



SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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חדשות האגודה – אוקטובר 2020 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2020

תל אביב: המועדון יעסוק בספר "הבריון של ארצ'ר" מאת דיאנה ויין ג'ונס (גרף, 2009), ביום שני, 10.05, בשעה 12:00, כחלק מכנס אייקון הוירטואלי בנושא "בחירות", בתוכנת Zoom. מנחה: דפנה קירש.

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה. ניתן גם ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - גלי אחיטוב, ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

Important announcement:

Hear-ye, Hear-ye! Breaking News !!!

The GOOD news:

CyberCozen will NOT STOP being published as a monthly mailing, PDF bulletin.

The BAD news:

... however, there will be some (major) changes.

Since I'm doing all of the content gathering, sorting, editing, and layout – plus most of the writing

(** I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contribute,

with special thanks to the Montreal friends at MONSFFA who permit me to republish some of their works)

– I have decided to take a (roughly) 1-year semi-sabbatical, so I can concentrate on some of my other projects.

The current plan, for the next while, is that I will release a more compact version of the bulletin (the original bulletin started out as a 1-page newsletter, back in 1988), as follows:

1) I will continue to publish relevant reader responses – so keep them coming!

2) I will put together an 'access-list/reading-list' of valuable/interesting (interesting-to-me ☺) Web links only, without my/the usual intro/summary of the article, etc. (something like a 'playlist'). An example follows, for this issue.

3) As for longer articles, reviews, etc. this will be dependent on outside contributions, and my own time and whims. For example, I thought the current review of Ayn Rand's "Anthem" was noteworthy and quite timely, and I still plan on writing up Chabon's "Yiddish Policemen's Union" (and maybe someday – the final installment of the Zombie series).

4) As per #3, longer issues of CyberCozen will be released, but more sporadically.

5) I will continue promoting Israel's non-profit space agency "SpaceIL" (<https://www.spaceil.com/>).

6) I will continue promoting the Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy's monthly reading groups and any upcoming activity/con of special interest (usually in Hebrew*) (ENG: <https://www.sf-f.org.il/en/> HEB: <https://www.sf-f.org.il/>).

The BETTER news (speculatively speaking):

I've been thinking of a new approach to publishing CyberCozen: as a website/blogsite. This is still up in the air and I have to figure out exactly how to do this. So although ideas are welcome, do not hold your breath (it probably won't happen for at least a year – not while my time and energy resources are so limited). As time goes by and I reach or get closer to retirement (that's still a ways off) that is more likely to happen (or if I win the lottery or get some sort of huge financial backing ☺). That's in the future. Then again, that is our one of our fortes (the future)...

*and since we mentioned "Hebrew", Eli Eshed (one of CyberCozen's earliest contributors) just published my summarized Hebrew version of the 18 months of "Zion's Fiction" (ביקורת) reviews at:

<http://www.yekum.org/2020/09/%d7%94%d7%9e%d7%99%d7%98%d7%91-%d7%a9%d7%9c-%d7%94%d7%9e%d7%93%d7%a2-%d7%94%d7%91%d7%93%d7%99%d7%95%d7%a0%d7%99-%d7%94%d7%99%d7%a9%d7%a8%d7%90%d7%9c%d7%99-%d7%91%d7%99%d7%a7%d7%95%d7%a8%d7%aa-%d7%a2/>

This month's roundup:

- A review of Ayn Rand's novella "Anthem".
- Our usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Fun from the Web – Lots of goodies this time:

- **How to debate a flat-Earther**
<https://www.space.com/how-to-debate-flat-earth.html>
- **Build your own space agency with 'Mars Horizon' + a free demo (exclusive video)**
<https://www.space.com/mars-horizon-space-agency-game-features-video>
- **Every Arnold Schwarzenegger sci-fi movie, ranked from worst to best**
<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/arnold-schwarzenegger-sci-fi-movies-ranked-terminator-predator>
- **Women in Sci-Fi movies**
<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/an-ode-to-mettle-women-of-classic-sci-fi-franchises-through-the-decades>
- **Volunteers wanted: NASA's Planet Patrol wants your help to find alien worlds**
<https://www.space.com/planet-patrol-nasa-tess-exoplanet-volunteers>
- **'Leviathan Falls': The 9th and final book of epic 'The Expanse' sci-fi series revealed**
<https://www.space.com/leviathan-falls-the-expanse-book-9-cover-revealed>
- **How the telephone became a weapon in horror movies**
<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/halloween-scream-horror-weaponizes-telephone>
- **18 Months of Mysterious Internet Outages Traced to Villager's Old TV Set**
<https://gizmodo.com/18-months-of-mysterious-internet-outages-traced-to-vill-1845139844>
- **Time Travel and Family Drama Make for a Bad Trip in Time Loop**
<https://io9.gizmodo.com/time-travel-and-family-drama-make-for-a-bad-trip-in-tim-1844839113?>
- **In Monsters of Man's First Trailer, Robots Engage in Some Criminal War Games**
<https://io9.gizmodo.com/in-monsters-of-mans-first-trailer-robots-engage-in-som-1844715071>
- **DUNE: Sandworms, spice & everything nice: Check out all things Dune in this trailer breakdown**
<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/dune-trailer-breakdown>
- **DUNE: First trailer**
<https://www.space.com/dune-first-full-trailer-revealed.htm>

