

THE ART OF GARTHNESS #8

December 2015



Colophon

Welcome to *The Art of Garthness* #8, dated December 2015, a personalzine from Garth Spencer at 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5N 3X5. You can also contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. This fanzine is available for contributions in the form of articles, letters, illustrations, or other fanzines in trade.

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Missing in Action

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Things I Learned in (or by) 2015

Some people are just prickly and grumpy even at the best of times, and you're liable to tread on some hidden raw nerve at any time. It is as though they carried a portable minefield around them. Either you accept that and learn to grow a hide, or you don't. I guess that's why I'm still single.

One unpredictable offense was to analyze audibly why I and someone else got together. I lost a new girlfriend right away doing that.

Another unpredictable offense was to mistake someone's friend for their daughter. I guess my hostess was sensitive to any suggestion of age. Now I know not to reveal my incompetence at guessing anyone's age range.

Which is not to say everything people do is unpredictable.

One fairly predictable offense is to fail to bring presents, at least a party gift like some wine, or even a card, to an event like a Christmas dinner. I have done this when someone said don't bother, just bring yourself, but the spouse saw it otherwise.

Another fairly predictable offense is to include someone in a Facebook page or group without their prior consent, even if you think they're liable to be interested, and despite that Facebook seems to require you to do this while setting up the damned things. I have to ask first.

Do I have to go through life embarrassing myself in order to learn how humans will behave? I guess so.

At Last the Truth Can Be Revealed

Most people have strange ideas about Christmas, about St. Nicholas, or about the transmogrification of the season by the forces of marketing. Now is as good a year as any to set the record straight.

To begin with, as almost everyone recognizes, most societies have had midwinter observances since long before the Christian era, and apparently some rare alchemical accidents produced a few immortals, such as the figure now known as Father Frost or Kris Kringle. Well before he converted to Christianity and became Bishop Nicholas in Asia Minor, Christmas was already a winter celebration in various parts of Europe and the Near East – and, as almost everyone recognizes now, it already had trapping such as family gatherings and gift-giving and Yule trees.

Bishop Nicholas' agenda was to promote an ethic rather more advanced than self-aggrandizement and acquisition, but the concept of charity devolved into mere gift-giving remarkably early in the Christian era. On the principle that to do something right, you have to do it yourself, the bishop naturally wound up doing a lot of gift-giving himself; which is the basis for the bizarre story that has developed about gift

request letters to the North Pole, and a distribution system dependent on flying herbivores.

The real story is rather more interesting. Before the first millennium of the Christian era had passed, Nicholas was challenged to complete his deliveries with the medieval technology available to him. Consequently, he had to delegate. In fact, he developed the first form of general staff organization, well before the 19th-century German military establishment did so: Nicholas recruited men of his general description, indoctrinated them with his charitable principles, and sent them out to cover designated areas on Christmas Eve. There are actually some clues that this practice, over the centuries, laid the foundations for the first mercantile franchises.

As usual, of course, folklore and marketing forces have elaborated the stories of St. Nick to the point of unrecognizability. If you find yourself facing a street person begging on freezing winter streets, you face the original situation that the saint was trying to address. There is something charitable you can do.

My Bucket List

Someone on Facebook asked “If you knew you had just a few years left to live in this lifetime, what would you do?” I wrote:

- “Concentrate on what I want to accomplish;
- “Define and discharge my obligations;
- “Have it out in final conversations with family and unfriends;
- “Try to sort out my excuse for a personal estate.”

Honestly, what more is required of me? (And yet I always feel I am forgetting obligations.)

Simple as this list is, it can be challenging. Many little chores and diversions distract us. I think that devoting

- at least an hour every day to material needs, such as household chores and exercise and work, and
- an hour to social needs such as contacting or meeting family and friends, and
- an hour to personal needs such as art or invention or continuing education or worship,

might be reasonable and effective.

But I have to discipline myself to do it. (And I have to achieve a lot more self-discipline ...)

Stupid crazy ideas of 2015

(I live in fear of discovering I have merely been repeating ad nauseam my gestures at creativity and originality, and proving my mind has gone to seed. I guess I should avoid the following ideas in future.)

Desire to Live (Nov. 3) Some days life is precious and irreplaceable. Some days life is not worth living. I want QUALITY CONTROL.

(Dec. 1) What do other people do when the empty hole in life threatens to swallow you up? When I can afford to, I drink. When I can't afford to, I go on Facebook and make up insane comedy routines, or compose my next fanzine, or use the comedy routines to pad out my zines.

