



Oathmark's Human Heavy Infantry set allows for the building of two different troop types, Warriors and Line Breakers. © North Star Military Figures/ Osprey Games.



Ogres. © North Star Military Figures/ Osprey Games.



Surma. © North Star Military Figures/ Osprey Games.

www.northstarfigures.com

Providing traditionally sculpted, finely detailed, Ian Miller-inspired, 28mm miniatures, Osmoticmeld is a unique collaboration between sculptor John Robertson (Myriad Miniatures) and legendary illustrator, the unparalleled, Ian Miller. Transforming Ian's iconic illustrations into stunning three dimensional pieces, this fantastic range of fantasy figures appeals to both collectors and wargamers alike.

With Ian Miller being one of our all time favourite artists, while John Robertson is one of our favourite modelmakers, we are delighted to report that the ranks of Osmoticmeld have been further bolstered, as John has just completed the sculpting of Solitas Goudheim.



Solitas Goudheim. © Myriad Miniatures.

www.ianmiller.studio
www.myriadminiatures.com

OSMOTICMELD

with Robertson

“OSMOTICMELD IS AN EXPERIMENT! IT IS A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE RENOWNED ARTIST IAN MILLER AND MYSELF, AND WAS BORN OF A SERENDIPITOUS MEETING OVER SOCIAL MEDIA MANY MOONS AGO. THE PROJECT IS TO PRODUCE A RANGE OF 28MM “SCALE” MINIATURES AND MODELS BASED, AND INSPIRED BY, IAN’S WORK, I HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US ON THIS ADVENTURE.”

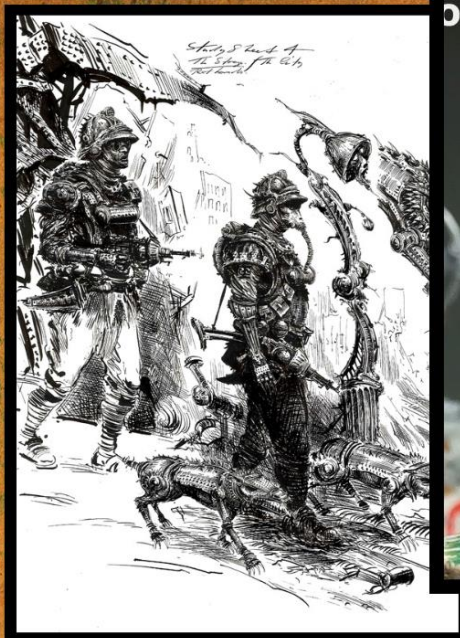
JOHN ROBERTSON (MYRIAD MINIATURES).



OSMOSIS

THE PROCESS OF GRADUAL OR UNCONSCIOUS ASSIMILATION OF IDEAS





DSMOT 001 The Stranger & Rusty



MELD

A THING FORMED BY MELDING, A COMBINATION



WWW.MYRIADMINIATURES.COM

SHADOWS OF CENTRALIS: SACRED WRITINGS

From ancient and arcane, spell-strewn grimoires, through to sacred tomes of divine teachings, else esoteric volumes detailing unhallowed rites, or writings of second-sight prophecies and cosmic projections, there are many powerful books to be found throughout the vast lands of the Orb. Detailed here are just a few examples...

‘Fvorpeal Rites’, written by Dunsanic de Duchr: Once a respected scholar of the Konstrato Empire, headed for a position as a high official within the Church of Endovelicus, Dunsanic de Duchr turned away from the teachings of Endovelicus, instead looking to the wicked ways of Barnabas, God of the Undead, in a fevered search for the dark secrets of immortality and necromancy. What followed were foul pacts and vile promises, immortality for Dunsanic de Duchr, and the writing of ‘Fvorpeal Rites’.

‘Liber Lucis’, written by Arch Seeker, Magus: Denouncing all of the Orb’s gods as inherently corrupt and forever tainted by the darkness of their ultimate creator, Centralis Portas, the ‘Liber Lucis’ teaches instead of the Orb’s true saviours, the Greater Beings. Though the Greater Beings were long ago cast adrift from the Cattus Occuli galaxy, the ‘Liber Lucis’ tells of their future return, as well as the fates of the usurping gods and the calculating Centralis Portas.

“Beware the Shadows and their corrupt genesis. Consumers of souls and usurpers of hope, Centralis’ Shadows are the spawn of darkness. Instead, know of the Others, know them by their many names, the Maidens of Light, the World of Light, the First Creation, the Greater Beings. But seek them out, the beings who are numerous but who are as one, and learn of the light.”

Taken from ‘Liber Lucis’ by Arch Seeker, Magus.

‘The Book of the Blemished Eye’: Containing innumerable unhallowed spells of wanton cruelty and destruction, each of which link their power to the Beast God, N’kish, God of the Fiends, the origins of this ancient book are shrouded in mystery and legend. Some believe the book to be the creation of Fhioorn the Fallen, a former priest within the Church of Endovelicus, who was later purged of his heretical sins in the practice of death through fire. Others believe the vile volume to have been brought directly from N’kish’s ethereal kingdom by one of the dark god’s demonic servants. Indeed, countless stories about the birth of this book and its evil incantations abound. Whatever its history, the current possessor of the spellbook is Beelnyaap, Servant of N’kish, a most mighty and most dark priest of the Fiends’ Oxalis tribe.

‘Book of Centralis: The Truth Odyssey’, written by IYuan Uzy: This book labels the Greater Beings as the ultimate source of all evil and key to all suffering, while portraying Centralis Portas as an enchained and tortured victim of their conceit. For cults of Centralis Portas, the ‘Book of Centralis: The Truth Odyssey’ is a most sacred tome, which forms the fundamental principles of their existence.

“It was the Greater Beings who first connected chaos to creation, and so it is that the Greater Beings invented evil. From desire to deceit, gluttony to genocide, these germs of darkness lead back to them. It was the Greater Beings who crafted fear, they sculpted worry and nurtured pain, they are the bacteria that evolved into a moral plague. Masters of life they may be but the Greater Beings, through their own desire for good, are the original architects of evil.”

Taken from the ‘Book of Centralis: The Truth Odyssey’ by IYuan Uzy.

‘Codes of Torture’ by Karhlarf the Killer: Hag elves have broken away from the virtuous teaching of Dagnr, instead choosing to follow dark gods such as N’kish and Taranix, as well as a plethora of other monstrous demonic deities. Written by the infamous Karhlarf the Killer, ‘Codes of Torture’ is a ghastly tome which fuses dark worship with sickeningly detailed instructions of cruel torture.



‘Psalms of Prometheus’: Prometheus is one of the Orb’s neighbouring planets. Considering the world to actually be a dormant god, as they await its awakening, there are a growing number of cults spread across the Orb which worship the planet Prometheus. These cults look to the ‘Psalms of Prometheus’ as the most sacred of all the Orb’s texts. Compiling prayers and praises, scriptures and spells, the works detailed within the ‘Psalms of Prometheus’ are many, while it currently rests within the possession of Yshtooock, Prophet of Prometheus.

‘The Way of Loochaan’ by Scribe to the Emperor, Yo-iy Uesugi: Detailing the teachings of Loochaan, God of the Samurai, ‘The Way of Loochaan’ is one in series of the Samurai’s most sacred books.

“Know loyalty, know sincerity, know honour in warfare...”

Taken from ‘The Way of Loochaan’ by Scribe to the Emperor, Yo-iy Uesugi.

‘Observations of the Gods’ by Arch Acolyte of the Church of Endovelicus, Sigmund Rufus: The culture of the Konstrato Empire is one zealously centred around religion and the unswerving following of the god Endovelicus. ‘Observations of the Gods’ is one of the Konstrato Empire’s most important religious texts.

“They are everyone and nowhere. They are all colours and no colours. They are before time and beyond time. They exist within spaces to us unseen, and breathe a life eternal that is beyond our imaginings.”

Taken from ‘Observations of the Gods’ by Arch Acolyte of the Church of Endovelicus, Sigmund Rufus.

‘Ode Ad Mortuos Viventes’ by Foreikn the Foul: The ‘Ode Ad Mortuos Viventes’ is a book of necromantic magic, as such, it is the most sought-after book for followers of Barnabas, God of the Undead.

‘Echelons of Delight’ by Hoarwaard Karrtturh: The creation of the dark wizard Hoarwaard Karrtturh, the mouldering leaves of this ancient, worm-holed book are filled with unhallowed spells and gruesome rites.

‘The Book of T’Zor’ by Master Scribe and Chief Advisor to the Court of the Damned, Rupert the Repulsive: Detailing the history and teachings of T’Zor, God of the Damned, as well as directing the future path of the deity’s servants, ‘The Book of T’Zor’ is the sacred book of the Damned.

“He is us. We are Him. Our vengeance is boundless.”

Taken from ‘The Book of T’Zor’ by Master Scribe and Chief Advisor to the Court of the Damned, Rupert the Repulsive.

‘Epistles of Darkness’: With its pages bristling with dark arcana, and a focus on channelling the violent energy of Rooth, Goddess of Extinction, the origins of this malevolent spellbook are unknown, though many attribute the work to the dark wizard Profanus de Miscere.

‘The Book of Buffo’ by Xiot the Sacred: The creation of the powerful tegu shaman Xiot the Sacred, complete with detailed star maps and time portal analysis, while boasting spells innumerable, ‘The Book of Buffo’ is the most powerful spellbook of the Followers of the Eye.

“Navigator of the stars, master of all knowledge and bestower of gifts, the Toad God lead us.”

Taken from ‘The Book of Buffo’ by Xiot the Sacred.

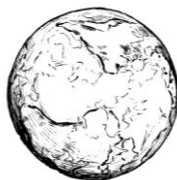
The Writings of Bad Captain Madman: Denouncing the Church of Endovelicus, Bad Captain Madman became a leading voice of the Greater Beings. For a time, amassing a large following, the former priest travelled the lands of the Orb, spreading the teachings of the Greater Beings, while writing many books in support of the architects of life.

“Look to the centre, to the core. Listen to his howling winds, to the hideously deceiving sound of his dark choir. To say his name is to give him strength but know this, he waits, he grows, and he will enslave us all.”

Taken from the final writings of the condemned Bad Captain Madman.



Ahead of the imminent release of the exciting first supplement for Space Battles, summarising the main five factions, which comprise of the Federation, Dahlians, Anthozoans, Orzo, and Xixian, along with the time-defying Spectral Fleet, this month's Spacefarers article serves as an informative recap for current players of the game, while offering newcomers an easy introduction.



Written by Rick Priestley, whom we consider one of the finest worldbuilders and lore creators of all time, as well as unequalled rulesmith, Space Battles boasts a vast, richly detailed and multi-textured setting and backstory. Stemming from his deep-held enthusiasm for classic science fiction of yesteryear, while drawing on his encyclopaedic knowledge of military history, Rick developed a selection of factions for Space Battles which each have their own unique characteristics, as well as societal structures.

When Rick wrote the rules for Space Battles, he did so with the idea of the system being generic, allowing players to use any existing models they had, while transferring things into their own desired backgrounds. As such, players can utilise the rules detailed within the Space Battles rulebook, while ignoring the unique backstory and respective factions. The upcoming Space Battles supplement can also be approached in a similar manner, with players taking the new rules and scenarios, and applying them to any setting they wish. However, for those who are drawn to the fascinating world which Rick has created, the new supplement delves even deeper into the history of the Aeternus Galaxy, covering things such as the epoch-making Rift War.

Federation

Full Title: The Second Federation of Sororal and Allied Worlds.

Home World: The seat of Federation government rotates between full members of the Federal council.

Promoters of unity and intergalactic trade, comprising both human and all number of like-minded alien races, the origins of the Federation date back to the times of Old Earth. Then came the Event. Completely destroying Earth, massacring millions and almost wiping out the human race, it was the unprovoked, devastating and merciless attack of the predatory Dahlians which led to the founding of New Earth. It was from New Earth that the Federation recovered and expanded. Sometimes referred to as Tellus, New Earth is just one planet to host the Federation's human population, other such united worlds include, among others, Makkan and Meru. Many other, non-human, planets form part of the Federation also, these include such worlds as Utero, Suth So and B'kra.



New Earth (Tellus).



Space Corps ID flash.



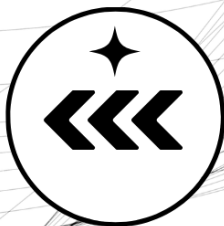
Survey Corps ID flash.



Visitor ID flash.



Galactic Engineers ID flash.



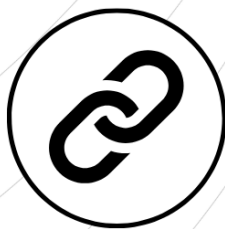
Trade and Cultural Exchange ID flash.



Space Corps Ranger ID flash.



SIS Agent ID flash.



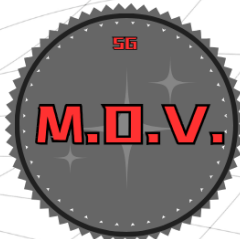
Emblem of the Federation Secretariat.



Athena Squadron – service flash.



Space Information Service
security seal.



Ministry of Visitation
security seal.



Observation and Information
Squadron of the SIS security seal.

SEE THE ASHEN LIGHT VISIT VENUS



IT'S SO BRACING!

