

N'APA 258

May 2022



The Official Organ

#258

Next deadline: July 15, 2022

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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; 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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This isn't the... ..but it could be!

FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST

INTERMISSION #119

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and all who want to kick invaders yellow and blue! Follow @SFJournalen's sf/f/h&fandom newstweets. Please invent E-corflu against typos! And give a certain Mr Putin the boot. Slava Ukraini! Early April '22.

Editorially: A War Issue

Except for some APA MCs and a LoC, I've decided to let everything in this deal with war. Glancing at what I have, it may be some stuff on missiles and atomic bombs. I don't usually run LoCs, but I got one from Taral in Canada for which I'll make an exception. In lastish I gave the Canadian PM some heavy broadsides (which he deserved!) but it'd be only fair to give space for an alternative angle. I like getting comments to this zine, but I suggest you give those through your site, FB page, Twitter account or whatever you use to communicate (and give me a link to it). For now I think if I began with LoCs I'd probably get 10-15 for each issue, which would mean extra editing work (I put too much work into the zine already!) and add several extra pages, when I'd like not to let *Intermission* grow too much. But plz comment on your web page or what you have! I have more info brewing about the pioneering 1930's Swedish-Canadian fan Nils Helmer Frome, but it will have to wait for a future issue due to time constraints.

But today I'll give you thoughts on Ukraine and war stuff, because of the *exceptionally stupid, dangerous and unnecessary war* that Vladimir Assholovich Putin of Russia started. As things may happen fast any "news" here will be many days old. As for the History Corner, I'll try to dig up newspaper clips that in one way or another connects to war. I hope that Putin's war in Ukraine stops and that he'll pull back his troops. It's criminal to send thousands of young men to their death (many of which thought they were on an exercise!) to subjugate another nation. For the Russian people, misinformed, also suffering (and not very happy with events, I believe) the best would be if someone told Putin to take a hike.

As for the little addition to the logo, *Futurian War Digest* was as many may know a fanzine - also a sort of mini-APA - published by Michael J Rosenblum of Britain, the years 1940-1945. It fulfilled the important task of keeping British fandom together and updated during the dark years of World War II and was nicknamed "Fido". *FWD* would let other faneds co-distribute small fanzines with the issues, which of course became "Fido's litter". See https://fancylopedia.org/Futurian_War_Digest Rosenblum's fanzine before the war was called *The Futurian* and it was from it the famous New York Futurians got their name. You can read more about British wartime fandom in Rob Hansen's *Homefront - Fandom in the UK 1939-1945*, free from <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=HomeFront> There's also stuff from the war years in *The Again - A UK Fanhistory Reader 1930-1979* (ed Rob Hansen & Vince Clarke) <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=ThenAgain>

About the Dreadful Events in Europe Something you wouldn't believe could happen, happened. A major power thought it was a good idea with an unprovoked, full-scale military attack on a neighbour. All Tom Clancy novels are now packed off to the Salvation Army shops' 50¢ boxes. They're irrelevant.

At the time of writing the Russian attack seems to have stalled. The best interactive situation map is probably <https://liveuamap.com/>. As far as I can see the Russians haven't advanced for a long time.



Saucer war: There're now 36 science fiction clubs in the land. "Now you see I told the truth when I said mom is chairman of an sf club." (Famous cartoonist Paul Ströyer in Dagens Nyheter Aug 29, 1957.)

It could change as military experts agree that they have overwhelming firepower. But poor tactics, inflexible command structure, bad intelligence, insufficient logistics, corruption and low morale has this far made the war a disaster for Putin. He counted on taking Kiev in a couple of days, but are 10's of km outside after three weeks and being pushed back. Kiev is safe. It is reported the city has 200 000 armed defenders. And beside Kalashnikovs they have thousands of Javelins, NLAWs, AT4s, Stingers and other missile launchers to take care of tanks and threats from the sky. The rest of Ukraine have further 100 000's of soldiers, local defence forces and 10 000's of foreign volunteers.

And the defenders have a cause and seems to be in good spirit. Mr P missed this since believed in his own deranged propaganda.

