

JOURNAL OF VAMPIROLOGY



VOL. I

NO. 1

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Extensive mutilation of face of patient bitten by rabid wolf, Iran
(by kind permission of the World Health Organisation, Geneva)

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Vampirology. It is the intention of this newsletter to address itself to the broad spectrum of fact, opinion and controversy concerning the phenomenon of vampirism, both in its traditional and contemporary manifestations. With the unfortunate demise of the Journal of Vampirism, the serious researcher has been deprived of a major source of information. This newsletter will attempt to remedy this situation by filling the void created by the departure of this esteemed journal.

Although the Journal of Vampirology actively solicits any and all articles pertinent to vampirism, this should not be interpreted as an open invitation to every crazy or crackpot to parade their fantasies in these pages. Nor is it the intention of this newsletter to become a correspondence club for "single vampires" desiring to contact others of similar habits or willing donors. I realize this editorial stance may seem absurd to outsiders, but any lengthy research into vampirism inevitably turns up, like snakes concealed under a stone, a plethora of dilettantes, impostures and psychotics. Unfortunately, this condemnation also applies to certain vampirologists whose sensationalized efforts have done much to stigmatize vampirology and give it a bad name. Indeed, it sometimes seems such dubious researchers view themselves more as pioneering sexologists than serious students of the vampire legend, treading more in the footsteps of a Kinsey or Krafft-Ebing than a Calmet or Summers. Nor do I believe that indulging in aberrant sexual practices "in the name of science" adds any significant knowledge to the understanding of contemporary vampirism.

Frankly, I am a skeptic in these matters. I look with a jaundiced eye on reports of self-professed vampires who claim to be centuries old and attribute this longevity to their subsistence on blood.¹ When such testimonials are compared with one another, the discerning vampirologist finds glaring inconsistencies if not outright contradictions. Although I am open to the possibility that vampires represent a mutant strain of the human race, I also expect to see some conformity in behavior and habit. Other than the

common denominator of drinking blood (even here some contradictions exist), it is hard to distinguish the wheat from the chaff so common are these discrepancies.

With these objections in mind, it can't be stressed too strongly the importance of placing the study of vampirism on a sound, scientific basis. I welcome current theory which suggests that vampirism is due to some medical cause, whether it be bubonic plague, genetic mutation, pernicious anemia, porphyria, rabies (discussed in this issue), or pathogenic anaerobic bacteria (as I believe).²

Admittedly, this rationalistic approach can be taken to the extreme. I don't believe, as some writers suggest, that vampirism can be attributed in every instance to premature burial or some form of mass psychosis. These reductionalist attitudes, in my opinion, are needlessly exclusive and negligent in their consideration of evidence that contradicts such findings. Nor should blind credulity prevail in these matters. Consequently, an open mind is an essential prerequisite to any understanding of the vampire legend.

Some further restrictions. Poetry, cartoons, reviews of movies and literature concerning vampirism lie outside the scope of this newsletter. I recommend that you submit such creative efforts to either Dracula Unlimited or the Vampire Information Exchange. And, when submitting articles for possible publication, no puns, please! This penchant for puns, an occupational disease seemingly endemic to vampirologists, is boorish, sophomoric and effectively undermines any seriousness of intent. Call me humorless, if you will, but the random use of such irreverencies inhibits the acceptance of vampirology as a subject worthy of serious consideration. After all, we're not dealing with cartoon characters.

In closing, I would like to express a debt of gratitude to Larry Gone and Alex Sandler who, over the years, have been unfailing in their support and encouragement. I also wish to thank my sister, Joan, for assisting me in the composition of this newsletter. Thank you all.