"FEDERATIS AETERNITAS"

THE SECOND FEDERATION OF THE SORORAL AND ALLIED WORLDS

Tellus - Makkan - Naqala - Chaun - Meru - Utero - Prada - Ulfin - Aneng To - Suth So - G'tah Khu - B'kra



THE FEDERATION'S ELITE ATHENA SQUADRON



ACTION AWAITS

"FEDERATIS AETERNITAS"

THE SECOND FEDERATION OF THE SORORAL AND ALLIED WORLDS

Tellus - Makkan - Naqala - Chaun - Meru - Utero - Prada - Ulfin - Aneng To - Suth So - G'tah Khu - B'kra





SERVE THE FEDERATION



JOIN THE FEDERATION GALACTIC ENGINEERS



BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

"FEDERATIS AETERNITAS"

THE SECOND FEDERATION. OF THE SORORAL AND ALLIED WORLDS

Tellus - Makkan - Nagala - Chaun - Meru - Uterp - Prada - Ulfin - Aneng To - Suth Sq - G'tah Khu - B'kra



SEE THE GALAXY

JOIN THE FEDERATION

SURVEY CORPS



SIGN UP TODAY

"FEDERATIS AETERNITAS"

THE SECOND FEDERATION OF THE SORORAL AND ALLIED WORLDS

Tellus - Makkan - Naqala - Chaun - Meru - Utero - Prada - Ulfin - Aneng To - Suth So - G'tah Khu - B'kra



Dahlions

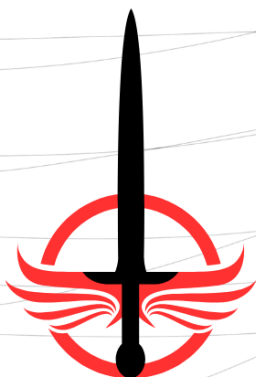
Full Title: The Dahlian League.

Home World: Dahl.

Invaders and subjugators are words synonymous with the predatory, conquest-fuelled Dahlians. Destroyers of Old Earth, descended from carnivorous, vicious pack creatures, Dahlian culture places much significance on strength and loyalty. With their fleets of spacecraft always primed for conflict, bristling with ranged weaponry, Dahlian vessels are the scourge of the galaxy.



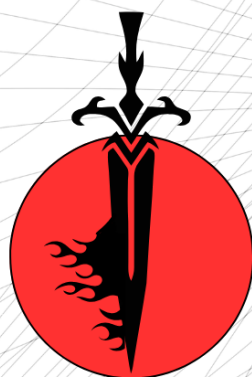
Dahl.



Reigning cartouche of Gahataka Kang as Supreme Overlord Kang of Dahl.



Clan arms of Zsuk as borne by Dantan First Overlord of Fulcho.



Arms of House Makkarak as carried by Kasta First Overmaster to Lammas.



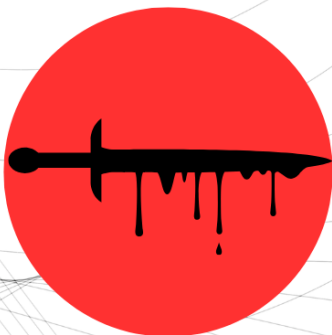
Chief Overseer armorial insignia of Wu'ka of Clan Zsuk.



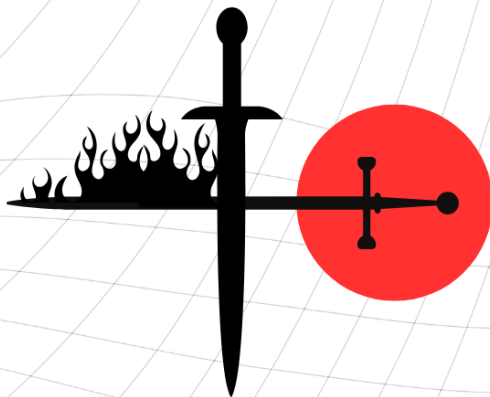
Arms of Clan Opasz as carried by Gilum Master of Fleets to Kylan'bai.



Overseer armorial insignia of the Ncuko Pride.



Flagship badge of Second Assault fleet under Overlord Mok'ta (An'tok Conquest).



Fulcho section 47 forge mark.

Anthozoans

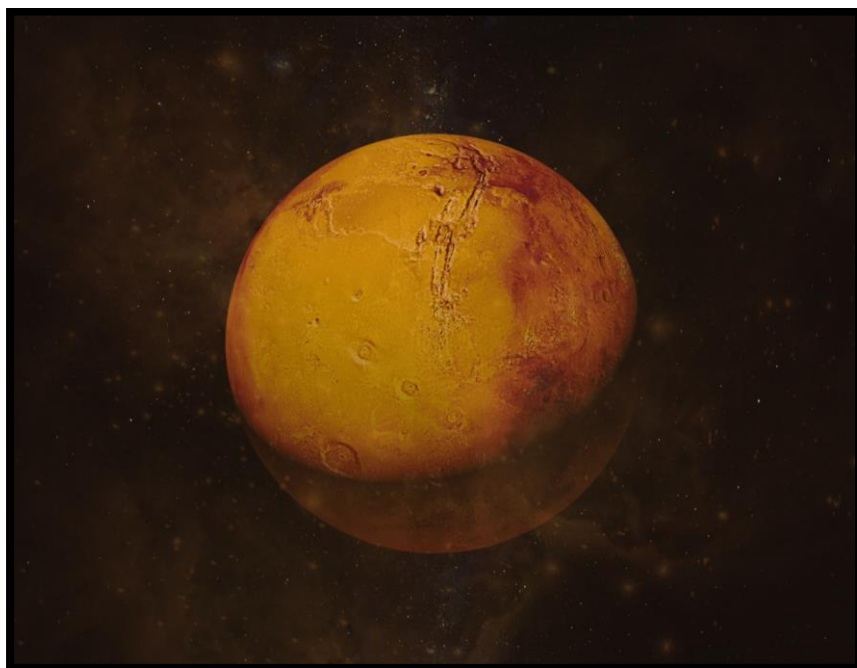
Full Title: (universal translator designator UTD) The Anthozoan Collective.

Home World: (UTD) Anthozoa.

Non-verbal alien creatures, communicating via means such as complex gestures and chemical signals, while also capable of exercising powerful mind control, the Anthozoans are one of the galaxy's most mysterious races. Naturally sedentary, slow-moving creatures, bearing thick, bulging, worm-like bodies, Anthozoans



are a confusion of sensory and practical tentacles. Though Anthozoans are not generally considered a warlike race, once brought into conflict, should they feel one of their territories is in danger, or consider one of their innumerable and unfathomable traditions to have been insulted, the Anthozoans are fearsome fighters.



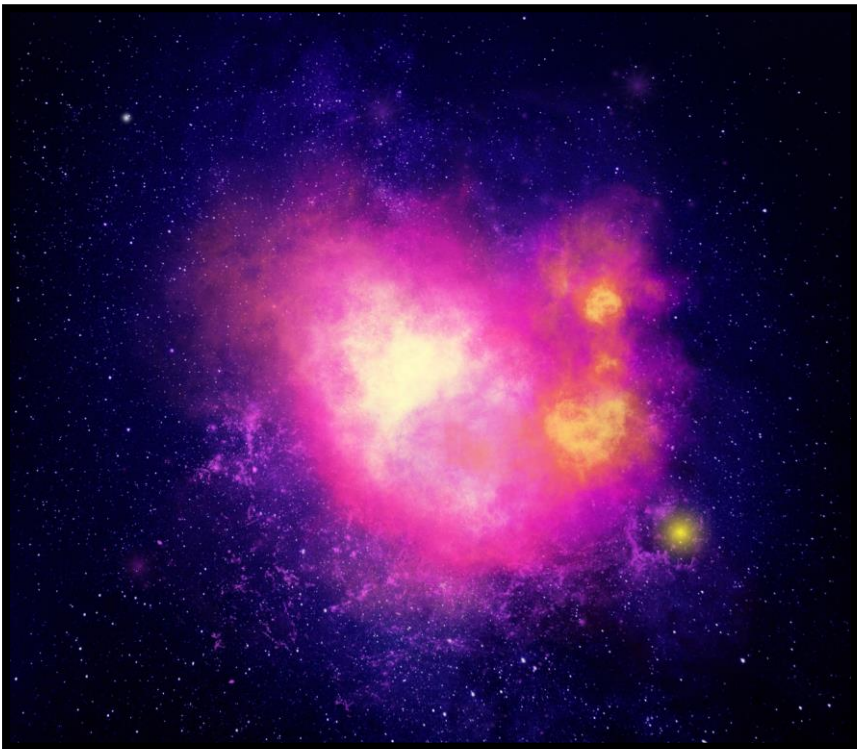
Anthozoa.

Orzo

Full Title: The Great Horde of Orzo.

Home World: Orzo.

Comprising gun runners, smugglers, marauding pirates, and all manner of underhand, lawless, galactic gangsters, the Orzo are stocky, ape-like humanoids whose rapacious and incessant plundering sees them widely considered one of the galaxy's most troublesome and dangerous races. The Orzo themselves, however, consider their brutal and criminal actions entirely honourable. To the Orzo, the weak are to be crushed, to the victor the spoils.



Möbius paradox.



DRIRK'S DAGGERS



SPOLLS AWAY!
SIGN UP AT GLUG'S!

PLUNDER!

PILLAGE!



SIAMANG'S SLAYERS

JOIN THE CREW!

ENQUIRE AT THE HANGING MAN DECK 27

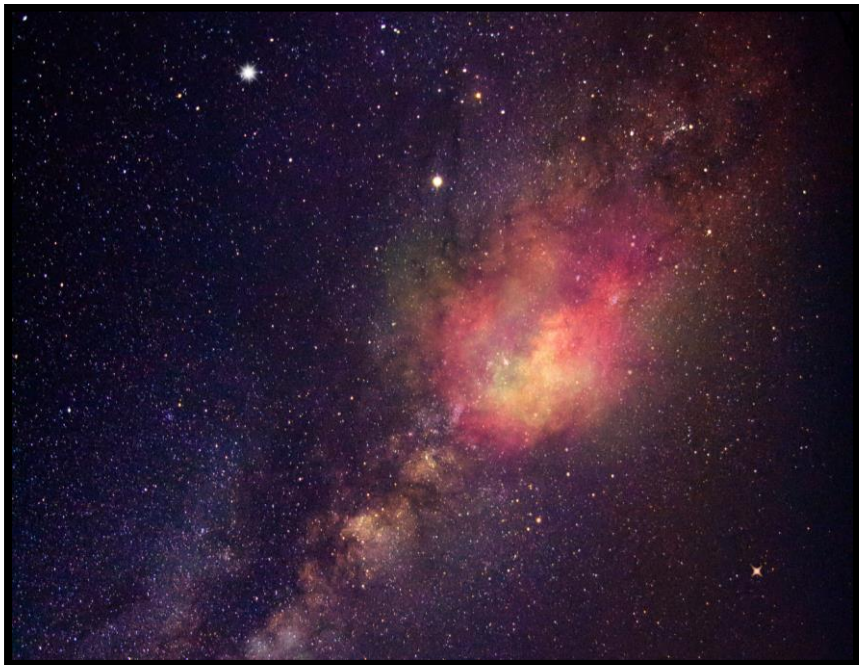


Xixan

Full Title: (universal translator designator UTD) The Xixan Exodus.

Home World: Lokii.

The Xixan (typically pronounced by humans as 'chee chan') are sizable, worm-like aliens with several pairs of legs and highly dexterous, multi-clawed fore-limbs. With numbers of their race inhabiting every known commercial planet, the Xixan are some of the galaxy's most prolific traders and explorers. Preferring desert-like planets, from which they construct vast and elaborate underground cities, the home world of the Xixan is Lokii. In total there are thirteen different Xixan planets. All of these worlds, along with the determined exploratory efforts of the Xixan, link back to a time of great disaster, a time when the race was almost annihilated by the planet-consuming Devourers.



Xixan space of the Aker region.

Spectral Fleet

Full Title: The Spectral Fleet of Interria. Also, parochially: the Fleet of the Damned, the Ghost Fleet, the Shadow Fleet.

Home World: Interria.

The Spectral Fleet, a highly-advanced humanoid race once commonly known as Interrians, is an esoteric force of unfathomable existence. Cast into a dimension-shifting eternity of undeath following the ravaging of their worlds by the immense superpowers of the Devourers, the Spectral Fleet is a mysterious supernatural faction forever cursed to exist outside of stable realities, while possessing secrets innumerable.



"We are the returned and are as one. Blessed be Inertia, goddess to all and giver of life. Blessed be Inertia, the Empress of Existence. Inertia, our saviour, guide us in our quest, and to you we offer ourselves without rest." Prayer of Inertia.

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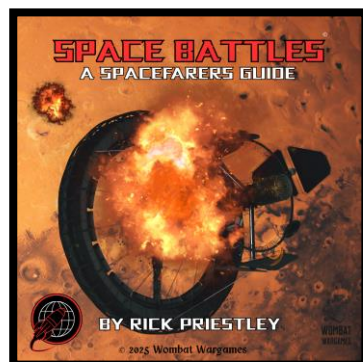
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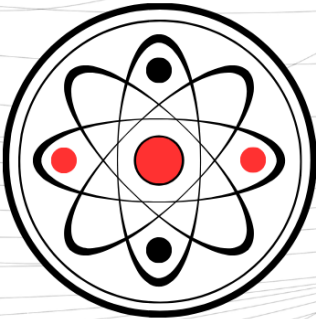
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Peter Cushing

Along with his close friend and colleague Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing is a name synonymous with the pictures of Hammer Film Productions. Appearing in more than twenty of Hammer's films, Cushing established himself as the recognisable face of characters such as Baron Victor Frankenstein and Doctor Van Helsing during the 1950's – 1970's. His reputation as one of horror's finest actors was further bolstered by his many appearances in the works of other film companies, such as Amicus productions. An enthusiastic fan of his work, Star Wars creator George Lucas considered Cushing the perfect choice to play the role of Grand Moff Tarkin in the 1977 film; the actor's performance led to him being nominated for the Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor. Over the years that followed, other notable films which starred Cushing include *The Uncanny* (1977), *Arabian Adventure* (1979), *House of the Long Shadows* (1983), and *The Masks of Death* (1984).

