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OSFS Statement

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Tall el Hammam. Once one of the biblical "Cities of the Plain".

By 1600 BCE , the city was protected by walls enclosing an area of 85 acres (34 ha) and was divided into an upper and lower city, while the much larger general occupational area around the walled city covered 240 acres (97 ha). With an estimated population of 8000 it was the third largest of the city-states in the Jordan valley.

Then around 1550 BCE something drastic occurred.

Really drastic!

To all these city-states..

There is no record of human activity in the whole Levant for the next 500 years.

Archaeologists are finding traces of very odd things inconsistent with volcano, earthquake, or war and not finding things that would be. Publishing their findings and arguing their theories and opinions of each others theories. and carefully not speculating (too much) as to which city it might have been.

An excerpt of one of the ~~less-turgid~~ more lucid texts is on page 4.

Event Coordinator We have a monthly OSFS newsletter called The Statement. If you would like to be on the e-mail list contact the editor@ottawasfs.ca

Editor's Blather:

Some welcome local news.

Hi everyone,

I want to share this trailer for the new retro sci-fi feature from local Ottawa director Brett Kelly with a script by me -- GALAXY WARRIORS!

The film is now in post-production.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYzj8G838WE>

Cheers, Janet

Hi everyone,

I'm very excited to announce that my new SF novel, SHIFTING TRUST, was released this month.

It's my third published novel but it is my first SF book. It's available in both print and e-book from your favourite bookstore.

Please click on the link below to see the amazing book trailer created by my publisher!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIoSJR7yIKA>

Thank you!

Madona Skaff, Mystery & SF Author

Canadian S-F & F Association Hall of Fame.

Jean-Louis Trudel has been inducted into the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to this author, well known to OSFS Members and to readers of the Solaris magazine!

2021 Aurora Awards For professional works and fan achievements done in 2020.

Congratulations! The awards went to:

Best Novel: Mexican Gothic, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Random House Publishing Group

Best YA Novel: Flights of Marigold, Susan Forest, Laksa Media Groups Inc.

Best Novelette/Novella: "Tool Use by the Humans of Danzhai County", Derek Künsken, Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine, July/Aug

Best Short Story: "All Cats Go to Valhalla", Chadwick Ginther, Swashbuckling Cats: Nine Lives on the Seven Seas, Tyche Books

Best Graphic Novel: It Never Rains, Kari Maaren, webcomic

Best Poem/Song: "Nidhog", Jo Walton, The Book of Dragons, Harper Voyager

Best Related Work: On Spec Magazine, Diane L. Walton, Managing Editor, The Copper Pig Writers Society

Best Visual Presentation: The Umbrella Academy, Steve Blackman, Netflix

Best Artist: Samantha M. Beiko, cover for Flights of the Marigold, Laska Media Group

Best Fan Writing and Publication: Polar Borealis, Issues #13 to #16, edited by R. Graeme Cameron

Best Fan Related Work: When Words Collide, Randy McCharles, chair, online festival contributed by Sandi Marie

Sci-Fi epic Foundation by Isaac Asimov is now on our screens in an adaptation by David S Goyer starring Jared Harris and Lee Pace.

Premiered on Apple TV+ on 24 September with episodes arriving weekly thereafter.

Several key characters who were men in the books are now women. Gaal Dornick, for example, is played by Lou Llobell, and Leah Harvey is Salvor Hardin, a character in the tradition of Ripley from the Alien films or Battlestar Galactica's Starbuck.

COMING EVENTS

Lloyd Penney

October 16-17 - Motor City Comic Con, Suburban Collection Showplace, Detroit. For more information, www.motorcitycomiccon.com.

October 22-24 - Fan eXpo Canada: Limited Edition, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. Guests: Brandon Routh, Robbie Amell, Stephen Amell, Kit Young, Hayden Panettiere, Tim Rozon, Melanie Scrofano, Javicia Leslie, Matthew Lewis, Gates McFadden, Robert Patrick, Bryce Papenbrook, Christopher Eccleston, William Shatner, George Takei, Adam Savage, many more. For more information, www.fanexpohq.com.

October 29-31 - Niagara Falls ComicCon Fan Fest '21, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON. Guests: Phil Guerrero, Shane Kippel, Ken Lashley, Tanner Zipchen, Derek McGrath, Toby Proctor, more. For more information, nfcomiccon.com/fanfest.

October 29-30 - Frightmare in the Falls, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON. Guests: Bill Moseley, William Forsythe, Julian Richings, Michael Berryman, R.A. Mihailoff, Robert Mukes, Andrew Divoff, John Dugan, Linnea Quigley, Barbara Crampton, Dee Wallace, Ari Lehman, Adrienne King, Lar Park Lincoln, Terry Kiser, Kane Hodder. For more information, www.frightmareinthefalls.com.

October 31 - Canadian Toycon, Holiday Inn, Burlington. For more information, check their Facebook page.

VIRTUAL - November 4-7 - World Fantasy Convention 2021, Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal. Guests: Nisi Shawl, John Picacio, Andre-Francois Ruard, Owl Goingback, Yves Meynard, Christine Taylor-Butler. For more information, www.worldfantasy.org, wfc2021.org.

November 7 - Star Wars Collectors Expo, Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale, Mississauga. For more information, www.starwarsexpo.ca.

November 7 - Mississauga Comic Book Show, Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale, Mississauga. For more information, www.comicbookshow.ca.