A Silly Fictionzine Idea (Nov. 10): It's called *Boring Mundane Stories!* An e-zine soliciting fantasy or SF, set in a surrealized version of British Columbia and Washington State - featuring the ordinary, daily adventures of unheroic, rotund SF fans, against the usual everyday outbreaks of the evil Belgian world domination plot, or the boringly derivative terrorist groups mind-controlled by the worldwide underground Cult of Kali (financed by Belgian bankers). Just the ordinary stuff that everybody ignores, or mistakes for something else. All set against a story universe in which an Anarcho-Surrealist movement sweeps into power in a provincial, then in a federal election, and to do anarchic and surreal things. Renaming the Coast Range the Päjnenförör Fjords. Encouraging elected representatives to adopt superhero names. Code-naming foreign intelligence agents after place names and geographical features, like Milton Keynes, Alice Springs, Harrison Lake, Victoria Falls, Stanley Park and John O'Groats. Does this appeal to any of you? Spark any interest in writing for me? Whatever. Maybe this is just a good title for a Christmas present, a collection of my short stories. (Not that I got very far when I tried to track down my short stories ...)

Maybe I should lie down until this phase passes.

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men (Nov. 11) I remember today my grandfather, Guy Windeyer, and my uncle Sydney Spencer, who were naval veterans and survivors of the second World War. I remember today my father, who was stubborn enough to be a conscientious objector, even in the Blitz, even serving then as a London fireman. I remember his father, the grandfather I never met, who served in the first World War and was exposed to mustard gas. None of them talked about the kind of grit that it takes to face mortal moments. They bought us time. We may yet have to live up to their examples.

Crazy Years (Nov. 16): When are some *sane* people going to form a Conservative Party in the US, entirely separate from whatever mess the Republicans have become?

(Nov. 17): I wish there were a Sensible Party, or a Cut the Crap Party, agitating for fusion power NOW, asteroid mining and settlement NOW, scientific environment management NOW, prosecution of petroleum and weapons corporations NOW, and advocating both equitable food distribution, education, employment, and population control NOW.

Story ideas (Nov. 17): did the USSR simply go into receivership, because no one was trying to make the system work anymore ... and is the USA going to go the same way,

for the same reason? Will Canada and Mexico have to send in peacekeepers? If the Union breaks up, who takes responsibility for the nukes?

Copyright and Language (Nov. 18) New words: "frong". "Baroo". "Gnortz". "Mibblequot". "Fooby". "Sork". "Vlib". "Wibbly". "Svetz". How would you define them, based entirely on their sound?

(Nov. 27) Who owns typos and neologisms and nonsense words? The original inventors? Does copyright law recognize an inherent original right to single words, or only a formal copyright registration? Can a whole language be copyrighted, patented, trademarked, or (in the case of dialects and daughter languages) registered as industrial designs? And also - the Canadian punchline - is this commercial area a federal or provincial licensing responsibility? The Gnorpth Fwehaw want to know! Not to mention the Frong ...

Popular Ignorance (Nov. 21) Everything I know about women I learned from a housecat. Does this explain anything?

Crazy Years (Nov. 24) the next big thing: tourism to terrorist hotbeds. Discuss.

Global Humorist Campaign (Nov. 24) I daydream about a worldwide underground humorist network, orchestrating a global campaign of ridicule ... Not only against terrorists ... But against white-collar sociopaths everywhere: the kind who have parasitized and nearly destroyed relatively free and advanced countries with their vested interests. We know who they are. We know what they do. They've largely been convicted, in the court of television comedy. Why are they still walking around at liberty like sane people?

Gratitude (Nov. 25) Gratitude thought #1: I am so glad they keep the gravity on all the time, even on weekends and holidays.

Crazy Years (Nov. 26) How many *civilized* countries can we name? And what standard are you using?

A Silly Performance Satire Idea (Nov. 26) If I had the time I would implement my daydream of attempting to start a new ethnic group, with trappings taken from Salish (art forms), Polynesian (mores) and pagan Germanic sources. But I would first contact people concerned with each of these cultures to let them in on the purpose - to satirize cultural appropriation, or the Indian Act, or xenophobia and stereotyping - just to solicit their ideas.

Popular Ignorance (Nov. 27) Why do otherwise educated people confuse Romanian with Romany?

Elementary Humour (Nov. 27) Q: What does a zombie vegetarian say?

A: GRAAAAINS!!!

Q: What does a zombie urban planner say?

A: DRAAAAINS!!

Q: What does a zombie engineer say?

A: TRAAAAINS!!

Q: What does a zombie pilot say?

A: PLAAAANES!!

Q: What does a zombie plumber say?

A: MAAAAINS!!

Q: What does a zombie construction worker say?

A: CRAAAANES!!

Don't Make Reality Like They Used To (Nov. 28) Let's say "Reality" as presented in all periodicals and broadcast media is a show put on for our diversion. How many of us are Reality fans? Who is reviewing and criticizing episodes in any depth, let alone staging, presentation, scriptwriting and characterization? Who are your favourite characters? Shall we start some fan conventions?