Outside of his professional life, drawn to the calmness and relaxing qualities of such hobbies, Cushing enjoyed an interest in ornithology, as well as holding a great appreciation for the wider natural world, and was a keen watercolourist, too. Meanwhile, another of Cushing's passions was the collecting and painting of thousands of model soldiers, as he was a keen player of H.G. Wells' *Little Wars*. A lover of animals, Cushing was also an active supporter of the Vegetarian Society, and proud patron of the organisation. So distraught was Cushing upon the untimely death of his beloved wife Helen in 1971, his escapist pastimes, along with his close friendships with the likes of Christopher Lee, brought the actor much needed solace.

Peter Wilton Cushing was born in Surrey, England, on May 26, 1913, to parents George Edward Cushing and his wife Nellie Marie King. He also had a brother called David, three years his senior. Growing up in the London areas of Dulwich and Purley, Cushing's education saw him attend a boarding school, Shoreham Grammar School, in Shoreham-by-Sea, a coastal location in West Sussex. Plagued with homesickness, Cushing's time at Shoreham Grammar School was brief, he lasted just a single term, as he returned home to attend Purley County Grammar School instead. It was during his time at Purley County Grammar School when Cushing's interest in art and acting fully crystallised, in no small part due to the support and encouragement offered to him from one of the school's teachers, D.J. Davies. Meanwhile, aside from his interest in the more creative lessons of his schooling, Cushing was also a keen sportsman who excelled in rugby.

Following his time at Purley County Grammar School, though he had been hoping to pursue a career in acting, under the guidance-come-instruction of his father, himself a quantity surveyor, Cushing entered into the role of a surveyor's assistant at the Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council. Here for three years, Cushing disliked the position intensely, often preferring to use his work time to secretly learn lines for various amateur plays he was involved with. In later life he reflected on his time with the council in the following way, "... surveyor's assistant was my title, but I was really nothing more than a glorified office boy." Tenaciously holding to his ambitions of becoming an actor, Cushing gained a scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, securing himself repertory theatre work in Southampton. Then, with the one-way ticket purchased for him by his father, with hopes of building his acting career, Cushing headed for America. During his time here, among other films, Cushing appeared in *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1939), *A Chump at Oxford* (1939), and *Vigil in the Night* (1940).

The Man in the Iron Mask

Directed by James Whale, a pioneer of early horror pictures, Peter Cushing made his on-screen debut in *The Man in the Iron Mask*, released in 1939. Whale had secured his reputation as one of horror's greatest directors with films such as *Frankenstein* (1931), *The Old Dark House* (1932), and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935).

During the outbreak of World War II, Cushing returned to the United Kingdom. Unable to sign up for active military service due to medical reasons, Cushing joined the Entertainments National Service Association. Whilst touring with this group, Cushing met dancer and actress Helen Beck (Violet Helene Beck), the two wed soon afterwards. Over the years that followed, and sometimes at a cost to his mental health, Cushing worked tirelessly to progress his acting career. Always by his side, supporting him throughout, was his beloved wife Helen.

In 1952, the BBC produced a televised mini-series of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* novel, which starred Cushing as Mr. Darcy. The following year, Cushing appeared in another televised mini-series of the BBC, this time *Epitaph for a Spy*, as he played the role of Josef Vadassey. Indeed, over the course of the 1950's, Cushing was a regular fixture on BBC television, regularly appearing in episodes of *Sunday Night Theatre*. Airing in 1954, perhaps the most notable of these episodes is the adaptation of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* novel, in which Cushing plays the leading role of Winston Smith.

In addition to his television work, Cushing appeared in a number of films at this time also, including, among others, *Moulin Rouge* (1952), *The Black Knight* (1954), *The End of the Affair* (1955), and *Alexander the Great* (1956). Serving to bring him into the echelons of horror heroes, the following year saw Cushing enter into his 'Hammer' era, as he starred in *The Curse of Frankenstein*.

Released in 1957, Hammer Film Productions' *The Curse of Frankenstein*, the British company's first colour horror film, catapulted Cushing into the international mainstream and began the two-decade association between the actor and Hammer. Centred around *Frankenstein*; or, *The Modern Day Prometheus* by Mary Shelley (first published in 1818), *The Curse of Frankenstein* stars Cushing as Baron Victor Frankenstein, and Christopher Lee as the scientist's experimental creation, *The Creature*.



Hammer Film Productions – Frankenstein

1957: The Curse of Frankenstein

1958: The Revenge of Frankenstein

1964: The Evil of Frankenstein

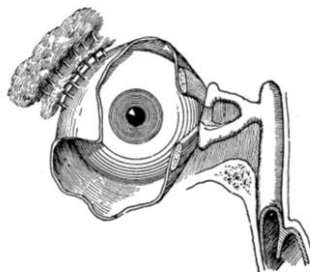
1967: Frankenstein Created Woman

1969: Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed

1970: The Horror of Frankenstein (without Cushing)

1974: Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell

With Cushing holding the role of Frankenstein in all but one, such was the success of the films, Hammer released a total of seven pictures as part of their Frankenstein series. In a 1988 BBC interview with Terry Wogan, Cushing described his thoughts of the character of Frankenstein, "I always think of him as a chap who was before his time... he wanted to open up the human body to see how it worked, so he could put it together again. A nice little hobby, you know. The first do-it-yourself..."



Hammer Film Productions – Dracula

1958: Dracula

1960: The Brides of Dracula (without Lee)

1966: Dracula: Prince of Darkness (without Cushing)

1968: Dracula Has Risen from the Grave (without Cushing)

1970: Taste the Blood of Dracula (without Cushing)

1970: Scars of Dracula (without Cushing)

1972: Dracula A.D. 1972

1973: The Satanic Rites of Dracula

1974: The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires (without Lee)

Riding the wave of success garnered from *The Curse of Frankenstein*, Hammer wasted no time in releasing the film's first sequel, *The Revenge of Frankenstein*, in 1958. This was the same year in which the film company released the first of their *Dracula* series of pictures. While Christopher Lee starred as *Dracula* in seven of Hammer's nine *Dracula* films, Cushing played the role of his nemesis, *Van Helsing*, in five of them.

The Beast Must Die

Based on James Blish's *There Shall Be No Darkness*, a story which first appeared in the April 1950 issue of *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, *The Beast Must Die* is a 1974 film by Amicus Productions. In this werewolf tale, Peter Cushing plays the role of Professor Christopher Lundgren. Much like his friend and fellow actor Christopher Lee, Cushing starred in several films by Amicus Productions, a British film production company founded in 1962.

In 1959, directed by Terence Fisher, Hammer Film Productions released *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a film adaption of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes novel. Cushing starred as the erudite sleuth himself, Sherlock Holmes. Holding a great appreciation for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his crime-solving character, Cushing brought to his performance of the meticulous detective a well-researched authenticity. Also released in 1959, again starring Cushing alongside Christopher Lee, was Hammer's *The Mummy*; Cushing played the role of John Banning, and Lee played the role of The Mummy.

The Skull

Based on Robert Bloch's *The Skull of the Marquis de Sade* story, Amicus Productions released *The Skull* in 1965. This film sees Peter Cushing take on the role of Dr. Christopher Maitland, while Christopher Lee stars as Sir Matthew Phillips.

In addition to his work with Hammer, Cushing also featured in many other films and television programmes, too. One of the notable other film companies which looked to feature Cushing in their pictures was Amicus Productions. Similar in style to Hammer, Amicus' films were typically horror movies but generally within a modern-day setting. Particular Amicus films of note, and featuring Cushing, are *Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* (1965), *The Skull* (1965), *The House That Dripped*

Blood (1971), Tales from the Crypt (1972), Asylum (1972), And Now The Screaming Starts! (1973), and Madhouse (1974).

Peter Cushing – Hammer Film Productions

The Curse of Frankenstein (1957)

The Abominable Snowman (1957)

Dracula (1958)

The Revenge of Frankenstein (1958)

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959)

The Mummy (1959)

The Brides of Dracula (1960)

Sword of Sherwood (1960)

Cash on Demand (1961)

Captain Clegg (1962)

The Evil of Frankenstein (1964)

The Gorgon (1964)

She (1965)

Frankenstein Created Woman (1967)

Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed (1969)

The Vampire Lovers (1970)

Twins of Evil (1971)

Dracula A.D. 1972 (1972)

Fear in the Night (1972)

The Satanic Rites of Dracula (1973)

Shatter (1974)

Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell (1974)

The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires (1974)

A collaboration between the BBC and Amicus, two Doctor Who films were released in the mid-1960's, these being Doctor Who and the Daleks (1965), and Daleks' Invasion Earth 2150 A.D. (1966); both pictures featured Cushing as Dr. Who. Meanwhile, in addition to starring in a number of Hammer's films, as well as Amicus', the second half of the 1960's saw Cushing appear in pictures such as Island of Terror (1966), Night of the Big Heat (1967), and The Blood Beast Terror (1968). By now, Cushing was firmly established as a horror film favourite.

Peter Cushing – Amicus Productions

Dr. Terror's House of Horrors (1965)

Dr. Who and the Daleks (1965)

The Skull (1965)

Daleks' Invasion Earth 2150 A.D. (1966)

Torture Garden (1967)

Scream and Scream Again (1970)

The House That Dripped Blood (1971)

I, Monster (1971)

Tales from the Crypt (1972)

Asylum (1972)

And Now the Screaming Starts! (1973)

From Beyond the Grave (1974)

Madhouse (1974)

The Beast Must Die (1974)

At the Earth's Core (1976)



Outside of his acting career, Cushing had a number of other interests, including ornithology, watercolours, and painting and collecting model soldiers. A proud member of the Model Soldier Society, such was Cushing's enthusiasm for toy soldiers, he often put them to use in games of H.G. Wells' Little Wars. His collection of models comprised thousands of figures, some of which were sculpted for him by the dynamic and much sought-after modelmaker Frederick Ping.

In 1971, falling victim to emphysema, Cushing's wife Helen died. Such was his hysterical grief, on the evening of Helen's death, Cushing frantically ran up and down the stairs of their Whitstable home in a vain attempt to prompt a heart attack as he desperately wished to be with his departed wife. Indeed, Cushing voiced publicly many times that his life was over since Helen's passing as he fell into a deep, long-lasting depression. He later commented that he accepted any acting role offered to him at this time, in an effort to keep busy and dark thoughts at bay. Reflecting back on his homelife with Helen, speaking with the BBC in 1971, Cushing commented, "Home with Helen was something out of this world, and I mean that literally. Absolutely wonderful." In the years after his wife's death, as he looked to keep himself busy with his work, Cushing appeared in many different films, with a handful of examples including *Dr. Phibes Rises Again* (1972), *Asylum* (1972), *Horror Express* (1972), *The Creeping Flesh* (1973), and *The Beast Must Die* (1974). He also made one-off appearances in different television shows, such as *Space: 1999* (1976), and *The New Avengers* (1976).

Though widely regarded as a 'horror' actor, Cushing considered himself slightly differently. In a 1973 interview with the BBC, Cushing commented, "Horror to me is, say, a film like the *Godfather* or anything to do with war... The films that dear Christopher Lee and I do are really fantasy... I don't object to the word horror, it's just the wrong adjective."

Hammer House of Horror

Over the course of 1980, thirteen hour-long episodes of *Hammer House of Horror* aired on British television channel ITV. Playing the role of the villainous, collector-come-captor extraordinaire, Martin Blueck, Peter Cushing stars in the episode entitled *The Silent Scream*.

Released in 1977, George Lucas' Star Wars film was a huge box office success which made immediate superstars of Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), Harrison Ford (Han Solo), and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia). Meanwhile, in contrast to the film's arch villain, the mask-clad Darth Vader, intended to give a human face to the dark menace of the Galactic Empire, Peter Cushing played the role of high-ranking officer Grand Moff Tarkin. Cushing greatly enjoyed playing this role, acting alongside Carrie Fisher. However, certain aspects of his costume did cause him some issues. Though Cushing had no problem with the Edwardian-come-utilitarian uniform, he found his character's high-calved boots too pinching and uncomfortable to wear. As soon as Cushing notified him of the problem, Lucas kindly arranged a pair of carpet slippers for Cushing, while the subsequent filming of the actor was done from the waist up.

