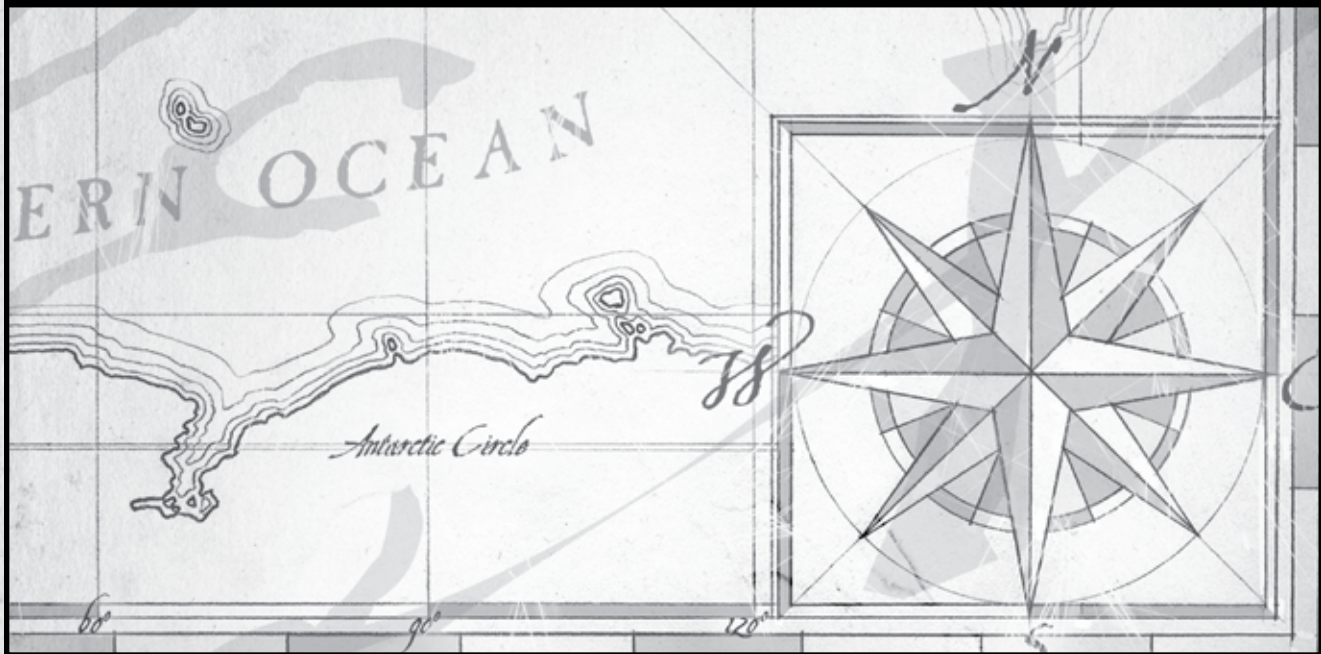


# ⊕ INTRODUCTION



## What is *Secrets of the Surface World*?

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the mysterious and intrigue-filled world circa 1936. Here you will find evil organizations possessing strange, terrible powers—and thirsting for more. Villains plot to overthrow civilization, while unlikely heroes battle valiantly to stop them from achieving their dastardly goals.

*Secrets of the Surface World* is a source book for the *Hollow Earth Expedition* roleplaying game. It expands the game world and provides an infinite number of possibilities for new adventures. With *Secrets* in hand, your campaign can remain entirely on the surface world or act as a starting point to lead your players into the Hollow Earth. As a pulp adventure sourcebook, *Secrets* provides more information about the things you've come to expect from *Hollow Earth Expedition*: secret societies, supernatural powers, and weird science!

## How to use this Book

*Secrets of the Surface World* is divided into chapters, each dedicated to a different aspect of the game.

**Chapter 1: Characters** provides additional material for creating surface world characters.

**Sample Characters** features eight new surface world characters.

**Chapter 2: Supernatural Powers** includes rules for supernatural powers, including psychic abilities and sorcery.

**Chapter 3: Secret Societies** lists organizations that may help or hinder your character.

**Chapter 4: The Surface World** describes some of the most intriguing surface world locations.

**Chapter 5: Equipment Catalog** details weapons, vehicles, and gear of the era.

**Chapter 6: Weird Science** describes how to create powerful gadgets and inventions.

**Chapter 7: Vehicle Combat** includes rules for attacking vehicles and performing stunts.

**Sample Adventure** takes the characters on a thrilling surface world adventure.

And now, without further ado, we invite you to discover the *Secrets of the Surface World*...





# A WARNING TOO LATE

Al-Konbas Hotel  
Cairo, Egypt  
April, 1936

Dear Victor,

I am in danger, and desperately need your help. I am hesitant to put this down on paper, lest it fall into the wrong hands, but the potential consequences outweigh my concerns. My message is urgent, so I must take the risk...

My theory was correct. Using my notes, I was able to locate the Temple of Thot. Inside we made a remarkable discovery. Our excavations unearthed an ancient Atlantean portal!

It is unlike anything I have ever seen, and will most certainly astound and delight the entire Order of Prometheus. I have spent several weeks deciphering the glyphs engraved upon the portal, and have learned a great deal. Oh Victor—the device will surely speed humanity toward its destiny! The possibilities for scientific advancement are nearly endless. Members from all three Supreme Colleges will be keenly interested in the impact this amazing device will have upon their research. An entire Symposium could be dedicated to unlocking its secrets!

I regret that my need for haste does not allow me to share more with you. For now, I am afraid you will have to be content with this short description. The Thule Society has learned of my great discovery and will stop at nothing to possess it. I am being followed. I have felt strange, malevolent eyes upon me for the last fortnight, and I'm positive that someone has rifled through my hotel room on more than one occasion. It is fortunate I carry my journal on my person at all times. I shudder to think what would happen if the Thule Society should come into possession of my notes.

It is of vital importance that we retain ownership of the portal. Our enemies would seek to do evil with it, and I cannot allow that to happen. I am making arrangements to move it to a safe location. I have a friend here who is helping me, and he seems most able. I only hope that we can act before it is too late.

The most important thing for you to know is that the portal can only be opened by an Atlantean or one of their pure-blooded

descendants. I believe that this is one way the Atlanteans ensured the security of their incredible technology. My daughter, whom you know, is one of those rare persons who can activate the portal. I have kept her secret these many years in an attempt to give her a normal life. I met her parents when I was seeking Atlantean descendants and I sheltered them for a time. They were happy in my home, but others came looking for them, and they had to flee. They wanted their newborn daughter to have a chance at a normal life, so they left her with me. I can still remember their tear-filled eyes as they turned to walk away. I have neither seen nor heard from them since that night.

In the event that something happens to me, I beg of you to protect my daughter. Hide her, and do not allow her to come looking for me. Under no circumstances should she fall under the control of the Thule Society. I cannot stress enough that the consequences to humanity would be devastating if our enemies get their hands on both the portal and my daughter.

Your friend in science,

Dr. J. M. Rookwood

Fellow of the Supreme College of Physics

Order of Prometheus

**\*\*\*Official Transmission\*\*\***  
21:12 4.3.36

Attn: Wolfram von Wartenburg  
Wewelsburg Castle

Message:

Professor Rookwood in custody.  
Above communication intercepted.  
We can use this to our advantage.

Dr. Elmar Wurmhausen