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1. Consider the case of Monica Mobley of Kentucky who has a "close personal relationship" with a 706-year-old vampire. Ms. Mobley periodically supplies her sanguinary paramour with her own blood. Claims she, "Its a romantic kind of thing." Indeed. But see Bernhardt J. Hurwood's Vampires, New York, Quick Fox, 1981, pp. 64, 66, 68.
 2. Dr. Stephen Kaplan argues that research on contemporary vampirism is equally deserving of consideration as such borderline phenomena as U.F.O.'s, Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster. Although I agree in principle with this claim, I don't believe that vampirology gains any lasting benefit from being compared with such paranormal pursuits. I would much rather see vampirism spoken of in the same terms as one refers to a common cold or schizophrenia than flying saucers and yetis. But see his "On the Vampire Scene," in Journal of Vampirism, Spring 1978, vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 9-12.

The Epidemiology of Human Vampirism: Rabies

Rabies, or hydrophobia, is an insidious viral infection of the central nervous system which is commonly transmitted through bites or scratches. A disease once endemic to the canine family, it is now widespread throughout the world and capable of infecting all mammalian species. Of the four major varieties of this disease, "paralytic" and "street" rabies are the most common. It is the latter form which most people are familiar with, the outward symptoms (among others) consisting of hydrophobia (abnormal fear of water), pharyngeal (or throat) spasms, dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), aerophobia (morbid fear of drafts of air), excessive salivation, mental derangement and priapism in males. In extreme manifestations of the disease the victim's behavior becomes violent, often imitating that of the infective animal source, and is a potential threat to those about him. This is known as the "furious" phase of rabies, a state commonly associated with mad dogs and wolves, but of frequent occurrence in humans. As late as the 19th century, persons seized with such a mania were often "put out of their misery" by family or relations, smothered to death with pillows or otherwise humanely dispatched. Another popular practice was to immerse or dunk (through the use of a special hoisting chair) the hydrophobic sufferer into a body of water in hopes of curing him of

this fear. Needless to say, such well-intentioned measures invariably failed. It was such tragic episodes as those outlined above, coupled with the disease's 100% fatality rate in the past, which has given rabies its notoriety down through the centuries. Although vaccines are now readily available to treat potential instances of this dread disease, their effectiveness is greatly diminished if treatment is not sought within 48 hours after transmission occurs. Even with proper and timely prophylactic care, rabies may still prove fatal.

The belief that rabies may have provided a significant impetus to the vampire legend was first proposed by Dr. David J. Garwes, a British microbiologist, in the introduction to Bernhardt J. Hurwood's Vampires, Werewolves and Ghouls (1968). A further elaboration of this theory was later espoused by Bruce Wallace in Omni (May 1979). Both men emphasize the importance of bats, particularly the vampire species, as a reservoir of this disease. Wallace suggests the possibility that vampirism first arose during the time of intense glaciation in Europe. In order to escape from the incessant cold Pleistocene man took refuge in caves where, in some instances, large colonies of bats roosted. As some of these bats were rabid, the disease was occasionally transmitted to our troglodyte ancestors, either through handling, unprovoked attacks or simple aerosol transfer. When this occurred the afflicted individual, his sensitivities heightened by the virus, would retreat to the furthest recesses of the cave, shunning all human intercourse, free from the irritating cold draughts of air and bright sunlight. Occasionally, during the furious phase of the disease, he might bite those who attempted to assist or restrain him. In this way the disease was passed on from bat to human to other humans, the cycle endlessly repeating itself unmercifully. Thus, from time immemorial, vampirism was intimately associated with bats and their human intermediaries.