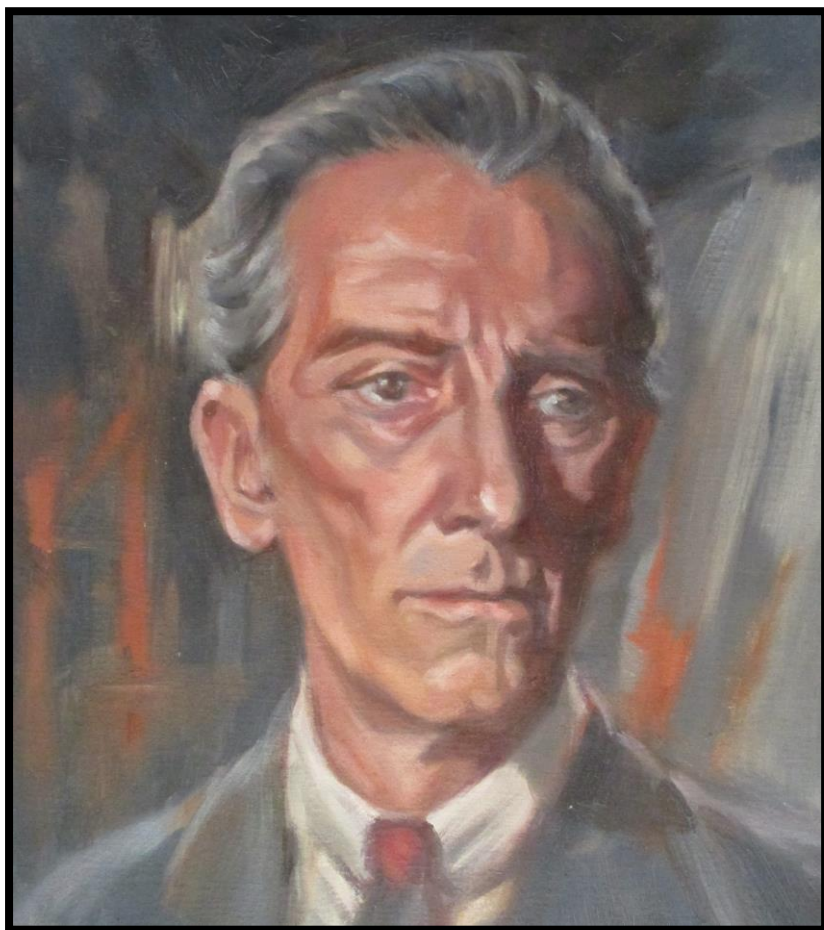
Sherlock Holmes

Peter Cushing played the role of Sherlock Holmes a number of times over the course of his career, beginning with Hammer Film Productions' *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959). Later, in 1968, Cushing again played the role of Holmes, this time in the BBC television series, *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes*, which spanned more than a dozen episodes. In 1971, Cushing recorded a number of Sherlock Holmes stories for a special series of audiobooks entitled *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. Then, for the final time, Cushing once more took on the role of Sherlock Holmes as he starred in the 1984 film, *The Masks of Death*. Entitled *The Abbot's Cry*, there had been plans for a follow-up film to *The Masks of Death*, however, such was Cushing's faltering health, the project was shelved.

In 1982, Cushing was diagnosed with prostate cancer and was initially told that he was unlikely to live beyond the next eighteen months, also that he may lose an eye which had become greatly swollen due to his condition. Fortunately, his eye was not lost, and Cushing strove to continue to live and work as normally as possible. Over the next few years, Cushing appeared in various films and television programmes, including *Tales of the Unexpected* (1983), *House of the Long Shadows* (1983), *Top Secret!* (1984), *Sword of the Valiant* (1984), *Helen Keller: The Miracle Continues* (1984), *The Masks of Death* (1984), and *Biggles: Adventures in Time* (1986).



Growing increasingly frail, for years Cushing's health had been in decline. Then, in early-August 1994, Cushing entered into a hospice in Canterbury, where, aged eighty-one years old, he passed away later that month (August 11, 1994). A consummate gentleman until the very end, with a career that spanned an amazing six decades, Cushing left behind a vast and wonderful legacy with his appearances in more than one hundred films, as well as many television programmes, in addition to his stage performances. As one of the original icons from the golden age of British horror films, Cushing's influence on the genre is immeasurable. Likewise, Cushing's close association with, and appreciation for, Sherlock Holmes and the yesteryear world of detective mysteries sees him rightly considered in especially high regard.



A portrait of Peter Cushing. © Ruth Moreira.

Christopher Lee

Christopher Lee made his film debut in 1948, appearing in the gothic-styled *Corridor of Mirrors*. Several other film roles soon followed for the young actor, as he appeared in pictures such as *Penny and the Pownall Case* (1948), *Scott of the Antarctic* (1948), *Valley of Eagles* (1951), *Moulin Rouge* (1952), and *The Cockleshell Heroes* (1955), as well as several other pictures.

Appearing in numerous films together, for many, the pairing of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee is synonymous with British horror films of the 1950's – 1970's, particularly the pictures by Hammer Film Productions, as well as Amicus Productions. In addition to his horror film roles, however, Lee did also star in several other types of pictures also, from war films such as *Battle of the V-1* (1958) to swashbucklers such as *The Pirates of Blood River* (1962), thrillers such as *Too Hot to Handle* (1960) to science fiction films such as *End of the World* (1977). An actor in much demand, Lee appeared in dozens of such films over the years.

Beginning in 2001, performing the role of the dark wizard Saruman, Lee entered into a new phase of public recognition due to the huge global success of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001), and *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (2002). In addition to his new fanbase in fantasy circles, Lee also gained the admiration of science fiction fans, as he played the role of Count Dooku in *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), and *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith* (2005).

Appearing in films such as *Season of the Witch* (2011), and *The Wicker Tree* (2011), as well as providing voiceovers for films such as *Corpse Bride* (2005), and *Alice in Wonderland* (2010), Lee continued to work prolifically. Then, returning to his role of Saruman, Christopher Lee starred in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (2012), and *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014). It was *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* which proved to be the actor's last film released in his lifetime, as he died the following year, leaving behind a vast legacy of film and audio performances, as well as several books.

Son of Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Trollope Lee and his wife Countess Estelle Marie Carandini di Sarzo, Christopher Frank Carandini Lee was born in London, on May 27, 1922. Along with his older sister Xandra, following the divorce of his parents while he was still a young child, Lee lived for a time in Switzerland as his mother moved the family from London. Then, his mother remarried, wedding Harcourt George St-Croix Rose (uncle of Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond books), and so Lee returned to London.

Growing up within an affluent household, Lee was privately educated throughout his schooling years. Then, following the breakout of World War II, Lee became actively involved in military service. Following a stint as a volunteer for the Finnish army, then roles within United States Lines and Beecham's, and a brief time with the Home Guard, Lee signed up with the Royal Air Force, where he remained until retiring as a flight lieutenant in 1946.

In 1948, as he looked to progress a career as an actor, and prove wrong the naysayers who had declared him too tall to succeed in this field, Lee made his film debut in *Corridor of Mirrors*, a mystery-drama directed by Terence Young. Lee then appeared in *One Night with You* (1948), another film directed by Terence Young. Perhaps more significantly, though, was Lee's appearance in *A Song for Tomorrow* (1948), which was the first film to be directed by Terence Fisher, who later became a key figure and creative influence with Hammer Film Productions. Among other film projects of 1948, Lee also appeared in *Scott of the Antarctic*, which starred John Mills as the intrepid Robert Falcon Scott. Over the years that followed, Lee appeared in many different films, including, among others, *They Were Not Divided* (1950), *Valley of Eagles* (1951), and *That Lady* (1955), each of which were directed by Terence Young.

In 1957, with *The Curse of Frankenstein*, starring as The Creature, Lee made his debut appearance in a Hammer Film Productions' picture. And so began a long-standing, and sometimes fraught, association between parties, one which projected all involved to horror film fame.



The Curse of Frankenstein

Starring Peter Cushing as Baron Victor Frankenstein, while Christopher Lee stars as The Creature, *The Curse of Frankenstein* was released in 1957. Hammer Film Productions' first colour horror film, *The Curse of Frankenstein* was a huge box office success, spawning many sequels and firmly placing Hammer at the forefront of gothic horror films.

Such was the popularity of the Cushing-Lee partnership, the two actors, who were also close friends, appeared together in many of Hammer's films, as well as the works of other film production companies, such as 'Hammer competitor' Amicus Productions.

Adapting Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein; or The Modern Prometheus*, screenwriter Jimmy Sangster, with *The Curse of Frankenstein*, created a Hammer version of the epic story that stood apart from other film adaptations of the book. Meanwhile, Terence Fisher was brought in as the film's director. Prior to Hammer's *The Curse of Frankenstein*, the popular image of Frankenstein's creation was that constructed by Universal Pictures and actor Boris Karloff during the 1930's; a square-headed, hulking creature with a bolt through its neck. Hammer, aware of strict copyright issues linked to Universal's version of Frankenstein's handiwork, decided to adorn the face of the tall Lee with gory-red scars across pale and discoloured flesh, while his towering form was bandage-wrapped. Utilising his naturally imposing figure, standing six feet and five inches tall, Lee makes up for his lack of vocal dialogue in the film as he energetically portrays The Creature with a frenzied confusion and underlying sense of tragedy. Spawning several sequels over the years that followed, Hammer's Frankenstein films, along with their Dracula films, became some of their most iconic pictures.

In 1958, Lee appeared in his second Hammer film, *Dracula*, playing the role that he would, for many, become most closely associated with, that of Bram Stoker's Count Dracula. In preparation for the role, Lee read through Stoker's original novel, and he determined that he wanted to reflect the multifaceted characteristics of this complex character. Lee's performance of Dracula sees the actor demonstrate the vampire's insatiable bloodlust, his sinister and selfish desires, his evil heroism, and romanticism, as well as inherent sadness and

loneliness in an eternal life of unfulfillment. As with *The Curse of Frankenstein*, *Dracula* was directed by Terence Fisher, while Jimmy Sangster was the screenwriter. Just like *The Curse of Frankenstein*, *Dracula* was an immediate box office hit. Over the following years, Hammer produced a number of *Dracula* sequels, typically with Lee playing the role of Shelley's undead fiend.

Hammer Film Productions – Dracula

Christopher Lee starred as Dracula in seven of Hammer's nine *Dracula* films, while Cushing played the role of Van Helsing in five of them.

1958: *Dracula*

1960: *The Brides of Dracula* (without Lee)

1966: *Dracula: Prince of Darkness* (without Cushing)

1968: *Dracula Has Risen from the Grave* (without Cushing)

1970: *Taste the Blood of Dracula* (without Cushing)

1970: *Scars of Dracula* (without Cushing)

1972: *Dracula A.D. 1972*

1973: *The Satanic Rites of Dracula*

1974: *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* (without Lee)

Released in the U.K. in the same year as *Dracula* (though not released in the U.S. until 1962), *Corridors of Blood*, produced by Amalgamated Productions, features Lee alongside horror icon Boris Karloff.

Meanwhile, with Hammer, over the course of 1959, Lee starred in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Man Who Could Cheat Death*, and *The Mummy*. Both *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Mummy* included the classic partnership of Lee and Cushing.

Entering into a new decade, 1960 saw Lee star in Hammer's *The Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll*, a film adaption of Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Outside of Hammer, among Lee's other films of 1960 were *The City of the Dead*, and *The Hands of Orlac*. The following year, Lee starred in two more Hammer films, *The Terror of the Tongs* (1961), and *Taste of Fear* (1961).

Meanwhile, 1961 also saw Lee marry Birgit Kroncke. The two later had a daughter together, whom they named Christina.

Christopher Lee – Books, Audiobooks & Music

In addition to his many film and television appearances, Christopher Lee was also involved with a number of books, as well as lending his voice to several audiobooks and appearing on a selection of music records, including, but not limited to, those listed below.

Books:

Christopher Lee: Tall, Dark and Gruesome: An Autobiography (W.H. Allen, 1977)

Archives of Evil Presented by Christopher Lee (W.H. Allen, 1977)

The Great Villains: An Omnibus of Evil Presented by Christopher Lee (W.H. Allen, 1978)

The Films of Christopher Lee (Scarecrow Press, 1983)

Lord of Misrule: Autobiography of Christopher Lee (Orion, 2004)

Audiobooks:

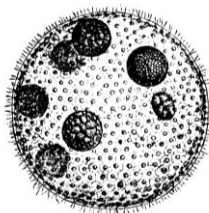
Hammer Presents Dracula with Christopher Lee (Hammer City Records Ltd/EMI/ KPM/ Warner Bros., 1974)

Christopher Lee Reads Edgar Allan Poe – Tales of Horror (Music For Pleasure Ltd, 1979)

The Adventure of the Lion's Mane and Other Stories – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Harper Collins, 1999)

The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Harper Collins, 2000)

The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire and Other Stories – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Harper Collins, 2005)



Audiobooks (continued):

The Hound of Death – Agatha Christie (Harper Collins, 2006)

Christopher Lee Reads Dracula – Bram Stoker (Fantom Films Ltd, 2009)

Christopher Lee Reads Frankenstein – Mary Shelley (Fantom Press Ltd, 2009)

The Strange Case of Sir Arthur Carmichael: A Hercule Poirot Short Story – Agatha Christie (Harper Collins, 2016)

The Devil Rides Out – Dennis Wheatley (Deadtree Publishing, 2019)

Strange Conflict – Dennis Wheatley (Deadtree Publishing, 2019)

Ghost Stories with Christopher Lee – M.R. James (BBC, 2021)

Music:

Dracula: An Adaptation, with Music and Sound, of the Original, Classic Story (Stamford Records, 1966)

Christopher Lee Sings Devils, Rogues & Other Villains (From Broadway to Bayreuth and Beyond) (Wolfslair Inc., 1996)

Revelation (Magic Film, 2006)

Charlemagne: By the Sword and the Cross (Charlemagne Productions Ltd, 2010)

Charlemagne: The Omens of Death (Charlemagne Productions Ltd, 2013)

Charlemagne: Metal Knight (Charlemagne Productions Ltd, 2014)



As the 1960's progressed, as well as appearing in various horror films, Lee also appeared in pictures such as *The Pirates of Blood River* (1962). One of the company's non-horror pictures, produced by Hammer Film Productions, *The Pirates of Blood River* sees Lee play the role of Captain LaRoche, as part of a "daring swashbuckling adventure." The film performed well at the box office, prompting Hammer to make another such picture, resulting in *The Devil-Ship Pirates* (1964), which again stars Lee.

