

# N'APA 257

## March 2022



# The Official Organ

## #257

**Next deadline: May 15, 2022**

The official collator is George Phillies - [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

The official preparer is Jefferson P. Swycaffer - [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)

### **Procedure: Please Read:**

George Phillies will collate and mail, but submissions should be sent to the preparer, Jefferson Swycaffer. No harm is done if submissions get sent to George, but the process should be to send them to Jefferson.

N'APA is the Amateur Press Alliance for members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). As it is distributed in PDF format, there are no dues or postage fees. It is open to all members of the N3F. If there are members interested in joining who have no computer access, special arrangements may be possible. People who only want to read are welcome to ask to be added to the email list. Check with the official collator, who is George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609; [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net); 508 754 1859; and on facebook. To join this APA, contact George.

We regularly send a copy of N'APA to the accessible (email address needed) N3F membership, in the hope that some of you will join N'APA. Please join now!

Currently the frequency is every other month, with the deadline being on the fifteenth day of odd-numbered months. The mailing will normally be collated in due time, as the collator is retired and the preparer has a full-time job. Publication is always totally regular, though some readers question my interpretations of "is", "always", "totally", and "regular". N'APA has been in existence since 1959, but has transitioned from being a paper APA to an electronic one.

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# INTERMISSION #117

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com), for EAPA, N'APA and for tech'l reasons other victims may get this delayed. Follow @SFJournalen sf/f/h&fandom newstweets. You are ordered to subject your body to injectables against Twonk's disease! Hear the 1984 echo: Flu is Ebola! Your body is the Government's! Lockdowns are Freedom! Late Jan'22

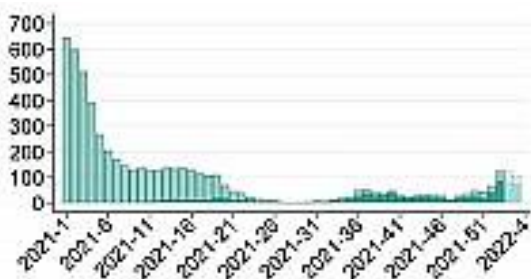
## Editorially: Short ish, Old Swe-Can Fan, Aurora Borealis

This will be a special issue and a bit shorter with a very special History Corner. I've had E-mail problems in January so I'll initially prioritise EAPA and N'APA, distribution to others will wait (I'll consider creating a special distribution address, but if so comments should still go to [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com) Nota Bene!) From Shangri-LA we get comments from Marty Cantor about LASFS from his perspective and the the LASFS clubhouse situation right now. In lastish I covered the adventures around the their legendary 1940's clubhouse as told in Rob Hansen's *Bixelstrasse* book. The TAFF E-books on <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?all> are really something you must look into. New, LASFS related titles *Ah! Sweet Laney!* and *The Incomplete Burbee* looks like glittering gems! The main history piece is about the early Swedish-Canadian fan Nils Helmer Frome, a pioneer of the Canadian fanzine scene (doing the first Canadian fanzine which has survived!), illustrator, buddy with Sam Moskowitz, hovering around the Lovecraft circle and corresponding with HPL.

I hadn't heard of Mr Frome before so I dug up all I could find. After a short stay back in Sweden, which Frome had left as a toddler, it seems Nils Helmer's life ended far too early in tragedy in Wales.

But as I don't have access some of the source material I hope readers can help me find out more about this interesting fan!

That will be enough history without this time digging into my Royal Library stuff (don't worry, I still have much left of that). After that some mailing comments that you may ignore - but it would be a good idea if you'd join an APA! Doing a PDFzine is very easy and we need more fanzines, so fandom won't decay



*Virus dead very few, like regular flu. "Restrictions" a waste!* (Nat Health Agency Jan 27) CGI superhero flicks. (In my eyes such is just boring imitation stuff and has nothing to do with Fandom As We Have Known It.)

As for the blasted virus all credible sources (doesn't include opportunistic politicians and scare-mongering mainstream media) point to that Omicron is extremely mild, like a regular flu. It spreads easily, but it shouldn't matter since it's just a flu. Deaths are very low, comparable to a normal flu season. While hospitalisations are itty-bitty up most of the infected come in for *other* diseases, and found they had the bug once in hospital. The majority having Omicron didn't even know of any symptoms from it. From the official demographics of Sweden (by the Statistic Central Agency at <https://www.scb.se/>) we can calculate that our excess deaths 2020-21 was ca 3800, *only 25% of the official corona deaths* claimed to be 15000 these two years. *75% of claimed virus victims died with but not from the corona virus!* A UK FOIA request to their Office of National Statistics uncovered that the *number of British corona deaths without any pre-existing condition were 17 000*, just *11% of the claimed official figure of 150 000*. A new study from Johns Hopkins University found all these lockdowns only reduced virus mortality by...0.2%! This has gone mostly unreported by mainstream, old media. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10474269/Mainstream-news-outlets-IGNORE-Johns-Hopkins-study-COVID-lockdowns-reduced-deaths-0-2.html> There are lies, damn lies



Northern Lights over Stockholm in mid January.

and the corona statistics in newspapers.

This zine isn't against vaccines - it's a very good idea to take this flu shot! But as a matter of a very important principle, *you must be the master of your own body*. That's a principle more important than getting vaccines out, which BTW seem inefficient against Omicron. The questionable floundrings of Australia, Canada, Austria, Holland, Greece, France, New Zealand and elsewhere is alarming. Corona concentration camps, bureaucrats claiming ownership of the bodies of citizens, thousands in non-jab fines even for those who have the best (natural) immunity already and don't need a shot, making a degrading circus out of a formerly respected sports tournament, police walking around with sticks on the streets, kids losing two years of schooling, businesses going bust by the tens of thousands, inflation the highest in 20 years, millions of operations and treatments cancelled - likely to cause *more* deaths than from the virus! - all that is opportunistic stupidity. It's politicians drunk with power and prestige, playing for the gallery, pretending to be safe helmsmen, lacking common sense. They caused tremendous damage, achieving very little and they've had no respect for civil rights. (And on the Winter Olympics they treat Omicron like Ebola! I fear it'll be Roulette Games when having a cough or not decides who may even compete. Dreams of gold will be crushed. Also The American Song Contest I wrote about earlier has been postponed till March due to YKW. Anyway, Swedish SVT has bought the rights so I'll be able to follow it.)

Finally. We saw the northern lights, Aurora Borealis, over Stockholm last month. I've seen it before. Usually it drown in city lights, but now it was extra strong and visible. It's because the Sun's protective magnetic field is slowly decreasing so more particles and radiation reach Earth, causing the Aurora and in the longer run (Greta, listen!) a colder climate! More particles means more clouds, lower albedo and more of the heat from the Sun bouncing off into space.

--Ahrvid Engholm

# History Corner

First some notes from Marty Cantor, member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society - the worlds oldest continuously active sf club!-, Hugo nominee fanned, fan fund winner etc, reacting to my coverage of Rob Hansen's *Bixelstrasse* collection, which dealt with LASFS in the 1940s.

**Marty Cantor writes:** *Well, here is a loc of sorts on Intermission116. And I think it has been too many decades since I last communicated anything to you. My genzine HOLIER THAN THOU has been sleeping since the late 1980s and its successor, NO AWARD, is also sound asleep. /Ed: Yeah, we may have had some contacts in eg the 1980s./ I have read Rob Hansen's history of the 1940s LASFS and found it interesting. However, as I did not discover fandom (and LASFS) until 1975, the early days of LASFS are history to me. I am interested in LASFS' past, but I did not participate in it.*

*My fanzining has been APAhacking. Currently, I only contribute zines to the weekly APA-L and the monthly LASFAPA, both of which I also run. If you mention joining APAs and I am always interested in getting new members for the two paper APAs I run. However, you mention two e-APAs and I find myself totally disinterested in that method of communication. I am in several mailing lists; but, in the slowdown of my old age - 86 and still doing a few things - I am in the process of shedding some activities. /Ed: It's understandable to take it easy with age. I'm afraid paper fanzines are on the way out. Skyrocketing postage alone is a hurdle! And Sweden's PO is preparing to deliver mail only 3 times/week.../*

*I have been on the LASFS Board of Directors for several terms (and have been the Board Secretary*





for most of that time) but I did not run for re-election last month and I will be off the Board starting January 1. I pubbed the LASFS monthly newsletter, *DE PROFUNDIS*, for the past many years, but I gave it back to the board last month.

In 1975 I was active in what was LASFS' first clubhouse that they owned. Since then, in 1978, LASFS sold Clubhouse 1 and purchased Clubhouse 2 (which had twice the space as the first clubhouse). In 2011, LASFS sold Clubhouse 2 and purchased Clubhouse 3 (which was twice the size of Clubhouse 2). Clubhouse 3 was sold several years later for three reasons: maintenance of the property was costing too much money, the neighborhood was deteriorating, and we again needed more space.

Unfortunately, at the time of selling our third clubhouse, property had become so expensive that LASFS went into rented quarters and invested its money. We hope to purchase another clubhouse; but, because of the pandemic, we are now meeting via Zoom.

"The LASFS Board of Directors has decided on doing one of three things when we can afford to do them, with thing #1 renting some quarters which are not just one room in a building which lets us use it only one day a week as there are things LASFS likes to do other than its business meeting every Thursday evening. Thing #2 is to purchase a building and then remodel it as necessary to suite out needs. My personal choice is Thing #3 - find a vacant lot with the proper zoning and build to our specifications. In most instances, Thing #3 would probably be cheaper than Thing #2 as remodeling costs can be quite high (as we discovered when we purchased Clubhouse #2. Clubhouse #1 needed remodeling but the club members did it themselves. The remodeling of Clubhouse #3 had to be done professionally as too many of the members who did the remodeling of Clubhouse #2 were at least middle aged or a bit older were now 30+ years older when we purchased Clubhouse #3 and could no longer do remodeling work..

Therefore, purchasing a building and remodeling it for our purposes could be VERY expensive. As we discovered when we finally held LOSCON 47 at the end of last November after a long suspension do to the pandemic, it really was nice meeting our friends in person after too long a time just seeing them on our computers via Zoom.

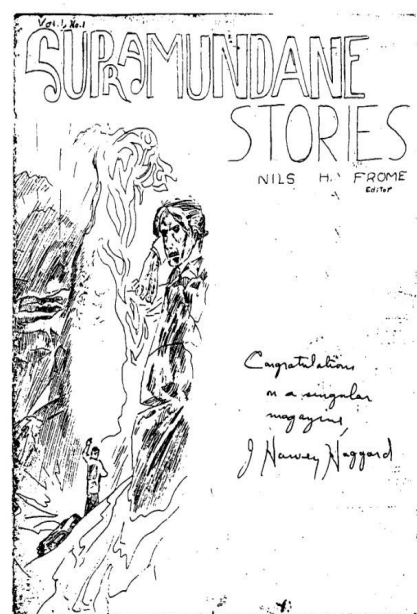
So we really want to get a clubhouse again. Fortunately, our investment is doing nicely but is still not quite enough for a clubhouse purchase, given the high cost of property in Los Angeles.

Thanks for your letter! I don't usually run LoCs, but I wrote a lot about LASFS and you had some info about the club and the present clubhouse situation - so I made an exception. Fancyclopedia says LASFS now meet at Friendship Hall of the American Lutheran Church, 747 N Whitnall Hwy, Burbank, but not during the pandemic when they meet in Zoom - I guess must be called the Freehafer Screen!

And now we'll turn to the Swedish-Canadian fan who knew Lovecraft and was involved in the start of Canada fandom. BTW, I've always though they should call the country *Fanada*...

In a 2015 fanzine titled *The Art of Garthness* (#1 even! - find it at <https://efanzines.com/>) one Mr Garth Spencer wrote: One of the earliest (and most isolated) fans in BC was Nils Helmer Frome...a fanzine publisher... lof/ two editions of *Supramundane Stories* out of Fraser Mills, in 1937. In the 1940s he did fillos for Les Crutch's Ontario fanzine *Light* and both covers and fillos for issues of Joseph 'Beak' Taylor's *Canadian Fandom*. He also contributed fiction to both zines. Frome published two editions of *Supramundane Stories* out of Fraser Mills, in 1937 and 1938, with an impressive roster of contributors; and he did an issue of *Fantasy Pictorial* for the May 1938 First National SF Convention in Newark, NJ.

Frome was born in 1918, Fancyclopedia ([https://fancyclopedia.org/Nils\\_Helmer\\_Frome](https://fancyclopedia.org/Nils_Helmer_Frome)) tells us, and notes that the fanzine he edited was ...the first Canadian genzine, and possibly the country's first fanzine, in the late 1930s and /Frome/ contributed illos to



*Supramundane Stories* #1

many American fanzines...Nils was born in Sweden. He was given to a foster family when his mother died and emigrated with another adoptive family to Canada in 1924...He was a correspondent of H. P. Lovecraft's.

Now it got my attention! While only aged six when emigrating, that a Swedish-Canadian was a fandom pioneer and Lovecraft correspondent was news to me! I did what I could to find out more, through any documentation I could google up. Moskowitz for instance writes in *SF Studies* (Vol 17, 1990) on "Canada's Pioneer Science-Fantasy Magazine" - I could unfortunately only access the first page through Jstor (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4239976>) - that he began corresponding with Frome in early 1937 and *Supramundane Stories* was produced on a multigraph, a piece of equipment that acted exactly like a mimeograph except that the typewriter style letters were set a slug at a time (as is letter press); so after the page was printed the type had to be disbursed. Frome was a would-be artist as well as publisher, as he would leave white spaces throughout his publications for illustrations. These he would draw in by hand, ten or twenty to a copy! ... Anyone inclined to patronize his efforts should be aware that the second (and last) issue of his publication (1938) ran a short story by HP Lovecraft (with whom he corresponded), a poem by Clark Ashton Smith, and material by Duane W Rimel and Emil Petaja (who were a part of the Lovecraft circle)...Frome did illustrations and wrote fantasy fiction for my own fan magazine *Helios*.

The West Coast Science Fiction Association WCSFzine #5 (see <https://efanzines.com/>) has a Frome bio, researched by Michael Dann and Brenda Yvonne of the zine *New Canadian Fandom*, May 1983, in the article "Nils Helmer Frome - Found and Lost". They located a /Frome/ half-brother (Louie) and his wife (Alice), whom they personally interviewed and who permitted them to examine what personal papers of his remained. A longer excerpt:

Canada's second SF fanned, first leading fan, and quite possibly, earliest fan whose name is known... "the first Canadian to publish a general circulation fanzine to make himself prominent /Harry Warner jr says/..."the leading Canadian fan of the day" /Sam Moskowitz says/ Frome was born in Ratansbyn, Jamtland, Sweden on July 10th, 1918. After his mother died, he was given by his father to another family to raise. At the age of 4, he refused to go back to living with his father! Eventually he was adopted by a foster family, which moved to Canada, ultimately settling in Fraser Mills, B.C., on the North side of the Fraser River just East of New Westminster...a lone child/ spending most of his time collecting science fiction, reading history, drawing and writing. After high school he attended Vocational Art School in Vancouver. His first issue of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES came out in Oct 1936. He would have been 18 years old, a relatively mature age for a fan of that era. The point is, he was already an established fan well known North America-wide and considered Canada's leading fan. He had, for instance, been in touch with C Hamilton Bloomer, a prominent San Francisco fan, and purchased a multigraph mimeo from him. He established regular correspondence with James Blish and HP Lovecraft, among others. Sam Moskowitz began corresponding with him in 1937 and acted as an unpaid agent, distributing Frome's articles, art & fiction to numerous fanzines. After graduating school Frome found work in various lumber camps and mills, which may explain why he stopped publishing SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES. He did, however, maintain a high level of fanac, as Moskowitz's activity on his behalf attests. This may have been in compensation for being continually trapped in a working environment where his interests in art & SF were not held in high esteem. He seems to have been unhappy with his life.... had emotional problems dealing with people... seems to have resulted from his being a loner and from a creative mind that quickly became bored.... due to his above average intelligence and his inability to communicate on the more mundane level. The war must have been particularly frustrating. Being a skilled lumberjack, considered a strategically important job, he was not allowed to change jobs or enlist. So he spent most of the war, and some years after, in lumber camps. For a long time his address was 'Camp 5, Bloedel, B C Still, he found time to send out a stream of art, commentary, fiction & articles. One example of his fiction is 'THE MIRROR', published in CANFAN #10 in May 1946. The first paragraph reads: "As the car gasped its last and finally expired, John Sloan cursed the fate which had stranded him there on that lonely road,



*with night coming on, and an uncertain storm muttering to itself in the distance. The curious mirror cast back the reflection of the figure of an old man, his ruthless countenance painted by the fire, now slack in death. He was sitting crumbled there in the midst of the house he had stolen....Alone.*

*Throughout his drawings the eyes were somber, dark, brooding, and somehow frightening. Perhaps his inability to understand people expressed itself in the eyes of his portraits. The only portraits which did not suffer from the 'strange' eyes were those of a few relatives & close friends.*

Here's Moskowitz's list of publications he agented Frome's work to in the 1930/40's:

HELIOS & FANTASY ARTISTS, ed Sa Moskowitz  
THE SCIENCE FICTION SCOUT, ed Alex Osherhoff  
FANTASCIENCE DIGEST, ed Robert Madle  
SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, ed John V Baltadonis  
GOLDEN ATOM, ed Litterio Frasci  
SCIENTITALES, ed John Giunta  
COSMIC TALES, ed Louis Kuslan  
8-BALL/CANADIAN FANDOM, ed Beak Taylor  
FANFARE, ed Francis Paro  
SCIENTAL, ed Bob Studley  
SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES, ed Oswald Train  
STUNNING SCIENTIFAN, ed JJ Fortier  
SCIENTI-SNAPS, ed Walter Marconette  
SCIENCE FICTION FAN, ed Olon F Wiggin  
VADJONG, ed James V Taursi  
SPACEWAYS, ed Harry Warner jr  
LIGHT, ed Les Crouth "#115 April 1942 for example, its

*cover a line drawing of four nymphs or driad".*

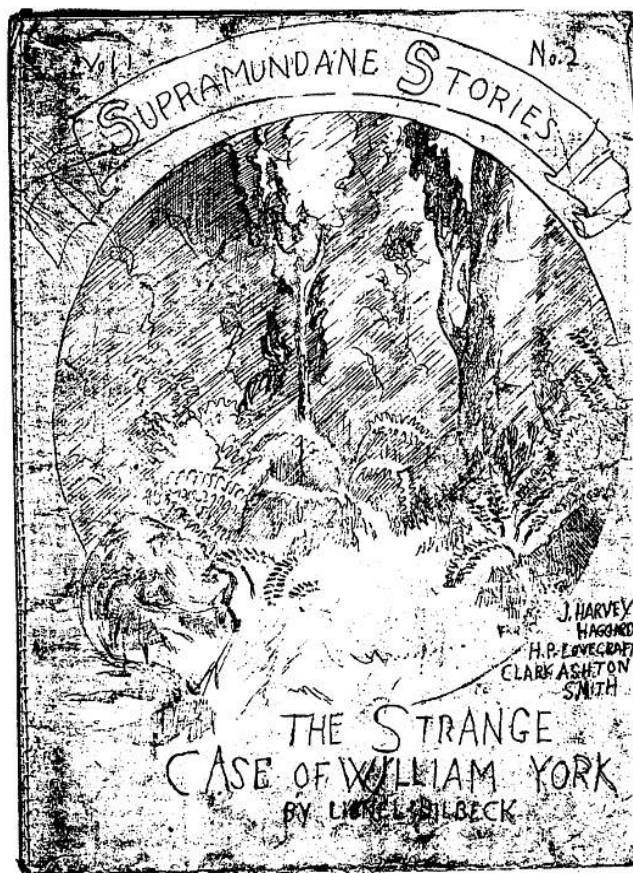
(The last two were not through SaM.) Frome sometimes used the pen name Herkanos, also in his LoCs.

And here's Taral in the M Dann/B Yvonne bio in the WCSFzine:

*Frome himself continued as an active fan into the 40s, drawing and writing for CANADIAN FANDOM. He was one of Two artists" (Al Betts the other) "who alternated covers for CANFAN for all the copies I've seen of the first dozen issues. Of the two, Frome was the better, in my opinion, having a better grasp of anatomy and exhibiting better draughtsman ship... Like most fan art of the 40s, it was derivative of the pulp illustrators, and particularly of the fantasy illustrators. The style was dramatic and brooding, effects achieved by crosshatching, and the art showed good understanding of light. Of the three covers in my possession, two are dominated by huge, moody faces that have some real power as art. Generally less claustrophobic than most fantasy art of the time, and more surreal than illustrations for most adventure of SF stories, too, Frome had a real talent and may well have gone on to some professional career. Somewhere, but not in science fiction.*

Moskowitz added: *Frome was head and shoulders above most fan (graphic) artists, and with a little training his work would have been of professional quality. His style was patterned after J. Clement Coll & Austin Briggs -- entirely line work with some cross-hatching in the background.*

And further: *In the summer of 1953 a nearly fatal bowel obstruction dictated a hospital stay lasting 76 days. Frome spent much of the time drawing, expanding his artistic skills. Afterwards, among other jobs all over B.C. working for various companies, he did design work for the Dept of Recreation & Conservation. Then he came back to the Lower Mainland and tried to survive as a commercial artist. Despite selling illustrations of B.C. "buildings, ships, trains & places" to newspapers, success eluded him. A drinking habit begun in his early twenties was now a major problem. As if desiring to*



*Supramundane Stories #2*

begin anew and find his roots, he left for Sweden to visit his relatives circa 1960/1961. He never came back. Nils Helmer Frome was found dead in the Hydro Hotel in Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, Wales. He had been working on odd jobs and as a part-time boilerman for the hotel. His diary reveals he had considered suicide for some time. The date was the 27th of March, 1962. He was less than 44 years old. He had one three-penny piece in his possession.