I can't see the Russians making any substantial advances, let alone "winning". Any areas they'd manage to occupy will be under a very heavy guerrilla war from a population that hates them. The Russians don't have enough manpower to suppress resistance, probably not even enough numbers to make more than limited offensives, as the situation is. What they can do is to surround selected cities and turn them into rubble with artillery, bombs and missiles. (Rubble that only will give defenders more covered positions for ambushes.) I can see the Ukrainians winning, by simply resisting and wearing out the Russian army's will to fight. Here are possible outcomes in this war:

- * The Russians continue to make no "progress". A palace coup in the Kremlin disposes of Putin and the Russians retreat. That would be the best!
- * Putin becomes totally mad and goes ballistic. He'll probably start with a smaller tactical nuke (about the size of the Hiroshima one) over some Ukrainian countryside army position, to show he is "serious" and mad as a hatter. This is of course extremely dangerous, and what happens from there on nobody knows... I don't like to think of it!
- * The Russians manage to occupy parts of Ukraine in the east, which just means the war goes on - because the Ukrainians won't give up territory. Their army will be pressing from the west and Ukrainian guerrillas make life miserable for Putin. There's talk about that Russia wants to create a Korea situation, but I can't see the Ukrainians would let that happen.
- * In an incredible change of mind the Russians realise they can't win, agrees to a settlement and withdraws (will they'll try to keep parts of Donbas? And will Ukraine get Crimea back?). Latest news say Zelensky may consider compromises (on neutrality, Crimea?) because his country suffers badly. We'll have to see. I'd find it hard to trust Putin in any deal, through.
- * The Ukrainians get even more support (perhaps including a no-fly zone in the skies) and actually kick the Russians out everywhere. Zelensky is asking for more weapons, air and sea missiles, which would give them the upper hand.

...and you can imagine other ways this idiocy could end. What I'd prefer is to see Putin go, things returning to something more normal and Russia on the way of becoming a more "normal" nation, not dreaming of resurrecting the evil CCCP empire. Russia has after all a tradition of coups. The 1917 "revolution" was in fact more of a coup, difference leaders have couped each other, we had the 1991 coup attempt. But I don't now how to save Russia from itself.

Robots on Your Shoulder

Missiles are often called "robots" in Swedish, due to that they have automatic (ie "robotic") guidance systems. And it seems that little "robots" you fire off from your shoulders have made it very difficult for Russian aircraft and armoured vehicles. The Ukrainians have seen 10 000's of them delivered and 1000's of vehicles have been taken out of action. So let's have a look at a few of the systems. I'll leave the "manpads" (Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, of which the US Stinger is the most famous), and concentrate on what rockets a tank commander wouldn't like to meet in an alley on a



A Javelin being fired.



An Ukrainian soldier with an NLAW.

dark and stormy night...

Most talked about is the US *Javelin* missile. It's a re-loadable system produced by Raytheon & Lockheed and portable by a decently strong person at 22.5 kg. It has a range of more than 4 km and a 8.4 kg warhead said to be capable to penetrate up to 75 cm of steel. There is a special warhead that through using a pre-charge can defeat so called active armour. It can attack head on or by diving onto the turret's top where the armour is weaker. It's of the type fire-and-

forget as it finds and follows its target via IR sensors. When fired the missile is first pushed out by a light charge which doesn't give a dangerous backblast and about 10 meters away the Javelin's on rocket motor starts and away it flies. The only drawback - the cost! Each missile costs a whopping \$175 000! Still, the Americans have delivered thousands, latest batch is reported to be 9 000! See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQqCjsjmV4M> & https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FGM-148_Javelin

NLAW (Next generation Light Anti-tank Weapon) may be a better cost/benefit missile at only £20 000. It's a Swedish and British co-developed fire-and-throw-away missile, produced by SAAB Bofors, and more portable at 12.5 kg. Normal range is about 800 metres. The British delivered a batch of 2000 NLAWs to Ukraine before the war and there is reports a further 2000 have been delivered - and the Ukrainians also get NLAWs from other countries. It can be set on direct attack - claimed to defeat 50 cm of steel - or in an overflight attack against the thinner turret top. It has an interesting "half-active" guidance system that works like this: the shooter locks the sight on the target for ca 3 seconds. Via laser the guidance system of the missile now knows the exact distance to the target and speed and direction of eventual movements. Microprocessor and gyros now takes the missile to the predicted exact target position. The system is called "PLOS", "predicted line of sight".