This imaginative scenario of past events compares favorably with certain elements of the vampire legend. Axiomatic to vampirism is the belief that victims

subject to such sanguinary assaults invariably sicken and die, sometimes returning as vampires themselves. This recalls the 100% fatality rate of rabies in former times. Victims of said attacks complained of lassitude, loss of blood and appetite; in short, a general paralysis of being, which is characteristic of bat-transmitted rabies as well. Hydrophobia, a classic feature of rabies, may have given rise to the vampire's fear of running water, as Dr. Garwes suggests. The manical strength of the vampire (said by Dr. Von Helsing to be the equivalent of 20 men¹) is similar to that found in persons suffering from rabies in its furious phase. Furthermore, like his chiropteran counterpart, the blood-sucking revenant transmits his fatal toxin to his victim largely through bites (i.e., saliva contaminant). Even in those instances where the vampire, in the absence of a bite, causes his victim to die, there exists an interesting correlation with rabies as found in bats. Aerosol transmission of rabies to humans, a potential hazard of bat-roosting caves, has been occasionally reported and thus no direct physical contact need take place to spread the disease. Rabid bats, in contradistinction to habit, often engage in diurnal behavior, which might account for the fact that the vampire was sometimes compared to "the noon-day devil" of Biblical scripture. Frequent penile erections in rabid males may have contributed to the erotic elements inherent to the vampire legend. All things considered, rabies as a cause of vampirism seems a plausible explanation.

Unfortunately, the basic premise is all wrong. Although the vampire bat of the New World represents a serious vector of this disease, its habitat is restricted to the Americas. In Europe, where the belief in vampires flourished, examples of rabid bats attacking humans are extremely rare. They have never been considered a serious source of the disease and it is doubtful the peasantry of 17th century Europe were cognizant of their sanguivorous cousins.² The belief that vampires commonly transformed themselves into bats was of limited geographical scope, specific to Bulgaria. And, contrary to Wallace's historical analysis of vampirism, rabies in European bats is now thought by scientists to be of recent origin.³

Credit for this confusion is chiefly due Bram Stoker, who successfully combined the New World vampire bat with the Old World legend.⁴ Since the publication of Dracula in 1897, this seemingly incidental wrinkle on the vampire legend has achieved the proportions of a major blemish. It has been further reinforced and propagated by the various movie versions of the novel. So entrenched has this half-truth become in popular belief that to decry its falseness would be tantamount to heresy. Ironically, the vampire bat received its cognomen from its human counterpart and not vice versa.

Had Wallace stressed the importance of wolves rather than bats, his arguments would have taken on a greater validity. The wolf has long been recognized as an important vector of rabies in Europe, as well as traditionally being the animal form most favored by the vampire. As Dr. Garwes suggests, rabies in wolves may have contributed to the belief in werewolves and, by extension, to that of vampires. It was commonly believed that werewolves became vampires after death. The Greek word for vampires ("vrykolokas") was once used exclusively to describe werewolves. And, with all due respect to save-the-wolf apologists, canis lupus has long preyed on humans when game became scarce. The mysterious Beast of Gevaudan, thought by some to be a werewolf, terrorized the districts of France and accounted for over 100 deaths during the years 1764-65.

Rabid wolves continue to pose a threat to human life. In Iran, for instance, 32 persons were savaged by a single rabid wolf in 1953, of which 15 subsequently died from rabies. Two years previously, a pack of 50 wolves raided a small Iranian village during the night, making off with several children and wounding 40 others. In latter-day Romania, the traditional haunt of the vampire, rabid wolves continue to pose a serious threat to human life. In recounting this sad litany of death, one is reminded of the manical strength of the vampire and his ability to depopulate, like some dreadful plague, whole villages of their inhabitants.

Unfortunately, there is none of the refinement of approach so typical of the legendary vampire to be found in the rabid wolf. Rabid wolves (or werewolves) leave

their victims horribly mutilated and bites are randomly dispersed. There is no conscientious attempt to drain the victim of his blood. Ironically, the vampire's habits seem more in keeping with the unobtrusive nature of the vampire bat.⁵ Nor do victims of vampiric attack ever display symptoms associated with the furious phase of canine madness but rather those of generalized paralysis, the distinguishing characteristics of bat-transmitted rabies.