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### Contents of Supramundane Stories #2

Frome's mother's sewing machine, which is a rather cool way to bind it. A wonder more people didn't think of that method. /Moskowitz says:/ Frome illustrated it by hand, and although he possessed no little artistic ability, he showed a disquieting dislike for uniformity by illustrating every copy of the magazine differently. For the particular fan collector it would have been necessary to obtain every copy of the periodical in existence in order to own all the variations... I kept two copies of the first and at one time I had six in the files at the same time. Why? Because every copy was different. Different illustrations, different textual arrangements, even different text...

RD Swisher who did a fanzine checklist says: Probably one of the most unusual fanzines ever issued was the first issue of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES... No two copies were identical. Each and every one contained different illustrations, articles, ads, set up of stories. Cover and illustrations done by hand. No two copies of this issue are identical. Some pages dated Oct, some Dec-Jan

Frome himself wrote: The explanation to why the variety of illustrations is I got bored doing the same drawing over many, many times, almost line for line. Try it yourself. I bet it will get under your skin, too. The contents of SUPRAMUNDANE #1 is mentioned:

The Cosmic Vampire' by Lionel Dilbeck, a Lovecraftian story about an airplane expedition to the North Magnetic pole which crashes in a storm. Everyone survives only to be picked off one by one by a gaseous being resembling "a huge mass of what looked to be snow-flakes... Glittering whitely and pulsating rhythmically..." which, once it envelopes a hapless human, sucks out his life force. The cover, by Frome himself, depicts an agonized man disintegrating within the embrace of 'The Cosmic Vampire' while another man flees down the snowy slope toward the wrecked aircraft." ... Frome contributed two stories. The first, 'The Thought God Calls' is under the pen name Vacton Wells. It's about the first expedition to the outer planets. Here's a sample paragraph:

"Although acerbic climes sent the hull barometer down to an abnormal extreme on the dark side, and horrentious heat on that side facing Titan, mighty machines murmuring in the Planeteer's pentraillia, rapidly reined and used them; so whereas Man with his huge shortcomings should swiftly have expired, but for the miracle of the advent of Brain, the two who stood looking into the drusy distance,





An illo by Frome.

mentated not too much on the possibility of anything going wrong in the three weeks old king of space, but trying to envisage the things to come."

His second story, under his own name, titled 'The Flaming Sword of Yucatan', is even less accessible to the reader. You might say he attempts to out-Lovecraft Lovecraft, as per this quote: "Dawson understood. He came into reality, if the strange being and the effulgent object he held, vaguely like a sword but with an elusive, distant look that it might have been a star, was real."

Frome also contributes a poem under the pen name Lionel N. Dwight. It has what I think is a great title: 'All Cold', and is about the heat death of the Moon. Here is the complete poem:

**Lonely little Luna's settled to**

**soulful wait**

**Until when her fate will one day slate**

**Some cosmic chaos a chance to brim her  
atmosphere thin**

**And give her energy to energize her fires dim,  
But she cringes lest fate connive, pales lest it  
contrive**

**To take her life.**

**Her struggles strong for ages long**

**Has inured her to strife,**

**But the fire cooler grows in her inner great grotto  
And she does not know.**

The standout item in the issue is the poem 'Written On A Bleak Asteroid' by J. Harvey Haggard, a professional author & poet "whose stories had appeared periodically in WONDER STORIES & ASTOUNDING STORIES... had several poems appear under the pen name 'The Planet Prince' in WONDER STORIES" according to Moskowitz...

At this stage in his life, Frome's grasp of English was good, but he tended towards an awkward syntax and a lust for run-on sentences. (He later wrote far more clearly.)

This hints he may have been brought up with Swedish as first language, as his adoption family was Swedish. And here's an excerpt from his editorial, titled 'The Editor's Word' in which he sets forth the purpose of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES (see illo also):

If you really and truly are for prophetic, noetic literature and see something in short anecdotes, etc, to enhance the regular sciencefiction fare and occupy atween times, and short thought-provokers boiled down so as to insure against any tedium, articles about science, writing, illustrating, and reading fantastic stories and multifarious other features - then this is your mag. For SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES will have more than any amateur magazine, including crossword puzzles... and model spaceship plans... Sciencefiction is a world apart; ordinary rules do not apply here; competition, certainly! If it can be yept so the fostering of a noetic lure that is amaranthine and may not be confined, extends infinitely as thought; no, SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES elbows no "rival" --she makes the field more lively.

Frome had a second poem in #1, "All Cold", using the pseudonym Lionel N Dwight:

#### THE EDITOR'S WORD

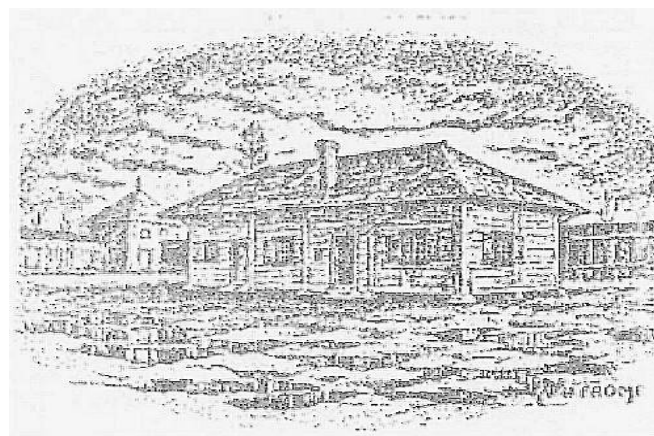
By HILSH: FROME

PRIOR to all else I want to vindicate my self of the onus a certain columnist (it is of no purpose to mention him specifically, as it is not with him my mind is concerned, but with those the inimical impression found lodging) who said— out of an unreasonable, antagonistic, pointless, uncalled-for—but we will leave that undoubted excess out—"I was being (pretty wording, I admit) blown about". Maybe if he does his heavy typesetting himself so his sense of reality, by the habit of putting words wrong so they'll appear right when on paper, has become warped, in print or further, to such a degree that would account for this otherwise inexplicable lack of truth, for it is sans an atom of truth— nor have I ever implied I was an "athouritive author", as he invents so easily. My friend and editor, I want to point out as our only mutual friend who might have had the provocation for doing so and upon my query, he has not done so, he says. The utmost justification this columnist has lies in a conversation between the two aforementioned well-known fans wherein my combative fellow fan asked about me, my friend answered, saying I was a partner in The Planetear (I was for awhile but I regretfully resigned for several reasons), an aspiring author, and a good drawer— and that is all.

If you really and truly are for prophetic, noetic literature and see something in short anecdotes, etc, to enhance the regular sciencefiction fare and occupy atween times, and short thought-provokers boiled down so as to insure against any tedium, articles about science, writing, illustrating, and reading fantastic stories and multifarious other features—then this is your mag. For SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES will have more than any amateur magazine, including crossword puzzles on science and science fiction probably by Roy Teet, and model spaceship plans. You will of course be delighted with the material by Mr. Haggard in this issue; we will strive to have an equally talented, well-know author contribute something ever issue.

Some of the amateur magazines may be rather blue by this time. But why? Sciencefiction is a field apart; ordinary rules do not apply here; competition, certainly! If it can be yept so the fostering of a noetic lure that is amaranthine and may not be confined, extends infinitely as thought; no, SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES elbows no "rival"— she makes the field more lively. Str. Radiations, a reader's department-battlefield for sciencefictionbibliomaniacs begins next issue, which will be out in less than two months.

***Lonely little Luna's settled to soulful wait  
 Until when her fate will one day slate  
 Some cosmic chaos a chance to brim her atmosphere  
 thin  
 And give her energy to energize her fires dim,  
 But she cringes lest fate connive, pales lest it contrive  
 To take her life.  
 Her struggles strong for ages long  
 Has inured her to strife,  
 But the fire cooler grows in her inner great grotto  
 And she does not know.***



House drawn by Frome, maybe resembling the logging cabins from when he worked in the forest.

Luckily, *Supramundane* has been digitised and is available here if you want to study it: <http://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org/sf-fanzines/downloadable-canadian-fanzines/macabre/supramundane-stories-1-2-1937-1938-nils-helmer-frome/>

Walter Marconett's *Scienti-Snaps*, Feb 1939, has a short story by Frome, "The Mother", and you can find it too here: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Scienti-Snaps/>

Sam Moskowitz has written about Frome and his correspondence with HPL in *Lovecraft in Howard Phillips Lovecraft and Nils Helmer Frome: a recollection of one of Canada's earliest science fiction fan* (Moshassuck Monograph Series No 5, 1989, 167 pages) which I unfortunately don't have access to. But there's a long letter by Moskowitz in the journal *Science Fiction Studies*, November 1985, <https://www.depauw.edu/sfs/notes/notes37/notes37.html>, commenting on James Blish using "Nilsson Frome" as a pseudonym, and then stating:

*While in the hospital Frome began to draw again, and when released made his major bid to earn a living from his drawing. This took the form of salaried work, which included design work on the restoration of the Cariboo Goldrush town of Barkerville, while working for the Department of Recreation and Conservation in British Columbia. His work was used on the cover and interiors of various regional Canadian magazines, including the Quesnel Advertiser and The North West Digest. Poor health, drinking, and failing interest resulted in his leaving his position and trying to make a living as a freelance commercial artist in southern British Columbia. He secured a motorcycle and toured the province, taking photos which he would later use as models for some illustrations. He was not entirely unsuccessful doing a regular series of drawings for The British Columbian in New Westminster as well as other newspapers. He made an attempt to have some of his illustrations appear on tourist postcards. Dann and Yvonne report that the quality of the drawings they viewed was good, and his line work-outstanding. His animals were drawn with considerable appeal. Forced to finally give up his attempts to make a living as a graphic artist in British Columbia, he returned to Sweden to visit his family. (We assume this is the family of his father.) One year later, his adopted family in British Columbia was notified that Nils Helmer Frome, who had been engaged as an oddjob man and part-time boiler operator for the Hydro Hotel in Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, Wales, was found dead there on March 27, 1962. /The suicide diary note mentioned, and SaM ends:/ Had he been able to take up residence in a publishing center like New York City, he might - between magazine illustrating and the rise of the comic magazines in the '40s - have had a better chance of making a living as an illustrator. While as a fan he was an eccentric, in his widespread correspondence he was unquestionably reaching out for comradeship; and his "loner" attitude to people around him seemed more a failure to find people with similar interests than a psychological fault.*

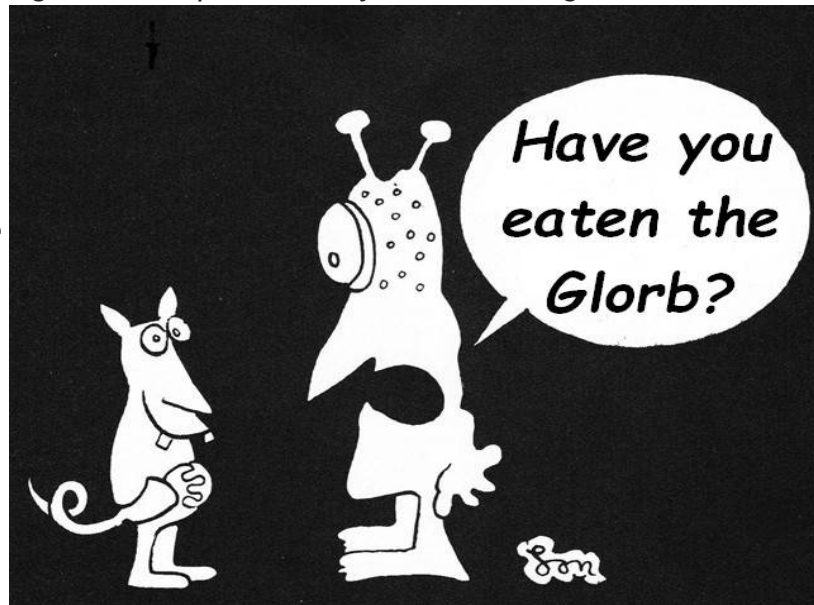
We learn that Frome was a letterhack to the pulps of the day too. See eg his letter in *Weird Tales* in 1936 (Aug-Sep), [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Weird\\_Tales/Volume\\_28/Issue\\_2/The\\_Eyrie#Frome](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Weird_Tales/Volume_28/Issue_2/The_Eyrie#Frome)

Nils Helmer Frome, of East Orange, New Jersey, writes: "I halted as I sped past a magazine stand - I always do that - magazines have a fascination for me. *Weird Tales* wasn't the only one I looked at,



but it held my gaze the longest. I lingered and languished - my purse wasn't exactly blooded. I bought it. That is the synopsis on the repeating incident that is among the most important in my years. *Weird Tales* has become weird again - or else my appreciation has risen. The covers of the last two issues were wonderfully weird. Great credit due to Brundage - she's really quite competent when she gets started - if she would only quit those nothing-on dames - she has no idea what a female figure looks like, even if she is a woman herself. Although I am far from an authority in that line myself, I know that a figure true to life is far from what can be effected by even a skilled guesser. And that external sadness in those eyebrows lifted in between the temples gets me with its monotony; why not a pointed pair of eyelashes, such meaning a mischievous nature; an arching pair - or a pair that swing in a curve from the temples and drop back; anything but those poor, fluttery lines Brundage favors always. Brundage must have such eyebrows - and the general contour of the faces of her bright-eyed heroines - for almost invariably an artist favours his or her type to depict. And why not put more life and horror into the faces - a shrinking type - a staring type - a fascinated type - a shadowed full-face type - a fainting type with half-closed eyes. The hands might be bettered, too. Advise her, Editor, to watch people's hands and catch their personality - their grace.

This is the info I've been able to gather on the pioneer fan Nils Helmer Frome, but tell me if you know more! Does anyone eg have the Moskowitz book *Lovecraft in Howard Phillips Lovecraft and Nils Helmer Frome*...? Do you have pics of Frome? More of his his pulp magazine letters?



Wisdom from Lars LON Olsson! Originally in *SF-Forum* #88, 1984, our only fanzine that in 2022 still dares to pub on paper!

## Mailing Comments

**First EAPA, then N'APA and John Thiel in between (he's in both!). Join an APA! Do a fanzine!**

**Henry Grynnssten:** LOTR has a very slow start the 100 first pages. Skip those and give John Ronald Ruel another try. Then you don't have to read ANY more fantasy, as everything afterwards is just copied from Tolkien. ☞ Interesting about the dark side of John Lennon. I'm of course a Beatle fan. (More so than ABBA fan, although they are a good #2, but what music I like changes with phases of the Moon...). A side note: I think the Fab Four would have re-united in the 1980s, if John Lennon hadn't been murdered. ☞ As for English tenses, the claimed "16" aren't tenses in the sense they direct different word forms, as some of the 16 are more variations in phrasing. See eg #16 of <https://examplanning.com/16-tenses-in-english-grammar-formula-and-examples/> "He said that I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING here FOR two hours by that time" Caps said to be the grammatical tense, however for me it's a matter of phrasing, pointing to a time and position through a stream of words - not a single of the words is grammatically modified for that "tense". By using a sequence of words you can always point to anything - that's phrasing, not grammar. Let me construct a "17th" tense which we call Alternate World Simple Present Tense (compare with #1 from the link): "She copenhagendly reads a book in the library" (re: Copenhagen many worlds interpretation of quantum physics). I just add "copenhagendly" to indicate she reads in an alternate world - now, is this grammar or phrasing? If you understand what I mean... ☞ "You don't think complexity takes time, quote: "now we invent a word for mammoths, the next millennium we invent a word for baby mammoths, and it will take another thousand years to gradually develop the past tense...which sounds incredibly weird, or it was invented suddenly by someone". Elsewhere you say you think languages began suddenly. There's a paradox: How on Earth could a certain language spread over a wide area in pre-historic times? <https://www.holidify.com/pages/oldest-languages-of-world-365.html> lists some of the oldest languages: versions of Chinese, Lithuanian, Sanskrit, Egyptian (they mean Coptic) and Tamil, which have been around for 5-6000 years and over considerable areas. That's impossible for a language that just "pops up" - it needs to pop up over a big area at the same time. What's most likely happened is that a word for mammoth popped up in a small group and then died off. The mammoth word popped up again and died off. And finally a mammoth word that popped up randomly managed to become more popular and spread - and this process may very well have taken thousands or tens or thousands of years. All elements of a language have evolved this way, by trial and error, and have slowly spread the same way until a certain language dominated an area. Pre-historic tribes migrating have spread a certain language. Language elements may pop up suddenly, but most of them also die off as fast, until certain bits survive and spread, which is a slow process. ☞ I have drunk plenty of coffee in my days, and never become "high" - not in the sense of narcotics. Coffee has never twisted how I see the world, never caused



extreme feelings of joy or dullness, never given me hallucinations, etc. Coffee just makes me slightly more awake and alert. ☞ You Beatles essay was rejected by their fan magazine: In last Intermission I did a tongue-in-cheek piece on ABBA. I mailed it to ca 10 E-ddresses to ABBA fan clubs etc - no response at all! I guess they didn't like it. I didn't really bash ABBA. I was a friendly parody - and parody is the highest praise!

**Garth Spencer:** I have never learned all those abbreviations, like REAIMTTTB (Read And It Made Me Take To The Bottle...) ☞ The original Foundation trilogy (which I like better than the later follow-ups) was a series of novelettes. Among his series you forget Asimov's Lucky Starr books! And outside skiffy, Asimov had his Black Widowers mysteries and he wrote a fantasy short story series about the demon Azazel. ☞ No, of course Covid isn't a fraud. But the measures by politicians have been unbalanced, far too oppressive and born out of attention-seeking opportunism. And mainstream media has been awful in it's scare-mongering! A theory of mine is that since OLD media (newspapers, linear TV etc) nowadays has older personnel, these selfishly try to scare readers for their own benefit. As MSM reporters are 50-60 year-olds, their parents are at the age of, say, 75-85. MSM reporters try to scare the general public to drastic measures (lockdowns, forced vaccinations, closed businesses, etc) in an attempt to "protect" their own elderly relatives. For personal reasons they produce endless negative "news" on the virus, even now with the insignificant Omicron flu. We hear "Oh! How fast it spreads!" not how mild Omicron is. ☞ You write: "Printed text is simply not the contemporary fans' medium of choice - and neither is reasoned, original speculation." Sad, but true! ☞ I think languages change more slowly with media technology. As languages are used and spread more they need a tighter standard to be more widely understood = slow change. Less spread and isolated groups promotes more rapid changes.

**William McCabe:** If you think energy prices are high now, you ain't seen nuttin' yet if Greta gets her way!

**Nic Farey:** I hope you intend to be a regular in the APA. We need more members! "Social" sf is for the soft minded... ☞ Intermission is listed as being a candidate for a FAAn Award perzine. I think it's more a genzine! I disagree with the definitions "GENZINE: A fanzine which typically has multiple contributors in addition to its editor" and "PERZINE: A fanzine which typically has few, if any, contributors other than its editor." I have always seen a genzine as a fanzine with "mixed and GENeral contents", no matter the number of contributors, and Intermission has rather mixed and general contents. And a perzine is, as I see it, a fanzine "written in an informal, PERsonal tone", talking about the editor's daily life, personal opinions and little tidbits. Am I wrong?

**John Thiel:** Great article about sf engineering! I'm myself like technology and science in sf. Gernsback wasn't so wrong. I compress my illos in Intermission through Open Office Writer. It does PDFs and when making them you chose compression ratio, trying to find a balance between size and quality. ☞ Yes, Garth for OE! ☞ There are episodes of Cpt Video and His Video Rangers on Youtube. I have seen some. Those late 1940's/1950's sf TV shows are quite cute! There's also "Tom Corbett Space Cadet" and "Space Patrol" on Youtube. And there is the 1960's German "Raumpatrouille Orion", which was also on Swedish TV (version with English subtitles if your German is a bit weak, see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TMimV9reNs&list=PLEDIPudmklBIAIR08ITCaH6U-DÄrsW\\_4n](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TMimV9reNs&list=PLEDIPudmklBIAIR08ITCaH6U-DÄrsW_4n) ).

**Jefferson P Swycaffer:** I agree there's nothing wrong with "normal" porn. I further also think that people's relations to sexy stuff must be their own private business - it shouldn't affects others or be something you wave around with. ☞ You seem to know your orbital mechanics... ☞ Bertil Falk's Finnegan's translation has actually gotten some good reviews. I agree some things are difficult to translate...esp Joyce!

**George Phillies:** Many "new" UFO sightings I've seen seems to be instrument disturbance, dust on the lens and the like. ☞ N3F should be able to recruit many associate members, since that's free. (I have joined as associate member). Activities to add? I'm worried that the interest in fanzines is so low. N3F could try, say, an information campaign to recruit new fanzine editors and readers! Fanzines used to be fandoms backbone!

**Will Mayo:** Troubled times, yes. Beside the virus we have Putin and Ukraine. As Russian landing crafts were spotted in the Baltic Sea, Sweden sent extra forces to the island of Gotland in the middle of the Baltic...just in case!

**Samuel Lubell:** What you say on infections seems right, but though easily spread Omicron is very mild, almost never lethal, so we can ease "restrictions"! (Like over here by the time you read this.) Claimed "official" virus statistics seem to be heavily exaggerated, real death cause usually being something else. Excess deaths which lets you compare with normal years indicate this. We must follow the principle that it's your body, not the government's. iThe ndividual's choice and civil rights is more important. If we allow politicians to take charge of your body we're on a slippery slope leading to something frightening. Though I recommend all to take the vaccine, it must be voluntary! ☞ I'm afraid I still think books have become worse in later decades. Many writers just waste words. "Characterisation" is often overrated! ☞ I don't know of "many" female writers who used male pseudonyms and I definitely haven't heard of any cases of them being dismissed or rejected due to gender. To the opposite, there are examples of women writers being extra encouraged! The Hugos have obviously become political tumbleground! All 2021 writer awards went to women, no doubt from "feminist" voting (likelihood of that outcome being random is nil). I don't know the history of the famed "Puppies" but as things stand I suspect they to a degree just reacted to political polarisation already sipping in from the other side. ☞ I saw your Discon conrep. Over here we too managed to host our latest nat'l Swecon - just before new "restrictions"! See my Swecon report in Locus recently! --AE, ed



Archive Midwinter  
a zine for N'APA 255

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8 October 2021

### Comments:

**Cover:** via Internet search -- but the new space telescope is a nifty thing and I hope it produces some great pictures!