<https://www.saab.com/products/nlaw> This "Mother-N'LAW" is called Robot 57 in the Swedish army

Sweden has delivered by now 10000 of - what translates to - "armour rounds" (pansarskott) type AT4 , produced by SAAB Bofors. The AT4 lack a guidance system, but at a very modest \$1400 each you can afford to miss and take another shot. Normal range 2-300 metres (up to 500 could work if you aim well) and with a modest weight of 6.7 kg it is still said to manage up to 60 cm of steel. It's a fire-and-throw-away weapon in versions with half a dozen different warheads: extra-penetrating,

bunker-buster, anti-troop, dual purpose etc. You must look out for the dangerous backblast, but there is a special version which reduces the backblast via a water-based damping system. It's been exported to scores of countries. The US alone is said to have bought a whopping 600 000 (!) of them. It's not as advanced as the others but for ever each Javelin you can afford 125 AT4s. I had an AT4 picture in #118 and here's a Ukranian soldier unpacking an AT4, happy like a boy gettin an Xmas present!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPMjkhwHr0c>

There are other tank-busters delivered. Norway has sent the Ukrainians M/72s, which is similar to the AT4, Germany is sending Panzerfaust 3s (similar to but heavier than the AT4) and Canada has sent the Swedish made world-famous

It has been a hectic month, with many trips. The most notable was to Stockholm, where I got to fire a Karl Gustav recoilless cannon and visit the home of my legendary Norman ancestors.

We arrived in Stockholm for the Water Festival. Stockholm is built on a number of islands, at the junction of a very large freshwater lake and the Baltic Sea. The festival celebrates the fact that the waters—fresh, salt, and brackish—are all clean and clear. You can swim right off the pier by the Royal Castle or down by the yacht landing near Embassy Row. You can fish anywhere and safely eat the fish, and, for that matter, I suppose you could drink the water from the lake.

The way they manage that is by using a great deal of public transportation,

most of which is electric; much of the electricity is generated by nuclear power plants. We took the X-2000 bullet train from Stockholm to Göteborg; very fast and very smooth. We went to the southwest so that we could visit the town of Falkenberg; those familiar with my novels will understand why that was important to me. Falkenberg is in the part of Sweden that was Danish in the ninth century. That's the area from which Rollo led his Vikings off to France to found the Duchy of Normandy. My remote ancestors were part of that trek, but when I named one of my major characters John Christian Falkenberg, I didn't know the town existed. Anyway, we took the electric train to Göteborg, and we noted that much of Sweden uses electric trains and streetcars.

a computer, or living near a power transmission line, or operating electronic appliances. Somehow, those who worry excessively about low-level EMP radiation never think about such things; they choose instead to look at high percentage increases in tiny numbers of rare events. Ah, well.

I visited the Swedish Royal Air Force base at Uppsala, and on the way back I needed an aspirin, so we stopped at a large department store. It had a computer department, so I had to go look. What I saw was an area about 30 by 30 feet. Against one wall was a pile of Atari ST machines. More prominently displayed was a larger pile of Amiga computers; that included a floor dump right at the entrance to the

He spelled it with a K but wrote about firing the Carl Gustaf!



grenade launcher Carl Gustaf, to which I have a little fannish story...

The Swedish defence industry is good with these things - doing the AT4s, NLAWs and Carl-Gustafs. The last weapon has its name from that it originally comes from Carl Gustaf Stads Gevärsfaktori ("Carl Gustaf Town's Rifle Factory"), though many assume it's named after the Swedish king Carl XVI Gustaf. Anyway, this recoilless grenade launcher is by many seen as the king in its field. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Gustaf_8.4cm_recoilless_rifle list around 50 countries using it. The former Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko in an interview from the frontline called Carl Gustaf "extremely excellent"! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPMjkhwHr0o>

And this brings me to Jerry Pournelle.

