

# H. P. Lovecraft

## Ibid

(“. . . as *Ibid* says in his famous  
*Lives of the Poets.*”

– *From a student theme.*)

The erroneous idea that *Ibid* is the author of the *Lives* is so frequently met with, even among those pretending to a degree of culture, that it is worth correcting. It should be a matter of general knowledge that Cf. is responsible for this work. *Ibid*'s masterpiece, on the other hand, was the famous *Op. Cit.* wherein all the significant undercurrents of Graeco-Roman expression were crystallised once for all-and with admirable acuteness, notwithstanding the surprisingly late date at which *Ibid* wrote. There is a false report-very commonly reproduced in modern books prior to Von Schweinkopf's monumental *Geschichte der Ostrogothen in Italien* -that *Ibid* was a Romanised Visigoth of Ataulf's horde who settled in Placentia about 410 A.D. The contrary cannot be too strongly emphasised; for Von Schweinkopf, and since his time Littlewit<sup>1</sup> and Bête noir,<sup>2</sup> have shewn with irrefutable

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<sup>1</sup> *Rome and Byzantium: A Study in Survival* (Waukesha,

force that this strikingly isolated figure was a genuine Roman-or at least as genuine a Roman as that degenerate and mongrelised age could produce-of whom one might well say what Gibbon said of Boethius, “that he was the last whom Cato or Tully could have acknowledged for their countryman.” He was, like Boethius and nearly all the eminent men of his age, of the great Anician family, and traced his genealogy with much exactitude and self-satisfaction to all the heroes of the republic. His full name-long and pompous according to the custom of an age which had lost the trinomial simplicity of classic Roman nomenclature-is stated by Von Schweinkopf<sup>3</sup> to have been Caius Anicius Magnus Furius Camillus Æmilianus Cornelius Valerius Pompeius Julius Ibidus; though Littlewit<sup>4</sup> rejects *Æmilianus* and adds *Claudius Decius Junianus*; whilst Bêtenoir<sup>5</sup> differs

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1869), Vol. XX, p. 598.

<sup>2</sup> *Influences Romains dans le Moyen Age* (Fond du Lac, 1877), Vol. XV, p. 720.

<sup>3</sup> Following Procopius, *Goth.* x.y.z.

<sup>4</sup> Following Jornandes, Codex Murat. xxj. 4144.

<sup>5</sup> After Pagi, 50-50.