Fu Manchu

Beginning with *The Face of Fu Manchu*, released in 1965, Christopher Lee played the role of supervillain Dr. Fu Manchu in five films over the second half of the 1960's. Considered by some to be cult classics, Lee later reflected his feelings on the series of films was mixed.

The Face of Fu Manchu (1965)

The Brides of Fu Manchu (1966)

The Vengeance of Fu Manchu (1967)

The Blood of Fu Manchu (1968)

The Castle of Fu Manchu (1969)

The second half of the 1960's saw Lee appear in a series of five Fu Manchu films, as he played the archvillain himself, Dr. Fu Manchu. Other standout films to feature Lee at this time include *Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* (1965), *The Skull* (1965), *Rasputin the Mad Monk* (1966), *Night of the Big Heat* (1967), *The Devil Rides Out* (1968), and *The Oblong Box* (1969).

The Devil Rides Out

Starring Christopher Lee, Hammer Film Productions' *The Devil Rides Out* was released in 1968. Based on Dennis Wheatley's 1934 novel of the same name, *The Devil Rides Out* was directed by Terence Fisher.

Following *Taste the Blood of Dracula* (1970), *Scars of Dracula* (1970), and *Dracula A.D. 1972* (1972), the eighth of Hammer's Dracula films, *The Satanic Rites of Dracula*, was released in 1973. The film was met with a lukewarm critical response. Though Hammer released a ninth, and final, Dracula film, *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* (1974),

The Satanic Rites of Dracula was Lee's last Dracula picture for Hammer.

Christopher Lee – Hammer Film Productions

The Curse of Frankenstein (1957)

Dracula (1958)

The Mummy (1959)

The Man Who Could Cheat Death (1959)

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959)

The Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll (1960)

The Terror of the Tongs (1961)

Taste of Fear (1961)

The Pirates of Blood River (1962)

The Devil-Ship Pirates (1964)

The Gorgon (1964)

She (1965)

Dracula: Prince of Darkness (1966)

Rasputin the Mad Monk (1966)

The Devil Rides Out (1968)

Dracula Has Risen from the Grave (1968)

Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970)

Scars of Dracula (1970)

Dracula A.D. 1972 (1972)

The Satanic Rites of Dracula (1973)

To the Devil a Daughter (1976)

The Resident (2011)



Christopher Lee – Amicus Productions

Dr. Terror's House of Horrors (1965)

The Skull (1965)

Scream and Scream Again (1970)

The House That Dripped Blood (1971)

I, Monster (1971)

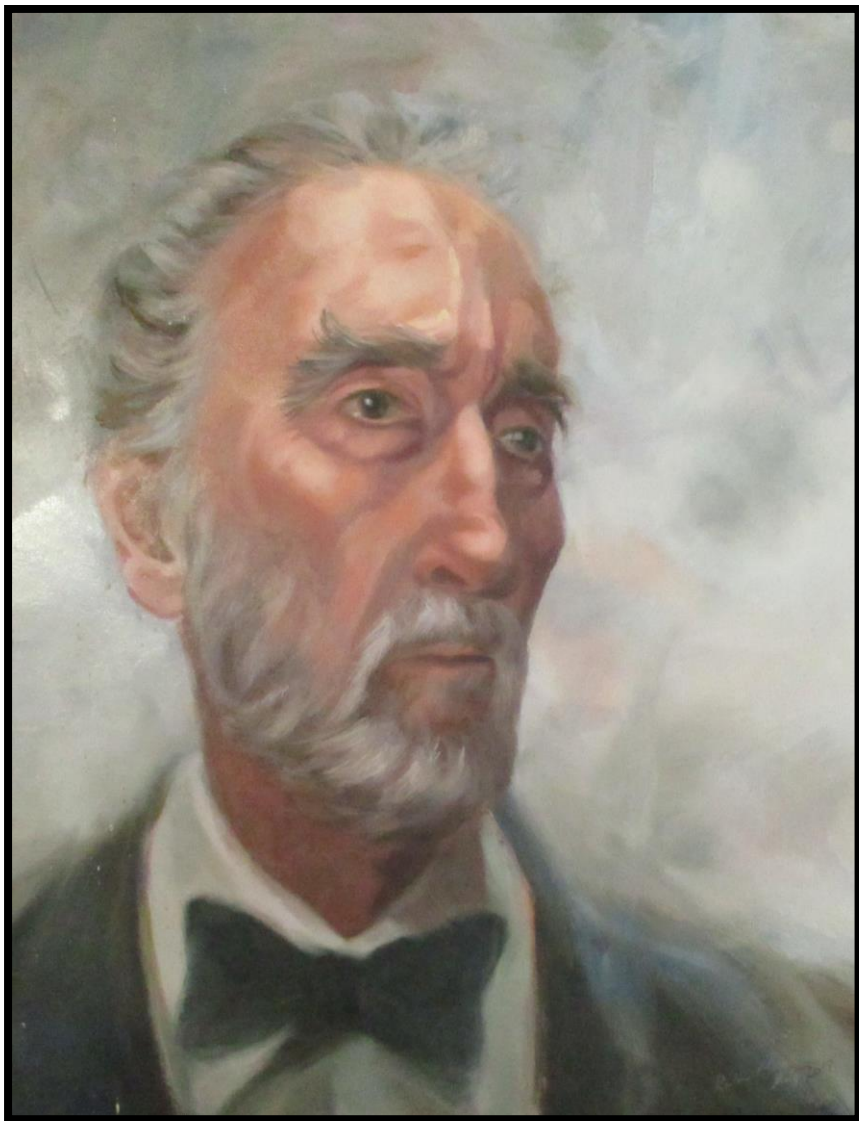
Also released in 1973, well received by critics and fans alike, was the 'folk horror' film *The Wicker Man*, which starred Lee as Lord Summerisle. Over the many years since its original release, the film has gained an enthusiastic cult following. Meanwhile, an actor in much demand, over the decades that followed, Lee remained busy as he starred in many different films from many different genres.



Directed by Peter Jackson, an epic film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's 1954 novel *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* was released in 2001. Holding a deep appreciation for Tolkien's works, though he would have preferred to play the role of Gandalf, Lee was well-versed in the character of Saruman, whom he played in the film. The second film of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, was released in 2002, and again starred Lee as Saruman. Unfortunately, the closing part of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003), saw Lee's parts in the film edited out due to narrative reasons.

It was not just films of fantasy in which Lee starred, as he played the role of Count Dooku in the *Star Wars* films *Star Wars Episode: II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), and *Star Wars Episode: III – Revenge of the Sith* (2005). Lee also provided a voiceover for Count Dooku in the computer-animated *Star Wars* film *Star Wars: Clone Wars* (2008).

Returning to his role of the corrupt wizard Saruman, two of Lee's final films were *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (2012), and *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014), the latter was actually the last of Lee's films to be released during his lifetime. In failing health, entering into a London hospital with respiratory and heart problems, Lee died on June 7, 2015, aged ninety-three years old, leaving behind a vast legacy of hundreds of film and television performances, as well as books, audiobooks, and music records.



A portrait of Christopher Lee. © Ruth Moreira.

Vincent Price

Vincent Leonard Price Jr. was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 27, 1911, to parents Vincent Leonard Price and his wife Marguerite Cobb Wilcox. With his grandfather, Vincent Clarence Price, having invented Dr. Price's Baking Powder, and his father serving as president of the National Candy Company, Price was born into an affluent family.

A studious individual, Price enjoyed his education as he attended St. Louis Country Day School, Milford Academy, and Yale University. Intending to study Fine Arts, Price then entered into London's Courtauld Institute of Art. Expanding his realm of creativity, drawn to the performing arts, it was around this time that Price began to pursue a career in acting. While in London, Price appeared in two different plays, these being *Chicago*, and *Victoria Regina*, before returning to America, and heading for Broadway. A few years later, in 1938, Price married actress Edith Barrett, whom he had first met the previous year, during the stage production of Thomas Dekker's *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. The couple went on to have a son together, whom they named Vincent, in 1940, before divorcing in 1948.

Released in 1938, directed by Rowland V. Lee, *Service de Luxe* is a comedy film which stars Constance Bennett, Charlie Ruggles, Helen Broderick, and, making his film debut, Vincent Price. The following year, in 1939, Price again worked with director Lee, as he starred alongside Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, Barbara O'Neil, and Ian Hunter in *Tower of London*. 1939 also saw Price appear in *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex*, which starred Bette Davis and Errol Flynn.

The Saint

Running from 1945 – 1951, *The Saint* was an American radio show centred around the adventures of Leslie Charteris' charismatic, law-skirting mystery-solving character, Simon Templar, otherwise known as *The Saint*. Vincent Price played *The Saint* from 1947 – 1951. Over the course of his long career, Price made many appearances on radio, in all manner of roles.

In 1940, among his other film appearances, Price starred in Universal Pictures' *The Invisible Man Returns*, one in a series of films the company made which were based around H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* (1897) novel. Directed by Joe May, such were the innovative

special effects incorporated into the film, an Oscar nomination followed for the category of Best Special Effects, though, in the end, the film lost out to *The Thief of Bagdad* (1940). An actor in demand, appearing in westerns, film noirs, comedies, adventure films, and more, Price performed in a variety of roles over the course of the 1940's. Meanwhile, in 1949, Price married for the second time, as he wed costume designer Mary Grant. The couple had a daughter together, Victoria, in 1962.

House of Wax

Released by Warner Bros. in 1953, *House of Wax* was the first 3D picture produced by a major film studio. The film was an updated version of the company's *Mystery of the Wax Museum*, a film released in 1933, and which itself was based on Charles S. Belden's 1932 short story, *The Wax Works*.

As the 1950's unfolded, Price continued to appear in a variety of films. Then, in 1953, Price appeared in his first proper horror film, which was also a 3D film, *House of Wax*, as he starred as Professor Henry Jarrod; a deranged and disfigured sculptor who murders people and then wax-coats them to serve as displays in his museum. It was this role which sparked a series of follow-up, typically lead, parts for Price which centred around characters of a fiendishly villainous and unhinged temperament. As such, in 1954, Price appeared in another 3D horror film, as he starred in Columbia Pictures' *The Mad Magician*.



Having studied art, Price was an enthusiastic and highly knowledgeable art lover and collector, as well as being a talented artist himself. Furthermore, he was also a commissioner of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Donating art pieces from their own personal collections, as well as gifting funds, Price and his wife established the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, California in 1957.

The Fly

A 20th Century Fox film, based on Geroge Langelaan's 1957 story of the same name, *The Fly* was released in 1958. Alongside David Hedison, Patrica Owens, and Herbert Marshall, the film stars Vincent Price.

Having once worked as an Allied spy during World War II, Geroge Langelaan wrote many different stories, a number of which featured in publications such as *Argosy*, *New Worlds*, and *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

The late-1950's saw Price enter into his quintessential 'horror mode', as he appeared in *The Fly* (1958), *Return of the Fly* (1959), *House on Haunted Hill* (1959), and *The Tingler* (1959).

The Tingler

In the 1959 film *The Tingler*, Price plays the role of eccentric pathologist Dr. Warren Chapin. Going on to earn a cult following over the years since its release, the story played out in *The Tingler* was partially inspired by the writer of the film, Robb White's, encounter with a centipede in the British Virgin Islands, fused with an LSD angle.

House on Haunted Hill

Also released in 1959, again written by Robb White, the film *House on Haunted Hill* sees Price play the role of an eccentric millionaire, Frederick Loren, who invites unknown guests to his haunted home, with the promise of \$10,000 for each of those who can endure an entire night in the terrifying property.



In 1960, Price starred as Roderick Usher in *House of Usher*, a film adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's 1839 short story, *The Fall of the House of Usher*. With Richard Matheson serving as screenwriter, *House of Usher* was directed by Roger Corman. In total, Corman directed eight Poe-inspired films. Of these eight films, Matheson was the screenwriter of four, while Price starred in seven.



Edgar Allan Poe – Vincent Price – Roger Corman – Richard Matheson

1960: *House of Usher* (Price, Corman, and Matheson)

1961: *The Pit and the Pendulum* (Price, Corman, and Matheson)

1962: *The Premature Burial* (Corman only)

1962: *Tales of Terror* (Price, Corman, and Matheson)

1963: *The Raven* (Price, Corman, and Matheson)

1963: *The Haunted Palace* (Price and Corman)

1964: *The Masque of the Red Death* (Price and Corman)

1964: *The Tomb of Ligeia* (Price and Corman)

In addition to his busy acting schedule, Price continued to pursue his interest in art. Seeing it as an opportunity to make art more accessible to the general American public, Price spent a long time working as an art consultant for Sears, and championed the works of artists such as Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali. Pieces chosen by Price went on to form Sears' Vincent Price Collection of Fine Art.

In line with his mild-mannered temperament and gentle character, the soft-spoken Price was a dedicated lover of animals. Such was his enthusiasm for four-legged creatures, and his dog Joe, in particular, Price penned a book of heart-warming tales entitled *The Book of Joe: About a Dog and His Man*, the book was published by Doubleday in 1961. Further books by Price followed over the years, as he found an outlet for his enthusiasm for cookery, as well as art.