We had him as Guest of Honour on an sf convention we arranged in 1993, called *Conscience 93*. The Internet was just beginning to be recognised, so we decided to let the convention have computers and cyberspace as a bit of a theme. And Jerry Pournelle was - besides writing interesting hard core sf, often with Larry Niven - a long-time author of one of the most well-known computer columns, "Computing at Chaos Manor" in *Byte Magazine*. It had begun already in 1980, before there even were any PCs or Macs around! Jerry was right there in the intersection of science fiction and computers, well-known for folks into both skiffy and these electronic brains. But we also had a guy attached to the committee, Med Dr Claes N, who knew Jerry Pournelle. So it was a natural choice.

I know some will scratch their heads. Inviting Jerry Pournelle, isn't that like having Genghis Khan? Sorry, but *not at all!* I know the political views Mr Pournelle sometimes aired may irritate some. For my part, people may have any political inclination they want as long as they don't support dictatorships or behave like die-hard, intolerant fanatics, cancelling others left and right. (And if you ask, I have read several of the Niven/Pournelle novels, eg on alien invasions, and found them quite entertaining. *Fallen Angels* which they wrote with Michael Flynn is bloody good! Green dictators have all power, but *sf fandom* is a secret resistance movement...!)

Jerry came with wife Roberta and was very friendly, polite, did everything he should for the con, and told us interesting *Jerry fires a Carl Gustaf! (Fake! Did I fool you?)* anecdotes, like how he caused the fall of the Soviet Union...¹ No problems and nothing remotely strange happened. He had a look at old Stockholm, eg the unique 17th century Vasa warship, and I know he later took a tour to the town of...Falkenberg! Yeah, his voice was sometimes a bit loud but that's because he's half-deaf as a former artillery officer, so he talks loud. And that brings us to his visit to the Uppland regiment north of Stockholm.



Dr Claes N was earlier a military doctor and had connections there. So he arranged a visit for Jerry through his contacts. And it culminated in *letting Jerry fire off a round with the Carl Gustaf!* I can tell you that Pournelle liked that a lot, and even mentioned it in his *Byte* column (#12, 1993). Before my inner eye is the scene of this US sf author kneeling in the grass on the Uppland plains, slowly pressing the trigger, getting a big flash and loud bang. A smile slowly spreads over his face...

If Jerry Pournelle was alive now he'd love smashing up Russian tanks in Ukraine.

LoCol

Canadian fan Taral sent me the below as a reply to my comments on the Trucker protests and the Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's way to handle it. So breaking with my normal policy, it's only fair to let someone defend the guy too. Here's Taral:

I think you are being much, much too hard on the Prime Minister, and may be swallowing a lot of rubbish from the Conservative Party (and a little from the New Democratic Party as well). Trudeau has not handled the

¹ Jerry was involved in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens%27_Advisory_Council_on_National_Space_Policy which eg promoted the Strategic Defence Initiative, which Ronald Reagan picked up. But the USSR couldn't counter it, attempts almost bankrupted them and over-all tended to soften their stance - leading to the fall of the ancien régime. Or so Jerry claimed.

pandemic as well as he might have - particularly, he believed that he could swing a deal with Beijing to sell vaccine to Canada, even though he was in the middle of a proxy war between China and the US over a spoiled Chinese billionaire's daughter. That was foolish, and unfortunately a very Canadian thing to do. We are often too trusting. I wouldn't have fallen for it. On the other hand, the Conservative Party of Canada is we originally deprived the country of a homegrown pharmaceutical industry in the first place, by selling it lock-stock-and-barrel to the US, reasoning that in the perfect libertarian world, Canada could buy anything we needed, and never need to produce it for ourselves. Ayn Rand doesn't allow for national emergencies, because she doesn't allow for nations either. So Canada was suckered ... twice. But Trudeau did work as quickly as he could to find alternate sources of vaccine. He might have been more forthcoming about the delay, and why it happened, but I can see the argument for reassurance during a trying moment.