Another factor, stressed by Dr. Garwes, which bears re-examination is that of hydrophobia. The microbiologist theorizes that the vampire's fear of running water might be derived from the pathological effects of rabies. That witches feared water was a common belief in the Middle Ages. Suspected witches were commonly "swum" to test their guilt or innocence. King James I of England, in describing this peculiar form of torture, writes "(S)o it appeares that God hath appoynted (for a super-naturall signe of the monstrous impietie of the Witches) that the water shal refuse to receiue them in her bosom, that haue shaken off them the sacred Water of Baptism, and wilfullie refused the benefite thereof." Familiar to us all is the episode in The Wizard Of Oz when Dorothy accidentally douses the Wicked Witch of the West with a pail of water, causing her subsequent dissolution. That witches became vampires after death was another common belief. However, I am inclined to believe that the vampire's hydrophobic tendencies were a late accretion to the legend, borrowed in part from accounts concerning witchcraft. Even Dr. Von Helsing modified this view, claiming the vampire is capable of crossing bodies of water during the ebb and flow of the tide.⁶

Furthermore, hydrophobia was never evidenced in victims suffering from vampiric attack. It is odd that such a classic feature of rabies should be curiously lacking in such accounts. Granted, in many instances, the victims of said attacks seldom lived long enough to manifest many symptoms, let alone hydrophobia, expiring within a day's time. Here again one might point to rabies as a cause. Victims of vampiric attack frequently suffered from bites to the neck and head. Bites of rabid animals in similar

locations help facilitate the virulency of the disease in humans, as the virus has less distance to travel in reaching the brain. Unfortunately, the malignancy of the disease is never as swift as that in vampiric attack. Even with severe head wounds, victims seldom show any outward symptoms sooner than ten days. Seven days was the shortest duration I was able to find. Under normal circumstances, the incubancy rate for rabies is much longer. Sometime months will go by until any outward symptoms are displayed. Bat-transmitted rabies, for instance, which has a shorter incubation period than canine rabies and which produces symptoms similar to those found in victims of vampiric attack, still takes on the average 25 days before any visible signs of the disease are manifested.

What vampires apparently did fear, and which provided an effective barrier against their depredations, was salt water. It was customary for mainland Greeks to ship suspected corpses to the island of Santorine (now Thera) for disposal. Granted, the Santorinians held a reputation unequalled among their neighbors for detecting vampirism, but it was also felt that the intervening salt water of the ocean would prevent the vampire from returning home. This belief in the efficacy of salt water may have also contributed to the vampire's fear of holy water (a mixture of water and salt consecrated by a priest), as it acts upon his cadaverous skin as acid on normal flesh.⁷ However, I still maintain that water is entirely incidental to the vampire legend.⁸ It appears that salt may be the crucial factor here. No ready explanation comes to mind to account for this. I do know that in some Asian cultures salt is commonly used as a prophylactic measure to ward off evil spirits. Furthermore, salt has long been used as an efficient bactericide and accords well with my belief that vampirism is due to the intervention of certain pathogenic anaerobic bacteria.⁹

Another glaring inconsistency, and a difficult one to resolve, is why victims of vampiric attack manifest symptoms of paralytic rabies, while the vampire typically demonstrates behavior more closely associated with street rabies. If rabid bats were indeed responsible for the vampire legend, it would naturally follow that the vampire, in death, was

still subject to the paralyzing effects of the disease. Could it be, as some occultists propose, that the vampire never actually leaves his grave but projects his astral body or etheric double to act as his physical surrogate? This thanatic body, a term devised by Benjamin Walker to distinguish between out-of-the-body experiences (OBE) manifested by the dead as opposed to those of the living, would then be unrestricted by the debilitating effects of the disease and thus be free to victimize unsuspecting mortals. According to Z.T. Pierart, a well-known 19th century spiritualist, "The ethereal form can go where it pleases, and as long as it does not break the link connecting it with the body can wander visible or invisible and feed on its victims. It then transmits the results of the suction by some mysterious invisible cord of connexion to the body, thus aiding it to perpetuate the state of catalepsy."¹⁰ Adolphe D'Assier, in his Posthumous Humanity (1887), also describes this ectoplasmic doppelganger in some detail.¹¹ I am inclined to believe this comes closer to the truth than most theories which would account for vampirism in purely rational terms. However, accepting such occult theory in the absence of scientific confirmation raises more questions than it answers.