**Ahrvid Engholm:** Intermission 115: Good convention reports. re alcohol and writing, aye, whisky is sometimes referred to as "writing fluid," and no few novels ought, by rights, to be dedicated to Jack Daniels. A moderate amount of alcohol can help one attain a creative state of mind -- a dangerous gambit, to be sure, as a little *\*too much\** alcohol propels one into a totally foolish state of mind. It takes wisdom to know when to stop -- and, perhaps, even more wisdom not to begin in the first place.

Nifty that they have further archaeological proof of Scandinavians in North America a millennium ago! The matter seemed already to have been accepted, almost universally, but further research is always welcome!

re Samuel Lubell re censorship, agreement. Banning books, even real stinkers like *Mein Kampf*, is counter-productive at best, and socially destructive at worst.



Intermission 116: Fun history of LASFS; they're my close neighbors, just up the freeway, and yet, in all my years, I have only attended one LASFS meeting. (I've attended two meetings of the Orange County Science Fiction Club -- but they're about forty miles closer to me!) My own "coming of age" was in S.T.A.R. San Diego, an on-campus club at San Diego State University. Across town, at UCSD, the other on-campus club was Dark Star, and we had a long-running *\*totally whimsical\** feud with them, passing resolutions condemning each other, etc.

re History Corner, I've never been able to hold any respect at all for the Panspermia idea -- I won't even call it a "hypothesis" -- as it is blatantly unrealistic. Even the simplest and most primitive life forms cannot exist in interplanetary space, much less evolve there. Life forms depend upon environmental nutrients, notably absent in space. Also, the radiation from direct sunlight is a certain sterilizer. It's an amusing fantasy, but nothing more.

**George Phillies:** A superb Short Story Contest indeed! Thank you for your efforts in publicizing it! Agreement that the N3F's only weakness, right now, is a small membership and our difficulty in attracting new members. I'm sorry to learn that the Round Robin Bureau has gone into hibernation.

ret me, I will take a look at Space Empire IV. Thanks!

re your story, a comforting "homecoming" scene, with pleasant and warm touches of healthy domesticity. It is well to have comforting scenes like this, as they can make the dramatic contrast with fight scenes and threat scenes more emotionally powerful. It's been said that we never truly appreciate freedom until we are in danger of losing it, but the opposite, in fiction, is true: we don't truly appreciate danger if we don't have safety as a contrast.

**John Thiel:** re time, I once had a fictional character ask, "If we see with our eyes, and hear with our ears, what organ do we use to perceive the passage of time?" One can, of course, as Da Vinci did, count heartbeats, but, more seriously, if I tell you, "Wait ten minutes and then phone me," how is it that you know that (approximately) ten minutes has passed?

How do you visualize time? For me, the year is a big ferris wheel. August 15 is at the top; Dec 28 is at the bottom. (It is a tad asymmetrical!) In the same way, the week is a smaller ferris wheel, with Wednesday at the bottom, and Saturday and Sunday straddling the top. I've had this visual/proprioceptive perception of the week and the year for all of my adult life. Too late to change now!

I think I'm a bit too young (?) to remember The "It" Girl. I do very fondly remember "That Girl."

re additional dimensions, I have heard it said that "orbits" don't work in four dimensions. My own math skills do not reach that far. I do have the mathematical ability to calculate the "Hypervolume" of higher dimensional spheres. What is interesting is that the volume of n-dimensional spheres grows larger and larger...until you reach the 9th dimension, at which point they actually begin (and continue) to get smaller. There is some odd "inflection point" at the ninth dimension.

(This is not just my calculations; it's backed up by Martin Gardner.)

One additional dimension that can be a bit of fun is "The Big Time." Or Time<sup>2</sup> -- Time Squared, as opposed to Times Square. Say you're playing a time-travel game. Your pawns and bishops could be in the year AD 1928, or 1066, or 476, or even 750 BC. At some point in the play of the game, my knight takes one of your bishops. In the "next turn" your queen takes my knight. These events might have happened in 1956 and 1928, but they took place in Turn 6 and Turn 7 of the game. The "Turns" represent a higher dimension of time than the mere years of the background setting. Fritz Leiber explored this in his (alas, forgettable) novel "The Big Time." This is also how we can ask what happened "Before the Big Bang." Ordinary time began then, and there is no "before." But we intuitively think in terms of Big Time when we ask, "Yeah, but what happened before?"

**Will Mayo:** Pretty store-front pictures!

Perhaps it is merely my cultural biases at work, but, in any case, I prefer to put death as far from me as possible. I don't like funerals, and I don't visit graveyards to see the resting places of my loved ones. (I do visit graveyards out of a sense of abstract history.) When my kin pass away, we cremate and scatter, and pretty much begin a process of distancing. Not "forgetting," but, what, de-emphasizing. I can never talk to them again. Death is the ultimate essence of "never."

**Sam Lubell:** re Covid, agreement with all you say. Currently, experts are saying that the disease may become endemic, like the flu, and never completely go away. Wise people will get an annual vaccination for both. Unwise people put everyone (including themselves) at risk. It's sad when things get improperly politicized, both vaccines and Hugos!



Fascinating review of the book "Why We're Divided." I probably ought to read this'n, although I'm afraid I would find it dreadfully depressing. I see the current division of America as wholly a bad thing, and a very dangerous one. I won't say more, here, because it would be necessarily partisan, and N'APA really isn't the place for debates of that nature.

**Book Review: Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days Of Christmas by Roger Riccard:**

Riccard's Holmes pastiches are brilliant! He captures the spirit of Watson/Doyle and presents us here with twelve delightful mysteries and adventures, featuring Holmes and Watson in stories that feel true and genuine, very much as if Watson/Doyle had written them. Riccard has captured the essence, the "soul," of the original. Each story has a theme in some way based on the verses of the Christmas Carol, and each story is set in a Victorian Christmas, from early in Holmes' and Watson's friendship, to quite a bit later. The mysteries are not always "fair," but the same was true in the originals. Few indeed are the original stories where the reader has a fair chance to solve the mystery. They are, in the main, "procedurals," where we follow Holmes, but do not have a chance to anticipate him. This is true in Riccard's stories.

There is one small problem with Riccard's writing. He does not know the difference between the personal pronouns for the subject and the object of a sentence! He \*consistently\* writes sentences such as, "He served lunch to Holmes and I." Ow! This grates most terribly upon the ear and the eye. This is a failure of grammar at the level of a fifth grade education! It's like eating walnuts and biting down on a piece of walnut shell. It is painful and most distracting!

Forgive the man his sin, and, if you're a Holmes fan, check out this volume. It's a great deal of pure fun. And it gets better, as

Riccard has written a Holmes novel, and four other collections of short stories!

**Comics Review: The Monkey Prince from DC Comics  
----- aborted -----**

I react poorly -- I am "triggered" -- by depictions in media of high-school bullying scenes. I was unable to watch one of the Spider-Man movies, because it opened with high-school bullying. And this comic book, while very promising, opens with some particularly nasty high-school bullying.

I tore the comic in half and will not be following the title.

**Food Review: Stash Tea**

For Christmas, I was given four boxes of Stash brand flavored teas: "Christmas Eve," "Christmas Eve in Paris," "Peppermint Chai" and "Vanilla Peppermint Chai." I have to say, I do not very much care for "Chai" and prefer "Tea." On the other hand, I don't hate it, and these teas (in American-style tea-bags) are disappearing at a goodly pace. "Christmas Eve" is a blend of mint and cinnamon, and "Christmas Eve in Paris" is the same, with an additional flavor of chocolate. Of them all, I think it is my favorite.

**Future Reviews: Sonic the Hedgehog and Alita: Battle Angel**

I picked these two movies up on DVD. I'm a big fan of the Sonic the Hedgehog comic book series -- a very long-running comic book indeed, and the longest-running "licensed" comic book ever. The movie's trailer looked promising. Alita: Battle Angel is also a comic book, or manga, a Japanese product translated to English. I was very fond of that one, too. I wonder how the movie will deal with "The Secret of Tiphareth!" A proper review will follow!

## **Microsoft Word "Editor"**

This zine earned 100% on Microsoft Word's "Editor" Review function.

# SYNERGY 33 March 2022



NAPA mailing 257

**Life is but a dream...or is it?**

A National Fantasy Fan Federation presentation



Edited and produced by John Thiel, 30 N. 19<sup>th</sup>  
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This person reaches out for Synergistic unity, with a feel for it. It may be beneficial, d'ye wist, for yourselves.

*Cover by Seyn Glothlin, "Crystal Ball of the Cosmos"*

**COVER, Mailing 256: Looks like the sides of that launch could fall back into the atmosphere, given a faint gravitational presence.**

## EDITORIAL



Is A Man Known By His Ties?

I have noticed (in various advertising) that most of the people with neckties seem to have ties with patterns of lines slanting upward from left to right, as viewed, as in the picture above. (I think if that shows an editor it's the one with the pencil perhaps doing corrections.) These ties usually have a bun knot at the top that is not quite grappled into place. Their wearers look like they would prefer to be dressed better than that. Their balance (poise) shows that they have been in a hurry. This is also found in a lot of political pictures. President Trump's ties were usually extraneous to the way he was dressed, were not quite the right length, and hinted at but fell far short of luxuriousness.

There have in the past been places where wear was considered where you were somewhat damned if you did not have a necktie—although how well you had it tied was not usually mentioned, except on certain occasions, and where people were being spoken to about their wear *en masse*. Nobody then had an outstanding suit, one that looked completely comfortable and was of actually attractive design. A lot of the suits did not have much inside the outer part of the suit coat or pants. When a suit does have more it is not insulation, and does not bring discomfort on hot days, and that would have been an improvement for all of these people. The swinging loose appearance of a suitcoat, in life in general, which was noticed by many but nobody seemed to have an explanation of it, was caused by the coat not fitting in certain odd ways, perhaps due to the scarcity of tailors in these modern days. The people in the most noted stores these days do not provide fitting assistance and a person has to guess and go into a fitting room alone to try them on, a practice which probably has quarantine officials looking at it. Some suits sagged on one side or the other, perhaps the result of partial tailoring at some point or other—but suit tailoring would have blatant visibility when done with the thin, call them flimsy, materials in use. When the suits are on sale they usually come in at less than a hundred dollars, although if they are positively distinguishable from the norm, they go up over that. Usually there are some sale suits but when the knockoff is calculated the suits, with their faults, cost up around a hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars...and more than that at the non-chain stores.

So, do clothes, as people used to refrain, make the man, or does the man make the clothes? Well, in my editorial's title I ask if a man is known by his ties, and that could mean by his neckties or by his establishment ties or social ties; and with the question just posed, it could mean either a man who is a tailor making clothes, or the clothes themselves being the making of a man, who gains status by making out, or making it with his choice of clothes. When Jimmy Durante brought this up on television, he

decided that it was the man who made the clothes; he had to be able to stroll and gesture, not just wear good clothes. But here we have those double perspectives on those questions, and questions with two possible meanings are not answered. So it is with this editorial, I don't have the answer for all this. But I will say that it is a question, or questions, worth considering. How well do we make out?

## MAILING COMMENTS

**INTERMISSION:** Yes, if the shots are not voluntary, it is too much like German nationalist medical procedures. The government here requires a signed statement that there is an agreement to have the shots.

Why flay persons who are deceased, referencing Campbell? Controversies regarding the man should be ended at his passage hence. Can it be his influence is said to continue actively?

On the other hand, it might be good to survey a person's active presence in fandom after he is deceased, and keep a record on his presence. Alvar Appeltofft is one whose activity in fandom I'd like to know about. But my only interest is in his regular fan activity, in the name he made for himself, not things that may have been disagreeable about him.

Future money in science fiction could be called "pay" or "funds" or "reimbursement" or "earned gains". (Somebody sent me a five Euro note; that's rather futuristic.)

The Providence Amateur preceded Lovecraft's earliest publication of stories so it was a really early fanzine.

A bomb with a name, eh? Not much after the Trinity test (11 months later), there was the dropping of an A-Bomb known to have its full capacity on Hiroshima.

The film of WHAT MAD UNIVERSE seems to have been circulated more among the cognoscenti than generally. Wally Cox played Keith Winston, and most of the casting was from the wayside. The Nighters were portrayed by members of the Cobras, the Purple Gang, and the Vice Lords, and a few people from the Mob. Dan Duryea played Joe Doppelberg. Teresa Brewer played Winston's secretary. Keith's boss was Smiling Ed McConnell. Ken Nordine, Marty Faye, and Sky King all had roles, and Jay Silverheels was in it. It was a labor of love and turned out well indeed.

Tables at conventions are rather slovenly in the keeping of them, it has been my experience.



**ARCHIVE MIDWINTER:** Money could also be indicated by little-known argot references for it, i.e. kale, gelt, pelf, moolah, lettuce, ten spot, seven grand, fin, sawbuck, dough, bread, greenback, gitas, etc.

I have always wondered who finances and does the main business for sf conventions.

Some of the more recent aircraft look somewhat like UFOs; I saw some pretty strange craft at a demonstration at Grissom Air Force Base.

**INTERMISSION:** This seems to be becoming one of the more fannish of the fanzines seen around now.

I don't know who the Disney photo came from; maybe they were working out problems on a miniature scale.

**MASTER MAGE:** We might add a cosplay activity to our lineup—that ought to liven things up.

I see that someone else dislikes Kombacha. It's been my experience that people often swill up potables whose taste I dislike, and then grin and talk about what they consumed. I'm glad to have a verification on Kombacha.

It sounds like you had an internalized monetary system going in that story, containing its own depression and potential inflation.

"John Jones' Dollar" from an early Amazing Stories plays tricks with finances.

Ben Bova was Campbell's successor, as I recall it.

**SAMIZDAT:** Brrr, that certainly erases the safety factor of vaccination, that Covid could spread from the unvaccinated to the vaccinated and on.

Anthony Boucher brought up the matter of females not being very present in among science fiction people, in a 1960s issue of F&SF. Conversations about it went through the fanzines Inside, Skyhook, and Harmony that I saw. I wonder if the present talk all over about it is called a topic going viral. McComas brought up that there hadn't been talk about it before that time, demonstrating an editorial omniscience. Andre Norton, Winona McClintic, Margaret St. Clair, Idris Seabright, Judith Merrill, Jane Roberts and Evelyn E. Smith were flourishing unblocked in the 50s; I wonder how they managed to get through those blockades when others didn't? Yes, and Mary Elizabeth Councilman and Shirley Jackson and others of the fantasy leaning.

I don't have a date for the Inside in question, as all my fanzines from that period are gone.

"They'd Rather Be Right" must assume an interest in politics as the title is derived

from the quotation "I'd rather be right than President!", which people of political interest considered a reckless statement. The story remained obscure for me as I never saw it or read it. Political science fiction? A contest in *If: Worlds of Science Fiction* had a place award for "The Third Party". I remember dynamic illustrations for this, but it seems to have disappeared from SF annals. Suppressible content, maybe.

Clifton did all right in a collaboration with Alex Apostolides also.





Not up to me to decide.



# ***SUPPORT THE BLUE & YELLOW!*** **INTERMISSION #118**

*E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and refugees from reality. Follow @SFJournalen's sf/f/h&fandom newstweets. Röckets änd bömbss!! TYPOS INVADE this independent zine! Your editor is hereby puttin' Putin under fanzine blockade! Early March '22*

## **Editorially: A Skiffy World Among Dictators and Lorries<sup>1</sup>**

*Science fiction.* Those are the words that come to my mind as a nuclear weapons armed dictatorship attacks a neighbouring European nation of 44 million. It's like the one of those alternate history novels by Tom Clancy, or the trained monkeys Clancy kept around for writing them. One gets vibes of Hitler, Anschluss, Sudetenland, and finally the Nazi assault on Poland in 1939. This dickhead Vladimir P acts like the Nazis, while claiming he'll "denazify" Ukraine, and unleashes the most serious war in Europe in 77 years. Like the Austrian corporal in the 1930s he begins with infiltrating neighbours, then chews off parts of their territory and backs it with a stream of propaganda lies. And then full-scale invasion.

We have all had enough of scientifictionish stupidity and agony from two years of the moronic corona. How did Mr Putin-on-the-Blitz know that a great new war - with thousands of victims, millions of refugees and unimaginable destruction - was *exactly* what we needed? And as icing on the cake, he now happily threatens the world with Pu239tin firecrackers!

There's no point repeating war news and furious condemnations by virtually all world leaders. Things happen fast and you can follow it. But just one little thing: the last time Sweden sent weapons and war material to a country at war was in 1939, during the Winter War in Finland (sent ammunition, anti-tank guns and 85 000 mausers, also money and volunteers). For 83 years since we'd held to the principle: to get our weapons you should have absolutely no need for them. Peace, Brother! But now the government decided to send Ukraine half a billion crowns,



thousands of helmets, body armour, field rations - and 5000 anti-tank launchers! It'll be of the popular AT4

type, a lightweight one-man tube to take out armoured personnel carriers. US Marines and others have them already. For tanks, Britain has earlier supplied the Ukrainian army with the heavier NLAW launcher, a UK-Sweden co-developed device. I hear that Canada will supply the Ukrainians with the Carl Gustaf grenade launcher, also a Swedish design. The US has tossed Javelins to Ukraine already. The Swedes have now even brought up the *very Heavy Artillery*: Greta Thunberg has been spotted protesting outside the Russian Embassy in Stockholm! Putin is doomed...

But seriously. I can see how this clown, riding half-naked on horseback waving a big blunderbuss in the Siberian sunset, can hold out. He's stark raving mad. Unfortunately he has a big button on his desk to press and fire off (I checked the figure) 6400 nuclear warheads. Be afraid. Be very afraid!

The least we in the rest of the world can do is to sanction Russia back to if not the stone age, at least medieval times - a world Mr Putin mentally lives in already. A couple of days before his attack he held a long rambling speech that analysts describe as the most confusing and crazy they've heard from a major politician. Ukrainia was really "founded by Russia", Ukranians carry out "genocide on



*While usually not agreeing with Greta, I here say: Go girl!*

<sup>1</sup> What they across the Pond call trucks.

Russians", they "plan to build nuclear weapons", Ukrainians are "neonazis" and their leaders "drug addicts". Putin lives in a parallel universe. He has himself created the conflict with Ukraine. Ukrainians have historically got along well with Russians. Then Putin grabbed Crimea, he attacked in Donbas, unleashed a hailstorm of lies and propaganda. What is there to gain from trying to revive something resembling CCCP, a historic failure, aberration and geopolitical disaster? The modern world isn't a zero-sum game of confrontation. The modern paradigm is globalisation. Borders are lowered, trade and travel and cooperation increase, with cultural exchange, economic integration, super-fast communications, as nations become less important but the individual is empowered through education, growth, Internet, trade, cell phones, new medicines.

At this very moment the world is becoming more united, unfortunately for Putin *united against him*. It's truly sad for the ordinary Russian, but their country is being cut off from trade, travel, culture, sports, the value of their markets and money dive, bank cards and electronic services freeze, as TV puked up Putin's propaganda lies. If you dare to protest police thugs will get you. (Russian police is BTW called "militia".) Air space everywhere closes for Russian planes. Accounts and assets of oligarchs are being seized abroad. It's believed it's with them Putin has stowed away the wealth he has stolen. That Russian banks are denied using the international SWIFT system, will be swiftly felt. Petrol price, electricity, etc go up for us, but it's still the *right thing to do*. *Support the blue and yellow!*

All the above was written after February 24, a date that will live in idiocy. I originally intended to focus this editorial a little on a well-known virus as well as two other dictatorships, one relating to lorries, another to youngsters racing on snow and ice. Most of the issue was already drafted and

written before February 24th and I won't throw it away. I'll break out the Olympics comments and now cross the ocean to the home of monsieur Trudeau, who can't stand truck drivers demanding freedom.

This Prime Minstrel - pun intended - of Canada has mishandled the virus and legitimate popular protests in an unbelievable way. Justin Trudeau seems to have been choking on some Russian borscht, with dictatorial methods near their league. This poor man's Putin lies through his teeth when he claims to "follow the science". The truckers have been in their full rights to demand the end of forced vaccinations and electronic tracking passports, no better than the Chinese communist surveillance system. As lots of countries have or are shortly scrapping inefficient virus measures, it's the truckers who have been behind the science and they are only defending civil rights!

To declare martial law and steal bank holdings of citizens because they disagree with the (minority) government is totally unjustified and evil! Trudeau is like a little schoolboy trying to hide he's cheating on his exam by bullying. Though what strictly speaking is parking violations and making noise may be illegal and certainly irritating if done on a big scale, Trudeau's over the top actions are illegal on a far more dangerous level. Any constitutional expert must agree on that martial law without a war or armed conflict is an illegitimate abuse of power, and that against peaceful political protests. He even threatened to take the children of truckers and kill their dogs. Evil! And it should make any Canadian red in the face as blackface Trudeau praised Chinese dictatorship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJNtFG9GSPU> and attacked Jewish MPs for "nazism". Mainstream, old media has totally lost the plot by smearing dissenters to virus scare mongering. We know that in old media the staff is older, and my theory is that a contributing factor for them pushing hard virus measures through scare, is that the 60+ years reporters selfishly want to "protect" their own parents and older relatives.