In 1963, with his appearances in *The Raven*, as well as *The Haunted Palace*, Price starred in another two of Roger Corman's Poe-inspired

films. Though declared “Edgar Allan Poe’s,” *The Haunted Palace* owes much of its plot to H.P. Lovecraft’s *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*, a short story first published in serialised form via *Weird Tales* in 1941. Among other films in which he featured, 1963 also saw Price star in *Twice-Told Tales*, an anthology of three films inspired by the works of writer Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Released in 1964, with inspiration drawn from Richard Matheson’s *I Am Legend* (1954) novel, *The Last Man on Earth* is an atmospheric, post-apocalyptic horror film which stars Price in the role of Dr. Robert Morgan. Seemingly the sole survivor of an undead pandemic, Morgan lives a lonely and dangerous existence as he endures a daily routine of hunting zombies and disposing of their corrupted corpses. After a time, Morgan discovers another survivor, Ruth Collins. It is this association which ultimately leads to his demise. With its ground-breaking themes and accents of dystopic horror, along with its undead focus, triggering the later creation of movies such as *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), as well as *The Omega Man* (1971), *The Last Man on Earth* and *I Am Legend* can be considered as precursors to the zombie-apocalypse films and tales which became so popular over the following decades.

Richard Matheson

With a focus on horror and all things weird, Richard Matheson was a writer and screenwriter whose work spanned more than sixty years. In addition to his work in film and television, Matheson wrote dozens of novels, as well as many short stories. Appearing in magazines such as *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Galaxy Science Fiction*, *Weird Tales*, *Fantastic Universe*, *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine*, and many others besides, Matheson was a regular in pulp publications.

In 1965, Price starred in *City Under the Sea* (also known as *War-Gods of the Deep*), another film inspired by the work of Edgar Allan Poe; this time Poe’s 1845 poem, *The City in the Sea*, was the creative catalyst. Like the 1963 film *The Raven*, as well as taking inspiration from Poe, *City Under the Sea* also fuses aspects of H.P. Lovecraft; this time the writer’s 1936 novella, *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*, is woven into things.

Vincent Price – Books

As well as writing his own books, Vincent Price also penned a number of introductions for others. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the books Price worked on.

I Like What I Know: A Visual Autobiography (Doubleday, 1959)

The Book of Joe: About a Dog and His Man (Doubleday, 1961)

A Treasury of Great Recipes (Bernard Geis Associates, 1965)

18 Best Stories by Edgar Allan Poe (Dell Laurel, 1965)

Mary and Vincent Price Present A National Treasury of Cookery (Heirloom Publishing, 1967)

Come Into the Kitchen Cook Book: A Collector's Treasury of America's Great Recipes (Stravon Educational Press, 1969)

Cooking Price-Wise with Vincent Price (Corgi Books, 1971)

The Ghouls (W.H. Allen, 1971)

Vincent Price Presents The Price of Fear (Everest Books, 1976)

Vincent Price: His Movies, His Plays, His Life (Doubleday, 1978)

Now a horror film fixture, Price was also becoming increasingly associated with the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Released in 1969, taking its title from Poe's 1844 short story of the same name, *The Oblong Box* is a horror film which stars Price alongside fellow horror hero Christopher Lee. In 1970, Price appeared in a film entitled *An Evening of Edgar Allan Poe*, which sees the actor recite four of the writer's works; *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Sphinx*, *The Cask of Amontillado*, and *The Pit and the Pendulum*. That same year, Price played a merciless, witch-hating magistrate called Lord Edward Whitman in *Cry of the Banshee*, a British horror film directed by Gordon Hessler.



Cooking Price-Wise

One of Vincent Price's passions was cooking, and he demonstrated his enthusiasm for this across a range of platforms, from books to television, and more besides. Airing in 1971 via British television channel ITV, *Cooking Price-Wise* was a six-episode cookery show which Price starred in. Demonstrating his natural gentlemanly and playful character, as well as his keen knowledge of food and cooking, the show proved popular among viewing audiences.

Price's marriage with his wife Mary Grant ended in 1973. The following year Price remarried as he wed Australian actress Coral Browne. Beginning in 1973, broadcast via BBC Radio, *The Price of Fear* was a radio show which featured various tales of terror, fantastic stories in which Price was often the spectator, as well as respective narrator. Meanwhile, Price continued to appear in horror films of the day, such as *Madhouse*, a 1974 film which sees Price starring alongside renowned horror actor Peter Cushing.

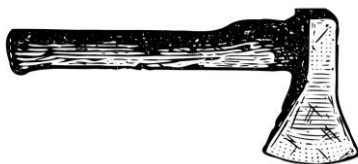
The Price of Fear

Running from 1973 – 1983, *The Price of Fear* was a BBC-produced radio series with a focus on mystery and horror stories, in which Vincent Price featured.

Including a total of twenty-two episodes, series 1 – 2 aired in 1973 – 1974, while series 3 aired in 1983. Though there were several writers involved, William Ingram penned most stories. Meanwhile, the works of others, such as Roald Dahl and Bram Stoker, sometimes served as a story's initial inspiration.

Entitled *Vincent Price Presents The Price of Fear*, comprising a selection of stories from the radio show, put into written form, a respective compilation book was published by Everest Books in 1976.

Over the course of the 1980's, Price worked on a number of animated films, including *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (1980), *I Go Pogo* (1980), *Fun with Mr. Future* (1982), *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986), and *The Nativity* (1987). Meanwhile, animated pictures aside, Price also appeared in *The Monster Club* (1981), *From a Whisper to a Scream* (1987), and *Dead Heat* (1988), among others.



From a Whisper to a Scream

Produced by William Burr and Darin Scott, *From a Whisper to a Scream* is a 1987 anthology horror film featuring Vincent Price. Playing the part of Julian White, describing the dark happenings of Oldfield, Tennessee, Price serves as the structurer of the four short pictures which make up *From a Whisper to a Scream*.

Released in 1990, directed by Tim Burton, *Edward Scissorhands* is a fantasy romance which stars Winona Ryder and Johnny Depp. Telling the tale of an incomplete humanoid, Edward, left without hands due to the sudden death of his inventor, Edward Scissorhands fuses gothic aspects with themes of isolation and personal discovery, punctuated by moments of comedy. Edward's creator, The Inventor, is played by Price, and it was a role specifically written for him. Having grown up with a love for Price's films, Burton had previously collaborated with the actor on the director's early-1980's, as yet to be released, short, stop motion horror film, *Vincent*; Price had served as the picture's narrator. Due to Price's ailing health, as he struggled with lung complaints and Parkinson's disease, the actor's filming time for the movie was reduced. *Edward Scissorhands* turned out to be the last major film of Price's career. On October 25, 1993, at his home in Los Angeles, California, aged eighty-two years old, Price died of lung cancer.

Price's legacy is considerable. Encompassing the stage, film, television, and radio, his acting career spanned more than five decades, while he also featured in several audiobooks. Drawing on his interest in animals, cookery, and art, Price also penned several books. And so it is that, across a swathe of creative platforms, Price lives on; a multi-faceted individual, consummate gentleman, and one of the original icons of the classic age of horror.



Boris Karloff

Son of Edward John Pratt and his wife Eliza Sara Millard, William Henry Pratt, better known as Boris Karloff, was born in Dulwich, Surrey, on November 23, 1887. Particularly through his father, whose mother was Indian, Karloff held Indian ancestry. Furthermore, Karloff's father had worked for the Imperial Civil Service, which operated in India during the country's time as part of the British Empire. As both of his parents tragically died when he was a still young child, Karloff was cared for by his older siblings.

Bow-legged, possessing a stutter and lisp, the youngest of nine children, under his elder siblings' charge Karloff first attended Enfield Grammar School, before entering into private education. He attended Uppingham School, Merchant Taylors' School, and then King's College London. However, despite his high-profile education, Karloff failed to graduate from university, and travelled to Canada, where he found various odd jobs to support himself.

Appearing in different theatrical productions, it was during his time in Canada when Karloff began, in earnest, to pursue a career in acting, before he moved to America to continue in his endeavours. Forays into his chosen profession did not reap immediate success, though, and Karloff continued to support himself through all manner of physical jobs, such as digging ditches and laying railroad tracks.

Once in Hollywood, Karloff secured himself small parts in a number of films, such as *The Lightning Raider* (1919), *The Masked Rider* (1919), *The Last of the Mohicans* (1920), and *The Hope Diamond Mystery* (1921). As he began to make a name for himself, over the course of the 1920's, Karloff appeared in dozens of films from all different genres, with just a handful of examples including pictures such as *The Infidel* (1922), *The Prisoner* (1923), *Riders of the Plains* (1924), *Lady Robinhood* (1925), *The Bells* (1926), *The Devil's Chaplain* (1929), and *The King of the Kongo* (1929).



In 1930, Karloff married Dorothy Stine, with whom he would have a daughter, Sara, in 1938. This marriage was Karloff's fifth, as he had previously been married first to Grace Harding (1910 – 1913), Olive de Wilton (1916 – 1919), Montana Laurena Williams (1920 – 1922), and Helen Vivian Soule (1924 – 1928).



Gloria Stuart (left) and Boris Karloff (right). Promotional material for The Old Dark House (Universal Pictures, 1932).

Courted by film director John Whale, in 1931 Karloff starred in *Frankenstein*, as he played the part of Frankenstein's creation in Universal Pictures' film adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*. Produced by Carl Laemmle, *Frankenstein* was, arguably, Karloff's most physically demanding role so far. In addition to his weighty costume and heavy platform boots, Karloff's face wore the transformative special effects makeup created by cosmetics extraordinaire Jack Pierce. Such was the uniqueness of the design, Universal copyrighted their representation of the tragic character. Meanwhile, *Frankenstein* was an immediate box office hit, spawning several sequel films.

Universal Pictures – Frankenstein

Universal Pictures released a total of eight Frankenstein films, of which four featured Boris Karloff.

1931: Frankenstein

1935: Bride of Frankenstein

1939: Son of Frankenstein

1942: The Ghost of Frankenstein (without Karloff)

1943: Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man (without Karloff)

1944: House of Frankenstein

1945: House of Dracula (without Karloff)

1948: Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (without Karloff)

An actor in much demand, Karloff appeared in several films in 1932, including, amongst others, Behind the Mask, The Old Dark House, The Mask of Fu Manchu, and The Mummy. Holding with the horror vein, the following year, in 1933, Karloff played the role of Professor Henry Morlant in The Ghoul. Among his appearances in other films, 1934 saw Karloff star alongside Bela Lugosi in a film adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's 1843 short story, The Black Cat. Karloff and Lugosi appeared together in several films over the years.



Again starring Karloff as Frankenstein's monster, released in 1935, Bride of Frankenstein was the first of Universal Pictures' Frankenstein sequels. As with their original Frankenstein film, Universal's Bride of Frankenstein was directed by John Whale, while Carl Laemmle once more served as producer. Alongside Lugosi, 1935 also saw Karloff star in The Raven, a horror film inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's same-named 1845 poem. Furthermore, Karloff also starred in the 1935 film, The Black Room.



Boris Karloff – Books & Audiobooks

Over the course of his career, Boris Karloff was involved with a number of books, as well as lending his voice to a several audiobooks, a selection of which are listed below.

Books:

Tales of Terror (World Publishing Co., 1943)

And the Darkness Falls (World Publishing Co., 1946)

The Boris Karloff Horror Anthology (Souvenir Press, 1965)

Audiobooks:

Boris Karloff Reading Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories and Other Tales (Caedmon, 1955)

The Pied Piper & The Hunting of the Snark Read by Boris Karloff (Caedmon, 1960)

Tales of the Frightened: Volume I (Mercury, 1963)

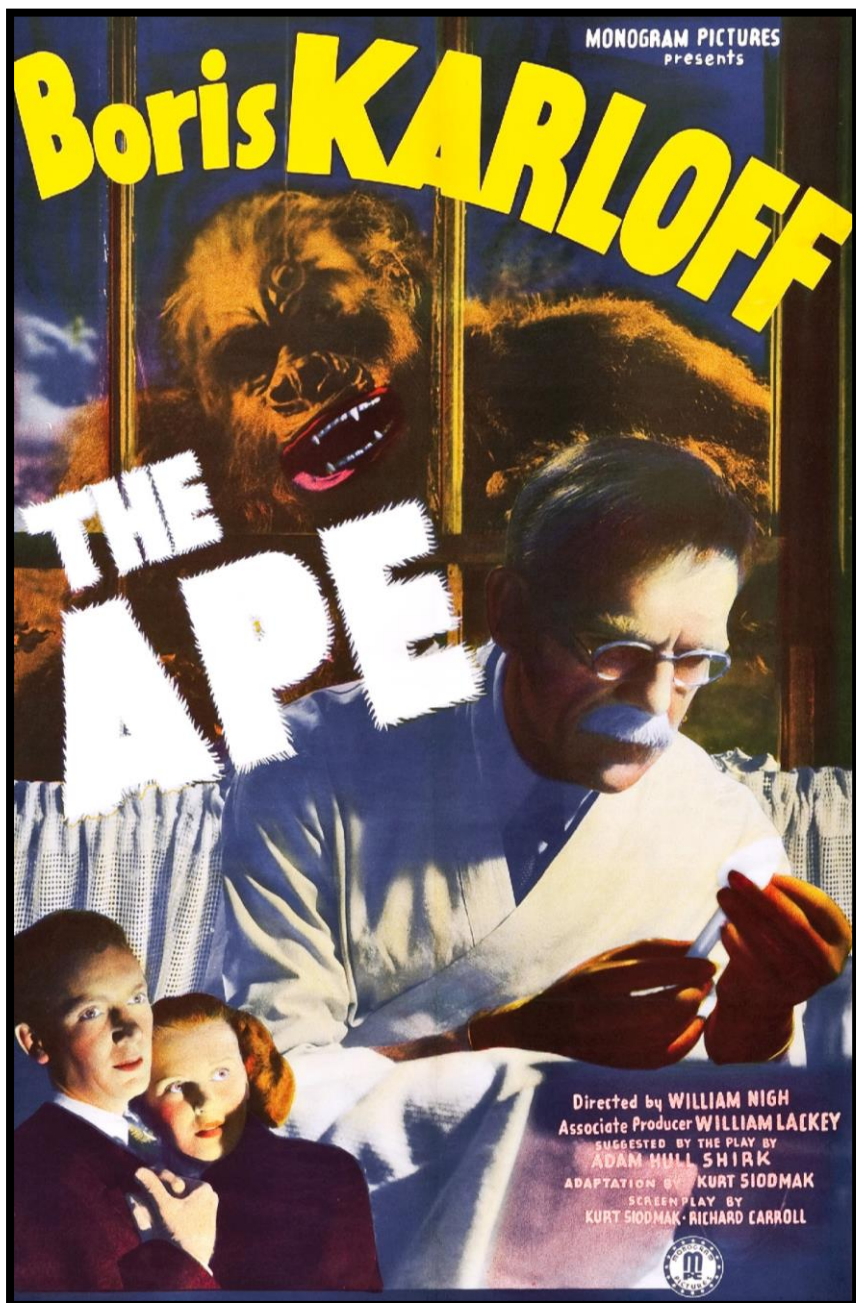
Tales of the Frightened: Volume II (Mercury, 1963)

