



THYSANIA AGRIPPINA (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

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Light grey moth, jungle bred,
Giant of thy kind.
How did a Master's hand
Paint thee in modernistic forms
Aeons before their time?
Millions of tawny scales
Arranged in zig-zag abandon
Mold abstract designs upon thy parchment wings.
Surrealistic dreams
Which only art inspired man
May urge upon a stiffened cloth.

¹ Dr. Gohla, Professor of German and an amateur lepidopterist, is a scientific contributor to the **Journal**.

In his letter he commented on the wing pattern of this moth as follows: "This giant of a moth is a living surrealistic painting of the latest type displayed at the Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art. It could put a Picasso to shame." This thought is here captured in verse.

The photograph of a specimen from his collection, approximately one-third actual size, was taken by Frank R. Borchardt, a student in the Fordham Modern Language Dept.

Shadowy creature!
Escaped from the depth of Hades,
Where Asphodels bloom in quiet profusion
Upon the dead and eery meadows
Giving you sustenance and life.—

Why didst thou escape
To haunt the fertile visions of man,
The spark divine
Gracing the human endeavor?



Gohla, Kurt B . 1965. "Thysania Agrippina (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 73, 92–93.

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