I Want to Cat Today (Nov. 28) Is there anything morally bankrupt about sleeping all day, with occasional visits by a housemate's cat?

Being Vancouver (Nov. 28) Vegan Fusion Haggis: A new western Canadian cuisine? Discuss.

Don't Make Reality Like They Used To (Dec. 1) If you wanted a newspaper that gave you balanced worldwide news coverage, stuck to the facts, and cited sources as close to the origin of stories as possible, where do you think the staff should go first for information?

Don't Make Reality Like They Used To (Dec. 1) How many Esperantist newspapers are there? Or businesses (at least in Europe)? Or mutual-aid and emergency-support groups?

Crazy Years (Dec. 1) If the United States is beset by domestic enemies on the order of the Republican Party, the Tea Party, the KKK, racist militias and delusional evangelical movements, then what domestic enemies does Canada have to deal with?

Popular Ignorance (Dec. 1) If any number of people are determined to forget the past, why shouldn't they go all the way and forget *everything* - who they are, where they are, who everybody else is, all their prejudices and ignorant misconceptions and stereotypes - and start fresh? In fact, if DARPA ever discovered an aerosol agent that would have that effect, why not release it all around the world? As long as people retained their language and skills and basic hygiene, of course.

Gedankenfreiheit (Dec. 1) I am not a liberal. I am not a conservative either. I am not a Christian. I am not a Muslim or a Jew either. I could go on, but you probably get the idea - your two-valued zero-sum games are not my party. You and I shouldn't bother each other unless you deny me any space or scope to live my life outside your systems. Then we have a problem. Or should I say ... you have.

Phan Stuph

Ditto 2017: R. Graeme Cameron plans to revive Ditto, the dormant fanzine fans' convention, in the Vancouver area in the fall of 2017 (probably Oct. 6-8), basically because Taral Wayne dared him to. Graeme writes:

“GOAL? To have fun with peers and like-minded fen in the realm of fanzine fandom and fannish tradition.

THE FUTURE? If Ditto 2017 works, I may consider holding an annual Ditto-like fanzine fan relaxacon under the title 'FanMag' starting in 2018, but only if it is viable.”

(Ditto Master progress report #1, Oct. 2015)

So far, Graeme reports, he has been getting a lot of “I would if I could but I can’t” responses, from fanzine fans citing age and infirmity.

(Taral Wayne founded Ditto to complement Corflu, the first fanzine fans’ convention, but six months apart.)

Convention 35: SFContario 6 in Toronto was the host for Convention 35 in 2015.

Canadian Unity Fan Fund: Paul Carreau (from Calgary, Alberta, a convention organizer and member of Klingon Assault Group Kanada) was to travel to Toronto in November, 2015.

“CUFF administrator Debra Yeung said Carreau was [the lone entry that satisfied all the eligibility requirements](#). His nominators from the West were John Gannon, Jaymz Smith, and Elizabeth Keeling-Carreau, from the East, Diane Lacey, Krikor Ajeman, and Alan Bowbrick. Carreau won the race by acclamation.”

(File 770.com, October 18, 2015)

Convention 36: Hal-Con 2016 in Halifax will be the host for Convention 36 in 2016.

FRED Redivivus: As a result of Facebook exchanges in December 2015, Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand is organizing a revival of FRED, the regular social get-together for Vancouver-area fans.

At present (the end of December) the sense of the exchanges is that the new FRED will be a weekly Saturday gathering, but the venue has yet to be settled. Much of the discussion takes place on the wall of “FRED Part 2: The Freddening”, a new Facebook group set up for prospective members.

(M. Bertrand, G. Spencer et al, Facebook, December 2015)

Letters

Dave Haren, December 8, 2015

I located a treasure trove for your mad scheme. Project Gutenberg #50600 is “How to Trap”. At the end it has a giant list of ‘How to’ books by the same publisher. You can transplant these skills onto your list of stuff to increase competencies. Routine skills of our recent ancestors don't always transfer to so-called moderns but may come in handy if things go down. I remember we had a small forge at the ranch not used much but it was a skill most isolated folk were comfortable with because if things broke it was a major pain to take 40 miles of bad road to buy a hinge for a gate. Making soap was another ordinary skill. A lot of these have transferred to corporations since their mad rush to divest everyone of autonomy while fleecing them seems to have succeeded. Once business realized they could make junk that is designed to break, the rush to growth seemed to have ushered in utopia. Captive consumers and control over when they were going to need new stuff, perfect model for businesses. What could possibly go wrong?

<http://journal.sjdm.org/15/15923a/jdm15923a.pdf>

Now here's a handy primer which could be quite useful if it lives up to the title.