As for Trudeau appearing in blackface, it was an embarrassment that the PM was quick to apologize for. He was in his early 20's, still in university I think, at a time when nobody gave a damn, and not even thinking about a career in politics. Was he supposed to have rewritten the past, or predicting what would be unthinkable in the future? That does seem to be exactly what some social warriors demand, but let's get real!

Let's get real about the Regressive Conservative Party, as well. They are political Neanderthals who are opportunistically doing their best to humiliate the government because they want to be elected, and don't really give a damn about how they do it. They promise jobs by ending the efforts to control Covies, opening up the taps to release more CO2 into the atmosphere, and set the clock back on almost every social issue imaginable, and then scream "blackface!"

I'm not a fan of Trudeau. He has made several errors whose individual cost has been negligible, but together are hard to defend. Yet he has negotiated the country through difficult times, when a hostile Trump administration had nothing but contempt for Canada, preyed on our industry and tore up the Free Trade Agreement that the Americans had largely forced on us, years ago. On top of that, we've been walking on eggshells over the "Two Michaels" issue, that might have resulted in two Canadian citizens imprisoned in harsher circumstances, for life, and the need to uphold our commitment to the Rule of Law in respect to international extradition treaties. There were other difficulties during Trudeau's tenure, but I see no reason to go into more detail. They were hard times. Trudeau might have done better, but really didn't do very badly, considering.

I do wonder whether the Prime Minister might be wise to move on, after a third term, however. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, looks like she might be very good successor.

Short reply: I don't follow Canadian party politics, don't know the stance of the conservatives or other parties, and I don't care. I reacted to the unjustified over the top actions by Trudeau. As the omicron variant took over and proved to be very mild, Mr T kept to a damaging (economy, mental health, hospitals missing other disease, etc) "hard" policy of forced vaccinations, people tracking apps etc. He claimed it was "science" and as the epidemic shrunk he showed no understanding for protests. Instead he smeared all dissenters, calling ordinary working people Nazis, white supremacists, conspirators, a "fringe". Not once did he meet with them to learn what they wanted but instead invoked martial law (!) against what in essence was just breaking local parking rules! He then locked their bank accounts and stole their money. You can't behave that way and claim to be a democrat. One understands now why Justin Trudeau had such praise for the Chinese communist dictatorship.

Nato or Not Nato?

Something being discussed a lot now, even reaching foreign media, is if Sweden will and/or should join Nato - jointly with Finland, if it happens. We have followed a policy of neutrality since the early 1800s, which has served the country well, keeping us out of war since 1814. But in political and cultural terms Sweden has always "belonged" to what is called the West. Some even claim few are more "Americanised" than the Swedes. We're drenched in American music, film, TV and technology.

Putin's Ukrainian War exposes a very aggressive neighbour and puts Nato in focus. Russian clumsy threats that if we'd join they would be forced to consider "military-technical actions" seems to have pushed politicians and public opinion *more* towards Nato. The situation in Finland is similar, except they seem even more Nato friendly, having had some really bad experience with the Russians.

The fact is that Sweden has already broad military cooperation with Nato. There was intelligence exchange throughout the cold war. Airfields, planes, weapons etc have often been built to Nato standards. And in later decades Swedish military is often invited to and takes part in Nato exercises. As I write this, there is a big one in northern Norway, called "Cold Response", with Swedish and Finnish units taking part (ca 1500 troops + Gripen jets). Or new Prime Minister Magdalena

Andersson, together with opposition leader Ulf Kristersson, even paid it a visit. We have also had joint exercises with Nato units on Swedish soil, eg on the Baltic island of Gotland.

The Nato question will be a hot topic in our coming election in September and after that we will know more. Sweden has for years been drifting away from neutrality. We for instance sent military help to Ukraine (for the first time since 1939 to a nation at war, then it was Finland, also assaulted by Russia!) and the government has just decided to send another load of anti-tank weapons, plus mine-clearing equipment. And the approval rating of PM Andersson goes up... Analysts says that if she handles the Ukraine crisis well, she'll win the election. She hasn't stumbled yet.

