

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTRÉLAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

May / Mai 2016 (Vol. 20, No./N° 4)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, May 15

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: Bring in a favourite
genre-themed board or card game to
share with your fellow MonSFFen!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

CITIES OF DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES:

From Metropolis, The Emerald City, Kandor, and Trantor, to Diaspor, Stratos, Coruscant, and King's Landing, we explore the cities of SF/F depicted in our favourite genre stories of page and screen. How prophetic were past prognosticators in foreseeing urban life in a future that has become our present? And what will the cities of our future look like?

2:00PM

DO WE VIEW THE GOLDEN AGE
THROUGH ROSE-TINTED GLASSES?:

Open discussion on the topic of the memorable sci-fi books, comics, and screen adventures of our youth. Were they *really* that good? Is our nostalgic fondness for them justified? Do they still hold up, or now seem quaint and pedestrian?

3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle; brief discussion of club-related business.

3:30PM

THE GAME IS AFOOT!: Talk and demonstrations of your favourite SF/F-themed board and card games.

WELCOME TO
JURASSIC PORT!

A dozen or so MonSFFen convened at the Old Port of Montreal on Sunday, March 13 to take in the Dinosaurs Unearthed Exhibit at the Montreal Science Centre, an interactive exhibition of animatronic dinosaurs.

In addition to the numerous life-sized robotic dinosaurs, the movements, hissing, and roaring of which only added to the experience, the exhibit included a few genuine fossil displays and information on the dig sites that inspired the prehistoric scenes recreated, here. The dinosaur models were realistically sculpted and painted, but a glossy finish and banks of funky coloured spot lights illuminating the scenes lent a bit of a toy-like sheen to the beasts and their leafy environments. A towering adult T-rex was the centerpiece of the exhibit and the floorplan offered photographers many good angles from which to shoot.

Our group enjoyed the outing.

NOTE: CHANGES
MADE TO CLUB'S
MEETING SCHEDULE

A quick update on a few changes we've made to the club's meeting schedule:

Our sci-fi book sale, originally slated for this Sunday, May 15, has been pushed into June and will take place on Sunday, the 12th (see ad, next page). Eqpugs wgpv{. 'j g'r tguwpv{qpu'cpf 'r cpgm 'qtki kpcmf 'r rppgf 'hqt'j cv'wp'g'34'f'cxg'j cxg dggp'o qxgf 'q'j k'y gngpf au'O c{'37'o ggvpi "' 'ugg'gxgpv'eqnw p.'hgh#0' ""'U'j gtgdu'ukni'ko g'q'f qpcvg'q'j g'ecwug'cp{' " ugeqpf/j cpf "dqqu'qt'eqo leu'f'q'w'o c{'y k'j "q" f'kxgu'f'qwtugrh'qh-dqz'xgo 'cpf'dtlpi'xgo 'kp'q'j g Lxp'g'o ggvpi "dghqt'g'pqqp.'k'h'r quikdr'0"

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The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HECHTMAN, Ken
MENARD, François
MOIR, L. E.
NADEAU, Marc

Due This Month, May:

SICHEL, Danny

Due Next Month, June:

BELLEMARE, Josée
LAPIEN, Leslie L.
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

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Thank you for your patronage.

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April Club Meeting

April's MonSFFA meeting took place on the 17th, drawing a goodly number of people. We got underway early with another edition of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, featuring on this occasion some of the films of celebrated sci-fi producer George Pal. On offer were Destination Moon (1950), When Worlds Collide (1951), War of the Worlds (1953), Conquest of Space (1955), and The Time Machine (1960). Having seen most of these movies before, some of them several times, folk chose the one film on our list that many present had never seen: Conquest of Space, which is, in fact, the weakest of the lot! A flop at the time of its release, the poor reception the film received prompted Pal to abandon sci-fi for a time.

While a visual delight showcasing the design work of renowned space artist Chesley Bonestell, the vintage spaceship concepts and eye-catching sequences depicting astronauts at work in outer space and on Mars were simply not enough in the estimation of most to overcome a weak story, hokey dialogue, and melodramatic performances. The overt religious posturing, not actually that unusual in a Pal movie, was exasperating, some commented. Before the closing credits rolled, the group was already regretting having passed on the other *true* classics that were on offer!