Pay particular attention to the tail end of 6.1. I suspect your imagined inability to emulate others is because you are paying attention to your surround rather than blithely ignoring most of it.

http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/16-057_d45c0b4f-fa19-49de-8f1b-4b12fe054fea.pdf

So much for the theory of meritocracy!! (*Which is?*)

The natives here on these continents refer to themselves as human beings.

Others like to change their signifier when the wind blows which causes a lot of jokes at their expense.

I was in a bar with a greater Kudu head on the wall, some drunk said he didn't understand why hunters used guns when they could do it with a knife. Since the head had three and a half foot horns in a straight Kris pattern I remarked that I'd buy a ticket to see him try it. Knives for Bear are not the tiny pen knives of moderns but the unreliable nature of flintlocks made carrying a big one a good idea in bear country. The city authorities don't much care to see you with one though.

I hear George W. Bush is Aleister Crowley's grandson. Since it said so on the Net it must be true in some sense. Probably gave rise to all of those Satanic bloodlines Illuminati theories in passing.

((Any mention of Satanism and conspiracy theories is liable to get me going. You see, my hometown starred in a "recovered memory" child-abuse story, Michelle Remembers, which purveyed the idea that Victoria was effectively a world capital for Satanism. That book came out in the early 1970s, which is when the paranoia meme about child-molesters and child abduction rings launched, and so did the paranoia about Satanism in North America, by no coincidence. Personally I think the ever-derivative drivel about the same old warmed-over conspiracies and paranoidias is intended to divert us from the real threat represented by organized sports and American "beer".))

How about *that*, Syria? There's a clusterfuck to make Eris proud of human spawn. Nobody knows which side they are on except the Rus who bomb anyone who looks like a dissident, figuring St Dominic's rule will work ("Kill them all, God will know his own"). Apparently the criminals as far away as Poland are supplying ISIS. Even the Cui Bono doesn't seem to have a clearcut trail to follow in this mess.

Congratulations on Trudeau's decision to legalize locoweed, to revive the heady days of Prohibition. Might be time to invest in a cigarette boat maker before the demand raises the stock price.

R-Laurraine Tutihasi, December 5, 2015

(To "Art of Garishness" #3)

You've made a good list of rules [*for living*].

I don't separate my laundry into whites and colours. I wash all my clothes in cold water. Some colours will bleed even in cold water, and for that I use a product called Shout Color Catcher. I do separate linens from my clothes, since I wash linens in hot water to prevent bedbugs from taking residence.

Since caffeine makes me sleepy, I take care not to drink any before lunch.

Self-actualization really means knowing oneself completely, or as completely as it's possible to, and then living up to one's potential. This is easiest to see in terms of artistic endeavours. Knowing oneself is not easy, and I would bet less than half of adult humanity has achieved this.

Regarding cherry-picking news items in Facebook: this may be true if you're only following people as opposed to news organizations. I follow a couple of news organizations. I rarely post news items myself, and most of that is sharing other people's posts.

David Murdock Malinski, December 1, 2015

(To Art of Garthness #7)

Imperial Hobbies has moved [to] 115 - 6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond, BC V7B 1B4 (<http://www.imperialhobbies.ca/sections/contact.php>).

Also, a monthly games group has been going since the 1970's:

Trumpeter Salute (April 1-3 in 2016) Trumpeter Salute is a miniatures games convention that has been around since the 1980s.

(<http://www.trumpetersociety.com/>) See the schedule page in the website.

((I have passed on your information to Keith Lim, who keeps in touch with the several fandoms in the Lower Mainland, and contributes to BCSFAzine's calendar.))

Garth, on the 'life skills' question. A plan to live by the code, "An it harm none, do what ye will" is a starting point. After that, 'everything is negotiable.' Works out.

Allan D. Burrows, December 25, 2015

(In response to my universal email holiday greetings to all)

Happy Holidays, Garth!

And since you seem to be interested, here's my collection of "The Holidays" from American Thanksgiving to Ukrainian New Year:

- November 26th (America) - Thanksgiving Day
- November 26th (sunset) - Ascension of Abdul-Baha (Baha'i, until 28th)
- November 26th - Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
- November 29th - Advent Sunday
- November 30th - St Andrew's Day (Scotland)
- December 1st - World AIDS Day
- December 3rd - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 6th (sunset) - Hanukkah (ends 14th)
- December 6th - Saint Nicholas Day, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
- December 7th - International Civil Aviation Day