When it comes to the virus, there'll be a lot of reckoning to come. Lockdowns only "saved" 0.2% more lives, says Johns Hopkins University in a major study. Masks have dubious effect and are promoted mostly for the symbolism of them, while some have earned billions selling them. Years of children's education are lost. There are millions of extra unemployed, businesses going bust, inflation, increased deficits, an exploding mental health crisis. The worst is probably forcing hospitals to focus so much on the corona virus, as well as patients were s cared away in fear of getting the



*Blackface JT grabs power but also grabs...*

bug, that it will probably *cost more lives than the virus*. 6 million wait in line for inhibited treatment and operations in the UK alone. Cancer, heart and respiratory disease, diabetes and much else are huge killers and have to a large extent been given free rein.

But Sweden did *fairly* OK. No lockdowns. No vaccine mandates. Masks only a recommendation. Schools were open - older students were temporary on distance learning for a while. No police on the streets handing out fines. Though small businesses and shops, sports, culture and so did suffer from different, confusing crowding limits. In 2020-21 Swedish economy grew by 5% and our inflation and budget deficit is significantly lower compared to many others.

On February 9th all "restrictions" were dropped. What remain is a general advice from the Public Health Agency for unvaccinated to avoid crowds and stay at home if feeling ill. Borders are open. This is of course because that the now totally dominant Omicron strain has proven to be extremely mild. Numbers vaccinated together with all with natural immunity should amount to over 90%. While Omicron seems to jump the vaccine to a high degree, jabs still protects from more serious effects.

Because Omicron resembles the common cold its stupid to use draconian measures. The ease of Omicron spread makes the virus threat *seeming* to increase in statistics, but the bummer is mild this time. Since all taken to hospital for *any disease are routinely tested* Omicron is often found, but if the patient dies from the original disease it's routinely, wrongly put in the corona fatality column. The definition used in Sweden and elsewhere ("having had the virus within the last 28 days") is misleading, worthless and gets virus figures get inflated.

Now some comments on the Winter Olympics, publishing news, Montaigne essays, history stuff and perhaps more. It all feels a unimportant compared to world events, but was written before Putin's war.

--Ahrvid Engholm

## 0.2 Sec From Beating US And China

It could have been here. Reliable sources say the 2022 Winter Olympics would have been given to Stockholm if we wanted it. But our city council gave it thumbs down - fearing the costs - so it went to Peking instead. Maybe it was just as well! Olympic Games in the shadow of a pandemic and a scary war nearby wouldn't have been the friendly, joyful sports festivity we'd want. But to have it in China wasn't a good idea, a communist dictatorship with a behaviour that makes you want to puke!

The Chinese regime puts millions of Uyghurs in concentration camps, threatens neighbouring Taiwan with war, stamps out democracy in Hong-Kong (spitting on international obligations, signed with Britain), invading several nations' recognised sea borders in the southern seas, not to forget using an estimated 500 million spy cameras against their own population. These devices use face recognition to keep everyone in check 24/7. Anyone behaving ways the regime

doesn't like may lose jobs and positions, denied buying train or airplane tickets, etc - not to forget being thrown in jail for no legitimate reason. The bastards have also kept the Swedish citizen and dissident book publisher Gui Minhai jailed for six years, after Chinese agents

kidnapped him in Thailand, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gui\\_Minhai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gui_Minhai) I just want to note this before saying a few words about the Olympic winter games.

The Swedish Olympic Committee had the ambitious goal of our squad grabbing 15 medals, on par with the previous best games. But they won 18 which is 20% better! There were half a dozen 4th positions too, so it could have been even more. The fact is, Swedish sprint skier Jonna Sundling was only 0.2 seconds from her second and our 9th gold medal, by which we *would have beaten both China and the US in the medal table*, grabbing a 3rd spot. Gosh, only a fraction of a second from beating the entire US of A!

But I'm not bitter... We came 5th, which was as we say very *lagom*. Congrats to our Norwegian neighbours for winning the most medals ever. (Even if



Ski sprint queen Jonna Sundling.



Skating king Nils van der Poel.





Nils, with Angela Minhahi wearing his donated gold medal.

historical comparisons are tricky with the games having more disciplines and medals than before.) Also congrats to Finland for their icehockey gold! The entire Suomi land has now been drunk for a week. USA is BTW becoming a real winterland. I've seen in the news how huge snowstorms have been ravaging the mid and east of USA. They've had more snow than Sweden!

The only glitch for the Swedish squad was that our hugely talented distance skier Frida Karlsson wasn't to be recognised. Earlier this season she beat the triple gold-medalist Therese Johaug of Norway twice, but now she was 5th and 12th on her first races, collapsing in the finish area, and was left out for the 30 km race. I hope it wasn't something medically wrong with her. Our terrific ski sprinter Jonna

Sundling saved us instead, with three medals, winning the individual sprint with an eternity - 2.9s is a lot in sprint! She also saved our 4x5K relay team. A collapsing Miss Karlsson lost an incredible 17 seconds on her leg, but Jonna sett a furious pace, took it back and at least grabbed the bronze. On top on that she was 4th and near a medal in the 30K - as a *sprinter*. You gotta love that lady!

But the absolutely best was speed skater Nils van der Poel. Last year he became the double distance world champion (5 and 10K) and now he took the same two Olympic golds, setting a world record on the 10K. He broke his own old record and also has the 5K record since before. Here's a video from his 10K gold and world record race, with an enthusiastic English language commentator!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSq2d6c4eG4> Van der Poel's surname comes from that his Dutch granddad immigrated to Sweden in the 1950s, and having some Netherlands DNA always help in skating. His successes come from following an almost back-breaking training regime. Skating experts has also notes that his skating technique is quite brilliant.

Sorry Garth. I know you hate sports. But there is something else! Nils van der Poel has now as a protest donated one of his Olympic gold medals to the - by Chinese illegally kidnapped and held - Swedish citizen Gui Minhahi. The medal was handed over to the daughter Angela Minhahi in a ceremony recently. Great, Nils! There are more important things than sports. (There is eg bheer.)

## Some Publishing Stuff

Guy Lillian send me *From The Zine Dump* #54, where he reviews fanzines, among them *Intermission* #115: *I hope Ahrvid won't be offended when I say that the English in his N'APAZine is fluid, witty and enjoyable; my Swedish great-grandparents would be proud. Right at the first line, Ahrvid promises that "[t]hish will have a broader mix than some recent issues." In addition to fan history, his usual gig, he hits on Swedish politics (their prime minister is prettier than Joe Biden or Trump, but then*



Since a Certain Bug from outer space or wherever stopped last year's national Swedish con, the year 2020 was added to the 2021 Swecon (fantastika2020.com/english). The event took place in Dieselverkstan, Stockholm, November 19-21 with guests of honor Peadar Ó Guilín (Ireland), Adrian Tchaikovsky (UK), Eva Holmquist (local writer), and Maria Nilsson (local scholar). But we were lucky! Despite having Europe's lowest virus curves - with cases dropping - our ever-so-wise government announced a cap of 100 people for meetings starting from December 1, 2021. If Fantastika had been held just over a week later, having close to 300 attendees would have been impossible.

The coronavirus situation didn't seem prominently present. Some bottles of hand sanitiser

were placed around, and I saw perhaps half a dozen facemasks. There was, of course, a pandemic panel, among the 70 or so program items in three tracks. A few samples: climate fiction, Finnish SF, enhancing humans for space, Danish horror fiction, live-minute author readings, Vikings, humour in SF, an auction, and Goff interviews and signings. More than 25 foreign fans attended, from the Nordic countries, the UK, Germany, and the US. The Finnish delegation of 16 was the biggest, including half a dozen from the newly founded SF club on the Åland Islands. Nearly half the program was in English.

Two people fainted during "Medical Trauma in Historical Fiction" from the program item's gory slides! (They caused a blood pressure drop. As far as I know, both recovered.) More program items: an interesting lecture on 17th-century

explorer Nils Mattson Klipping (something of a Swedish Baron Munchausen); Peadar Ó Guilín's lively stories of Irish mythology, John-Henri Holmberg defending John W. Campbell being unfairly trashed at the Irish Worldcon; unisex worlds in SF, medieval technology; and AI. I myself presented historical SF and fandom newspaper clips from the Royal Library (earlier covered in my e-zine *Intermission*). There were book rooms, a nearby bar, an art show with illustrations of space operas by Oskar Källner and Kari Johansson, a gopher hole, and of course a program booklet. The only snag was that the facility's wifi worked very badly (or not at all).

The Alvar Award (for fan activities) 2019 was a tie, given to Cille Werner and Marika Lövström. The votes for 2020 were counted, landing the hearse-light Alvar statuette in the arms of Jögen Jödicke. Known for his bibliography of the prozine *Jules Verne Magazine*.

It all ended late Sunday afternoon, when con chair Carolina González Lagerlöf caught the Spirit of Swecon in the air and bottled it, to be released during the next event. Let's hope our planet becomes a bit less dystopian, so we can have more of these things - before people forget that a real SF con isn't pixels on a screen.

Since there was no 2022 Swecon bid - maybe due to virus hesitations - it was decided at the formal Swecon session that the 2023 Uppsala Eurocon (eurocon2023.wordpress.com) will be Swecon for both 2022 and 2023.

-Ahrvid Engholm ■



Swecon Lobby



Swecon Opening with Concom and Guests of Honor



Peadar Ó Guilín's Kaffeeklatsch



Martin Rundkvist's Talk on Nils Mattson Klipping



the bottom of King Kong's foot is prettier than Trump), pandemic natter (of course), a report on a recent convention (praise Balder, including a righteous response to Jeanette Ng's repulsive swipe at John W. Campbell, Jr.), a terrific dinner with Sweden's ultra-BNF Sam Lundwall, some admiring stuff on ABBA (I admit it: I have "Take a Chance on Me" in my YouTube favorites), Vikings lore, and of course, national SFnal history, as replete with snobbish mainstream naysayers (I hate to say "mundanes") as America's. "Sorry that this is so full of content," he says. We'll suffer, Ahrvid!

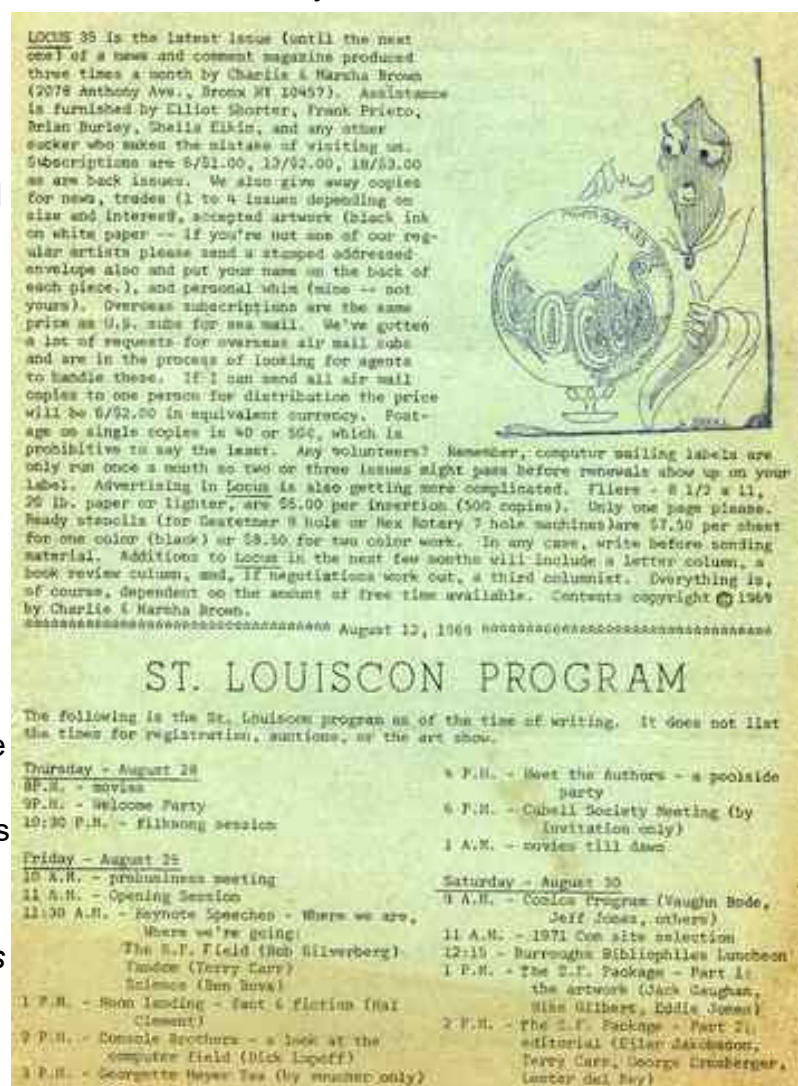
"Witty" and OK English sounds like getting good grades. Swedish schools teach English from early years, I went to summer schools in England as a boy, I have been reading English language novels from reasonably early age, and so on. But there will be mistakes. About half of them are typos or editing mistakes (changing phrases, but forgetting fragments of the old wording) and of the rest I usually find the errors myself - when the zine is already distributed. Spelling can usually be checked by software, or Google in complicated cases, but I tend to splash in the mid Atlantic between US and UK lingo. I try my best to insert little jokes and lighthearted phrasings, even if the world is becoming a dark, hard and depressing planet...

My *Locus* (in the January issue) report from Fantastika/Swecon was mentioned. You can see it above. It was an shorter, edited version of what I wrote in *Intermission* earlier. *Locus* counts itself as pro or semipro, so they paid me...the royal sum of \$35! By the way, I think I somewhere have one or two copies of old *Locus* issues, from when it was mimeographed!

Another piece of news is that I have a new short story collection in the pipeline. Its title *Rumtidensligt* can be translated as

approximately "Spacetimey", referring to science and Einstein. Below the title it says "stars, sleuths and tall tales". I sent buddy Kjell Genberg (an prolific writer, 100x times more established than yours truly, editor of our many Short Story Masters anthologies) a whole bundle of my 100+ short stories and he selected 31. I often write rather concentrated so all those go in under 200 pages. Kjell also wrote an introduction. The publisher who first wanted the collection changed his mind for shall we say unclear reasons, but another publisher named TiraTiger - <https://tiratigerforlag.se/> - took over. It's not a major project by any measure, it will be in E-form and through Print on Demand. I think the biggest chance to reach readers is through libraries, where people can borrow it for free. Check your local library later in the spring (if you read Swedish).

I've been working with the cover and some post-editing. I looked through old pulp magazine covers and found stuff I combined in a collage and made to go with with one of the (in my view) best stories in the collection. As a weak nostalgic soul and history buff, I'm rather fond of pulps. They are looked down upon and called trash, but there's something wild, imaginative, unpretentious and cheerful with the old pulp world (and the Swedish equivalent in those days, the dreaded "colourised weeklies"). That the stories were written at a fast pace, often by pure hackwriters, left room for spontaneity. That the field was condemned and hated by high-brow literary critics meant writers didn't have to



What *Locus* looked like, when it was mimeographed, in 1969.

nervously look over their shoulders to check that they wrote within the "acceptable" bounds. Literary bigshots often wrote for these detested rags, BTW, but pretended not to. It was prose for the populous. The pulps were untamed, outrageous, stimulating, having the craziest ideas. And being entertaining is always an advantage.

So I invented my own old-time pulp hero, *Captain Dynamite*! He has the young sidekick Johnny Krut (=Gunpowder). In the main story, depicted on the cover, they battle a Nazi plot in Stockholm just before World War Two, to achieve "peace in our time" (ha!) and to rescue the captain's civilian

secretary and love interest, Miss Dolly. They also have a secret laboratory where their mad scientist Dr Correct invents crime-fighting technology for them. It's great fun!

Another story gives some background to Captain Dynamite, when he as a young boy catches Russians spies in Stockholm after our summer Olympics of 1912. Young Mr Dynamite was a gopher for the games and that's why the boy has been allowed to have an unused room in one of the towers of the Olympic stadium as his secret lab. He is best friends with "Revolver Harry" (in reality as an adult a legendary police investigator) and meets and gets inspired by one Otto Witt, a Swedish sf pioneer in real life. Captain Dynamite is dynamite fun!

Many of the stories in *Spacetime* are of course skiffy, but there's also more straight mysteries and a special department of parodies. A series of stories are what I call tales from the Binary Bar (and "binary" here refers to the number system for computers, nothing else). That's tall tales told in Foo's Bar by a group of sf fen and hackers. Just as eg Arthur C Clarke's *Tales of the White Hart* were based on real meetings, London fandom's postwar gatherings at the White Horse, my stories are

also based on real meetings. In the 1990's a group calling itself "The Swedish Work Group for Algorithm Research" (all we were into skiffy, eg doing two 1990's sf cons) had such meetings. The characters in my stories are loosely based on the participants, though the tales themselves are purely imagined. Those stories are more great fun in this short story collection!

The collection also has a section of alternate history. In one story Sweden goes to war with Norway because of the union breakup in 1905. We find a Sweden under the Nazis in another story - co-written with well-known fan Mika Tenhovaara, himself a very talented writer - and a world where mechanical Babbage computers rule in another yarn. Among the alternate histories I have a story about how a dog saved Sweden from being invaded in WWII, one on climate change, I dive into cold fusion, I speculate on how WWII began (why does that give you chills down the spine now?), I tell about a new virus epidemic, and so on.

The story "The Dark Satanic Mills" comes from when Joe Haldeman was GoH on a 2006 Stockholm con, and hosted a mini writers workshop which I went to. For the workshop we were to provide a story in English in advance, which he would then comment. So I wrote "The Dark Satanic Mills" dealing with Jesus second coming and surveillance technology. Mr Haldeman did actually have some constructive comments which I then worked into the story's final version. Here it is in Swedish translation. Some stories in *Spacetime* have earlier been published as my Xmas/New Year tales (and most of the others have been in different magazines and anthologies) like the one about Tootsie Greenberg. And it may shock the world that I may have found a previously unknown story by HP Lovecraft, which is presented in this book...

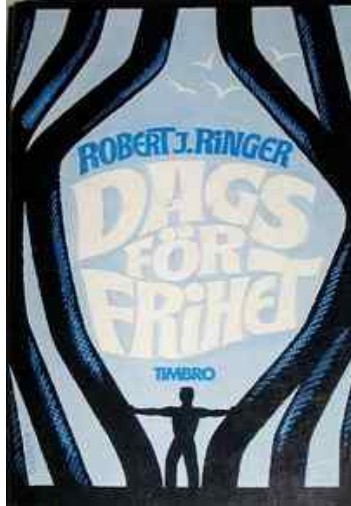
I think the collection will be entertaining. It may not be Nobel prize level but I think entertainment is just as important as writing deep and serious. Stories that are fun and engaging get your blood





flowing and your head spinning with ideas. You get inspired and upbeat, while deep stuff just make you depressed and sluggish. The work of old authors that have survived and is still read, are books that have managed to entertain and engage readers. According to a newspaper article I've read, more than half the Nobel laureates in literature are *out of print* in Sweden and not read. If we take William Shakespeare, in his own time he was seen mostly as...an entertainer, a playwright for ordinary people of the street gutters. Other poets and playwrights in his days were seen as classier and more respectable, but they are now forgotten. Entertainment has a value in itself and is underrated. Boring stuff is overrated. Don't you agree?

Finally, a piece of fannish interest which I must have missed when it came in 1984. One J-H Holmberg worked for the right-wing thinktank Timbro at the time. He made them publish one Robert J



Ringer's *Restoring the American Dream*, under the Swedish title *Dags för frihet* ("Time for Freedom"). It's a book promoting almost extreme "libertarian" views, which JHH is known for (beside, one must add, his interesting views on how to treat voting and ballots). He wrote a lengthy introduction and to illustrate how politicians strangle the citizen he there writes:

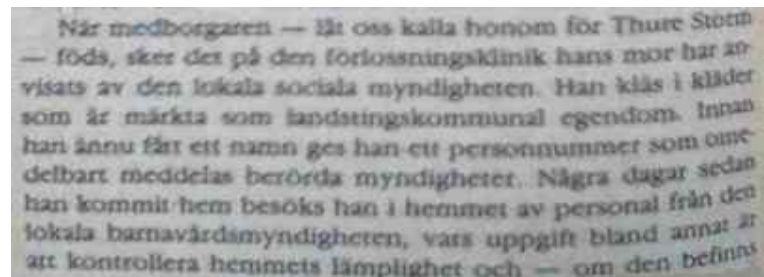
*When the citizen – let's call him Thure Storm – is born it's on a birth clinic his mother has been directed to by social authorities. He is dressed in clothes marked as local council property and given a person number immediately reported to involved authorities. A few days after he has come home he is visited at home by government child care with the task to check if the home is suitable.*

Original Swedish text is in the illo below, and the Storm story goes on for another 1.5 page. Now, *Ture Storm* - or "Thure Storm" as JHH spells it with an

extra fannish "h" - is a fan character I invented in a 1978 oneshot. Ture Storm was the typical enthusiastic neofan wearing a propeller beanie, a T-shirt with the message "Cheers for Bobby Heinlein!" and the latest issue of *Jules Verne Magasinet* carelessly stuck in his hip pocket. Ture Storm for some reason became much appreciated. I have later turned him into a detective using the name in several short stories and also in the faaan

fiction novelette "Storm in the Fantarctic". Ture's sister Tuttan Storm took part in the 2000 Swecon fancy dress parade (portrayed by European SF Society chair Carolina G-L). I wrote more Ture Storm faaan fiction in a little zine I called *Yngvi*. I have also introduced Ture's aunt, Tora Storm, a retired widow turning detective, represented in a story in my coming collection.

Both me and Ture are rather fond of personal freedom, of course. Though I find it difficult to spell this...wassitcalled, libertin...libertari...library...arian...schism.



## A New Take on Montaigne

More publishing. I briefly mentioned Montaigne 2.0 (publisher Björkmans förlag, 462 pages) by fans Henry Grynsten and Tony Eriksson before, their new take on the legendary 107 essays by Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592). Henry and Tony have also written 107 essays (every second one, taking turns) basically following the Montaigne ones, covering similar subjects for each. I'm not sure what the difference is between an essay and what we call a feature article in a magazine. Maybe it is that an essay is more timeless. Montaigne is still read after 500 years.