An Evening with Boris Karloff and his Friends (Decca, 1967)

Over the second half of the 1930's, Karloff appeared in several films, including, among others, The Invisible Ray (1936), The Walking Dead (1936), Charlie Chan at the Opera (1936), Night Key (1937), West of Shanghai (1937), The Invisible Menace (1938), Mr. Wong, Detective (1938), The Mystery of Mr. Wong (1939), Devil's Island (1939), Mr. Wong in Chinatown (1939), Tower of London (1939), and Son of Frankenstein (1939).

In 1939, Universal Pictures released Son of Frankenstein, again with Karloff holding the role of Frankenstein's monster. Of the further sequels that followed, other than House of Frankenstein (1944), Karloff was not involved. The House of Frankenstein was released in 1944, as Karloff returned to the Frankenstein fold, though this time he played the role of Dr. Gustav Niemann. Meanwhile, of the many different pictures he appeared in, other standout films to feature Karloff over the course of the 1940's include The Ape (1940), The Devil Commands (1941), The Body Snatcher (1945), Isle of the Dead

(1945), and *Bedlam* (1946). Outside of his professional life there was change. In 1946, Karloff divorced his wife Dorothy, and he married Evelyn Hope Helmore that same year.



Promotional material for *The Ape* (Monogram Pictures Corporation, 1940).

Boris Karloff – Mr. Wong

With his stories first appearing in Collier's magazine between 1934 – 1940, the creation of writer Hugh Wiley, Mr. Wong is a Chinese-American mystery-solver. Between 1938 – 1940, six Mr. Wong films were made, with Boris Karloff playing Mr. Wong in five of them.

1938: Mr Wong, Detective

1939: The Mystery of Mr. Wong

1939: Mr. Wong in Chinatown

1940: The Fatal Hour

1940: Doomed to Die (also known as Mystery of the Wentworth Castle)

1940: Phantom of Chinatown (without Karloff)

Such was the ascendancy of his star, in 1949 Karloff featured in an American radio and television anthology series entitled Starring Boris Karloff. Adapted for respective mediums, thirteen episodes of suspenseful and mystery-heavy drama were aired. Meanwhile, standout horror films which starred Karloff over the 1950's include The Strange Door (1951), The Black Castle (1952), Voodoo Island (1957), Frankenstein 1970 (1958), and Corridors of Blood (1958).

Compromising twelve episodes, The Veil is a 1958 American television show which Boris Karloff hosted, as well as starring in. Each episode featured a different supernatural story, with different actors involved, including, among others, Whit Bissell, Denise Alexander, and Niall MacGinnis. Unfortunately, production of the show was cancelled, and the episodes failed to air as planned. However, some years later, episodes were grouped together and made in to three anthology films which aired on late-night American television.

Directed by Daniel Haller, released in 1965, starring Boris Karloff as Nahum Witley, Die, Monster, Die! is a science fiction fused horror film inspired by H.P. Lovecraft's The Colour Out of Space. Written in early-1927, The Colour Out of Space was first published in the September 1927 issue of Amazing Stories.

In a similar vein as The Veil, airing on American television between 1960 – 1962, Thriller was an anthology series of horror and crime

stories, in which Karloff served as presenter and sometimes actor. Spread across two series, there were sixty-seven episodes of Thriller. Writer Robert Bloch saw a number of his stories adapted for several episodes, while he was also directly involved in the teleplay at times. Among the other writers whose works inspired episodes were Robert E. Howard, Henry Kuttner, and August Derleth, while many episodes were penned by the show's writers, including Douglas Heyes and Donald S. Sanford, among others.

Curse of the Crimson Altar

Starring alongside Christopher Lee, *Curse of the Crimson Altar* (1968) was one of the final films Boris Karloff appeared in. Taking inspiration from H.P. Lovecraft's 1933 short story, *The Dreams in the Witch House*, *Curse of the Crimson Altar* was directed by Vernon Sewell for the British film company, Tigon.

Continuing in his role as presenter, 1962 also saw Karloff host a British television anthology series entitled *Out of This World*, which featured various science fiction stories, adapted for television. Among the several writers to see their stories inspire episodes were John Wyndham, Isaac Asimov, and Clifford D. Simak.

Having returned to live in England in 1959, during the 1960's, Karloff continued to appear in a number of horror films, including the likes of (the comedy slanted) *The Raven* (1963), *The Terror* (1963), *Die, Monster, Die!* (1965), *The Sorcerers* (1967), *Targets* (1968), and *Curse of the Crimson Altar* (1968).

Throughout his life, Karloff had been a heavy smoker, which contributed to him being diagnosed with emphysema. Then, in 1968, Karloff contracted bronchitis and was hospitalised. Entering into 1969 in increasingly poor health, Karloff was admitted into Sussex's King Edward VII Hospital. Here, on February 2, 1969, Karloff died, aged eighty-one years old.

Having been recorded prior to his death, a number of Karloff's films were released posthumously, these films being *Cauldron of Blood* (1970), *Isle of the Snake People* (1971), *The Incredible Invasion* (1971), *Fear Chamber* (1971), and *House of Evil* (1972).

Official Shadows of Centralis Miniatures via RPE Miniatures & Games

Regular readers of Shadows of Centralis Monthly Magazine will know how much we value RPE Miniatures & Games; as well as providing fantastic figures, ranging from dwarfs to elves, orcs to trolls, and with so much in between, the company also offer wonderful and highly knowledgeable customer service. In addition to selling models, the guys behind the scenes at RPE Miniatures & Games are all avid collectors and gamers themselves.

For those yet to visit the RPE Miniatures & Games website, you won't be disappointed. Headed by Paul Reid, the Liverpool-based model manufacturer boasts thousands of superbly detailed metal miniatures which, in addition to being wonderfully crisp castings (white metal, tin-rich, with a small trace of lead, ensuring a superior casting finish), are also competitively priced.















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Extinction Warriors

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Diseased

Damned Demons

Damned Warlock

Order of Ophelia

Witches

Warrior Witches

Sirens

Trolls

Trolls

Troll Mystic

Orcs

Orc Warlord

Orc Warriors

Blades of Sus

Orc Champions

Orc Shaman

Giants

Giants

Ogres

Ogres

Fiends

Harpies

Priest of Darkness

Undead

Zombies

Corpse Dragon

Vampire

Ghost

Mummy

Elves

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Though games of Shadows of Centralis can be played using 28mm miniatures from any manufacturer, old or new, RPE Miniatures & Games are assigning many of their wonderful, traditionally sculpted, all-metal models to the status of official Shadows of Centralis miniatures. Further to this, brand new Shadows of Centralis sculpts are continually being added to this exciting SoC/ RPE range too.



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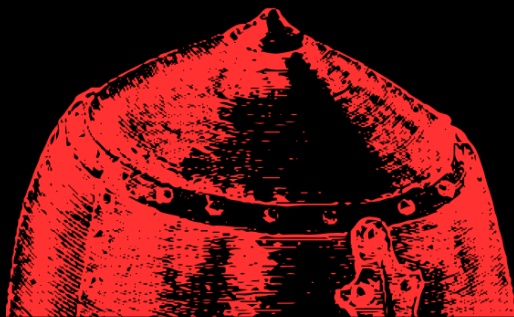


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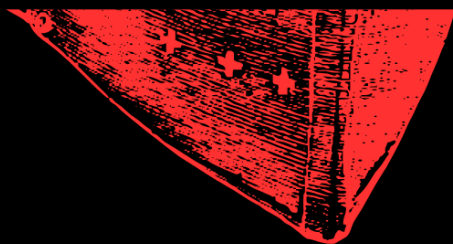
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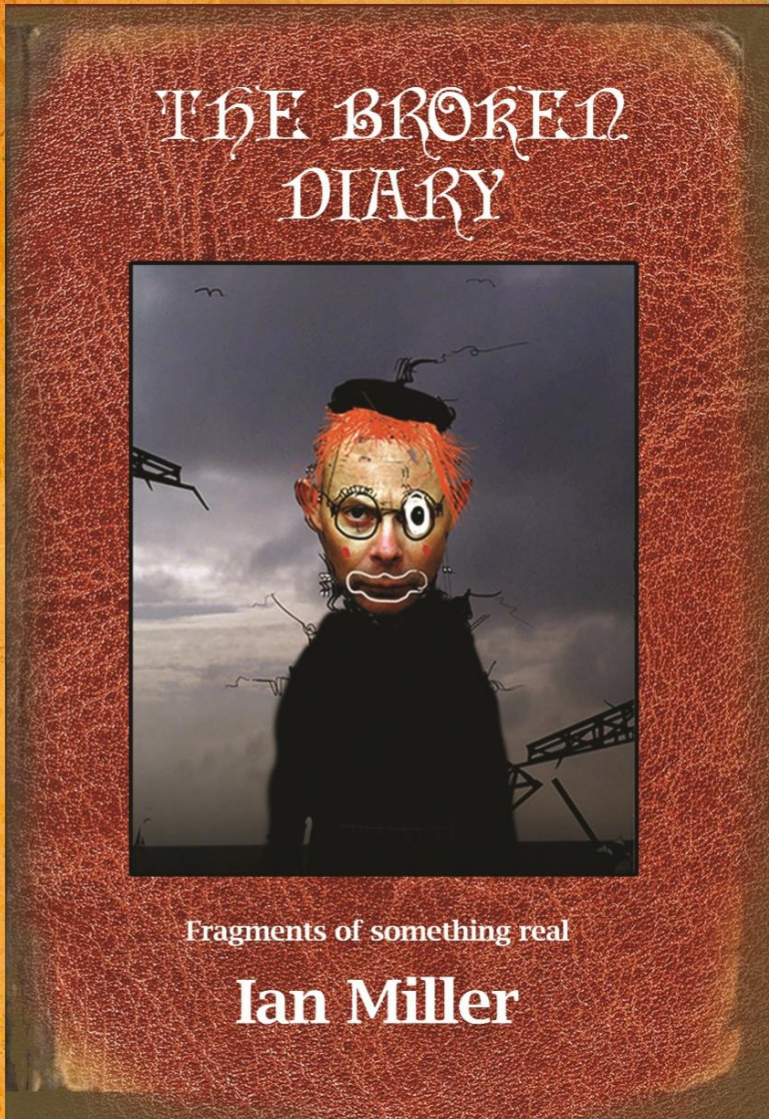
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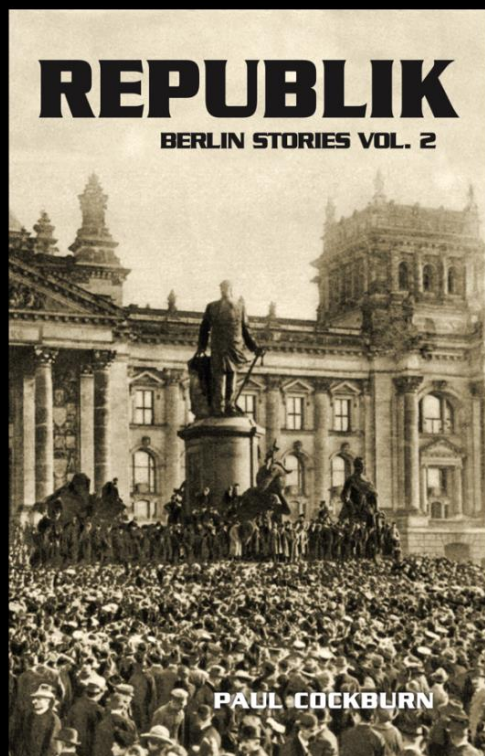
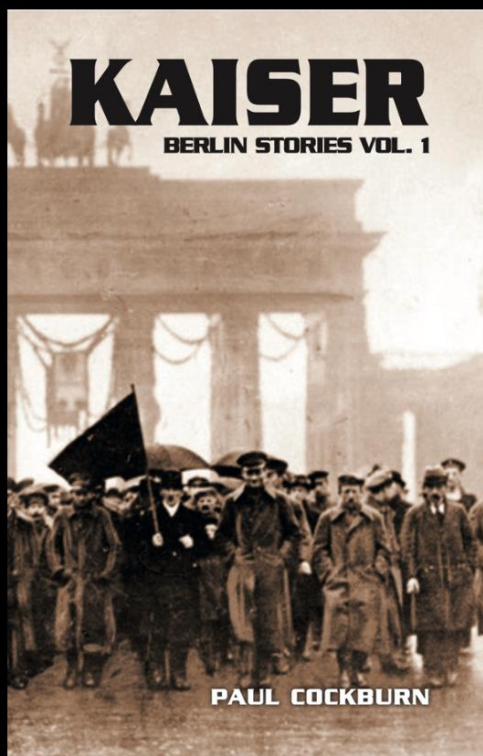
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WRITER, DREAMER, GAMES-PLAYER

Born in London, in 1957, Paul Cockburn entered into a career in the RPG and tabletop games industry in the early-1980's as he served as Assistant Editor on TSR's magazine, *Imagine*. He then moved onto Games Workshop, where, among other responsibilities, he was the Editor of the company's *White Dwarf* magazine. Later leaving Games Workshop, though he maintained an interest in all things gaming related, as well as history, over the years that followed he stepped away from the hobby world as he worked in marketing and account management.