November 7 - CollectiCon, Michelangelos, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton. Card, toy & collectible show. Admission: \$4, kids \$1. For more information, collecticoncanada@gmail.com.

November 12-14 - CanFURence 2021, Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel, Ottawa. Furry convention. Guests: Eevachu, more. For more information, www.canfurence.ca.

November 28 - Mississauga Collector's Expo, Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale Hotel, Mississauga. For more information, www.ontariocollectorscon.com.

December 10-12 - TFcon 2021, Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale Hotel, Mississauga. Transformers convention. For more information, www.tfcon.ca.

December 26 - CollectiCon, Michelangelos, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton. Card, toy & collectible show. Admission: \$4, kids \$1. For more information, collecticoncanada@gmail.com.

February 25-26, 2022 - The Great Lakes Comic Convention, Macomb Expo Center, Warren, MI. For more information, greatlakescomicconvention.com.

February 26, 2022 - Bowmanville Comicon, Garnet B. Richard Recreational Complex, Bowmanville. Hours: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

March 18-20, 2022 - Toronto Comicon 2022, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. For more information, www.fanexpohq.com/comicontoronto.

March 18-20, 2022 - Hotlead 2022, Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel, Stratford. Gaming convention. For more information, www.hotlead.ca.

March 19, 2022 - Tora-Con, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. For more information, www.toracon.org.

April 23, 2022 - Napanee Comicon, Strathcona Paper Centre, Napanee. Hours: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$2. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

April 23-24, 2022 - Ragnarok XP, DoubleTree by Hilton Kitchener Hotel, Kitchener. Gaming convention. For more information, www.ragnarokxp.com.

April 23-24, 2022 - BrickUniverse Rochester 2022, Rochester Main Street Armory, Rochester. For more information, www.brickuniverse.com.

April 24, 2022 - Kingston Comicon, Royal Canadian Legion #560, Kingston. Hours: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 27-29, 2022 - Anime North 2022, Toronto Congress Centre & surrounding hotels, Toronto. For more information, www.animenorth.com.

June 3-5, 2022 - Niagara Falls Comic Con, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls. Guests: TBA. For more information, www.nfcomiccon.com.

June 3-5, 2022 - Nickel City Con, Buffalo Niagara Convention Centre, Buffalo. For more information, www.nickelcitycon.com.

June 9-11, 2022 - Ottawa Comiccon 2022, EY Centre, Ottawa. For more information, www.ottawacomicon.com.

June 17-19, 2022 - YetiCon 2022, Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood. Anime convention. For more information, www.yeticon.ca.

June 25, 2022 - Forest City Comicon, Centennial Hall, London. Guest: Stefan Kapicic, more. For more information, www.ForestCityComicon.ca.

July 8-10, 2022 - Montreal ComicCon, Palais de Congres, Montreal. For more information, www.montrealcomiccon.com.

July 16-17, 2022 - Pretty Heroes 2022, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto. Guests: Robbie Daymond, Ammie Cosplay, J.M. Frey. For more information, www.prettyheroes.com.

August 20, 2022 - The Oddities & Curiosities Expo, Buffalo Convention Center, Buffalo. Travelling display expo. For more information, odditiesandcuriositiesexpo.com.

August 25-28, 2022 - Fan eXpo Canada 2022, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. For more information, www.fanexpohp.com.

September 24 & 25, 2022 - Hamilton Comic Con, Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Mount Hope, ON. For more information, www.hamiltoncomiccon.com.

September 25, 2022 - Kingston Comicon, Royal Canadian Legion #560, Kingston. Hours: 10am-4pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

October 14-16, 2022 - Can*Con 2022, Hotel TBA, Ottawa. For more information, can-con.org.

November 4-6, 2022 - Astronomicon 13, RIT Inn & Conference Center, Rochester, NY. Guests: Allen Steele, Chris Barkley, Wendy and Richard Pini, Sara Felix, Tom Smith, Adrienne Kress, Neil Clarke, The Skiffy & Fanty Show, more. For more information, www.astronomicon.info, or see Facebook page.

December 2-4, 2022 - Smofcon 38, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Montreal. Fanzine convention. For more information, smofcon38.ca.

Space rock demolished city!

Apparently true; but it's old news.

About 3,600 years ago something very thoroughly destroyed the ancient Middle Eastern city now called Tall el-Hammam..

No one is exactly sure what had happened, but it wasn't caused by a volcano, earthquake or warfare. None of them are capable of melting metal, mudbricks and pottery.

It appears that the culprit at Tall el-Hammam was a small asteroid similar to the one that knocked down 80 million trees in Tunguska, Russia in 1908. It would have been a much smaller version of the rock that pushed the dinosaurs into extinction 65 million ago.

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2021/09/22/features/a-giant-space-rock-demolished-an-ancient-middle-eastern-city-and-everyone-in-it-possibly-inspiring-the-biblical-story-of-Sodom/>

22 km to the west of Tall el-Hammam, winds from the blast would have hit the biblical city of Jericho.

Excerpted from article co-authored by research collaborators archaeologist Phil Silvia, geophysicist Allen West, geologist Ted Bunch and space physicist Malcolm LeCompte.

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Tall el Hammam from Google Earth.

The high point of the tall (hill), the foundation stones of a major building, is 10 m above the nearby fields and still 145m below sea level. (That's the world ocean level; the Dead Sea about 20 km south of here is 245 m below sea level.)

During the Roman occupation there was a [Roman bath complex](#) which presumably gave the tall its name "Hill of the Hot Baths".

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