- December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Rohatsu/Bodhi Day
- December 10th - Human Rights Day
- December 11th - Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster (*note: wasn't this when Canada officially became an independent country? – GS*)
- December 12th - Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic), Advent Fast begins (Orthodox), International Day of Heavy Metal
- December 14th - Monkey Day
- December 15th - Zamenhof Day (*that's the guy who invented Esperanto – GS*)
- December 16th - Posadas Navidenas (ends 25th), Beethoven's Birthday (1770)
- December 18th - International Migrants Day
- December 21st - Milad un Nabi (Prophet Mohammed's Birthday, Sunni), Yule (Pagan & Christian), Yalda (Zoroastrianism) (*note: the twelve days of Dec. 20 – Jan. 1 are Yule -GS*)
- December 22nd (sunrise) - Asara B'Tevet (Jewish)
- December 22nd (sunset) - Mawlid an-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad's Birthday, not sure which sect)
- December 22nd - December Solstice, First Day of Winter (*note: actually the 21st is the solstice*)
- December 23rd – Human Light, Festivus, Christmas Adam
- December 24th - Christmas Eve
- December 25th - Christmas Day, Newtonmas (Sir Isaac Newton's birthday, 1642), Full Moon (11:11, Cold Moon, Long Nights Moon)
- December 26th - Boxing Day (statutory holiday in Ontario), Feast of St Stephen, Wren Day, Zarathosht No-Diso (Zoroastrian), Mawlid an-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad's Birthday, Shi'a), Kwanzaa (to January 1st), National Whiners Day
- December 27th - Feast of the Holy Family (Catholic), Norther
- December 28th - Holy Innocents
- December 31st - New Year's Eve, Watch Night (Christian)
- January 1st - New Year's Day, Mary Mother of God, World Day of Peace, Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, Feast of St Basil, Gantan-sai (Shinto), Global Family Day
- January 2nd - Day After New Year's Day (Canada, esp. Quebec), New Year Holiday (Scotland)
- January 4th - Handsel Monday
- January 5th - Twelfth Night, Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday, National Bird Day (America?)
- January 6th - Epiphany (to February 3rd), Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
- January 7th - Orthodox Christmas Day

- January 14th - Orthodox New Year's Day

...quite a collection, isn't it? This is why I usually prefer "The Holidays."

Lloyd Penney, December 20, 2015

Many thanks for the 7th *Art of Garthness*, and I am going to make this my final letter of comment of the year, and I do count them ... this is no. 250 of the year, and that's enough for one year.

Schirm's cover reminds me of the recent video available online and on most channels, of a giant squid found swimming in Japanese waters. I don't recall any buxom companions down there, but she might have been elsewhere at the time.

((You have reminded me it's about damn time I printed up copies for mailing to those who aren't online.))

I was at the Aurora luncheon as a nominee ... it was typical hotel food, but not typical entertainment. Another great ceremony, and I believe the last year of Franklin Johnson's pointy trophies. A new Aurora trophy will be premiered next year, designed by Montreal fan Berny Reischl. It will be interesting to see what Hal-Con will provide as next year's Convention. I wish there was some way for us to be at VCON 41; it would be great to see Spider again, but I think that after our trip to England this coming August, there will not be any other opportunities for us to travel.

I see you reference my firing from my previous employer for no cause. Yesterday, as I type, I was informed by a representative of the Ontario Ministry of Labour that there is no law that says an employer must provide a reason to either the departing employee or the government for a firing. I had to inform EI of this to save my EI benefits from being denied. I had thought that a reason had to be given, but no. I do not know who approved this policy, or if it had been changed in the past.

With all the new Syrian refugees pouring into the country, the booklet you suggested about how to live life in a modern Canada could have been very useful. I suspect their learning curve will be very steep, but there will many previous refugees who have the previous experience, and they can relay it to the new folks.

Fandom was loosely organized to being with, but now, much of what I remember has faded away. Fandom as it exists now is much different than what I remember, and I have moved onwards to other interests to supplement our fun quotient.

As Lyn McConchie mentions earthquakes, this very morning there was a 4.8 magnitude earthquake, just off the coast of Vancouver Island near Sydney. Did you feel it, or did you sleep through it, as John Herbert says he did? Was there any evidence of preparedness on the part of any level of government?

((I was awake at the time and wondered if there was some traffic disturbance, an impact on the house, or an earth tremor. Felt just the first trickle of fear that this might be the Big One. Of course the newscritters ran the same old we're-up-for-a-Big-One-and-we're-not-ready story. I was just pissed at the prospect that a magnitude 9.0+ earthquake would occur before I completed and submitted a novel about one.))

My loc ... after losing my job, I was able to pick up all my past contacts and search methods, and I do remain optimistic. Once all the holidaying is done, and 2016 starts

up, I suspect I will find something fairly soon. I might have Yvonne to thank for my next job ... her chiropractor might need a data entry clerk.

You list a good list of Canadian fanzines, and a common thread that I see in them is that most of them come out of BC, and most from one R. Graeme Cameron. There's a few others, but there's Taral's zines and OSFS in Ottawa in Ontario, and that's it. Wish we all produced more zines, but in this day and age, we should be pleased we have what we have.

((I cut that down from a much longer list of all the fanzines I could locate – almost all, of course, online.))