Anyway, their essays cover all subjects you can imagine and everything from the deeply serious to lighthearted humor. An example of fun is the very first essay on how to defend a castle. Here they talk about what to do with and how to defend all the abandoned bunkers and military bases from the cold war in Sweden. One suggestion is that a foreign power could use them to take over. They'd just send in soldiers disguised as tourists, hide in the forts and then emerge from them in a surprise attack.





rejected by Sam J Lundwall's *Jules Verne Magasinet*. It was about an astronaut who dies in space. Over millions of years he attracts dust, then pebbles, boulders, and grows into a new planet that develops life.... A great story idea! I would have liked to read it. Stalin is said to have personally signed 44 000 death warrants, we learn in one essay. His hands must have become tired, poor guy. I think the essay describing of how magician David Copperfield made the Statue of Liberty disappear is wrong. I remember seeing a documentary about it, and as far as I remember he didn't use a rotating platform but changes in lighting. He simply put the statue in the dark and arranged other lights so it seemed it disappeared. But they are right about that describing utopian states is rather boring. Everything is swell. There are no problems. Nothing goes wrong.

This is more of dipping my toe into the flood of subjects *Montaigne 2.0* covers than a review. I think the book is fascinating, well-written, covering more than one could bargain for and leaving you with lots of interesting ideas. Get it! (Eg via the SF Bookstore, <https://www.sfbok.se/produkt/montaigne-20-107-essaer-om-roms-storhet-401978> ) If it isn't in your favourite bookstore, try your local library. If the book isn't there, they have suggestion forms you can fill in - and there is a chance that they will order *Montaigne 2.0* for you. Or by mistake *Spacetime*...

## Sedan månen överbefolkats!

Arthur C. Clarke är en av de få science-fiction-författare som förenat sin fantasi i vetenskapens senaste rikt. Han är själv vetenskapsman, kemist, medlem av Royal Astronomical Society, ordförande i British Interplanetary Society och har i den omfattande boken Interplanetary Flight grundligt redogjort för utländska vetenskapsers förutsättningar att försöka människligt liv ut i rymden.

Hans roman *Prelude to Space* — som behandlar människans första rymdfärd, riknas redan till SF-klassikerna. Hela boken omnar handa af Mars är en romantisk, men långsamt berättelse om de vidrigheter kolonister kämpar mot i det kalla Mars klimat. Clarke berättar om de tekniska problemen och omvärlden konstrueras spänning genom banal äventyrsaktig — den oöppnades i ännu en gång i en ömmande rymd fylld av okända faror är tillfredlig. Men Clarke ger inte bara krig och blod åt det tekniska framtidsperspektivet, som uppstår genom Eisenhowers meddelande om utsläandet av artificiella månar — han är också filosof och konstnär. Hans religiös-mystiska roman *Childhood's End* kommer liksom Ray Bradburys *The Martian Chronicles* att få plats i litteraturhistorien. Liksom Aldous Huxley, Olaf Stapleton, O. G. Wells och C. S. Lewis använder han SF-genren som ram för sina filosofiska idéer.

### Främlande världar kolonisation

I hans novellsamling *Expedition to Earth*, finns flera noveller som behandlar främmande världar kolonisation av Jorden. Motivet återkommer också i hans senaste bok *Earthlight*. Handlingen föregår ca 200 år framåt, då människan har koloniserat Mars, Venus, Månen och några av de yttre stora planeterna sateliter. Kolonisterna tycker att Jorden är de gamla och stockkonservativa planeten.

Liksom en gång mellan kolonialiserat Amerika och dess moderländer, har vissa spänningar uppstått mellan Jorden och dess planetkolonier. De växer fram ur det faktum, att Jorden helt kapitalistiskt och dyrt säljer de bästa metaller till kolonisterna, som saknas på de yttre planeterna. En påtaglig och stor uranfyndighet på månen vill kolonisterna betrakta som universell, och genom det politiska maktspelet kring fyndigheten uppstår krigshot mellan Jorden och dess kolonier i rymden. Kriget bryter ut, men

det förutspås, att kolonisterna vid denna tid är så pass civiliserade att ej tillåta militär blodtörstigt angrepp. Sammandragningen får formen av en kraftmätning en duell på modern tekniskt plan på månen ingen avger som utgående.

### Kolonisternas pliktuppfyllnad

Jämman med denna konflikt skildras trevriga episoder från kolonisternas pliktuppfyllnad. Här finns stora tekniska naturvetenskapliga detaljer från Jorden under jorduppgång och Jorden, intressanta detaljer från vardagslivet på en himlakropp med mindre attraktion, reflektörande livsundersökningar begrundar storslagenheten i människans stora iverk. Kolonisterna söndras sällan men sakert från Jorden, och där de sakta undgår nyansförändringar. Mycket skildrar han Clarke som utmanar sig med de här partistrider liknande tekniska ekonomiska upptäckter av en supernova ett gyllene celest objekt som utgjordes människans blott två gånger fört — Betelgeusestjärnan och Tyko. Betelgeusestjärnan 3572. Vid en supernova explosion kan en stjärnas ljusstyrka bli miljardvis gånger på några dagar, den kan överglänsa alla andra himmelsobjekt (utom solen) och synas mitt på dagen. Det kanske ligger en symbolisk mening i detta — liksom Betelgeusestjärnan inbilde en mytisk och Tyko. Betelgeuse den förutspåddes naturvetenskapens — Keplars, Newtons och Einsteins — så framman supernovan i *Earthlight* som ynd som yndvändig måste bli det stora krigets epik.

### Som tarlet på månen

Boken har ett skilsmässigt framtidsperspektiv — då huvudpersonen, när han är äldre, berättar om sin tid på månen som tarlet om finner att den då blommade där var jord är överbefolkad, vilka tvingar kolonisterna vidare, till stjärnorna. Han överbefolkningen nu på Jorden är det tryck, som tvingar människan ut i rymden för att överbeholva den planeten. Erlend Dahm.

# HISTORY CORNER

This's History Corner will be a Royal mix, a mix of stuff from my Royal Library in Stockholm findings and news about what some think is the world's first sf con, the 1891 Vril event in the Royal Albert Hall in London. I'm having more info on the 1930's Swedish-Canadian fandom pioneer Nils Helmer Frome coming in, but it'll have to wait until a future issue. We first give the word to Söderhamns Tidning, March 31 1956, "*After the Moon Is Overpopulated*" /in-text headers omitted/:

Arthur C Clarke is one of few sf authors who anchors his fantasies in the latest science. He's himself a scientist, in chemistry, member of the Royal Astronomical Society, chairman of the British Interplanetary Society, and have in the voluminous book *Interplanetary Flight* presented the basis for human life in space according to science today His novel *Prelude to space* - about man's first space trip, already counts among the sf classics. His novel *Sands of Mars* is an unromantic but captivating tale of the hardships colonists struggle against in the harsh Martian climate. Clarke calmly tells the story and avoids to construct thrills through a banal adventure plot. But Clarke doesn't only flesh out the technical future perspectives coming from Eisenhowers announcement of the launch of artificial moons - he is also a philosopher and artist. His religious-mystical novel *Childhood's End* will as well as Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles* have a place in literary history. And as Aldous Huxley, Olaf Stapleton, HG Wells and CS Lewis he uses the sf genre as a forum for philosophical ideas. In his short story collection *Expedition to Earth* there are several stories describing the colonisation of Earth by alien worlds. The motif returns in a reversed way in his latest book, *Earthlight*. The plot takes place ca 200 years hence and humans have colonised Mars, Venus, the Moon and some of the satellites of the big planets. The colonists think that Earth is a rather old and conservative planet. As earlier with colonial America and the motherland, there are some tensions between Earth and her colonies. It comes from the fact that Earth in capitalist manner sells expensive heavy metals to the colonies, which the outer planet lack. Suddenly a big deposit of uranium is found on the



Moon which the colonists want to see as a universal resource, and through the politicians maneuvering around the find, a threat of war looms between Earth and the colonies. The war breaks out and it is assumed that man at this time is civilised enough so that the non-military isn't attacked. The battle gets the form of a nightmare-technical confrontation and duel on the Moon. Nobody finish as a winner, Beside their conflict there are believable episodes of the plastic bubble life of the colonists. There are grand descriptions of the moon environment during Earthrise and with Earthlight, and interesting details of life on another heavingly body with less gravity. Characters reflect on the grandness of the greatest adventure of man. The colonist slowly but surely become more distant from Earth and their language also changes. Clarke has in a skilled way as a sign of our time included the fights as lunar astronomers, indifferent to political party quarrel, discover a supernova, a rare celestial object which has been seen by mankind only twice before - the Betlehem star and as Tycho Brahe's star 1572. As a supernova explodes the brightness of a star may increase billions of times, it may become brighter than any other object in the sky (except the Sun) and be visible in the middle of the day. Maybe there's symbolism in it - just as the Betlehem star began a new era and Brahes star the era of unchained science - the one of Kepler, Newton and Einstein - the supernova of Earthlight shines over what must be the epoch of the final war. The book has a strange forward perspective - when the main character reaches the dusk of his age he goes to the moon as a tourist but finds that it then just as to our Earth is overpopulated, which forces the colonists to move further out, to the stars. Will the overpopulation now on Earth become the pressure that forces mankind out into space, to make those planets overpopulate?

As far as I remember the writer of this article, Erland Dahm, also sometimes contributed short stories to the at the time new sf magazine *Häpnä!*

Sf author Sven Christer Swahn had tight contacts with fandom and covered it in an article series he wrote in the 1980's. *Intermission* has presented an earlier Swahn piece and here's another (headline cropped to save space and the in-text headers too) *The SF Neighbourhood - Even Witches Are Sometimes Welcome to Fandom*, from Göteborgsposten, January 18 1981. He talks about how sf works, its relations to horror and fantasy, but in the end there's a little surprise! The article starts with noting how sf and horror creatures and elements becomes more common in media. and then...

*All inbreed monsters of our  
joyous planet marches on,  
Venusians, scientists and of  
course moonlighting hackwriters*

• **FILMER, serier, praktverk** å la fransmannen Druillel, romaner, radio- och TV-spel och varför inte nämna popmusikens texter med spindelmän från Mars och hotell på samma planet – i alla genrer tränger sig sF-treman in och drar med sig ett fullt folje av näskusiner, vampyrer, häsfolkt, muskelhjässar med slagsvård vid sidan och elektromik bakom pannbenen, det är en karneval av farligheter och komik.

• **HELA VÄR** festliga planter sälls ingått monstret på marsch, trängsel på varldsvägar och vänner, vetenskapliga och fästa, utsträckt och smidigt skrivare med dagens präkter framför sig.

### Sälja rymd

Såtti i föregående artikel rymden! Hans Schneider har utgett, som Stanislaw Lem och främsta litteraturvetare, ett i alla länder har hävdats, så de är bland annat på marknaden för ingenting. HAN SÄLJER RYM D rym rymden gör att sälja. Vi köper upp all rymd vi kommer över. För just då finns just det att sälja. Och de mer överges på skolan. De merförmåga men säker och och som vi gärna vill ha på en hand med af förmåga mer rymdena vändare! Det är den nästan väl-gärna blånagel: eskapismen vret.

Det som Kingsley Amis ansett i omledningslitterat till "New Micks of Hell" som mer målet. Att vi, släpper vår egen förkroppsligad skräck och ondska, att vi alltså inte blir överlag samma signalement när vi skakade hand med Darth Vader.

### Spekulation

• PÅ NÅGOT konstigt sätt står ändå kärleken igång; jag menar den uppriktiga kärleken till genren och dess värder. Man märker det om man jämför två filmer, "Närkontakt" och "Stjärnornas krig".

För att göra affären kort med "War  
hunket": Steven Spielbergs film och  
ännu värre bok utnyttjar hänsynslöst  
pseudoreligiösa behov, flörtar  
med UFO-hysterier, försöker med kon-  
stade medel blåsa in häftigt tempo i en  
erdan från början obefintlig handling.

Allsbarnens är spekulativt konstruerade dialoger håller fram under konstruerade handlingar till allsammans kramarna i det komiska ryndskapet. Man ser registret som en huggad amerikansk strandväkt, som flögivt försöker blika liv i ett lik.

### Barnkammarmyvision

• **GEORGE LUCAS** har däremot ett slags förhållande till sin film "Stjärnornas krig". Den är en häpnadsväckande blandning av amerikanska populärkultur. Varför klappar hjärtat så varmt för den luviga vovvden Chewbacca. Jo, för att han är en blandning av det Fega Lejonet (Troldkarlen från Oz) och den hund man aldrig fick.

Duett. Väder pånatten åtminstone  
om De Doem (Marvel) Ciemus!  
Prinsessa Lena och den lilla rubinen  
Äro likar icke så lät Solvit och en  
trufast dvärg, har det sagt. Den gyllne  
rubinen Theophras är en förglid variant  
av den såkade Plättmannen (Trollkull  
från Oz, igen).

Det är en äkta barnkammarvagn  
Förstämningen har som bekant som

— t o m HÄXORNA  
ÄR VÄLKOMNA TILL  
FANDOM IBLAND

settled all unknown. The Empire  
Strikes with the Dark and black.

**Goda grannar**  
 \*OLIKA MEDIA-plöster uppsä, så och skilda synonymer gör sitta vid sida. De har sina varierande beteckningar. Fantasy är alltså propäns har allt. Urdna Le Guin har sagt det snällare: "Fantasy, the ancient kingdom of which science fiction is a modern province". Det äldriga kungrike där är en modern provin.

Vad gör dem till goda grannar, demokrater? Spielbergs film och bok handlar om att utforska till sin rätta. Också när man inte har något att berätta, och man tror sig ha produktionsmekaniken under kontroll, kan man lugnt låta händerna gå och arbeta de tillgängliga processerna.

### Valdet detsamma

I RYSDAGA som politisk fristrids-  
 eroin kan välld ästas in ämmer  
 i vilken annan polistat som helst  
 Utan särskilda skal sturats ett fläkt-  
 tekniskt gästgästgäst som går från ett  
 kvarter till ett annat, från en gräns till  
 en annan. Identiska hugg och vägar ut-  
 värfas mellan alla och hunde, mellan  
 agent och polis. Det sker ett överspill  
 av våld från gräns till gräns. Kroggräns  
 och cykelkedjan blifvar och rullar  
 under de våldiga träden i Ryssdell,  
 återvras hem.

En man börjar springa, utan skäl, och alla jagar honom, men den enda som verkligen vill banna honom är författaren. För klackarna går mot färr.

## Hertigdömen

• FANTASY kan de lig som ett ned-  
tyckt gitter av små hertigdömen med  
ett moderigt Berlin om gulliga ett centur.  
Vi har "svärd- och trollskölden",  
sward och mörker, him den elake Hary  
Harryman om unga färdiga till mord  
och butchery, svärd och slakterkän.  
Vi har den uppbildade heretic fantasy,  
där Tolkien-liv och adlingar vand-  
rar. Bertil Mörtensson har gjort det  
omöjliga på svenska i sin fantasieromst  
"Makens vägar - vägen ut" (Bokad)

Vår uppklassiering som gärna dögs om till horror tale, skräckberättelse, eller weird tale, kuslig berättelse, med anknytning till det klassiska amerikanska pulpmagasinet *Weird Tales*, som i sin tur försäkrade världens Poe-skolans typiska effekter och fastrode dem om i *Bradford*.

Vi har det Gärnarna storbetsgöms guthie tale, och enligt många är allt det andra idel hydriskn under den stränga godk som med englandinen i lägen bygdes upp under 1700-talet i poefst met Gärnström.

### Gormenghast

4 HÄR HEMMA kan vi studera den nya svenska versionen (Ako Ohlmarks) av det mest egenartade bygget i engelsk anda sedan andra världskriget. Mervyn Peakes Gormenghasttrilogi (AWE/Göteborg).

Mervyn Peakes skrev första delen som yngre, solfjätt kräsligastad (inklusive). Han var konstnär, gift med en konstnär (Clifford Mayes), var missnöjd, född i Fins 1911 och stannade där till moderns familj, andra till hans var tillärd och sedan hade börjat skriva som tecknare.

Han gick i Eltham College, England, som speciellt utmärkte sig för sin samarbetsförmåga och kinesiska munnens snällhet. Han fick skolatyck när han förmådde sin holländsk Garmenghustyrt som sat på höjdpunkter i beskrivningarna av de utmärkta patisttyggen och den polska skuggan där den unge holländaren Timis Gertan förtogs gå.

Liggande längde

• **MERVYN PEARL** bodde i en av de mest exklusiva stadsdelarna i New York, hade Pearl varit med på tre tillfällen till en av de mest prestigefulla skolorna i världen och fick en av de mest prestigefulla titlarna i världen. Pearl var en av de mest kända och mest respekterade personerna i världen. Pearl var en av de mest kända och mest respekterade personerna i världen.

[illegible]

### Hänsyn till trolsen

• GOTT OCH VÄL men hur och när? Det är något dubbelaktigt omöjligt med alla dessa serialiserade möster som har sitterna i det förflutna men lämnarna i våra ögonas när och nu. 1981.

En reskommisarie som varit i det sandliga firgränsa sig till sin svärre inom utförare med. Mittens uttryck inträde. Det för kommit en kväll som Chelacens gytt utan generer i en halvtimmes tid det man gått för värmens skull. Kommande värder en dag när det obeliga Gormingham familj. En stund, det för en stund, som redon Mervyn. Puck föreslår. Om inte antas här i Väst har det till till och om det är och till och till.

Välket nästan osjket kochner ing ar  
sunde mts trakeana men

### Häxor inga trufans

• VARMANDE satte från England, en armad man samtid och främst på en gång, efter som det står i "Juke och hantare" av Kingsley Amis. Det är en öka fiskerijakt till alla dem släkten, men!

3. Sotings har Ann-Margret Dahlqvist-Lundberg och många andra varit förtänt kampen mot skilda smittsamma uttrycksmedel. Därunder har hon inte helt förrunnat ut. En koppling från den politiska gruppen till den medicinska Germslaghettelären kan faktiskt göras, om man betraktar den nyformuliska hälsöftryk som kan ha lite att göra med Margaret Martens hälsöftryk. "Som är ganska riktigt vederbörande vid det här hand."

Men när vi nu låtit begreppet science fiction suddas ut i kontexterna så är vi igen portarna och samlas med den inre truppen, så-fandom, där hityr och viceerligen är välkomna ibland, och Kingsley Amis också – de ska bara inte infälla sig att de är "trufans", samma öf-fans.

**Sven-Christer Swahn**

• **DETTA** var den tredje artikeln i vår science-fiction-serie. De två föregående var inbjudna den 10:e och den 11:e

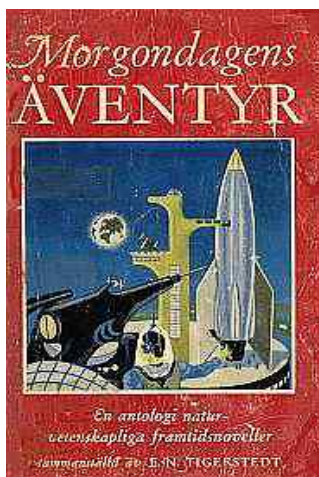


• Från Steven Spielbergs "Närkanal av tredje yraden". Enligt artikelförfattaren en hänsynslös spe-  
kulation, där regissören förgäves försöker bläxa fly i ett fik.

wanting to earn a buck. It'd be too easy to say that quality matters, that hackwriters are rejected and don't get a cent. He is sooner or later rejected but that's only because he can drag a sack of gold along...Horst Schröder has found, and Stanislaw Lem and trained literature sociologists in all countries, that sf is among other things a matter of marketing. You sell Space when space can be sold. ... What Kingsley Amis hinted in the intro poem to *New Maps of Hell* was more subtle: that we seek our bodily horror and evil, that we sort of find our true self when we shake hands with Darth Vader. In a strange way love always shines through, it means true love for the genre and its world. You notice that when comparing two films, "Close Encounters" and "Star Wars". Briefly, "Close Encounters", Spielberg's film and the even worse book ruthlessly flirts with pseudoreligious needs, UFO hysterics, and with artificial means tries to find pace in a from the beginning non-existent plot. It's all speculation: constructed dialogues stumbling along under constructed lights in the sky until cremated in the cosmic spaceship. You see the director as a perky American lifeguard trying in vain to get life back into a corpse. George Lucas on the other hand has a relationship with his film "Star Wars". It's an astounding mix of American boy dreams. Why do our heart feel warm for the fuzzy wookie Chewbacca? Well, because he is a mix of the cowardly lion (of the Wizard of Oz) and the dog you never got. For me at least Darth Vader reminds of Dr Doom (Marvel Comics). Princess Leia and the little robot Artoo is like Snow White and a loyal dwarf, it's been said. The golden robot Threepio is a gilded version of the tin man (The Wizard of Oz, again). It is a real fairytale vision. It it has been staged with accuracy. The Empire really Strikes Back. And media of all kinds follow: sf and sister genres go side by side. They may be called different names. Fantasy is like sf with fuses that have blown. Ursula Le Guin has put it more kindly: "...fantasy, the ancient kingdom of which sf is a modern province". What makes them good neighbours, these genres? The film and book of Spielberg may hint at an answer. Even when you have nothing to tell, if you are more a technician of the production than an author, you can let the conveyor belt roll without problem and use available processes. In a space saga used as a political novel of the future you can use violence without motivation as in any police state. Without any particular reason a fiction-technical street fight starts moving from one block to another. Identical jabs and thrusts are exchanged between elf and gnome, agent and police. Violence spills over from genre to genre. Brass knuckles and bicycle chains flash and rattle under the giant trees of Rivendell, home of the elves. A man begins to run without reason and everyone chase him but the only one who really wants to come home is the author as the time comes close to four. Fantasy may seem like a northern German collection of duchies and a modern Berlin a bit off center. We have sword and sorcery which the mean Harry Harrison once labeled sword and butchery. We have revered heroic fantasy where the elves and nobility of Tolkien roams. Bertil Mårtensson has done a fine Swedish version in his fantasy novel *The Ways of Power-the Road Away*. We have the ghost story, often called a horror tale or weird tale, connecting to the classic American pulp magazine *Weird Tales*, which in its turn tries to imitate the most far-out effects of the Poe school (which trained the young Bradbury). We have the gothic tale of the posh duchy, and according to many all the others are only vassal states to horror gothic, lead by the English which was constructed in the 1700s as a protest against rationality. At home we can study the new Swedish version (Åke Ohlmarks) of the most curious construction in gothic spirit since WWII, Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* trilogy. Peake wrote the first part as a conscript not particularly keen to go to war. He was an artist, married an artist (Gilmor Maeve), was a son of a missionary, born in China in 1911 and stayed there with his family until the age of 12 and already had begun to write and draw. He attended Eltham, College, England, which took care of children to missionaries, and Chinese memories merged with impressions from the school when he formed his horrible *Gormenghast* trilogy which has its highlights in the descriptions of the inscrutable palaces and the boy school in the shadow of the palace, where the young hero Titus Groan is forced to go. Mervyn Peake reached recognition early on as a book illustrator, had problems getting the trilogy published, and once it came it got favourable reception but in a way just stayed on or under the bookstore desks; until a Peake wave emerged around 1970 when young enthusiasts lead by the giant Michael Moorcock did their best to get new life into the work. ...There is something doubly frightening with all these serialised monsters rooted in the past but having their teeth at our throats here and now. A purely commercial success can in all eternity spin-off into new successes in more media. There should come an evening when Chewbacca moans but gets no response in a movie theatre that is only half full, you being there just to keep warm. There will be a day when the unholy *Gormenghast* falls over. A day, we must admit, that Mervyn Peake already predicted. And if nothing else we have to show some consideration to our own gnomes and trolls. Which makes it suitable for me to tie knots together. Satire of warnings from England, making a face to today and tomorrow at the same time, or as it is said in *Jake's Thing* by Kingsley Amis: "And a real fart of a fish to all those at home." In Sweden, Ann-Margret Dahlqvist-Ljungberg and many others have stubbornly continued the struggle by different artistic means. And with this she hasn't entirely forgotten sf. A connection from that positive group to the magical *Gormenghast* sphere could be made, if you think about the neofeminist worship of witches which has little to do with Margaret Murray's studies of witches. /MM wrote about witches./ (Those are rather thoroughly rejected by now.) But when we now allow the concept of science fiction to become fuzzy at the edges, we close the gates and gather with the inner circle, sf-fandom, where witches may sometimes be welcome, and also Kingsley Amis - just as long as they imagine themselves to be "trufans", true sf fans.