Although rabies may account for certain elements of the vampire legend, I believe its contribution was minor. Bats play no significant role in either the vampire legend or in the transmission of rabies in Europe. Hydrophobia may represent a late addition to the vampire legend borrowed from witchcraft or simply a broad interpretation of the vampire's fear of salt. Although wolves seem a more likely candidate than rabid bats, none of the symptoms evidenced in extreme forms of canine madness are ever displayed by victims of vampiric attack. Granted, historical accounts concerning vampiric attack may be negligent in listing every salient detail of such events, but I find it extremely unlikely that the peasantry of that time consistently misdiagnosed rabies for vampiric attack, a disease they were all too familiar with. Furthermore, rabies cannot account for the victim's rapid decline in health and death, the vampire's relative incorruptibility, his fear of holy relics, his lack of reflection, etc.

I don't discount rabies entirely. It is possible that the bats of 17th century Eastern Europe represented an unrecognized reservoir of rabies. Certainly the paralytic form of bat-transmitted rabies would not be diagnosed as such in afflicted humans, as it lacked any of the violent manifestations commonly associated in the public mind with canine madness. Strangely enough, a severe outbreak of rabies occurred in Hungary in 1732, a time during which the country also experienced a rash of vampire epidemics. One odd fact which also emerged during the course of my research was that garlic was once used as a prophylactic against rabid dogs. As I believe this noxious herb plays a crucial role in the understanding of vampirism, I am hesitant to close the book on rabies. Further chapters may yet have to be written.¹²

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1. "This vampire which is amongst us is of himself so strong in person as twenty men." Bram Stoker, Dracula, New York, Dell Publishing Co., 1965, p. 264.
 2. The existence of vampire bats in the New World has long been known, the earliest accounts dating from the 16th century. However, the vampire bat was not scientifically recognized until the mid 19th century. That vampire bats transmitted rabies was not established until the 20th century.
 3. "Generally the incubation period of rabies virus infection acquired from bats is shorter compared with that for street virus infections from dogs suggesting that the bat rabies virus is of relatively recent origin and has probably undergone a 'biological modification'." B. Bisseru, Rabies, London, William Heinemann Medical Books, 1972, pp. 365-66. In all fairness to Bruce Wallace, it should be noted that he claims he obtained this theory from his elder brother. I recommend Mr. Wallace have a long, hard talk with his brother soon.
 4. "A contribution original with Stoker is the transformation of the vampire into bat form. As far as we know, before 1897 no vampire in fiction had ever appeared as a bat. Though bats are a significant part of demon lore in many nations, only a few European cultures connected the bat with the vampire." Margaret L. Carter, Shadow of a Shadow: A Survey of Vampirism in Literature, New York, Gordon Press, 1975, p. 66. Ms. Carter, however, errs in claiming that victims of vampire bats bleed to death as a result of the anti-coagulant injected into their blood stream through the bat's saliva. In truth, rabies is the major cause of such deaths. Ms. Carter also makes the following curious statement concerning the vampire bat: "Its small, furry body may carry phallic associations as do rats (!) and snakes." I recommend the reader take a second glance

at the pugnacious countenance which graces the cover of this newsletter and judge for himself.