Just made the page. We hope your Christmas was a wonderful time, and tomorrow night is New Year's Eve ... I suspect we will hit a movie, as we never did find a party to go to. I pray that 2016 is a better year for all. See you then.

((Christmas day at my brother and sister-in-law's place, with their cats. Prime rib roast for dinner. Couldn't be beat.))

We also heard from:

Do-Ming Lum (*"Ghod, that is wonderful. Fifty years after I discovered SF, and I finally have actual accredited fanac..."*), Cathy Palmer-Lister (*"Thanks, that's quite a nice listing of fannish resources! :-)"*), Keith Lim (*"Thanks; [David Murdock's information is] noted for if/when I return active attention to my calendar"*), Brad Foster (who pointed out I have been reprinting previously-published art)

Copyright Now

Garth Spencer

Anyone who copies intellectual properties is legally liable for copyright infringement.

There are a number of urban legends about copyright, and SF fans particularly have a few practices which may lead to nasty surprises. Changes in copyright practice are coming into effect soon, partly as a result of the *Copyright Modernization Act* and partly as a result of the Trans-Pacific Partnership; so a review of the status quo, and of the changes represented by these international agreements, may be urgent.

One of the most pernicious urban legends is the misconception that anything published on the World Wide Web is copyright-free. It is common knowledge that people have been freely copying music and pirating movies from the Web. Many lawsuits resulted, and technical attempts to prevent free copying. It is almost as well-known that some parties in eastern European or Asian countries have a rather indistinct idea of copyrights, or ordinary intellectual property rights and practices.

One of the commonest urban legends is that you can secure copyright by mailing yourself a registered letter with your art or writing in it, and then keeping, sealed and unbroken. Obviously this myth says nothing about formal copyright registration, and predates Internet communication.

The Status Quo in Canada. The Industry Canada website (www.ic.gc.ca) offers the following succinct definition of copyright, under current Canadian law:

Copyright is the exclusive legal right to produce, reproduce, publish or perform an original literary, artistic, dramatic or musical work. The creator is usually the copyright owner. However, an employer—for example, a film studio—may have copyright in works created by employees unless there is an agreement in place stating otherwise. When you own the copyright in a work, you control how it is used in order to protect its value. Others who want to use the work have to buy or otherwise get your permission.

Generally, an original work is automatically protected by copyright the moment you create it. By *registering* your copyright, you receive a certificate issued by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office that can be used in court as evidence that you own it.

Your copyright exists in Canada during your lifetime and for 50 years following your death. After that, the work is in the public domain, and anyone can use it. This is true for most works, but there are exceptions.

A Guide to Copyright, an official (and downloadable) guide to copyright and the Canadian copyright registration process, is available at the same website.

How to register a copyright.

In order to register a copyright in the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, or the Library of Congress, or any other national office, you will need to supply:

- the title of the work (a single work)
- the category of the work (not only literary novels and plays, musical or artistic, but also screenplays)
- the publication (making copies of a work available to the public, or the construction of an architectural work, but not public exhibition of art, or broadcast or public performance of literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work)
- the owner (of the copyright – usually but not always the author)
- the author (of the work)
- a declaration (that the applicant is the author of the work, the owner of the copyright in the work, an assignee of the copyright, or a person to whom an interest in the copyright has been granted by licence)
- the agent (if applicable)
- a fee (see www.cipo.gc.ca/fees)

If all requirements are met, a registration certificate will be issued to the copyright owner.

“Fannish Copyright”. Before the Internet (and the World Wide Web) appeared, fanzine fans practiced something called “fannish copyright” – that is, freely offering or freely using articles and illustrations, with accreditation, on the expressed basis that this was a one-time use only, and “all rights” were returned to the contributors. Only a credit to the artist/author and any previous publication was required, along with a contributor’s copy.

In strict legal terms this was nonsense; *any* normal publication was a one-time use, whether in a paying publication (which would buy, for example, first North American

serial rights), or in a small-press publication which would send contributor's copies to the originator.

Fans could carry on this way, or even reprint material from professional sources, because so many fanzines had very low print runs. Before the Internet, definitions of "fair use" meant not only limits on how much material might be quoted, but in how many copies, and many fanzines fell under the lower circulation limit.

By the 1980s, not only *Star Trek* but also *Star Wars* fans had returned to an earlier definition of "fanzine" that tried to emulate fiction magazines. Paramount, the studio which originally produced *Star Trek*, ignored the burgeoning field of fanfiction. But Lucasfilm did not; in several cases fans who quite naively went ahead, wrote their own fiction in the *Star Wars* universe, and even produced their own fictionzines – for sale, at least at conventions – found themselves receiving formal cease-and-desist letters from lawyers representing Lucasfilm, threatening legal action.