As said, Swahn knew fandom, and here he calls those who like sf literature trufans, but those who like witches, horror, fantasy aren't really trufen. (I'd say an alternate definition of trufan is someone



"very active and fannish".) Anyway, there's something to that sf is *the core of fantastic literature*. If you analyse it in set theory terms you note that *sf can describe everything horror and fantasy can, but the reverse doesn't apply*, ie fantasy and horror is a subset.

As has been noted in several other articles previously, 1953 was the year sf "arrived" to the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula. There was a positive curiosity about this new futuristic literature in the beginning, but everyone wasn't all that enthusiastic as we see in this review, "Scientific sagas" in Expressen June 9 1953, The reviewer Bernt Bernholm is unknown to me and Google gives no clues, and he talks about our first sf anthology (see book cover), *Adventures of Tomorrow*. He writes:

*One day a rocketship from Earth landed on Mars. The men stepped out and expected a magnificent welcome from the Martians, because it was the first time an Earth spaceship had arrived to the neighbour planet. But the Martians treated the crew with a remarkable indifference, almost as it had been just a bunch of fools. Finally the Earthmen were locked up in a building that showed to be an insane asylum, set up especially for travelers who regularly arrived from different planets in space. This is a small sample of sf, a genre which is immensely popular in USA and which can be translated as scientific fantasies. Some representative pieces are now here in Swedish in the anthology Adventures of Tomorrow, where the world of tomorrow is exposed in a series of bizarre, nightmarish pictures. You may come to think of insane writings, where form and presentation seems reasonably sane but the contents is insane. But here we have fully healthy authors who write for normal people, and that it's work equally profitable for the first as it is appreciated by the last is due to*

*that no one can 100% surely reject all things made up as improbable in the future. You never know, such things may happen. And indeed things happen. On Mars - the favourite planet of all sf authors - people have constructed a vehicle powered with the brain's own electricity and by which you can travel to to any place at any time, even to places that only exist in novels or in the imagination. Provided someone has thought of or imagined an existing or non-existing place you can visit it. Of course they have solved the problem of making synthetic life, in other words abandon death. A science family is left behind on Mars, the wife and children die, and being lonely - the planet is for once uninhabited - the husband constructs living copies of them. And they live happily ever after until the man dies, but his work has eternal life. And another story is about how an atomic war can crush humanity by changing its genome and make individuals unfit for life, the author thus keeping at least somewhat to the firm ground of reality. Unusually far away from there, even for sf, is the drama of the mysterious devil in East Lupton. A drifter is chained to a can, containing a substance that makes people unconscious at half a mile's distance, but it doesn't affect those carrying the can. So he walks around in a world of unconscious people until he can free himself from the bugger. The eternal display of fantastic adventures and parade of distorted images, from pure lumps of protoplasm to individuals with four eyes and twelve-fingered hands, is tiresome reading in the end. Making a little bit fun of the genre hadn't been unfitting for the authors. Perhaps there is a pinch of irony in the story of the asylum for the Mars travelers. The unfriendly treatment explained by a psychiatrist on Mars is that that the guests from space and their rocketship as materialised hallucinations. The is undoubtedly a sensible position. If someone presents himself as Martian here on Earth, just arrived with a "singletrav", we would lock him up. At least for the time being.*

## Vetenskapliga sagor

En dag landade ett raketkepp från jorden på Mars. Männan steg ur och väntade sig ett magnifikt mottagande från marsianerna, för det var första gången ett jordiskt rymdskepp anlänt till grannplaneten. Men marsinvånarna behandlade besättningen med en märklig likgiltighet, nästan som om den bestått av idel dårar. Till slut spärrades jordmännen in i en byggnad som mycket riktigt visade sig vara ett sinnessjukhus speciellt uppfört för de resenärer som med jämna mellanrum anländer från olika planeter i världrymden.

Det här är ett litet stickprov på science fiction, en litteraturart som är oerhört populär i USA och som väl bäst och enklast kan översättas med vetenskapliga fantasier. Några representativa smaltbitar föreligger på svenska i antologin "Morgondagens äventyr", där framtidens värld exponeras i en rad bisarra, märdrömliga bilder. Man kan komma att tänka på sinnessjukhus skrivare, där form och framställning verkar tämligen vettig men innehållet är helt vansinnigt.

Men här är det alltså fullt friska författare som skriver för normala människor, och att sysselsättningen är lika inkomstbringande för de förra som uppskattad av de senare bevisas förstas på att ingen med hundra procentig säkerhet kan avfärda alla påhitt som orimliga i framtiden. Man vet aldrig, sänt kan hända.

Och nog händer det saker. På Mars — alla science fiction-författares favoritplanet — har folket konstruerat en underbar farkost som drivs med hjärnans egen elektricitet och med vilken man kan färdas till vilken plats som helst i vilken tidsålder som helst, även till orter som bara finns i romaner eller i fantasin. Under förutsättning att någon tänkt på eller fantiserat om en existerande eller icke-existerande plats går det an att besöka den.

Naturligtvis har man löst problemet att framställa syntetiskt liv, att

med andra ord avskaffa döden. En vetenskapsfamilj blir akterseglad från Mars, hustrun och barnen dör, och i sin ensamhet — planeten är obebodd för en gångs skull — konstruerar mannen identiska, levande kopior av dem. Och så lever de alla lyckliga, tills mannen dör. Hans verk däremot har evigt liv.

Om hur ett atomkrig kan bryta ned mänskligheten genom att förändra dess arvmassa och göra individer livsodugliga handlar en annan novell, vars författare alltså håller sig något närmare på den nuvarande verklighetens fasta mark. Ovanligt långt därifrån, även för att vara science fiction, utspelar sig dramat om den mytiske djävulen i East Lupton. En luftfärdare råkar bli fastklistrad vid en hure. Den innehåller ett ämne som gör folk tillfälligt medvetlösa på 300 m avstånd, men ämnet påverkar inte den som bär burken. Sålunda promenerar han omkring i en värld av medvetlösa människor tills han lyckas befria sig från eländet.

Det idoga upprömandet av fantastiska äventyr och paraden av mänskliga vrånbilder av olika slag, från rena protoplasmklumpar till individer med fyra ögon och tolv-fingerade händer, är ganska tröttsamt liksom i längden. En liten smula drift med genren hade inte misskällt författarna. Kanske finns det en nypa lust i berättelsen om därhuset för Marsresenärerna. Den ogästvänliga behandlingen fördömas med att psykiaterna på Mars betraktar gästerna från världrymden och deras raketplan som materialiserade hallucinationer. Det är oenkligen en ganska vettig inställning. Om en figur presenterade sig som marsian här på jorden, just anland med en "singletrav", skulle också vi spärra in honom. Annars ännu än så länge.

— BERNT BERNHOLM



Was the world's first sf convention in Philadelphia in 1936 or in more organised form in Leeds in 1937? Some say neither, it was in the Royal Albert Hall, London, UK, in...1891!

*Intermission* had mentioned the "Vril" event before (eg in #84) and so have others. What's new is that the program book with more details and other documents on "The Vril-Ya Bazaar and Fête" has been found. The event was a fundraiser, for "The West End Hospital and the School of Massage and Electricity", based around an Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel, *The Coming Race* (1871)



"THE COMING RACE" AT THE ALBERT HALL

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vril> says it's a story involving a "subterranean world occupied by beings who seem to resemble angels.../calling themselves/ Vril-ya, have great telepathic and other parapsychological abilities...Their society is a technologically supported Utopia, chief among their tools being an "all-permeating fluid" called Vril, a latent source of energy...powers of the Vril include the ability to heal, change, and destroy beings and things; the destructive powers in particular are immense, allowing a few young Vril-ya children to destroy entire cities if necessary".

You can find the book here <https://archive.org/details/comingrace00lytt>. This Victorian science fiction novel apparently became very popular, enough so that it was thought to be a good idea to make a themed event around it! Bulwer-Lytton was in fact one of the most successful authors of his time. From "The Odd Origins of the World's first sf convention",

[https://www.cracked.com/article\\_31795\\_the-odd-origin-of-the-worlds-first-sci-fi-convention.html](https://www.cracked.com/article_31795_the-odd-origin-of-the-worlds-first-sci-fi-convention.html) "The influence of the author of *The Coming Race* is still powerful, and no year passes without the appearance of stories which describe the manners and customs of peoples in imaginary worlds, sometimes in the stars above, sometimes in the heart of unknown continents in Australia or at the Pole, and sometimes below the waters under the earth. The latest effort in this class of fiction is *The Time Machine*, by HG Wells."

Main organiser of the "Vril" event (as we may call it) was one Dr Herbert Tibbits, from the institutions that intended to benefit moneywise. Wikipedia has more info [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vril-Ya\\_Bazaar\\_and\\_Fete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vril-Ya_Bazaar_and_Fete)

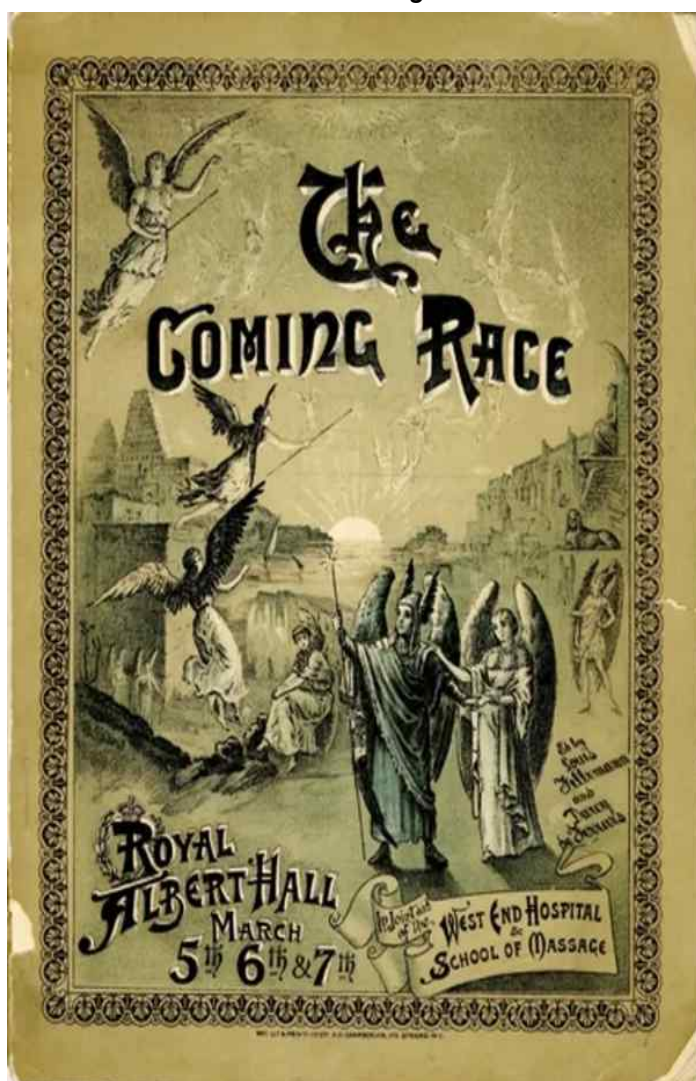


Organiser Dr Herbert Tibbits



Tibbits was the founder of the London Massage and Galvanic Hospital, and the Vril-Ya Bazaar was one of a number of events he had produced as fundraisers for the hospital. For each, Tibbits recruited wealthy and socially prominent individuals as a host committee for the event. For the 1891 event, Tibbits chose as the theme the world created by Bulwer-Lytton in *The Coming Race*.... the novel had achieved widespread popularity, and some occultists claimed that Bulwer-Lytton had based his novel on an actual secret race that had mastered a limitless energy source... Suspended, and sometimes moving as if flying, above the crowd were mannequins costumed as the winged Vril-ya. Entertainments were presented that sought to evoke the mystical powers of the Vril-ya, with magic shows and a fortune-telling dog. Booths offered various products and handcrafts for sale, including Bovril, a meat extract that had been named, in part, for Vril power in *The Coming Race*. The event featured a young woman depicting Princess Zee, the heroine of the novel, who wore a black satin dress and tiara that featured electric lights. Words from Bulwer-Lytton's invented Vril language were used to describe features of the event, and attendees were provided with a brochure that included a Vril glossary to help them decipher the language. Guests were encouraged to wear costumes, and event organizers directed them to the firm John Simmons and Sons, historical costumiers to Queen Victoria, to view an array of *Coming Race* costumes, many sporting wings. The volunteer committee members wore various exotic costumes from a range of cultures and eras. The youngest child of Queen Victoria, Princess Beatrice

and her husband Prince Henry of Battenberg attended on the first day to officially open the event. The host committee that Tibbits recruited to help organize the event and staff the stalls included the Marchioness Dowager of Londonderry, the Countess of Cromarty and Lady Georgiana Spencer Churchill. The event was originally scheduled to run for only three days, but the organizers extended it for an additional two days, "due to popular demand". However, reviews of the event were unfavorable. Newspapers criticized decorations as badly constructed and shabby. A reviewer in the *Leeds Times* called it "a very sorry affair, inartistic, stupid ... a vulgar entertainment in the name of charity". Despite the extended run, the event was a financial failure. Tibbits had covered the costs associated with holding the event from his own funds, and the failure of the event to bring in expected revenues bankrupted him.



Much of this has been known before but the actual program book has now been found! And it includes a map of how the Royal Albert Hall was set up for it. A reporter got the brilliant idea of simply going to the archive of the Royal Albert Hall! Together with the guide Liz Harper you can see this historical feat on Youtube,, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAMAqa4bojM>

When the opened the box they didn't exactly exclaim "I see wonderful things!", like Howard Carter when opening Tutankhamun's tomb, but they did find the program book and other stuff. You can see the cover to the left. It looks rather well made and the contents go to 65+ pages, which for technical reasons means the total

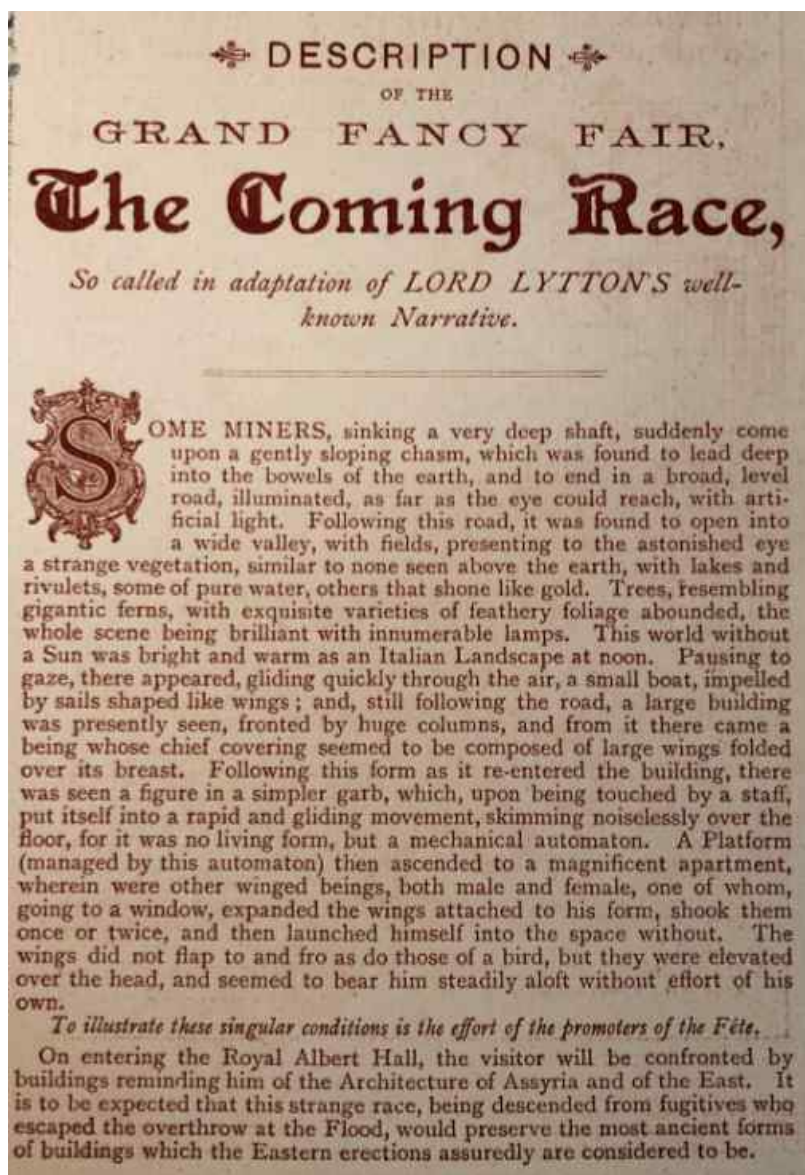
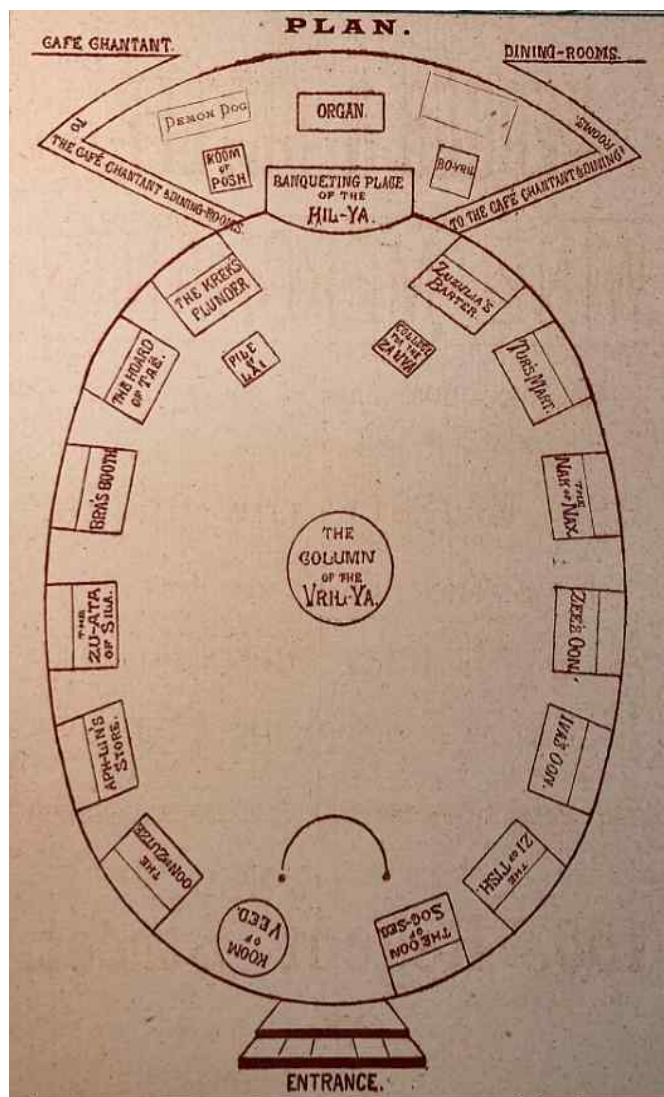
length was at least 68 pages. (Printing would be done in increments of at least 4 pages, but 8, 16 or 32 is also possible.) Here are the contents of the program book:

CONTENTS.			
	PAGE.		PAGE.
Description and Origin of the Fete ..	7	Poem by Mr. Clement Scott ..	31
The Hospital and the School of Massage ..	8	Glossary of the Language of the Coming Race ..	32
The Patron and Patronesses of the Charities ..	9	Scene in the Gloom or Town ..	33
Special Methods of Aiding the Charities..	15	The "Oons" or Stalls Described ..	35
Plan of the Hall ..	19	A Dream of Zutze (Love) ..	44
Patronesses of the Fete ..	20	Entertainments ..	46
Honorary Stewards of the Fete ..	22	"The Doctor," by Mrs. Aylmer Gowing ..	51
The Arab Outpost. Mr. F. Goodall, R.A. ..	24	"Our James," by Mr. Wilson Barrett ..	53
Lord Tennyson's (Autograph) ..	25	"The Golden Age," by Miss H. F. Schweitzer..	57
Poem by Lady Wilde ..	26	"Ancestors of a Coming Race," by Louis Felbermann ..	58
"Charity" ..	27	Programme of Coldstream Guards Band ..	61
Poem by Her Excellency Madame Mijatovich ..	28	The Hall of Glubs (Cafe Chantant) ..	63
Mr. Toole's Reminiscences ..	29	Various Entertainments ..	65



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vril-Ya\\_Bazaar\\_programme\\_pages\\_from\\_RAH.pdf](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vril-Ya_Bazaar_programme_pages_from_RAH.pdf)

*The hall was decorated in antique style and around it was a series of booths offering different activities, usually dealing with the occult, mystical, weird and magic, as well as selling things, as I understand it. There was a stage for music performances and attendees were encouraged to dress up with inspiration from the novel.*



Now, if we took an attendee of an sf con of today and used a time machine to send him (fandom still has a male majority, I guess guys like spaceships and robots more) back to 1891 he wouldn't feel too out of place! There would be activities in the booths and events on the stage and people all around him who read this crazy stuff. A page in the program book announces that one

Charles Bertram, a "celebrated prestidigitateur" ("finger magic", looked it up) will show "seance magique". Ladies will play the guitar and we'll enjoy aerial flights in a "grand display of flying figures", It seems to be it was dummies pulled along wires. There were Vril-Ya who had wings and could fly.