For my part, I'm 50/50 in the Nato question. *Major* hesitation comes from considering nuclear weapons. I gather that *in* Nato you are guaranteed to get nuked if WWII starts. You may get nuked even *outside* Nato, but there's a slim but chance that you are spared. On the other hand, we already cooperate so much with Nato countries that Putin may toss Bombs this way anyway. Then we have that the Russian military appears to be so inept that Nato may not be needed! Sweden has great attack jets, silent submarines, Leopard II tanks, NLAWs and a sea in between. And how is it, could we count on support from the EU under the EU treaty mutual clause 42.7 if attacked?² Finally what Finland wants is vital, for the best would be if we both joined at the same time. Many things to consider!



Swe PM Magdalena Andersson (in blue) & opposition leader Ulf Kristersson (checkered shirt) on Nato exercise in Norway.

When Ukrainian president Zelensky spoke to the Swedish parliament (via link) recently he didn't

comment Sweden and Nato, but eg possible Russian threats to the strategic Baltic island of Gotland, to where the Swedish defence recently moved troops, and of course noted that yellow and blue flags have become popular colours (it's in both the Ukrainian and Swedish flags). It also sounded like the Ukrainians could skip joining Nato in exchange for peace, provided they get other, credible security guarantees. He also said that Swedish companies could have an important role in rebuilding Ukraine after the war. He thinks of that already and it sounds a bit optimistic.



Volodymyr Zelensky addressing Swedish parliament, with English interpretation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNS7GYtghFQ>

When PM Andersson (Soc Dem) and opposition leader Ulf Kristersson (Moderate) visited the troops on exercise in Norway it was to show unity. Magda says "Maybe!" to Nato, Ulf says "The Application is in the Mail!"

But mail works very slow these days.

History Corner

This History Corner will deal with war, with much on atomic bombs and rockets, subjects close to science fiction. As I searched the Royal Library newspaper archive (which everything comes from, as you know) for sf and fandom history, I of course also looked for stuff on atomic war. I'll have some interesting reporting from the days of WWII and the 1950s when the Bomb was new and frightening -

2 <https://www.politico.eu/article/what-is-article-42-7-of-the-lisbon-french-government-terrorist-attacks-paris-treaty/> If a EU member is attacked others have the "obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power."

compared to now when Kubrick had taught us not to worry and learn to love the Bomb. I at least think too few worry about that Mr P of Kremlin has a big, red button and possibly Parkinson's disease. I'll translate and summarise, as usual.

First, I must repeat a notice from #97, Nov 22 1962 in Norrskensflamman (actually a communist newspaper!), "*Club for Adventure Lust!*", with excuses for that transcription of names from Cyrillic is tricky as English and Swedish transcription systems differ:

A Club for those lusting for adventure has started in Kiev. The purpose is that participants on the meetings shall discuss science fiction and bold hypotheses of all kinds. E g what space travellers may expect on distant planets or if it's possible to create artificial life. In the board of The Science Fiction Club, as the official name is, there are several known authors and scientists, among them Astronomy professor Sergej Vsekhsvyatsky and biology professor Michail Klovov.

Does anyone have more on this? It could very well be *the start of Ukrainian fandom!* You can follow Vsekhsvyatsky's long career (he studied comets, the sun, Jupiter, etc) here <http://skv.univ.kiev.ua/biogra.html> but "The SF Club" isn't mentioned. And Wiki has only this on Klovov https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michail_Klovov The Kiev University archive may have more info on this club, provided a Russian missile doesn't get there first.

I don't right now seem to get contact with my old friends Boris and Alexander of Ukraine (and of their famous zine *Chernobylization*) but we can hear from Boris via *File770*. He is still in Kiev, hearing fireworks in the background. He complains about that SFWA refuses to boycott Russia authors and publishers. <http://file770.com/sfwa-rejects-call-to-join-boycott-of-russia-a-guest-post-by-borys-sydiuk/> (What's wrong with SFWA? I remember how they curbed authors just because they dared to be non-PC, and their awards discriminate everyone not of "minorities", eg only 18% of the latest Nebula nominees are male.) Boris has a list of Russian sf fans and active that should be boycotted as they signed petitions for *active* support of the illegal war <https://amazingstories.com/uncensored-ukrainian-sf-news/> and advocate an "ultimate solution to the Ukrainian question".