Of course this demonstrated that the lawyers, or their clients, had no idea of fandom or the context of its activities; but for that matter, the fans in question had no idea they might be infringing on copyright.

Then came the Internet, and the World Wide Web. Of course, this wiped away any distinction based on circulation between professional, small-press or amateur publications. The number of hits on the websites of (for example) the *Atlantic Monthly* (the well-known professional magazine), or *Freezine* (an online fiction magazine), or *Ansible* (a British fan newszine), is only limited by their promotion.

What About Other Fandoms? Songwriters or performers in the filk music field, or costume performers in the cosplay field, may have something to say about copyright issues of their own. Perhaps we should leave coverage of that subject to those who know more about it.

The Copyright Modernization Act. Under a former Canadian federal administration, several changes began to be implemented to intellectual property. With respect to copyright, the major impact appeared to involve copyright infringement, and obliging website administrators and servers to report infringements by their clients. As reported on MNSi Internet, the government release on 2015 copyright changes read in part:

As part of the Harper Government's efforts to modernize Canada's copyright laws for the modern digital age, the Copyright Modernization Act formalizes the voluntary Notice and Notice regime. This regime, already used by some Canadian Internet service providers (ISP), is designed to notify users of alleged copyright infringement taking place at their Internet address. This is the final step in implementing the Copyright Modernization Act. Canadians now have a copyright system that encourages new ideas and protects the rights of Canadians whose research and development and artistic creativity strengthen our economy.

The Notice and Notice regime is a made-in-Canada solution and will legally require Internet intermediaries, such as ISPs and website hosts, to take certain actions upon receiving a notice of alleged infringement from a copyright owner.

Specifically, ISPs and hosts are required to forward notices, sent by copyright owners, to users whose Internet address has been identified as being the source of possible infringement. The intermediary must also inform the copyright owner once the notice has been sent.

The Copyright Modernization Act sets clear rules on the content of these notices. Specifically, they must be in writing and state the claimant's name and address, identify the material allegedly being infringed and the claimant's right to it, as well as specify the infringing activity, the date and time of the alleged activity, and the electronic address associated with the incident. The Government is bringing the regime into force after determining that the Act provides sufficient flexibility for the regime to function without regulations.

Intermediaries must retain records associated with these notices for six months or longer (up to one year) in case a copyright owner decides to pursue legal action.

A copyright owner can also send a notice to a search engine.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership. An article on the Huffington Post Business website (Dec. 2, 2015) from Canadian Press states in part:

A major part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal finalized Oct. 5 involves harmonizing copyright laws in the 12 Pacific Rim countries — including Canada, the United States, Australia and Japan — that are signatories to the deal.

While the final text of the international trade agreement has yet to be published, the website Wikileaks released what it claims is the intellectual property chapter of the TPP on Oct. 9.

"Canadians don't realize that the way that they use the Internet every day is going to change dramatically," said Meghan Sali, a spokeswoman for the digital-rights advocacy group OpenMedia.

The same or similar provisions are equally in force in the United States, as another signatory. The Stanford University Libraries' website on Copyright and Fair Use now reports ("Copyright Changes that May Affect You"):

Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005

This Act: 1) makes it a criminal violation of copyright law to videotape or transmit video signals from inside a movie theater, (2) exempts from copyright and trademark claims, those who filter movies to eliminate objectionable content, (3) makes it a crime to knowingly place a copyrighted computer program, musical work, motion picture or other audiovisual work, or sound recording on a computer network accessible to the public for purposes of copying, (4) directs the Copyright Office to establish a pre-registration procedure for works that have not yet been published, (5) establishes rules for the National Film Preservation Act, and (6) permits, during the last 20 years of any term of copyright of a published work, certain rights of reproduction and distribution of copyrighted works for libraries or archives engaged in the preservation, scholarship, or research of those works.

- See more at: <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/faqs/law-changes/#sthash.pqRlJoau.dpuf>

The impact of all the foregoing is to make *anyone who copies intellectual properties legally liable for copyright infringement.*

Now you know.

Book Reviews

California Twist, by John Connor. Murderous-Ink Press: Stevenage, Herts., England. © 2013. (price unstated.)

Harry Rhimes, P.I., is a man out of place in several ways. An American raised in England and returned to California, a veteran of British armed service working as a private investigator, he finds himself following a mere missing-fiancé investigation that leads to a drug-distribution ring ... then, to a succession of murders ... finally, to several manipulative deceptions, by the fiancé and his father among others ...

(order from murderous-ink.co.uk)

Rarity from the Hollow, by Robert Eggleton. Dog Horn Publishing, U.K.: © 2012. (price unstated.)

In *Rarity from the Hollow*, a child prodigy in a troubled family and troubled Appalachian community encounters aliens – which may be the aliens' undoing.