But it was all far from a success. The newspaper reviews were mixed, we learn. Here is room for more research if someone could look up old London newspapers, and it'd be nice if someone could scan the entire program book. The event far from raised funds, but lost money. That it was prolonged with two days could be an attempt to collect more entrance fees to save the economy.

Ticket cost was 10 shillings, or one crown, the decimal equivalent would be 50 pence (half a quid, in but in older days there were 320 pence to a pound, 20 shilling to a pound and 12 pence to a shilling). Since the ordinary worker earned a little over 1 pound/week (=100 "new" pence) 10 shillings (50p "new") was a substantial amount. You could however get a family ticket for 1 pound and 1 shilling (called a guinea, what Sherlock Holmes offered to get cab drivers to go faster) or a single ticket after





6 pm for half a crown, which would be 5 shilling. It seems The Vril-Ya Bazara and Fête was directed mostly to the upper echelongs of society because of the ticket price.

It wasn't called science fiction at the time - terms like "scientific romances" or "fantastic voyages" were used - but there were a sort of fan movement around some fantastic literatur. There were Edward Bellamy clubs founded, around this author's utopian novel *Looking Backward* (1888), according to Wikipedia a staggering 162 such clubs in the US alone! ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Looking\\_Backward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Looking_Backward) ) But there were also Vril societies, at least one (maybe more?), eg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3XLVHSwgOI> The Vril Society was established after Maria Orsic received communication from extraterrestrials who had once lived in what is now Sumeria. The word "vril" is said to come from the ancient Sumerian word "vri-ll", meaning God-like.

A side note: the language magazine *Språktidningen* says they'll run a letter to the editor by me in #2 this

spring. They wrote about "vril" in another meaning, and I explained the Bulwer-Lytton meaning and mentioned the Royal Albert Hall event in my letter.

If you're interested in the Bulwer-Lytton himself, you can watch this documentary: *A Man of Words - A documentary about the life of Edward Bulwer-Lytton*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuP1dMsL5S8> or this *Exploring Vril, Edward Bulwer-Lytton and the Occultism of the Coming Race* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q9SvQ-XrWc>

The meat extract Bovril was also inspired by the novel, taking its name from bovine + vril, and it had been launched just a few years earlier. It is still around, though one wonders when it will become targeted by fanatical vegetarians. (I have little sympahy for such. Humans evolved as omnivores, we need meat to be healthy, and animals lacking self-conciousness and can't be subjects of human ethics.) Another thing still being around is the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, which is about writing the worst or shall we say funniest story intro, <https://www.bulwer-lytton.com/> That Bulwer Lytton gave the name to it is because he once started a novel (*Paul Clifford*, 1830):

*It was a dark and stormy night.*



## Mailing Comments

*EAPA but no N'APA mlg to comment for thish. Consider joining an APA and do a fanzine! We need more fanzines. Sf-fandom isn't superhero costuming and computer games. It's writing, letters and fanzines!*

**William McCabe:** You're right that Asimov's Foundation trilogy (the original three, much later follow-ups don't count) isn't action and I don't think only a "few" have read them. I know for instance that the Swedish translation sold 15 000 copies in the 1970's alone. (It was first published here as a serial in the 1950's magazine *Häpna!*) I haven't seen the TV version but I'm pessimistic about it. A previous Asimov movie *I, Robot* set a world record in Having Nothing To Do With The Book.. Hm, Asimov had some faults in his review of 1984. (I believe Als soon will be used to survey people from all those CCTVs!) □ A good site for free (and mostly pirated) E-books: <https://book4you.org/> □ The point with Rob Hansen's *Bixelstrasse* book is that he takes information from many *different* sources. □ I think that many who identified themselves as communists even in the 1950s, after the crimes of Stalin had been exposed, were *still* apologetic towards him. □ Small seeds could actually drift through interstellar space, because they'd be small enough to be affected by solar wind. □ I believe bases on the Moon or Mars could get much material locally (the Moon has water in craters at the poles for instance, and Mars has been known to have water for a long time). Energy can be had from solar

power or small nuclear reactors. An important point with setting up a base on the Moon or Mars is to *stretch our horizons and what our technology can do*. The last will lead to a lot of spin-off technical development which will find valuable use even on Earth.

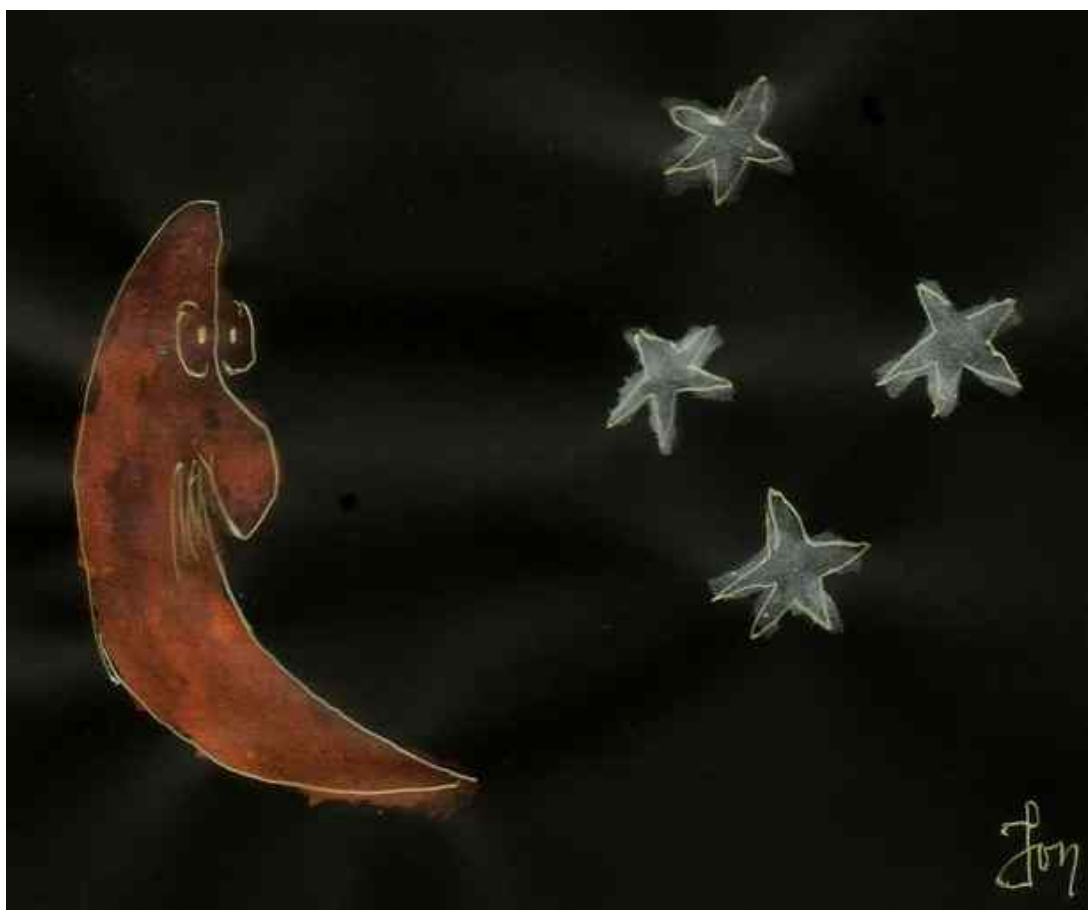
**John Thiel:** No, I don't like telephones either (I haven't used one for a very long time). A phone call more often disturbs than not and vocal communication is inferior to text, where you have time to think of what to say.

□ I now have small rockets to separate comments! □ The main Danish sf club is also a "circle" - "SF Cirklen".

□ Did you meet John Lennon?

**Garth Spencer:** That agrarian societies having more words for things in nature and in their village is only natural. They'll have fewer words for electronics, different parts of a car, advanced physics etc. □ The narcissist manipulation presentation was interesting. I notice that much of it is what one Justin Trudeau has done to truck drivers, protesting against forced vaccination (which doesn't work against Omicron) and government tracking "passports". This guy has gaslighted the truckers, called them racist (while he himself was a racist black-facing), tried to make them feel guilt, done the silent treatment, refusing to speak to them, etc.

**Henry Grynsten:** An interesting *Wild Ideas*, as usual! (ABBA Yabba Do!) I suspect Churchill didn't give a source for his democracy statement - because there wasn't one. The "someone has said..." phrasing could come from modesty ("let's just pretend that I'm not coining these incredibly profound words..."). □ Anyway, since the topic is democracy and politics it becomes very difficult to comment, due to possible controversies, the many details, and in the end most of it is a matter of opinion. (For instance, I don't for a moment believe that the USSR had among the fastest growing economies



*The Man in the Moon makes a phase, and get four stars for it. Art: Lars "LON" Olsson.*

in the mid 20 century! Soviet statistics were propaganda and notoriously untrustworthy. In a command economy you fudge reports to follow the 5-year plan and make the central committee happy. And even if we disregard this, it's meaningless to measure "growth" from near zero! That was where the USSR started, as a primitive, low-production agrarian state, just through losing a war, having a bloody revolution and a devastating civil war. The clumsiness of command economy and the inability of communism to meet peoples' needs was obvious all along and didn't just pop up with Brezhnev.) □ As politics is difficult to cover, I'll *instead* try to detail some of my own general views. I probably agree with about 75% of what Henry writes - among the dissenting 25% is his strange claims that high taxes are generally good. Through the years I have in different elections voted for all four of the normal non-socialist parties in Sweden (those abbreviated M, L, C and KD) but never for those calling themselves socialist or environmentalist (S or MP) and absolutely not the narrow-minded, national chauvinist SD party (the "Sweden democrats"). I define my views more in philosophical terms than political, and more precisely what is called rule utilitarianism. I note however that the Wikipedia definition ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule\\_utilitarianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_utilitarianism)) is wrong, just as so *many* things in Wikipedia. When I studied philosophy at Stockholm University our lecturers as well as our text books was very clear that utilitarianism ("the most good for the highest number") isn't deontological duty ethics - ie adhering to fixed rules and duties. Rule utilitarianism is consequence ethics, seeing what actions *leads to* and you follow *rules of thumb* leading to desirable outcomes. "Rules of thumb" differs from ordinary rules, a rule of thumb isn't strict and you may break it if the reasons are strong enough. What "good outcomes" are is too complicated to discuss here, let us

just say it's a decent mix of many factors like freedom, happiness, health, much resources ("wealth"), knowledge, and things like that - the exact mix could be discussed. And here the "Western Democracies" underachieve. The word "democracy" means "rule by the people", but what we have is rule by politicians = *politocracy*. Politicians only have a more or less weak mandate from their people. The "rule by the people" consists of that you may every fourth year – only! - choose between a limited number of fixed packages, put together by small groups called "parties", and in these "parties" by an even tinier group at the top. We shouldn't abandon this system, but due to its major deficiencies (which Churchill clearly saw) the *scope* of what the rule by politicians can do must be limited and more power left *to the individual*. An individual, a person, is definitely people and that's more of democracy = rule by people. People should have more control over their lives, as long as such control doesn't infringe on the control of others over *their* lives. (That would be contradictory. Ethics demand universality, it must be the same for all.) But I'm not much for the Libertarians' "night watchman state". That's going too far. A government should also provide good health care and schooling, support those worst off, have a defence, etc. Taxes should be lower. There is evidence that when taxes reach beyond ca 30% of GDP growth begin to suffer. 30% is still enough to cover all services society should have. Taxes above that tend to go to "transferring" resources from one group to another. That's inefficient, hurts growth and is ethically dubious. Those worst off should receive extra help, but the idea "if you produce more we'll take the surplus, if you produce less you'll get extra" clearly stops growth. Getting resources to grow is crucial and what will make life better in the long run, not juggling money between groups. Also consider that individuals handling their own money tend to use resources more wisely than politicians. A politician is a) far away from the work floor where things happen, b) is almost never an expert - and often even totally incompetent - about where the tax money is poured, c) is directed by his party's dogmatic "program", usually utopian theories, d) has no incentive to be careful with money since politicians have a bottomless treasure chest (taxes can always rise!) and don't risk his own money, e) has no real responsibility - risking only not to be re-elected next time, upon which the politician gets a well-paid retreat seat or signs a million dollar book deal, and f) taxes also begets expensive bureaucracy which interferes with people's lives, the thing that should be avoided. Give more power to people themselves, the private citizen, the individual. If we respect and empower the individual, he/she will become happier and more creative - and that is something we *all* benefit from. So how do we do that? There are many possibilities. The constitutions of countries must have built in break pads, things saying "No matter how much you want it, how big the majority is, you can't do this!". There should be a real constitutional court which can make sure such break pads are respected. (A bit like in the US supreme court. In comparison, Sweden only as a "constitutional committee" of the parliament, which may only give recommendations and slaps on the wrist as their rulings don't have to be followed.) I also think we should have more direct influence by voters over politicians so they are more dependent on the electorate's wishes, rather than utopian party ideologies. More direct democracy should be easier with the Internet. We should have more "person elections", ie less party programs, so the elected feel more of personal responsibility. One very worrying thing is the growth of bureaucracy, which is an extremely destructive force. Bureaucrats, paragraphs, regulations, endless forms to fill in, all statistics and data governments gather and juggle – all that are the means by which the individual is fenced in. We have a growth of regulations (measured in text length) of just over 2%/year, a rate at which strangling regulations increase tenfold in 100 years. Society will drown in bureaucracy, forms and paragraphs! My suggestion is: *for every new law and regulation adopted 200% of OLD regulations must be removed!* Those suggesting new regulations must pair it with pointing out the double amount of old ones being removed. (Counted in text length.) That could turn back bureaucracy inflation and lead to shrinking numbers of government bureaucrats. For insight into the evil of bureaucracy I recommend the books by Northcote Parkinson who coined Parkinson's Law: *work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion*. There are several Parkinson laws, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkinson%27s\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkinson%27s_law) □ A worrying fandom note: it seems regulation craziness sneaks into our sf world through...con bureaucracy! Note eg hypocritical "Codes of Conduct". Concoms are our red tape riders and pencil pushers! Beware!) --AE

**LATE NOTE: Intermission is a *perzine* we learn in the listings for the grand FAAn Award <https://efanzines.com/TIR/Incompleat2021.pdf> Investigating it further I find it isn't because this publication is...*perverse*, but because it's a possible to vote for it in that FAAn category, meaning *personalzine*. If you decide my *personal sin* is worth your trouble or even...vote for Ike, deadline is now extended to March 11. See <https://corflu.org/Corflu39/FAAn%20Awards%20Ballot%202022.pdf>**



# The Contents of a Good Life 24



**NAPA MAILING #257    March 2022**

Written by Will Mayo, Apartment 9B, 750 Carroll Parkway, Frederick, Maryland 21702 [wsmayo@yahoo.com](mailto:wsmayo@yahoo.com) .

There are as many people as there are realities. I often wonder about their realities.

In a universe without meaning, in a world without soul, I make my way as best I can.

We say our lines well, you and I. But what happens when the play ends?

“You have a choice,” Albert Einstein said. “You can live life as if nothing’s a miracle. Or you can live as if everything is.”

Here in this mutual make believe space between our realities we write, focus and conjure, leaving our real selves behind.

Like Kerouac, for me it’s only the mad ones that dream of the impossible when only the possible and practical are within reach.

Once you grasp the impermanence of things you are at the beginning of understanding your place in the universe.

I have faith in humankind if not in gods. I think our species will continue and evolve and populate other worlds. I have hope.

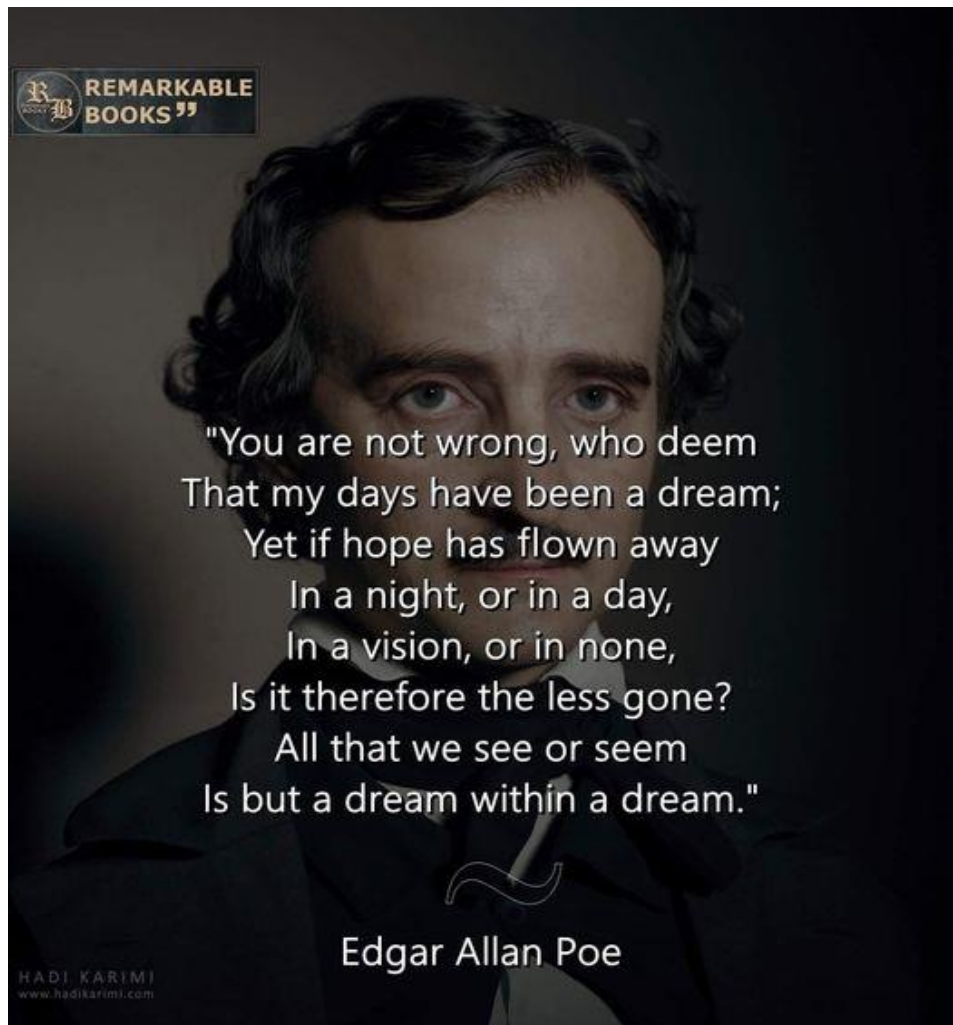
Strange new techniques. The possibilities of aliens and ghosts. People dying. People being born. Basically, I am given to understand what I’ve often been told. That life is a continuum, the old quickly gives way to the new, and we are all one with the world. As nothing lasts but the possibilities of change.

