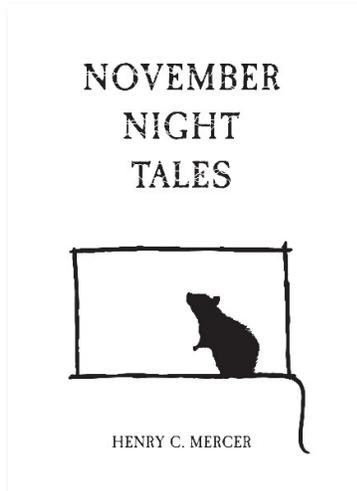


## NOVEMBER NIGHT TALES

Henry C. Mercer

*"History fades into prehistoric darkness . . ."*



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Cover Art: Alisdair Wood

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ISBN: 978-1-78380-760-4 (pbk)

xvii + 238 pages, 129mm x 198mm



**HENRY C. MERCER** Dreamer, castle builder, archaeologist, and anthropologist, Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930) inherited a fortune that fuelled his wanderlust. Mercer was a tireless creative genius who spent his life fulfilling his family motto, *Plus ultra*—“More Beyond”. He earned a law degree, mastered five languages, supervised archaeological digs around the world, and became a beloved philanthropist in his ancestral home of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Overshadowed by his many accomplishments is the wonderful but nearly forgotten collection of stories, *November Night Tales*.

Each story in *November Night Tales* is a differently coloured gem whose many facets reflect the lively mind of the author. Henry C. Mercer’s life-long interest in world mythology, fairy tales, local legend, symbols, and artifacts form the fabric of his tales. Here, the reader will find vanishing castles, secret sects, biological weapons, sinister wilderness, lycanthropy, possessed dolls, and mythical lands. The characters in each story are driven to explore the unknown, face their fears, and perhaps discover something of themselves in the process. The compelling narratives, infused with intelligence and humanity, leave the reader curious why the stories remain virtually unknown today, and mournful that there are not more to explore. United at last with the six original November night tales is a seventh, posthumously published story, *The Well of Monte Corbo*. First published in 1928, this new edition is fully illustrated by Alisdair Wood and features an introduction by Peter Bell.

### CONTENTS

- “Introduction” – Peter Bell
- “Castle Valley”
- “The North Ferry Bridge”
- “The Blackbirds”
- “The Wolf Book”
- “The Dolls’ Castle”
- “The Sunken City”
- “The Well of Monte Corbo”

### REVIEWS

*“While they might be over ninety years old, the tales feel fresh and modern in the way they address genre sensibilities.”*

– Black Static

*“The stories cover a wide range of themes exploring the various sides of dark fiction . . . All in all a pleasant re-discovery of a neglected little gem from a not too distant past.”*

– Nudge

*“[Mercer] also seems to have had a limitless imagination . . . Unfortunately, this one collection is all he left us . . .”*

– The Haunted Library

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