Now, let's go nuclear. Here's from the front page of Aftonbladet Aug 8, right after Hiroshima:

"It's hard to believe what we saw. A giant steamroller over Hiroshima. Area size of Söder /Sthlm district/ pulverised. Explosion flash visible for 320 km. City with 343 000 inhabitants ceased to exist. Surveillance photos indicate that more than 10 sqkm, or 60% of Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atomic bomb explosion and there was huge damage to surrounding areas. Five important industries were totally obliterated. The flash from the explosion was seen by another flying fortress positioned 320 km from Hiroshima. This information was from a press conference in the HQ for strategic bombing in the Pacific. It's chief, general Spaatz, just smiled a little when he was asked if the atomic bomb would be used again, He refused to answer questions on how the bombs were transported and he wouldn't comment what would happen if 600 flying fortresses made a raid against Japan. There's no estimation of damages outside this area yet as smoke still lies thick over Hiroshima, The atomic bomb probably hit the centre of Hiroshima, the crew of the fortress Enola Gay explained. The giant plane shock (Cont p2, col 4)

The bomb was delivered by a B-29, not a B-17 ("Flying Fortress") as the article implies. Beside pieces on "Europe's only female diver", murder of a 70-year old woman, that the crayfish catch was bad and that the state monopoly is getting whisky - Atomic Age arriving can't take up *all* interest! - the piece top right says "*Everything alive burned to death*" and in the bottom left we get "*Short guide to the wonders of the atomic world - how science revealed the secrets*", about Henri Becquerel, radium and finding out that atoms can be split. We read:

"Atomic power only in 50 years. Trip to the Moon in 100 years. 'Naive to think the weapon can prevent war. /London, Wednesday./ Atomic power won't be useful for ordinary transports for another 50 years, writes the well-known English scientist professor Archibald M Low in an article for INS. But one day I think we could travel from England to New York in five hours. Within a century it'll certainly be possible to travel to the Moon. Such a project isn't any longer as crazy as first believed. 18 years ago some of Germany's best scientists dealt with it and went as far as to explain that if you reached the Moon you'd find a place from which Earth can be

Klubb för äventyrslystna

KIEV (APN) En klubb för äventyrslystna har startats i Kiev. Meningen är att deltagarna på sina sammanträden skall diskutera science fiction och djärva hypotester av de mest skilda slag. T. ex. vad som väntar rymdfararna på fjärran planeter eller möjligheterna att skapa konstgjort liv.

I styrelsen för Science fiction-klubben, som den officiellt heter, ingår flera kända författare och vetenskapsmän, bl. a. astronomiprofessorn Sergej Vsekhsvyatskij och biologiprofessorn Michail Klovov.

Nordens största kvällstidning

"ETT ÖGONBLICK" finns i dag på sid. 10

KVÄLLSUPPLAGA

AFTONBLADET

Uppl. 2

Färdet i morgon: Vacker städer - Varmt.

15 öre

Årgång 71 Nr 212 Onsdagen den 8 Augusti 1945 Uppl. A

"Det är svårt att tro vad vi såg" Jätteångvält gick över Hiroshima

Område stort som Söder pulveriserades.

Explosionsblixten syntes 32 mil. — Stöd med 343.000 invånare upphörde att existera.

Späningsfotografier ger vid handen, att över 10 km. eller 60 procent av Hiroshimas förstördes helt av historiens första atombombsexplosion...

Ena uppbyggnadsbitarna på en produktions i klockverket för det stängsloppa flytt i tillfälligtverkstade. Den står, som ett ständigt, omkring flytt, då den tillfälligt, som atombombens skalle användas igen.



GENERAL C. SPAATZ, som ledde atombombningen av Japan.

Kort handledning i ATOMVÄRLDEN

under. — Hur vetenskapen avslöjat hemligheter. Den moderna atomvetenskapen började utvecklas i slutet av 1930-talet...

(Forts. sid. 2, sista str.)