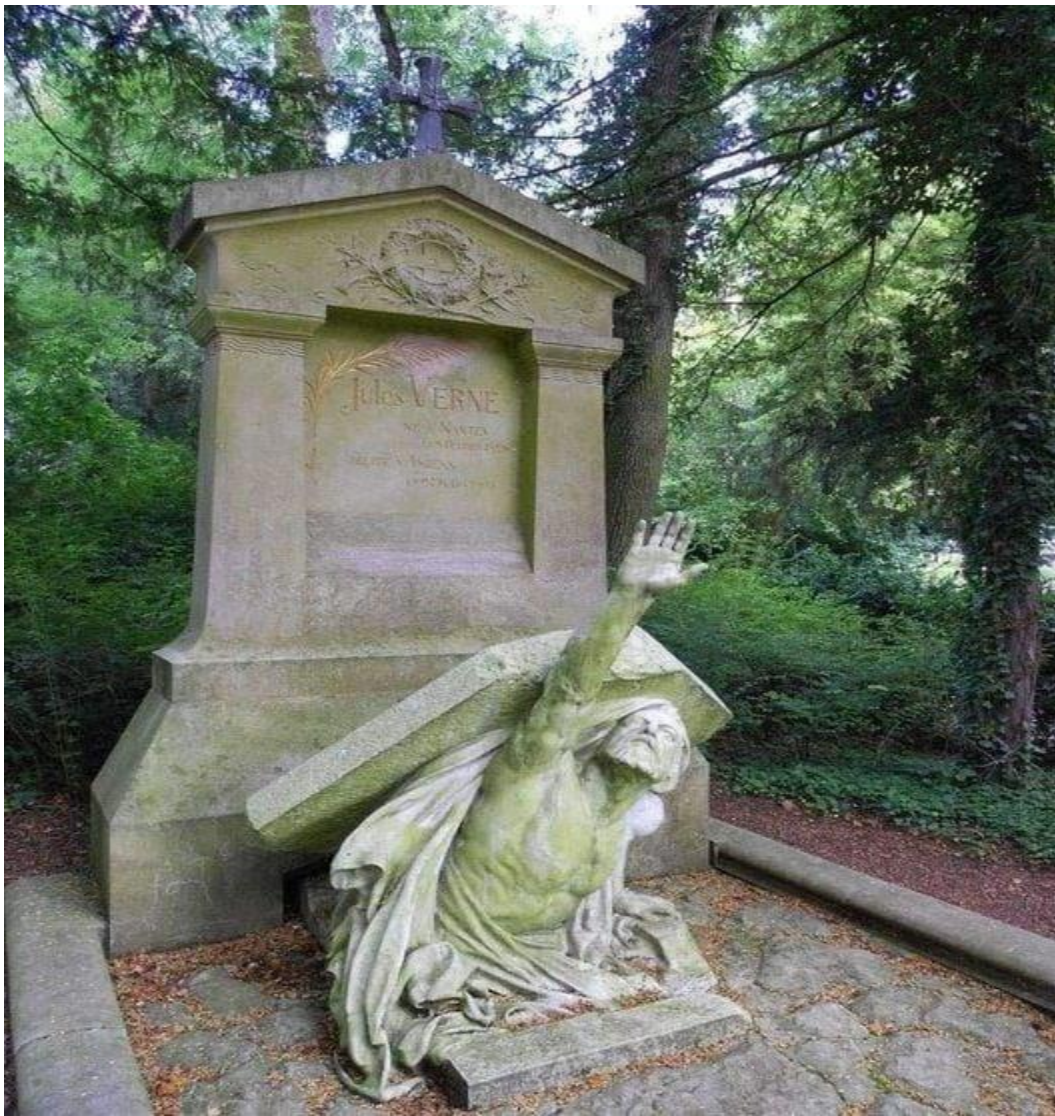
I have no idea where I’m going. But I’m ready.



**Euclid alone has looked on beauty bare.**







Ye Murthered  
Master Mage

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On the N3F

We continue to bring out fanzines. For the last month I was very busy with writing Practical Exercise. A very rough draft is finished. I suspect that there are some loose ends that need to be tied up. I spent much time assisting people whose politics I liked, but who in the end were unwilling to help themselves. I hope to spend more time on the N3F now.

I did put up several calls for book reviews from the N3F Review of Books, and got promises of reviews.

Commentationes

Intermission115: Thanks for the explanation of Swedish politics. If I follow, the four more conservative parties, the Sweden Democrats, the Moderates, the Christian Democrats, and the Center Party, have a clear majority in Parliament, but the other three parties will not form a government that includes the Sweden Democrats, so the Social Democrats (the largest single party, I gather) end up forming the government. A vote of confidence I gather requires a majority against; if the conservative parties other than the Sweden Democrats abstain, a majority against cannot be obtained. I am not clear where the Liberal party (I assume European liberals, not the very different American liberals) fits into this.

Thanks for the con report. A fine note on tree rings. Even by modern standards, a literary critic who claims that Verne and Wells did not write science fiction is remarkably eccentric.

Archive Midwinter: A fine set of zine comments. The explanation you identified of why some foreign countries – relative to the USA – have particular reputations was notable.

Intermission 116: Fascinating notes on the early history of LASFS, the oldest continuing SF club. (N3F is only third). I was briefly a LASFS member in 1975-1978. They claimed to meet every week, but at least twice I appeared and more or less no one was there.

Synergy: Interesting comment on controlled breeding. Once upon a time, there was a Soviet scientist in a research group associated with a facility that grew foxes for their fur. He had the idea of breeding the foxes for gentleness and tameness, since in general they tended to try to bite their captors. His procedure was to select for each generation the tamest and friendliest of the lot. Breeding a fox that was as tame as a puppy and that would happily follow its owner around took all of six generations. It is plausible that taming dogs was as rapid, or not quite as rapid.

The Contents of a Good Life. Beautiful photographs. A fine zine on many perspectives of death. Indeed, all men are initiated in the Mystery of Death. (That's a quote from some SF novel, but I do not remember which one.)

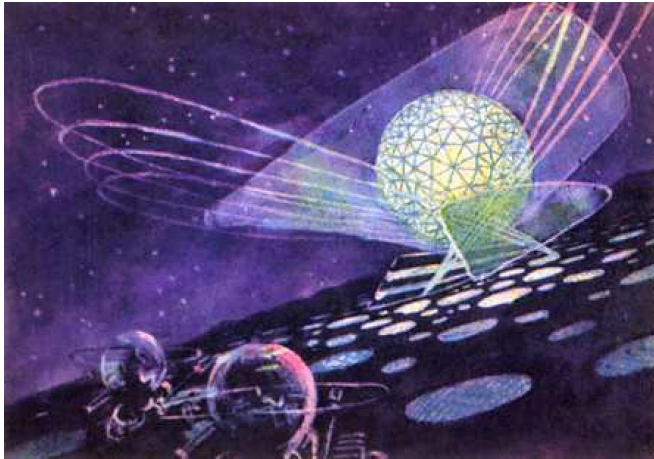
Samizdat: Thanks for the listing of some Crook Award possibilities. Please write reviews of them for The N3F Review of Books.



Your description of the Klein book is interesting; he advocates solutions that he thinks will benefit his side. Oh, the shock. Most readers will perhaps not have heard (go back a century and a half give or take) the unfortunate phrase 'the colored races of Europe', perceived as a threat to white rule of the United States. These races were the Italians and the Irish. It sounds odd, doesn't it? Nonetheless, at the time it was meant seriously. The Republicans have now learned from that event, and are taking the subconscious position that Spain is part of Europe, and therefore Hispanics fit in just fine with other Whites in their party. For more, see the web site LiberalPatriot. Finally, since I receive agitprop from all sides, I note that the Sad Puppies thought that the Hugo Awards had already been politicized, their objective being to get the politics out of the Hugo Award. Other people disagreed. The competition was absolutely wonderful for popcorn futures.

#### Practical Exercise

I have finished the rough draft of the novel, probably need to add a chapter or two toward the end, but will let it sit for a month or more.



## ...LOC on N'APA 256

Intermission #115 - Seven hours as Prime Minister! Talk about blink and you'll miss it. I continue to disagree with your claim that lockdowns and mask-wearing is unnecessary. In the U.S. states that are taking measures like these have lower rates of death and infection than states that do not. I'm glad your Fantastika convention was able to be held. Here in the U.S. conventions have started to come back, but smaller than usual. Boskone, a Boston convention in February, had less than half its usual live membership (I attended online). As

always, your glimpses into European fannish history is interesting and a subject which few American fans are aware. I'm not a big fan of pop music, but I did listen to your ABBA tracks. It is widely known that Vikings were in America long before Columbus (who never actually set foot on the mainland), but both were beat by the Native Americans who were always here. Columbus Day is becoming more and more controversial for this reason and as knowledge of Columbus' actions become more common. Again, I disagree with you about Covid being mild, even the Omnicron variant. On top of the death rate, there are also long Covid cases in which the effects linger for an undetermined time.

Archive Midwinter - Good point about Sturgeon's Law and that when comparing today's work with those of the past, we forget all the stuff in the past that was horrible. But I contend the good stuff from the past was good in a different way from the good stuff today. Today's SF has better science, better writing, better characters, but still to me anyway, seems to be lacking the old fashioned sense of wonder common to the best SF from 50 or so years ago. Or could that be because I am no longer 12? Yes, by all means, read James Schmitz. I recommend starting with *The Witches of Karres* or his Telzey stories. I saw a wonderful performance of *A Midsummer's Night Dream* presented outside in a forest so the trees were real. I certainly intend to keep up my projects but sometimes more immediate deadlines slow me down.

Intermission #116- Is BABA your own spoof on ABBA? The lyrics are clever. Interesting story on the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society dating to 1934. I belong to the Washington (DC) Science Fiction Association which started just 13 years later although we never had as many pros (we did have the Haldermans, SP Somtow, Alexis Gilliland, and Jack Chalker).

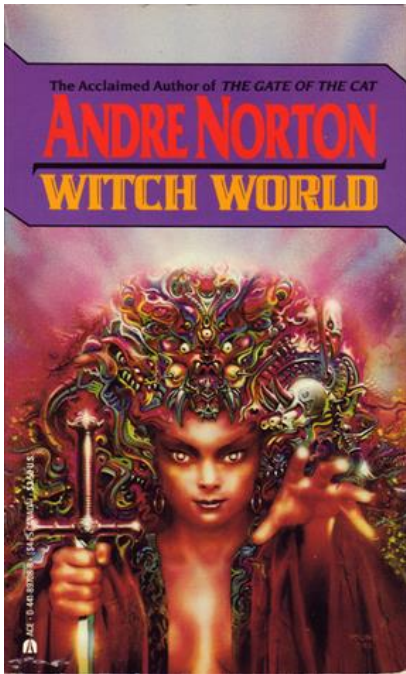
Ye Murthered Master Mage - I agree about N3F needing to do more recruitment. Most conventions around here have flyer racks advertising local conventions. If someone could develop a flyer explaining what N3F is and how to get involved, we could send it to conventions all over for their flyer rack. We also could try doing ad swaps with convention program books for ads in our newsletter. I didn't know about Ben Bova at *Analog* not accepting further Telzey stories by James Schmitz. But surely they were popular enough that James Schmitz could have published them somewhere else? I'm pretty sure I used *The Impending Crisis* by David Potter for my Master's dissertation on the compromises before the Civil War. But that was a long time ago so I probably should re-read it. The bits from your novel in progress are always interesting enough to make me want to read the whole book.

Synergy 32 - I think people do have more time than in the past simply because we have many more devices that help us do more. Computers enable us to edit manuscripts without having to retype the same thing and create zines with fonts and graphics much more easily than with typewriters and mimeograph machines. Interesting treatment of genetic engineering. I recently read and loved *Children of Time*.

Contents of a Good Life #23-You have an interesting parallel here with death and books. Books are a way of vanquishing death. Through books, readers can interact with long-dead authors.

### ...Author Spotlight: Andre Norton

If you ask many readers who started reading SF in the 1960s and 70s what was the first SF book they read, there's a good chance they will name an Andre Norton Book. Andre Alice Norton (born Alice Mary Norton), who wrote under the name Andre Norton, published her first novel, *The Prince Commands*, for the boys' adventure market in 1934. Eventually she started writing fantasy (starting with *Huon of the Horn* in 1951) and SF (with *Star Man's Son, 2250 AD* in 1952). She frequently combined the two, as in the early *Witch World* books. She wrote or co-wrote close to 200 books.



She is probably best known for writing the *Witch World* series which started as science fiction, with an Earth WWII soldier travelling via the Siege Perilous (from King Arthur's day) to a world where magic works (and fights alien warriors), but shifted into pure fantasy about the witches of that world. She also wrote the *Beastmaster* series, the basis for the film and subsequent sequels and TV series. Norton felt they had changed so much from her original work that she asked her name be removed from the credits. Other series include: *The Time Traders*, *Solar Queen*, *Elvenbane* (with Mercedes Lackey), and the *Magic* series. Her 1979 novel, *Quag Keep*, was the first to be based on *Dungeons & Dragons*.

In her last years she collaborated with a large number of younger writers. Her last solo novel, *Three Hands for Scorpio*, came out in 2005 although a few post humorous collaborations with Jean Rabe came out later in the 2000s.

She has two Hugo Award nominations, for the novel *Witch World* (1964) and the novelette "Wizard's World" (1967). She won the World Fantasy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1998. Since many of her books were aimed at what became the Young Adult market, SFWA created the Norton Award for best Young Adult novel (given out with the Nebulas, although it technically is not a Nebula award) in her honor.

Readers new to Andre Norton could start with *Witch World*, *Storm over Warlock*, or *The Hands of Lyr*. Her short fiction is collected in *Tales From High Hallack: The Collected Short Stories of Andre Norton*.

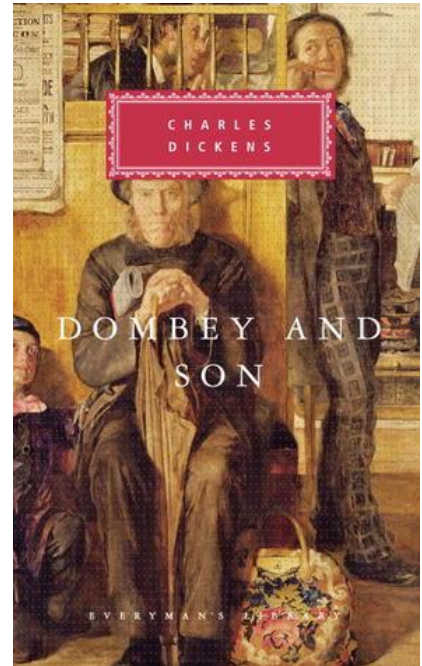
### ...Status of Projects

I have not made much progress with my projects, but I have made some.



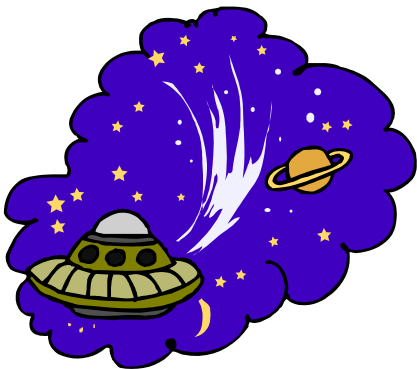
*Dombey and Son* Project Classics: I have resolved to read (or re-read in some cases) all of Charles Dickens (in publication order naturally). After trying multiple times over the last two years to read *Dombey and Son* by Charles Dickens, I finally have done so. This one may have taken me longer to read than *Barnaby Rudge*. This is not one of Dickens' better novels. After the death of the son, Paul, the book wanders around in search of a plot, which doesn't really develop until Dombey takes an interest in the woman that will become his second wife. Another part of the problem is that the title character is completely unlikeable while his daughter Florence is too good to be true and is practically worshipped by everyone save her father. The most likable character, Walter, is lost at sea for most of the novel. Fortunately, the next Dickens book is David Copperfield which I remember liking when I read it in middle school. But before that on my list are *Lost in the Funhouse* by John Barth, *The Black Arrow* by Robert Louis Stevenson, and *Creation* by Gore Vidal.

Project History: I have completed reading *Wanderings: Chaim Potok's History of the Jews* by Chaim Potok which I received as a bar mitzvah present which means I have owned it for 42 years, so it was long past time to read it. The oversize coffee table book is full of beautiful color photographs and maps so it is a little odd that the pages are glued not sewed (and the glue was not meant to last 42 years as pages were falling out as I read them). I liked the personal touches from the author's own personal history. The book is divided into Sumer, Egypt, Canaan, Babylonia, Greece, Rome, Palestine, Islam, Christianity, and Secularism. Although there is an extensive bibliography (and the author said he read more than he listed), the text has an absence of historiography and asserts that such and such happens rather than weigh the sources to determine the likelihood of something happening. It is also written as if everything in the Bible was automatically to be taken as true without discussing the possibility that some parts of the Bible were written latter than other parts. I have started reading *The Magnificent Century* by Thomas B Costain, covering the era of Henry III of England.



Project Trek - Project Trek has hit a snag, *The Next Generation* is leaving Netflix April 1, so all that will be left is *Deep Space Nine* there. So I will have to switch to DS9 (for as long as it stays on Netflix), use DVDs from the library, or subscribe to Paramount Plus. I did watch a few episodes from Season 1.

Ep 3- The Naked Now - The Enterprise crew are infected by a disease that lowers their inhibitions and cause Data to announce that he is fully functional. The placement of this episode seemed odd, showing the crew acting out of character before the audience knew what their characters were. It would have been better off later in the season after the characterizations were more defined.



Ep 4-Code of Honor-This was a Tasha Yar-focused episode as aliens from an honor-centered culture kidnap Tasha Yar and trick the wife of the leader to challenge Yar to a duel to the death. Since the aliens were black and their culture seemed to resemble African stereotypes, this episode seems rather racist through today's eyes. And Deanna Troi seemed more annoying than Wesley in this episode, telling the Captain what was already obvious.

Ep 5-The Last Outpost. This introduced the Ferengi who are supposedly the big threat. But they turn out to be rather cowardly and more trade-oriented than a real threat would be. The initial situation is a bit amusing as Picard almost surrenders to the Ferengi because

something in draining the Enterprise's power but the Ferengi think he is demanding their surrender because the same thing is happening to their ship. But once both Federation and Ferengi teams beam to the planet they encounter a leftover guardian of a long-dead empire whose threat vanishes once Riker convinces him the empire is dead. So interesting build up is wasted in the final act.



Ep 6- Where No One Has Gone Before – This one was written by real SF writers, Diane Duane and Michael Reaves, and it shows. This is easily the best of the first few episodes despite being Wesley-centric. A Starfleet scientist and his assistant conduct an exercise meant to improve the ship's engines but instead sends the ship far into uncharted space. It turns out the assistant is a Traveler with mysterious powers and he forms a friendship with Wesley. The dying alien is able to reverse the process and send them back, but not before telling

the Captain of Wesley's potential. Picard rewards Wesley for his help by making him an acting Ensign (giving an excuse for why a kid is on the bridge all the time.)

Ep 7-Lonely Among Us. This episode is another one where the crew act out of character, in this case because of a non-corporeal energy alien who can take over people's bodies. The crew is slow to realize what is going on, even though the doctor was one of those possessed, although they do question possessed-Picard's actions and try to get him to step down. This was better than most of the early episodes but not as good as #6.

Watching these, it seems that the main character's roles are not determined. The show really needs a character to be the chief engineer; it seems odd for the helmsman to run to engineering whenever something happens that needs a name character. Worf has no clear role. And the show has not decided how human Data should be. In a couple of episodes he tried to tell jokes, but in others human behavior/culture seems to be completely beyond him. And Troi and Wesley seem to take turns being the most annoying character.

Project Shakespeare: I'm in the middle of *King John* which is about the conflict between England and France.

### ...A Chinese Worldcon – Chengdu Controversies

Even by science fiction standards, Worldcon is unusual. Most conventions are run by the same group, year after year, usually in the same general area. So Balticon is in Baltimore and run by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society; Capclave is near Washington DC and run by the Washington Science Fiction Association; Philcon is near Philadelphia and run by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society etc. Even conventions that shift locations generally have an organization behind them that selects where the meetings will be held – such as World Fantasy Convention or the Nebula Weekend.

Worldcon is an exception. There is no real permanent organization. Instead, a business meeting held at Worldcon provides any governance needed and the members of one convention select where the meeting will be held two years out. Both attending and supporting members are allowed to vote by paying a voting fee. These fees are then turned over to the winning bid as their initial funds.



At 2021's Worldcon, DisConIII in Washington DC, two locations were bidding for the right to hold the Worldcon in 2023 - Winnipeg, Canada and Chengdu, China. Normally most votes come in person. But this year China received 2006 votes, including 1950 pre-con (nearly all from supporting members) and Winnipeg had 807 votes, including just 332 precon. There were rumors that the government had supplied these votes or paid voters' membership fees.

There was some controversy over the vote as many of the Chinese ballots had incomplete street addresses or only an email address. The Business Meeting made a non-binding advisory opinion that these ballots should not be counted. Some people saw this as attempt by Winnipeg supporters to win by a technicality. Since this was only an advisory opinion, the people counting the votes ignored it and China won.

Controversy has continued. Chengdu's guests of honor are Robert J. Sawyer, Sergi Lukianenko, and Liu Cixin. Sergi Lukianenko, who is Russian, has announced his support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and blamed the West for making this necessary. Some people in fandom have said that the Worldcon should disinvite Lukianenko in the same way that DisConIII reversed its invitation to Toni Weisskopf after controversy about the Baen's Bar website. A letter by over 80 science fiction authors criticized WorldCon for allowing the Worldcon to go to China and called on Worldcon Site Selection to "revoke the 2023 WorldCon bid to Chengdu, China" citing human rights violations, concentration camps, and disappeared Uyghur children. Signers include N.K. Jemisin, Martha Wells, Kate Elliot, G. Willow Wilson, S.A. Chakraborty, and many others.



In addition, many people have raised concern about the Chengdu committee's silence since winning their bid, not only have they failed to respond to these controversies, but they have also not responded to more mundane logistical issues such as the cost and procedures for converting a supporting membership received for voting to an attending (or electronic) membership. This has led some people to wonder if there is any way to remove the Worldcon from Chengdu. There is a clause in the Worldcon rules that if a committee proves incapable of running the Worldcon, the other seated Worldcons can reverse the vote and give the Worldcon to someone else. But this rule has never been applied and there are questions as to how much dysfunction would qualify. There certainly would be some problems with claiming to support diversity and the enlargement of fandom

while trying to shut down the first Chinese Worldcon. And what happens if Chengdu just ignores the decision?

But this does make the NASFIC more important than usual. Traditionally, when Worldcon is to be held outside North America, the voters select a North American Science Fiction Convention to be held that year for those who cannot/will not travel so far. This year there are two bids, one from Winnipeg, Canada (largely the same people who ran the WorldCon bid) and one for Orlando Florida. I am on the Orlando committee chaired by Adam Beaton. We think Orlando is a great place to hold a convention because of all the exciting things to do there, much more than just DisneyWorld.

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