ISSN 2571-0257 (online)]
[DOI: 10.15452/OJoEP.2026.18.0012]

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0).

[Bibliographic Menace in Lovecraft's "The Festival": Terror by Quotation and Refusal]

Michael Matthew Kaylor

Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic

[Abstract] *H. P. Lovecraft's tale "The Festival" (1925) makes the "Necronomicon" frightening by scarcity: a supervised consultation of the grimoire at Miskatonic University and the translation of a single paragraph relocate horror from "contents" to citation and refusal. "Bibliographic menace" names the dread produced when an archive proves real and institutionally guarded, yet remains larger than any extract the narrative permits. Close reading traces the tale's archaic cadence and pseudo-scholarly framing; brief comparison with other "Necronomicon" tales clarifies its distinctive economy and later adaptability across media.*

[Keywords] *Bibliographic menace; ethics of citation; "The Festival"; H. P. Lovecraft; "Necronomicon"; pseudobiblia; weird fiction*