

Variations in the Canonical Text of Philip K. Dick's "The Skull"

This is the sixth of a series of documents in which I intend to compile and publish a list of variations between the original published text of Philip K. Dick stories and the "canonical" texts established in COLLECTED STORIES (Underwood/Miller 1987). I will also list any variations that I find between the original text and the text in the perennial reprints in the U.S. (Citadel Twilight 1990-1992, later Citadel Press) and the ongoing reprints from Subterranean Press. Where a Project Gutenberg text is available, I will also note all variations between that text and the original. In addition, I will consult the text of stories in other Dick collections and the electronic texts that I have for the Sony Reader in order to resolve ambiguities or to determine where a variation was first introduced. Although I have access to several British reprints of COLLECTED STORIES, I will not typically consult those texts.

I report all differences in the words and punctuation, regardless of significance. But I usually ignore stray marks, variations in "house style," and the spacing of punctuation. I do not report ambiguities in the original text such as in hyphenation and capitalization unless I think there is a strong case that the reprint texts depart from what Dick wrote. However, I intend to eventually document Dick's use of hyphenation in a separate project.

"The Skull" was first published without illustrations in Volume 1, Number 4 of *If*, dated September 1952. According to the U.S. copyright registration for that issue (B366642), it was published on July 9, 1952. I count 7,767 words in the story. The story was not reprinted in any Dick collections until COLLECTED STORIES. I am working on the assumption that no original manuscripts for this story are extant and that Dick did not have a "preferred" text.

Project Gutenberg published "The Skull" in the United States in 2009 as a public domain electronic text, available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/30255> .

I have found twenty-six variations from the original published text in the COLLECTED STORIES text, including one instance of an ambiguous hyphen in the original. All but two of the variations are present in the first printing of VOLUME ONE of the Underwood/Miller, Citadel Twilight, and Subterranean Press editions that I consulted. One of the other two variations is unique to the Underwood/Miller edition, and the other is present only in the Citadel Twilight and Subterranean Press editions. Seven of the variations in COLLECTED STORIES are also present in the HTML version of the Project Gutenberg text that I consulted, which also includes seven additional variations but otherwise matches the original text. I include snippets of text in the table below for each variation, with the relevant portion underlined. I have listed page numbers from *If*, Underwood/Miller (identical pagination in Citadel), and Subterranean. The notes represent my opinions about these variations. Except where I have noted, the variations are not present in the Project Gutenberg text, and the Citadel text matches Underwood/Miller. I leave creation of a "corrected" text as an exercise for the reader.

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
A	except the prospect of another six years in a <u>cell</u> . — If 107	except the prospect of another six years in a <u>cell</u> .” — Underwood/Miller 47 — Subterranean 63	corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
B	“Yes.” The Speaker mounted the <u>stairs</u> . “You know we’re not allowed in their Churches, especially with guns!” — If 108 — Underwood/Miller 48	“Yes.” The Speaker mounted the <u>stairs</u> . ¶ “You know we’re not allowed in their Churches, especially with guns!” — Citadel 48 — Subterranean 64	erroneous paragraph break introduced in Citadel and also present in Subterranean; this is an awkward passage, but I think that all of the speaking and action in the paragraph is the Speaker’s, and adding a paragraph break transfers some speech and action to Conger
C	gazing at the <u>ikons</u> and holy images. — If 108	gazing at the <u>icons</u> and holy images. — Underwood/Miller 48 — Subterranean 64	erroneous spelling change
D	And for your efforts there will be quite a <u>resitution</u> , of course.” — If 109	And for your efforts there will be quite a <u>restitution</u> , of course.” — Underwood/Miller 49 — Subterranean 66	corrected spelling; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
E	“Right now we have to <u>hurry</u> .” — If 109 — Underwood/Miller 49 — Subterranean 66	“Right now we have to <u>hurry!</u> ” — Project Gutenberg	erroneous punctuation in Project Gutenberg
F	Only when scientists are in full control can the—” [spacebreak] He looked at his watch — If 111	Only when scientists are in full control can the—” ¶ He looked at his watch — Underwood/Miller 51 — Subterranean 67	erroneous dropped spacebreak
G	It took only a moment for him to utter <u>them that, we</u> know. — If 111	It took only a moment for him to utter <u>them, that we</u> know. — Underwood/Miller 51 — Subterranean 68	corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg

