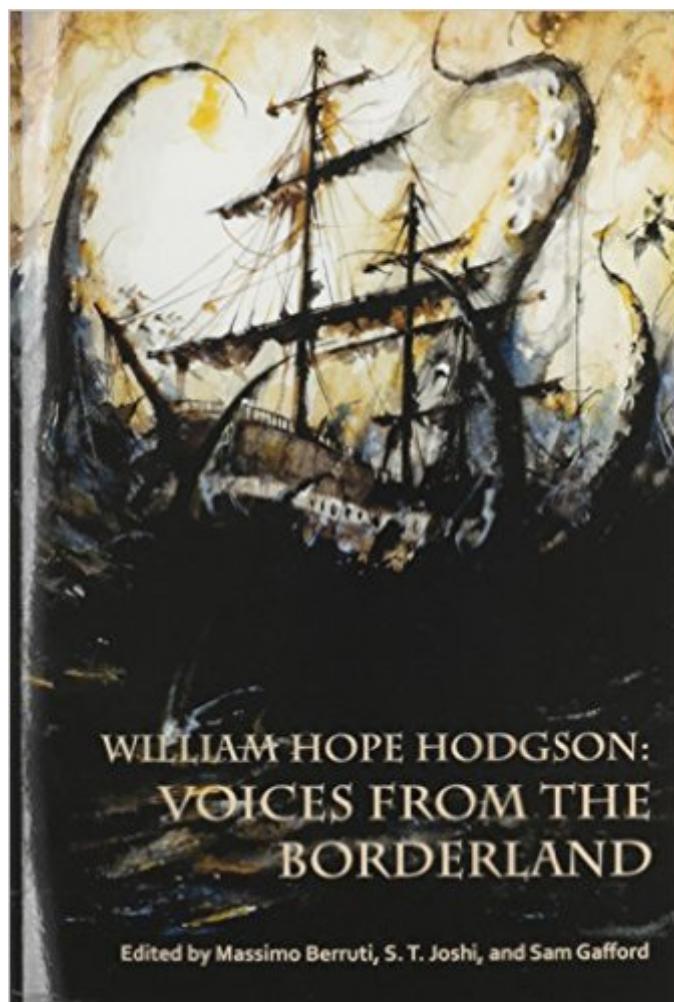


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# William Hope Hodgson: Voices From The Borderland



## Synopsis

William Hope Hodgson (1877-1918) was one of the pioneering authors of weird fiction in his time. Focusing, as few of his colleagues did, on the horror novel, Hodgson wrote such immortal works as *The House on the Borderland* (1908) and *The Night Land* (1912), while also writing many significant short stories such as "The Voice in the Night" and "The Mystery of the Derelict." And yet, Hodgson has so far failed to gain the recognition that is his due. This volume, the first full-length book devoted to Hodgson's life and work, features a wealth of previously unavailable information on the British master of sea horror. Early reviews and essays by such critics as H. P. Lovecraft, August Derleth, and Ellery Queen set the stage for wide-ranging pieces by leading Hodgson scholars on various aspects of his work. S. T. Joshi studies the supernatural in Hodgson's short stories; Mark Valentine and Leigh Blackmore analyze his very popular stories about Carnacki, the ghost-finder; Sam Gafford, in a series of papers, studies such topics as Hodgson's views on women and his early encounter with Harry Houdini; Emily Alder studies the use of maritime legends in Hodgson's work. Other essays by Phillip A. Ellis, Henrik Harksen, Andy Sawyer, Brett Davidson, and others round out the volume. The book concludes with the first comprehensive bibliography of works by and about Hodgson, compiled by S. T. Joshi, Sam Gafford, and Mike Ashley. All told, this book is an exhaustive guide to the work of the weird writer whose life was tragically cut short on the battlefields of World War I.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Apart from a couple of chapbooks, this volume is one of only two collections of non-fiction about William Hope Hodgson to be published in book form. It's divided into four thematic parts. Part

One: *Some Studies of Hodgson's Life and early reception.* I mentioned that there is, in fact, one previous collection of Hodgson based articles available in book form, that being HODGSON: A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS by Sam Gafford. This volume opens with a reprint of one of the essays from that collection. *Houdini v. Hodgson: The Blackburn Challenge* is a fascinating piece on the infamous *handcuff challenge* issued by Hodgson to Houdini, on the occasion of his visit to the Palace Theatre, Blackburn in 1902. Unimpressed with Houdini's escapology act, Hodgson challenges him to escape from shackles supplied and applied by himself. Sam Gafford has done considerable research to bring together as many accounts of this challenge as possible in the effort to provide us with the most likely sequence of events. Frankly, neither man comes over as particularly pleasant during this affair, and we'll likely never know for sure exactly whose version of the events is true, if either. We have probably all, by now, become used to the fact that William Hope Hodgson is vastly under-appreciated. It was with some surprise, then, that I read A. Langley Searles' *William Hope Hodgson: In His Own Day*, a piece on the overwhelmingly positive contemporary criticism Hodgson received for his work. This is, so the author states, the first of two connected articles: the second being a look at Hodgson's more recent reviews. The fact that this second article isn't included in this volume is likely down to the reviews discussed being relatively much easier to find.

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