Lacy Dawn lives in a small town suffering all the results of no economic base – poverty, poor education, low employment, and domestic abuse. Her parents and teachers are oblivious to the help she is giving other children, not only by coaching her friend Faith in spelling, but in healing the physical and emotional traumas of her schoolmates. The children quite matter-of-factly accept her help as magic, the same way they accept the poverty, ignorance, domestic violence and sexual abuse in their lives.

Lacy Dawn has a secret: her friend DotCom, an alien who tells her she has a mission in life. He has a mission of his own – to develop Earth as a market for the Mall, a familiar, yet alien capitalist economy.

But DotCom and the Mall may have a surprise coming. When the Appalachians discover the aliens, they develop their own plans to capitalize on the aliens ...

Rarity from the Hollow is distributed in the United Kingdom by

UK Distribution: Central Books

99 Wallis Road, London, E9 5LN, United Kingdom

orders@centralbooks.com

Phone: +44 (0) 845 458 9911

Fax: +44 (0) 845 458 9912

And outside the United Kingdom by

Overseas (Non-UK) Distribution: Lulu Press, Inc

3101 Hillsborough Street

Raleigh, NC 27607
Phone # +1 919 459 5858
Fax # +1 919 459 5867
purchaseorder@lulu.com

Fanzines Received

Askance #35, December 2015 by John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926, USA; also posted at efanazines.com. “Contents © 2015 by John A. Purcell. NEW! Contact information: askance73@gmail.com Even so, all rights revert to original artists and authors upon publication. Disclaimers are a dirty business, but are always included.” Views on being a grandfather, living in Texas, how many subfandoms were/are in Minnesota fandom, the dubious premises of alien-arrival SF stories, fanzines received, Southern conventions letters galore. Featuring art by many well-known names, including Steve Stiles, Teddy Harvia and Sheryl Birkhead.

BCSFazine #510 Felicity Walker, now at Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5, available at White Dwarf Books or by email subscription; also posted at efanazines.com. News, reviews, upcoming conventions, all that club newsletter stuff.

Broken Toys #44, by Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn, Ave. #2111 Toronto, Ontario M6K 1S6. “Locs can be sent to Taral @ bell.net, All issues of Broken Toys can be downloaded from <http://efanazines.com/Taral/index.htm>, <http://fanac.org/fanzines/BrokenToys/> or <http://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org/>.” A broth of local news, personal journalism, letters and ideas about community issues, awards, fandom, housing, mobility, aging fans, the loss of cultural continuity and historical awareness, and the hidden danger of Belgians.

CyberCozen December 2015, from The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy (www.sf-f.org.il); also posted at efanazines.com. Four pages jam-packed with space, science, and screen-SF news. In English with masthead in Hebrew.

Ditto Master #1 (October 2015) from R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 104th Ave, Apt 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5; also posted at efanazines.com. Announcement of a plan to revive Ditto in 2017, with a con report on Ditto 8 (1995).

My Back Pages #15, from Rich Lynch (P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885 USA; [rw_lynch \(at\) yahoo \(dot\) com](mailto:rw_lynch@yahoo.com)); also posted at efanazines.com), which he describes as “an archive collection of previously published writings that is masquerading as a fanzine.”

Opuntia #328 from Dale Speirs of Calgary, Alberta, opuntia57@hotmail.com; also posted at efanazines.com. Travels through the desert in a Honda with no name (a surprisingly verdant desert, if the copious pictures are any evidence); analysis of the ridiculous giant monsters in B-movies and old issues of *Amazing*; reviews of the collected stories in *Old Mars*, and of other stories set in the Mars we imagined before the Mariner probe; and letters.

Swill #29, Autumn-Winter 2015, from Neil Jamieson-Williams at swill@uldunemedia.ca; also posted at uldunemedia.ca. “Sci-Fi Smut Revisited”, “Thrashing Trufen”, “Pissing on a Pile of Old Amazings”, “Some Shit Read”, “Flogging a

Dead Trekkie”, “Scribbling on the Bog Wall”, “Barbaric Fannish Practices”, are the various crowd-pleasers in this issue. Hard to get into, at least because of the typeface.

VCON Vanguard #2, December 2015, from R. Graeme Cameron; a sort of progress-report newsletter for VCON 41 (to be held fall 2015 in Greater Vancouver); this issue focuses on Stan Hyde, the Godzilla Fan Guest of Honour, the man who invented Monster Attack Team Canada and just retired as a high school teacher. Also: a report on the first VCON by its chair, Mike Bailey. VCON memberships available from: W.C.S.F.A./VCON 41, Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5N 5W1 or online at vcon.ca. Full weekend Memberships: Adult = \$50; Senior = \$40; Adult Student = \$40; Teen (14-18 = \$30; Youth (9 –13 = \$30; Child (infant to 8 = Free.