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H	<p><u>The</u> important thing to remember is that the skull must be saved — If 111</p>	<p><u>“The</u> important thing to remember is that the skull must be saved — Underwood/Miller 51 — Subterranean 68</p>	<p>corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg</p>
I	<p>“Good luck,” the Speaker <u>said.</u> ¶ <u>“We’ll</u> be awaiting the outcome. — If 112</p>	<p>“Good luck,” the Speaker <u>said.</u> ¶ <u>“We’ll</u> be awaiting the outcome. — Underwood/Miller 52 — Subterranean 69</p>	<p>erroneous dropped paragraph break</p>
J	<p>He clamped the controls off and stood up. [<u>spacebreak</u>] He was on a ridge overlooking a small town. — If 112</p>	<p>He clamped the controls off and stood up. ¶ He was on a ridge overlooking a small town. — Underwood/Miller 52 — Subterranean 69</p>	<p>erroneous dropped spacebreak</p>
K	<p>The first things he <u>noticed,</u> <u>were</u> the newspapers on the stands. — If 113 — Underwood/Miller 53 — Subterranean 70</p>	<p>The first things he <u>noticed</u> <u>were</u> the newspapers on the stands. — Project Gutenberg</p>	<p>erroneous punctuation in Project Gutenberg</p>
L	<p>There was a filling station, a garage, some <u>taverns,</u> <u>and</u> a ten-cent store. — If 113</p>	<p>There was a filling station, a garage, some <u>taverns</u> <u>and</u> a ten-cent store. — Underwood/Miller 53 — Subterranean 70</p>	<p>erroneous punctuation</p>
M	<p>He sat down by the road and began to go through them. [<u>spacebreak</u>] What he wanted was four months back, in December. — If 114</p>	<p>He sat down by the road and began to go through them. ¶ What he wanted was four months back, in December. — Underwood/Miller 54 — Subterranean 71</p>	<p>erroneous dropped spacebreak</p>
N	<p>His <u>heart</u> pounded. — If 114 — Citadel 54 — Subterranean 71</p>	<p>His <u>heard</u> pounded. — Underwood/Miller 54</p>	<p>erroneous spelling in Underwood/Miller</p>
O	<p>A woman was coming out of a <u>doorway,</u> <u>loaded</u> down with packages. — If 114</p>	<p>A woman was coming out of a <u>doorway</u> <u>loaded</u> down with packages. — Underwood/Miller 54 — Subterranean 72</p>	<p>erroneous punctuation</p>

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
P	He lost them and <u>left the town</u> , striding quickly, easily, — If 114	He lost them and <u>left town</u> , striding quickly, easily, — Underwood/Miller 54 — Subterranean 72	erroneous dropped word
Q	Conger went gratefully through the open door, into the <u>livingroom</u> . — If 114	Conger went gratefully through the open door, into the <u>living room</u> . — Underwood/Miller 55 — Subterranean 72 Conger went gratefully through the open door, into the <u>living-room</u> . — Project Gutenberg	erroneous compound word change; a different error is present in Project Gutenberg
R	“No.” He hesitated. “ <u>In Oregon</u> .” — If 115	“No.” He hesitated. “ <u>Oregon</u> .” — Underwood/Miller 55 — Subterranean 73	erroneous dropped word
S	“But we have to be careful. The <u>Tribune</u> says—” — If 115 — Underwood/Miller 55 — Subterranean 73	“But we have to be careful. The <i>Tribune</i> says—” — Project Gutenberg	erroneous italics in Project Gutenberg; it is not clear enough here that "Tribune" is a newspaper that would warrant the italics
T	These people, so suspicious of anything <u>different would</u> be buzzing and gossiping and spreading the story. — If 115	These people, so suspicious of anything <u>different, would</u> be buzzing and gossiping and spreading the story. — Underwood/Miller 55-56 — Subterranean 73	corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
U	Willet is a <u>trouble[-]maker</u> .” — If 119	Willet is a <u>trouble-maker</u> .” — Underwood/Miller 60 — Subterranean 78	erroneous hyphen; original text is ambiguous but should be read as "troublemaker"; this error is also present in Project Gutenberg
V	In the twentieth century they still used the old <u>twelve month</u> system. — If 119 — Underwood/Miller 60 — Subterranean 79	In the twentieth century they still used the old <u>twelve-month</u> system. — Project Gutenberg	corrected hyphenation in Project Gutenberg

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W	November fed directly into December; there was no Quartember <u>between</u> . — If 119	November fed directly into December; there was no Quartember <u>between them</u> . — Underwood/Miller 60 — Subterranean 79	erroneous added word
X	He <u>brought a thin rod</u> from his waist and turned the handle of it. — If 119	He <u>brought out a thin rod</u> from his waist and turned the handle of it. — Underwood/Miller 60 — Subterranean 79	erroneous added word
Y	There was the <u>neat plastic package</u> . — If 120	There was the <u>neat package</u> . — Underwood/Miller 61 — Subterranean 80	erroneous dropped word
Z	What if <i>he</i> could see this, his own skull, yellow and <u>eroded</u> ? — If 120	What if <i>he</i> could see this, his own skull, yellow and <u>corroded</u> ? — Underwood/Miller 61 — Subterranean 80	erroneous word change
AA	Was he meditating over his words, <u>chosing</u> his sentences? — If 120	Was he meditating over his words, <u>choosing</u> his sentences? — Underwood/Miller 61 — Subterranean 80	corrected spelling; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
BB	“They said you were some kind <u>of a Communist</u> . — If 121	“They said you were some kind <u>of Communist</u> . — Underwood/Miller 62 — Subterranean 81	erroneous dropped word
CC	They said—” <u>[spacebreak]</u> Conger went into the cage. — If 121	They said—” <u>¶</u> Conger went into the cage. — Underwood/Miller 62 — Subterranean 81	erroneous dropped spacebreak
DD	Not to warn <u>you— Just</u> curious.” — If 121 — Underwood/Miller 62 — Subterranean 81	Not to warn <u>you—just</u> curious.” — Project Gutenberg	erroneous capitalization in Project Gutenberg; note that I am treating the spacing around the em dash as a matter of house style
EE	Conger <u>could make</u> out a couple of them. — If 121 — Underwood/Miller 62 — Subterranean 81	Conger <u>could, make</u> out a couple of them. — Project Gutenberg	erroneous punctuation in Project Gutenberg

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
FF	“Toss a few A Bombs!” [spacebreak] They began to laugh. — If 123	“Toss a few A Bombs!” ¶ They began to laugh. — Underwood/Miller 64 — Subterranean 84	erroneous dropped spacebreak

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Frank Hollander
 frankhollander@gmail.com
 facebook.com/frankhollander (also search for "The PKD Fan Group")
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