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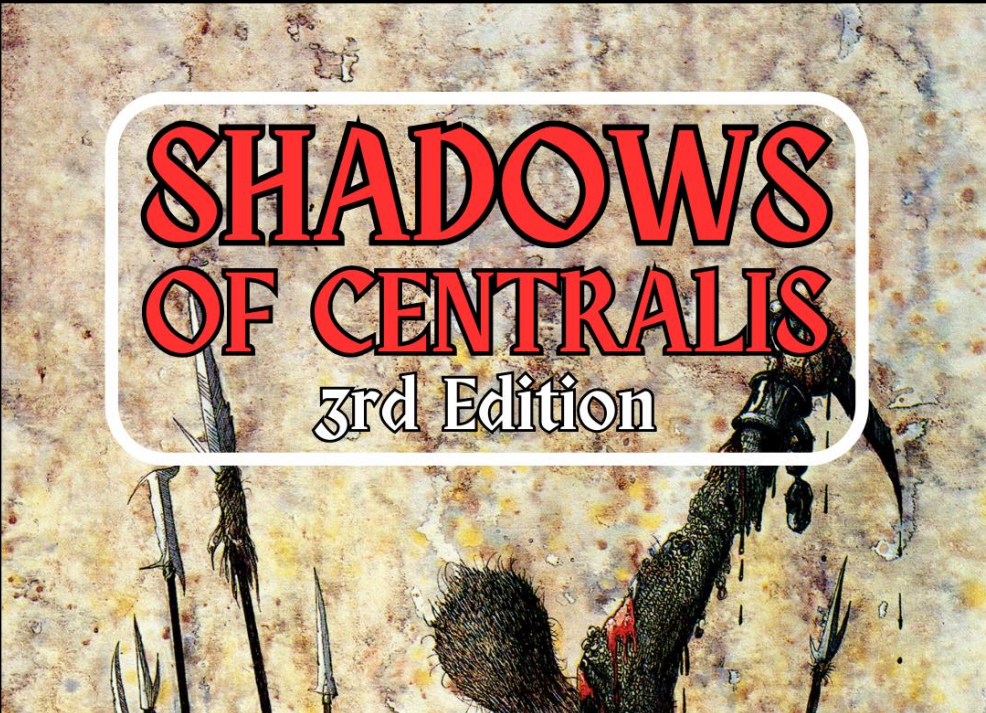
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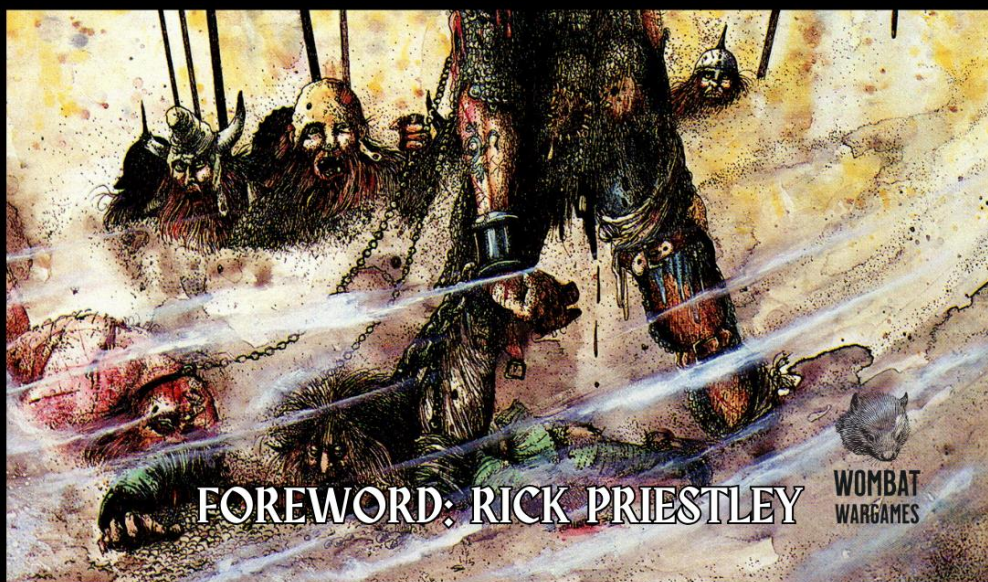
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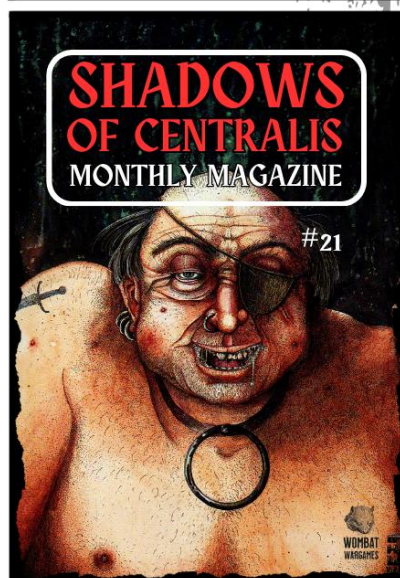
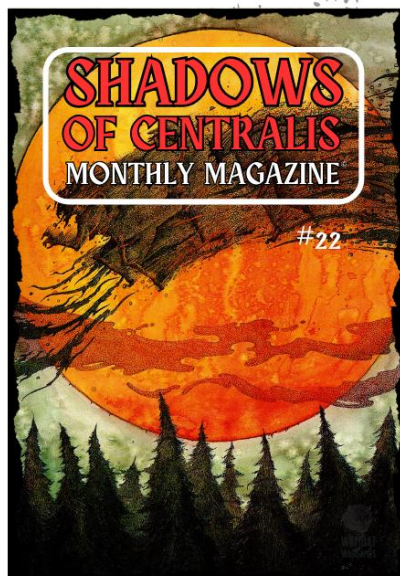
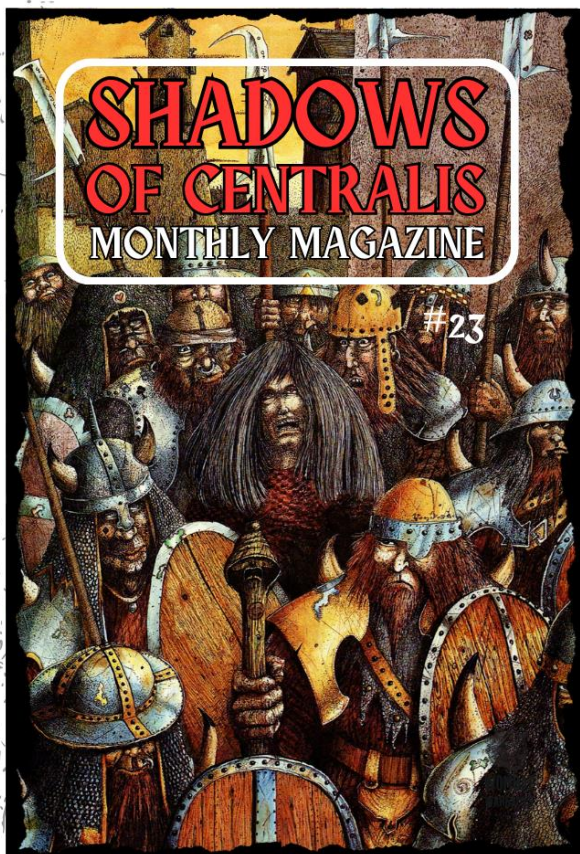
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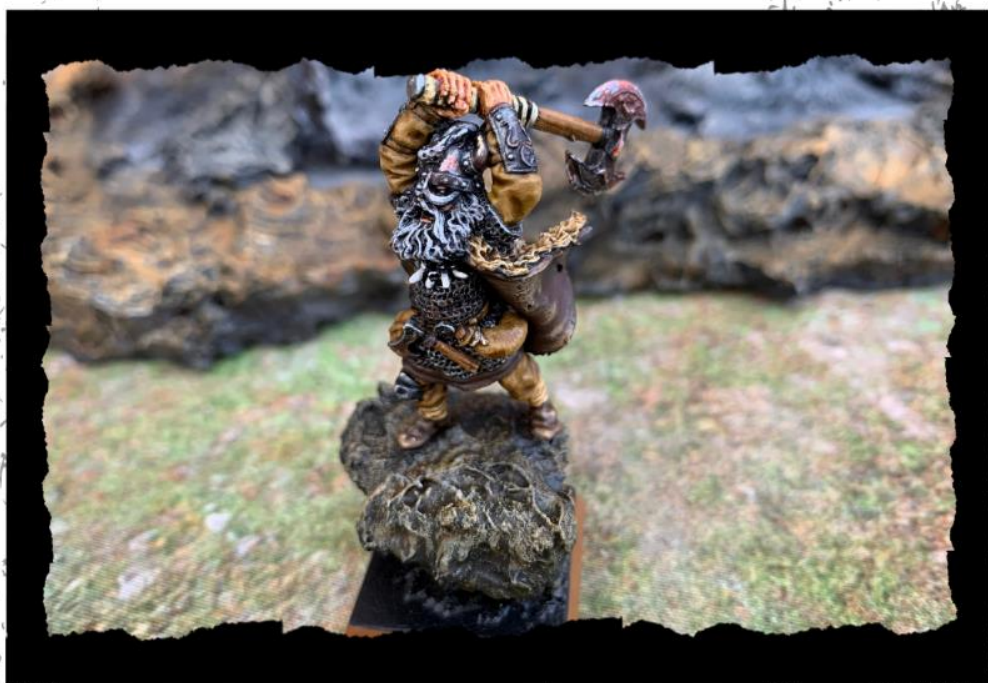


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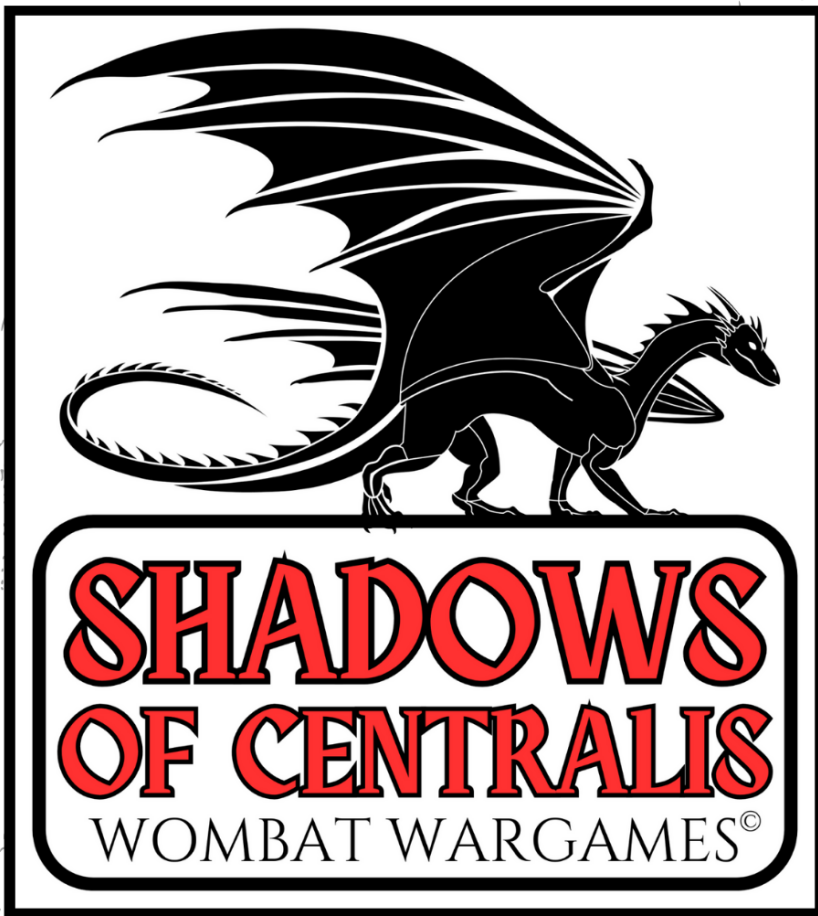
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