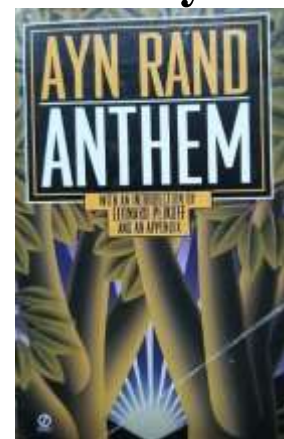
Timely: Society vs. Individual vs. Society

I recently picked up Ayn Rand’s novella “Anthem” and didn’t know what I was getting into. I had never heard of her or of her books.

The cover, as you can see, is quite unattractive (never judge a book by its cover...), but the back cover’s blurb looked somewhat intriguing, so I put it aside with a stack of other books for future reading.... When I eventually got to it, however, I was more than pleasantly surprised.

**Anthem
– by Ayn Rand**

Signet Books, 1996
253 pages that includes:
And intro + material at end
+ 105 pages of the original US publication of 1946
+ 147 pages of the original UK publication of 1938
Review by Leybl Botwinik



What was even more surprising was that the story seemed to touch on some topics that are very much in the news today: The anti-culture culture, the anti-individualism movements, etc. The requirement to conform or be ostracized for not thinking the way everyone else does (i.e. the way society/the powers that be, has decided you should think)...

The plot concerns a young man growing up in a future dystopian society where everyone must conform or be punished. It’s a very backwards society and very stringent – suppressing all forms of free thought and individualism (as well as science and technology). The hero of the story discovers some ‘ancient’ artifacts (from before the great revolution), discovers his own individualism, discovers love, and keeps a diary of his experiences – which is the book we are reading.

What I found particularly captivating in the story was the language used, and the total absence of the word “I” – until our hero later discovers this concept and the very word. He, like all members of this society, are taught to think and speak (which is rare) only in terms of the collective – the “we”.

For example, in the very opening paragraph, where he writes self-incriminatingly:

It is a sin to write this. It is a sin to think words no others think and to put them down upon a paper no others are to see. It is base and evil. We have broken the laws. The laws say that men may not write unless the Council of Vocations bid them so. May we be forgiven! ... Our name is Equality 7-2521, as it is written on the iron bracelet which all men wear on their left wrists with their names upon it. We are twenty-one years old.

Or later, when he first sees the woman he falls in love with (that is, of course, against the law):

...men are forbidden to take notice of women, and women are forbidden to take notice of men. But we think of one among women, they whose name is Liberty 5-3000, and we think of no others. ... we saw Liberty 5-3000 walking along the furrows. Their body was straight and thin as a blade of iron. Their eyes were dark and hard and glowing, with no fear in them, no kindness and no guilt. Their hair was golden as the sun; their hair flew in the wind, shining and wild, as if it defied men to restrain it. They threw seeds from their hand as if they deigned to fling a scornful gift, and the earth was a beggar under their feet.

I was disappointed, when I got to page 105 (about ½-way through my 50-yr anniversary edition), only to discover that the story ended, and the second half of the book was just a facsimile of the original British version of 1938, with Rand’s own markups for the 1946 US version. I wanted more!

The author, Ayn Rand (born Alisa Zinovyevna Rosenbaum, in 1905), grew up in Russia/the Soviet Union, and was lucky to reach America in 1926, where she became a writer/scriptwriter. I had never heard of her before, but apparently two of her books are famous: *The Fountainhead* (1943), and her best-known work, the novel *Atlas Shrugged* (1957), both of which promote her views.

Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayn_Rand) summarizes some of her philosophy as:

Rand advocated reason as the only means of acquiring knowledge and rejected faith and religion. She supported rational and ethical egoism and rejected altruism. In politics, she condemned the initiation of force as immoral^[3] and opposed collectivism and statism as well as anarchism, instead supporting laissez-faire capitalism, which she defined as the system based on recognizing individual rights, including property rights.^[4] In art, Rand promoted romantic realism. She was sharply critical of most philosophers and philosophical traditions known to her, except for Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas and classical liberals.^[5]

I don’t know enough about her, and on the surface I agree with many of her thoughts, but can’t agree with “... rejected faith and religion”. I believe that there is much good in religion and that faith is important. I assume it was based on a negative view to what we call ‘organized religion’, as opposed to religion per se. She was probably influenced by her early years in the USSR that suppressed religion, only to have Communism fill the role (like a new religion), in the ensuing vacuum.

I had never heard of her before (she passed away in 1982), or read her other books, but I think I would have liked to meet her and talk to her. She seemed a very impressive person. There is an **Ayn Rand Institute** promoting her philosophies and worldview (<https://ari.aynrand.org/>).

NOTE: You can get a free download of *Anthem* from project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1250>

We’d love to hear your thoughts on the above topics and with your OK, we may publish them!

For Comments: E-mail: leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729
 Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (א"ר). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (מ"ל)
 For free email delivery (PDF format) write to leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com
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