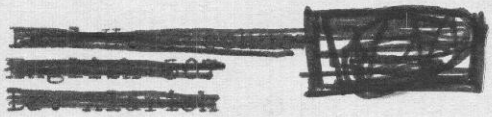

"House of Frankenstein"
Review

"House of Frankenstein" dircted by E.C. Kenton, is a 1944 movie in black and white that is a sequel to Mary Shelly's "Frankenstein" legend that follows the exploits of Dr. Frankenstein's friend and associate Dr. Niemann. (I am sorry I can attribute the film to only Mr. Kenton, I was unable to decipher a screenplay or writing credit in the list at the beginning of the movie.) "The" Dr. Frankenstein is dead at the time the action of the movie starts, and Neimann is imprisoned for his dealings with the late doctor. The entire movie revolves around Niemann's attempts to restore Dr. Frankenstein's dream. Introduced into the story are the wolfman and Dracula, and thier problems and activities help round out the supernatural carnival. As a part of the post-war baby boom this is more than another "monster" movie to me, because it was the first movie of its type I saw as a child, and to this day, especially after reviewing it, brings back memories that are basic to my conceptions of evil and the supernatural. The best way of attacking the problem of ascertaining the merits of this movie is probably to run through the plot with an eye open for the Gothic, evil, and supernatural.

The first scene starts in the heavy shadows of Neustadt Prison where Dr. Niemann (played by Boris Karloff) and his hunchbacked assisstant Dan are imprisoned for thier evil scientific dealings. Within the first five minutes evil science is introduced in the form of Niemann's chalk drawing digrams that are a plan to put a dogs mind into a human and vice versa. Evil takes place just as suddenly as the doctor strangles a taunting guard while raving romantic oaths to carry on the dead doctors plans. In this beginning scene we also find out that