5. Not always though. Some vampire preferred to strangle their victims into submission. But see the account of Johannes Cuntius in Montague Summers' The Vampire in Europe (1960), whose violent behavior following his death caused injury and death to many.
6. "It is said, too, that he can only pass running water at the slack or flood of the tide." Bram Stoker, Dracula, New York, Dell Publishing Co., 1965, p. 268.
7. A graphic example of this occurs in the Hammer Films production Brides of Dracula (1960).
8. Could this fear be due to the oxygen content of water? "Fast-running streams, the upper layer (or epilimnion) of lakes, and the surface waters of the open ocean are usually oxygen saturated. Slow moving streams, the cold deep water (or hypolimnion) of lakes, and the depths of the ocean are commonly oxygen deficient." Ralph Mitchell, Introduction to Environmental Microbiology, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1974, pp. 140-41. It is my belief that vampirism is caused by certain pathogenic anaerobic bacteria. By their very nature, such bacilli thrive in non-oxygen environments, their growth retarded by exposure to air, if not killed outright. The amount of oxygen present in water at certain levels might also account for the belief that vampires are capable of crossing bodies of water at specific times.
9. "Most microorganisms are killed by high concentrations of salt, which is commonly used in primitive societies as a meat preservative." Ralph Mitchell, Introduction to Environmental Microbiology, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1974, p. 103.
10. Cited in Montague Summers, The Vampire: His Kith and Kin, New Hyde Park, N.Y., University Books, 1960, p. 196.
11. See also Martin V. Riccardo's "The Persistent Vampire," in Fate, July 1978, pp. 74-81.
12. Rabies as a cause of vampirism refuses to lay down and die a natural death. The following passage recently appeared in a popular fanzine: "Bram Stoker created Dracula, based partly on old superstitions about vampire bats (which itself was probably started when people or animals were bitten by vampire bats and died horribly from rabies) ..." Bill Laidlaw, "All in One World," in The Shadow/Doc Savage Quest #13, Winter 1983, p. 11.

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What The Newspapers Say

San Francisco Chronicle: 1/23/84

Hundreds of bats have invaded a junior high school gymnasium, perching on girders and chattering inside the walls, and up to 40 percent of them may be rabid, a health official said yesterday.

The gym at Lake City Junior High School-East in this northern Florida town was closed off Thursday. County School Superintendent Ulias Pittman said he will post guards to keep students out.

"We have already determined there is rabies in the colonies," said Steve Knight, environmental health director for Columbia County. There have been no reports of bites to humans, officials said.

Two colonies appear to have invaded the building — one of about 100 inside the gym and at least 400 more burrowed in the walls.

Just outside is a lamp that attracts insects, Knight said, so the bats inside the gym have a nearby food supply. Officials are puzzled how the creatures inside the wall itself are eating, he said.

Knight said officials didn't realize the extent of the problem until they visited the gym Wednesday and found hundreds of bats wheeling and chirping among steel girders in the roof, huddling behind an electronic scoreboard and chattering inside the hollow block walls of the gym.

"It was a really interesting sight when they started pouring out of that thing," he said.

Pest control workers caulked all the holes they could find and put mothballs inside the bat nests; hoping the fumes would drive away the creatures. It didn't work. If all else fails, Knight said, the building will have to be fumigated at a cost of up to \$5,000.

Although no one has been bitten, there was at least one close call. "We had one student pick one of the bats up and try to scare his friends with it," Knight said.

Tabloid Watch

Although often vilified for specializing in half-truths and cheap sensationalism, weekly tabloids frequently provide updates on contemporary vampirism. Selected for reprint is "American Vampires" (but headlined as "Killer Vampires in America!"), which first appeared in Close-Up on Crime, August of 1981:

Thousands of mysterious murders might be explained by the return of one of the most feared legends of all time — vampires.

The repulsive fanged creatures, first immortalized in Hollywood's Dracula movies, are no myth, say top researchers, who claim as many as 60 of them are killing innocent Americans for their blood.

Vampire expert Dr. Stephen Kaplan, who has hunted down reports of the monsters since 1973, says the bloodsuckers may be claiming the lives of 6,000 men and women every year.

"I am convinced that there are creatures in the world, who, because of a genetic mutation, require one pint of human blood each day for nourishment," he explains.

