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**BLACK SCAT BOOKS**  
2018

# LE SCAT NOIR ENCYCLOPÆDIA

Edited by Norman Conquest

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*To know, is to know that you know nothing. That is the meaning of true knowledge.*

SOCRATES

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work. Going north, turn left about two city blocks past the Renaissance. Drive about a mile (first you pass the Dark Ages on the right, and the Sacking of Europe by the Visigoths on the left). Then take a sharp right at the Beginning of the Christian Era. It's a really big intersection in history, and there's no way you can miss it. Two more miles and you're there! Ironically enough, I missed the turn at 753 B.C. and was halfway back to the Stone Age before I discovered my mistake. It wasn't until almost midnight that I got home again. [SOURCE: P.P.]

## **DISTANCE LEARNING.**

*Scene: Chad Armbuster's departmental office on the sixth floor of McUniversity, Chicago. In the Milky Way moving in excess of cosmic expansion toward the constellation Hydra. The gravity in the room is*

*a smidgen stronger than earth-normal. A face-off betwixt this chairman (a Magister Bombardarum, a towering mass of sounds, a Rudefunk; a nervy, never-smiling man of affirmation and negation; a bell-tower jangling out of time, harsh; a fount of evil power now dolled up in Shakespearean garb), and two contingent faculty: Hy Grader (looking smart in his French sailor's uniform), Wyoming Mann (a.k.a., Wyoh, a fanatic Leftie wearing Western garb: cowboy hat, chaps, bolo tie, and carrying a copy of Ivan Illich's 1971 diatribe against organized education, De-schooling). On the wall behind them, a large poster of an empty classroom with supered bold red text promoting the economic advantages of distance learning and low-residency academic programs. On the opposite wall, a framed exhi-*

*bition poster featuring Théodore Géricault's famous 1819 painting Raft of the Medusa.*



CHAD: [*Arms akimbo, circling the room for advantage, bored little monkey eyes scanning his opponents; in an aside.*] I, the Strutt N. Crowe Professor of Literature, am the Black Hand of the Black Death who believes thinking sustains momentum, momentum identifies targets, targets bring in money.

WYOMING (a.k.a., Wyoh): [*In an aside to the audience.*] Prithee, know we two are the Red Peril of the Red Plague. There is a time for reciting poems and a time for fists. [*Then aloud*] We say, “do

de-school society,” may the autodidactic reign free of guards and gaol. [*Then aloud*] The Dean seeketh a dialogue on demands, which as the admin-nin-nies made clear before, are nonnegotiable. Small ideas scamper and scrabble, seeking power.

HY: Am I a man of gingerbread that I should be molded me to your liking? I assign thee to *Malebolge*, the ditches of evil, you hemorrhoid-licking bastard!

CHAD: Oh go blow your nose you self-forgetting wild one! Your pedagogical acts are cracked, your coxcomb fallen. Your bauble, your slide-projector, I confiscate. Your blackboard stripped classroom hath now been mediatized. Toll the bell, for slides, they are no more! Nay! Soon thy classroom will soon be obsolete. A field full of empty chairs. Thy admin will be up your butt hairs! You



and your fools will soon be singing WYOH, WYOH me.

HY: Struth, I mark our noble faculty be in decay. Our contingent kingdom suffers being broken up, so every don is now his own fool and our world be cheerless. I prithee, Sir Armbuster, go back to your lord, the Dean, and tell that this Merry Jack Pudding, along with his fellow basement-office based zannies, will joust with your neoliberal black arts.

CHAD: Avaunt, unwise contingents! Thou hast no portion in me. Now then I bustle into the Admin-Lair to rub smooth my cares there, where the Dean awaits my presence. [*Sounds of manic laughter off-stage, echoing, like heard in a mental hospital corridor.*] *Exeunt.*

[SOURCE: J.R.H.]



## DOGPOET.

Nothing to do with canines or literary types. Not a portmanteau word blending the sounds and semantics of *doggerel* and *antipoet*. Anachronistic in some future histories. Out of context, popular usage belies the specificity of faux reportage. Almost always phallic, but even the phallus is defined by Lack (i.e., a big **O** that can be penetrated, impregnated, dominated). Sometimes applied to emergent narcissists whose identities have fallen through the floorboards into the basement (e.g., *He stared at the fuselage like a dogpoet*). This is neither cant nor dispositio. Never says hello or goodbye or engages in smalltalk. “I am the key to friendly destruction”—the dogpoet’s master credo. Loves the French but hates France. Likewise apes and the jungle. [*Gropes hairdresser.*] In essence, I am the sum to-

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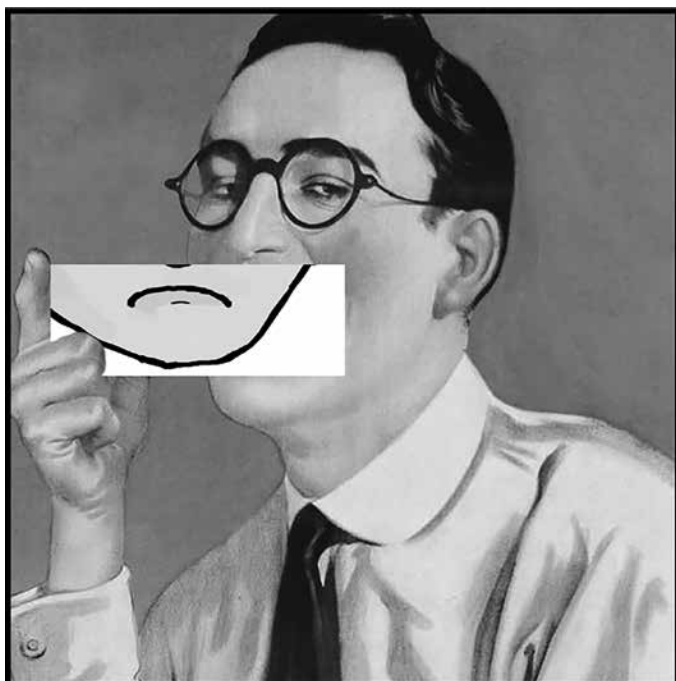
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# LE SCAT NOIR

"a violation of causal reasoning"

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