René Walling followed with a copiously illustrated presentation on French and Belgian comics, called bandes dessinées, or BDs. He showcased for the group many of the form's most successful characters—Tintin, Astérix and his friend, Obélix, Lucky Luke, the Smurfs—and the artists who draw them, including such globally recognized luminaries as Hergé, Albert Uderzo and the legendary Jean Giraud, who gained notoriety under the pseudonym Moebius. Giraud was a co-founder of the sci-fi/fantasy comics magazine Métal Hurlant (Heavy Metal), in the pages of which originated his ground-breaking Arzach, a wordless, surreal fantasy about a silent warrior who rides a pterodactyl-like creature through a desolate, dream-like landscape.

BD illustration in the mid-20th century was of a high artistic value, colourful, precisely detailed, resembling today's graphic novels. René noted that while American comics might feature snazzy cover art by a well-known artist, the interior art was often rather less impressive and drawn by a different artist. But BD illustrators, generally, provide all of the artwork for their books, covers as well as interiors.

Quebecers, of course, are more familiar than most Canadians with many of the BD titles by virtue of language. Tintin and his BD confrères have always been quite popular in these parts.

René traced the history of a number of BDs, and the careers of the field's top artists, touching, in addition, on other European comics, like the British title Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to setting up our MonSFFilms animation studio and filming the first scenes for our stop-motion film project. The shots of a pterodactyl flying through a cloudy skyscape came off pretty well, we think!

Thanks are extended to our programme participants on this day, as well as to all the folk who helped to plan and run the meeting.

Answers to Dinosaur Movie Quiz

As a lead-up to our visit to the dinosaur exhibit at the Old Port in March, we asked, last issue, how well folk knew their dinosaur films, and their dinosaurs? We challenged our readers to identify the type of dinosaur solicited in each of eight questions on dinosaur movies. Here are those questions again, followed by the promised answers:

1. In the 1925 silent classic *The Lost World*, what kind of stop-motion dinosaur rampages through the streets of London?
2. In 1977's *Planet of Dinosaurs*, a spaceship crew crash-land on an Earth-like world. Awakening the morning after their first night on this world, they spy what species of dinosaur in a clearing near their camp?
3. A *Tyrannosaurus* is one of only two dinosaurs featured in *Dinosaurs* (1960). What kind was the other?
4. Gertie was the first animated dinosaur to appear on film, in Winsor McCay's 1914 short *Gertie the Dinosaur*. She is what type of dinosaur?
5. What kind of dinosaur is Littlefoot, star of 1988's animated *The Land Before Time* and its subsequent sequels?
6. In the original *King Kong* (1933), what variety of Skull Island dinosaur chases, trees, and devours a hapless sailor after overturning the raft on which he and his comrades were crossing a swamp in their pursuit of Kong, who has made off with Fay Wray?
7. Almost 60 interminably dull minutes into the 85-minute B-movie *The Lost Continent* (1951), Cesar Romero and his aircrew, having crash-landed on a Pacific island while searching for a stray test rocket, encounter and are attacked by what sort of dinosaur?
8. The 1985 Disney film *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend* taps into folkloric African tales of Mokélé-mbèmbé and stars a cute, baby dinosaur of what kind?

Answers: “Brontosaurus” is the answer to *all* of the questions! (We'll also accept “Apatosaurus”; Littlefoot was at first a Brontosaurus, later updated to an Apatosaurus.)

Probably the singular most recognizable dinosaur of all time, the giant sauropod named Brontosaurus, meaning “thunder lizard”, never actually existed!

The animal had been incorrectly restored by its discoverer, Othniel Charles Marsh, whose find was missing its head, which Marsh speculatively reconstructed with what was likely a Brachiosaurus skull. Later, a sculpted representation of a Camarasaurus skull was affixed to a museum-mounted Brontosaurus specimen, compounding the error. Eventually, the mistake was discovered and the iconic Brontosaurus was found to be, in fact, the adult form of a juvenile sauropod, named Apatosaurus, which Marsh had discovered a couple of years before he dug up his Brontosaurus.

And so the name Brontosaurus was scrubbed from the official taxonomy, leaving us with Apatosaurus. But in recent years, palaeontologists have debated the Brontosaurus/Apatosaurus issue anew, some arguing that a fresh look reveals that there are enough differences between the two to warrant classing them as different species after all, and reinstating the name Brontosaurus.

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Sunday, June 12, 2016; 12:00PM-4:00PM; Hôtel Espresso (2nd Floor, St-François Room)
1005 rue Guy, corner Boul. René-Lévesque (Metro Guy/Concordia or Lucien L'Allier)

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.ca

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of “Impulse”: MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de “Impulse”: AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6