"Vampires obtain blood by finding people who have a fixation on the vampire legend and offer a pint of their own blood. But other vampires resort to murder when they run out of willing victims."

According to Kaplan, of Queens, N.Y., these murders are usually explained as beating deaths, and police rarely see the connection with vampirism.

"They (vampires) cover up their crime by bludgeoning the skull so that it will look as if the blood has poured out of the wound," he says.

"Last January, the police in New Jersey found the bodies of a man and a woman dumped off Route 80. Not one ounce of blood was left in either body — not even enough to enable the coroner to determine the blood type in an autopsy.

"I believe this couple was killed by a vampire," declares Kaplan.

The investigator claims he can expose several vampires now living in Denver, Atlanta, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Clearwater, Fla. The biggest concentration is divided between Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Quebec, he adds.

Kaplan won't identify any of the suspect vampires, some of whom he says hold important jobs in national governments all over the world.

The investigator believes they attained their powerful positions through wealth acquired over many centuries. He claims at least three of them are more than 300 years old.

Other researchers have found a different reason for reported cases of vampirism — sexual gratification.

Psychiatrists Richard L. Vanden Bergh and John F. Kelly claim that they have heard of "a significant number of cases" where a deranged person drank blood to satisfy a crazed lust.

"Any psychiatrist who has worked extensively with psychotics has seen such fantasies and behavior in his patients," they say.

Vanden Bergh and Kelly described one such instance in which a 20-year-old man imprisoned for car theft exchanged sexual favors with other inmates for a chance to suck their blood.

Professor Leonard Wolf, of San Francisco State College, says he has spoken with persons who believe blood is a vital, life-sustaining liquid.

"There are people in the world who use their teeth to bite into somebody's skin and suck blood because they are convinced they need human blood to survive," he insists.

Wolf also admits he has interviewed patients who commit acts of vampirism for sexually connected reasons.

All the researchers are convinced vampire-like blood-sucking is far more widespread than the medical journals depict.

In his eight-year investigation, Kaplan also discovered several misconceptions about vampires:

— The creatures are not invulnerable to bullets and knives. They can be killed like ordinary human beings.

— Vampires do not change shape at night and appear as bats or wolves.

— Vampires don't sleep in coffins.

— They do hate garlic, but only if it's eaten. Putting garlic around your neck is useless in warding them off.

— Vampires are sensitive to light, but they can withstand the rays of the sun with makeup.

— The creatures don't like hospital-stored blood that has been frozen in blood banks. They require fresh blood.

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Organization Update

Count Dracula Society
334 West 54th Street
Los Angeles, Calif.
90037

Membership is \$20.00 a year. Primarily devoted to gothic literature and horror films. Dr. Donald A. Reed is its president.

Count Dracula Fan Club
Penthouse North
29 Washington Square West
New York, N.Y. 10011

Membership is \$40.00 the first year, \$20.00 thereafter. Although primarily devoted to the literary and cinematic aspects of the vampire legend, with particular emphasis on Bram Stoker's sanguinary creation, its approach is, nonetheless, an eclectic one. The society publishes a newsletter, as well as frequent books, sent free to its membership. Numerous services are also provided the membership through its fifteen divisions. Its most recent publications have included Martin V. Riccardo's Lure of the Vampire, a serious study of the vampire legend, and Anne Crawford von Rabe's A Mystery of the Campagna, a 19th century tale of vampirism. Dr. Jeanne Youngson is its president.

Vampire Research Center
P.O. Box 252
Elmhurst Queens, New York
11373

Actively investigates instances of reported vampirism throughout the nation. Its head is Dr. Stephen Kaplan, "the world's foremost authority on vampires," whose book Vampires Are was recently published by ETC Publication. The Center requests a self-addressed stamped envelope accompany every written inquiry, otherwise response cannot be made.

Vampire Information Exchange
P.O. Box 328
Brooklyn, New York 11229

Membership is \$3.75 a year. The VIE, headed by Eric Held, is primarily a correspondence club for vampire enthusiasts to exchange ideas and contact one another. A newsletter is published on a regular basis and back issues are available. I recommend its services.

Vampire Studies Society
P.O. Box 151
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

Acts as a clearing house for reported instances of contemporary vampirism. The society previously published the now defunct Journal of Vampirism. Back issues are still available. Martin V. Riccardo is its head.

Conspiracy Tracker
P.O. Box 596
Patterson, New Jersey
07524

A relative newcomer to the scene, the Conspiracy Tracker is a newsletter devoted to an expose of secret societies inspired, in part, by the Illuminatus Trilogy of Shea and Wilson. A six-issue subscription is \$12.90 and back issues are available. Its editor is Dennis Passero.

Crypt of Cthulhu
35 Elmbrook Place
Bloomfield, New Jersey
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Subscription is \$16.00 for eight issues. If you happen to be a Cthulhu mythos freak like myself, or a devotee of Lovecraft, this magazine is for you. A superb example of fanzine journalism. Its editor is Robert M. Price.

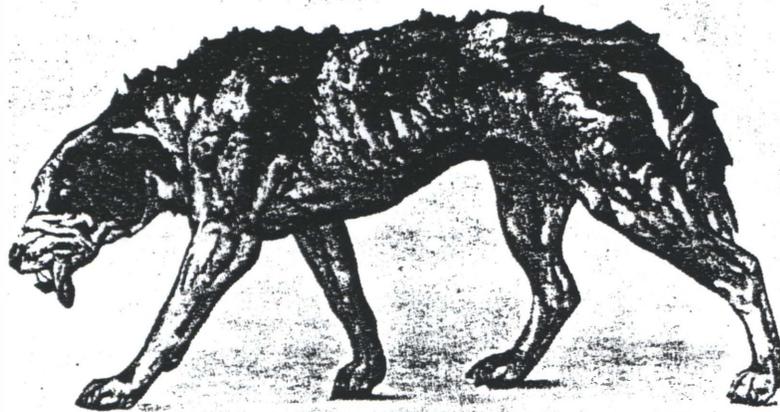
Mutilation Data Center
4623 E. Washington, Apt. 20
Orange, California 92669

Dedicated to the purpose of exposing and preventing the mutilation of humans and animals, this one-man operation solicits newspaper clippings and relevant material to help achieve the Center's goals. I strongly urge your support of the Mutilation Data Center. Ed Austin is its head.

Coming Attractions

In future issues of the Journal of Vampirology, if support is forthcoming, the "Epidemiology of Human Vampirism" series will be continued with articles on porphyria, pernicious anemia, pathogenic anaerobic bacteria, etc. Other articles tentatively scheduled are "My Name is Legion: Dr Kaplan and the Vampire Epidemic," "Some of Your Blood: Hemoglobin Intake Among Contemporary Vampires," "The Odor of Corruption," "The Viscera Suckers of Southeast Asia," "Was Jack the Ripper a Vampire?" "Forensic Odontology: The Science of Bitemark Analysis," "Saint Dracula: The Hagiology of Vampirism," "The Sexual Mystique of the Vampire: Myth or Reality?" "The Noxious Weed: Garlic and the Vampire Legend," "The Alien Undead: The Extraterrestrial Origins of Vampirism," "Hemocide: The Criminology of Vampirism," "The Christian Mythos of Vampirism," "Vampirism and the 30 Year War," "Dracula as Anti-Christ: The Apocalyptic Vision of Bram Stoker," "Will the Real Vampire Please Stand Up," etc.

Readers are urged to submit their own articles for publication. Although I can't compensate anyone, reprint rights are granted those whose efforts are published in these pages. See you next time.



Rabid dog

Journal of Vampirology
c/o John L. Vellutini
P.O. Box 881631
San Francisco, Calif.
94188-1631