Europas enda kvinnliga dykare

10-åriga Eiva Henningson kompletterar i n. sin utbildning på 2000 meters djupvidden som den ärendade för första gången i världen.

LUSTMORDSFÖRSÖK MOT 70-ÅRIG KVINNA.

KRISTINA, smida. 70-årig kvinna i Göteborg. En kvinna i Göteborg, som varit gift med en 70-årig man, har blivit utvald som offer för ett lustmordsförsök.

Atomkraft först om 50 år OM HUNDRA ÅR RESA TILL MÄNEN.

"Barnligt tro att nya vapnet kan förhindra krig"

LONDON, smida. 1945. Atomkraften kommer inte att kunna straffas för vanlig samfundet under de närmaste 50 åren, skriver den kända engelska estetikern, professor Archibald N. Low i en specialartiklar för DNE.

Viski i handeln vid månadsskiftet. Prisförhandlingar stoppar konjaksimport.

BORSEN. Tröskeln: 200. KOPPAR: 118. GULD: 142. SÖLV: 14.5. NYCKEL: 1.5. NYCKEL: 1.5. NYCKEL: 1.5.

Allt levande brändes ihjäl.

NEW YORK, smida. (NY A. States) I en radiobildning från Tokyo som uppgavs för första gången att atomkraften praktiskt taget kunde användas för att brända levande organismer ihjäl i Hiroshima.



En förvärd arbetar i laboratoriet i Kairo.

Bara 7.000 tjog krafter här i morgon

Enligt en rapport från Kairo kommer bara 7.000 tjog krafter att vara kvar i morgon. Detta beror på att de övriga har flyttat till andra delar av Egypten.

BORSEN

Table with market data including Asien, Kungälv, Göteborg, and other regions.

Sid. 4: OM RIM OCH RIMMARE

group that formed around air force general dr Knaus, commander at the air war academy at Gatow, in the Berlin training and research institute for the German air force. Dr Knaus is internationally known as the Lufthansa director and leading German air strategist, and according to what was told in an interview with the journalist dr Arnold in the autumn of 1944 belonged to the group in the general staff which was in opposition to Hitler, Dr Muller himself fled to Sweden because of his involvement in the 20th July plot. /...Knaus had late 1943/ told the Witzleben-Stauffenberg conspirators that his scientific staff worked on producing a huge bomb and also worked with disrupter beams that could stop the engines of attacking aircraft. "Both inventions could have contributed to a successful end of the war, the general said, hadn't the scientists working with it decided that under no circumstances put the terrible offensive weapon in the hands of Hitler /...it was/ German chemists and physicists from the technical college of Charlottenburg and the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Dalheim. Professor Otto Hahn was in the group that performed the technical development, splitting atoms for atomic bombs. It was led by the grand old man of German theoretical physics, professor Planck. /German scientists taken to England and the US confirm this./ They could make significant contribution to atomic bomb development as their experiments went in a b it different direction than the Anglo-American.

attacked. I see it as impossible that the atomic bomb can serve the purpose of stopping new wars. Each weapon can be used both defensively and offensively (cont p15 col 29). The picture shows "Professor Lise Meitner who played a vital part in the theoretical pre-work for smashing the atom - a recent picture from vacation outside Leksand". Meitner was indeed vital. Having fled Hitler coming to Sweden, she corresponded with Otto Hahn and gave him the tip that his recent experiments did indeed split the atom. But when the Nobel prize came she was forgotten. Archibald Low was BTW connected to Arthur C Clarke and the British Interplanetary Society and known in fandom. It's comforting, though, that whisky is on its way, as we may have to watch out for giant, mutated crayfish. That would be risk if it was true that, as another article in the same paper that day says: "Hitler could have had an atomic bomb at his disposal. The scientists consciously sabotaged their work - Opposition to Nazism saved the world...this message comes from the opposition

Hitler kunde ha haft atombomb till förfogande.

Forskarna saboterade medvetet sitt arbete. — Opposition mot nazisterna räddade världen.

Atombomben hade stått till Hitlers förfogande, och inte de tyska vetenskapsmännen som arbetade på den, i medvetande om vad atombomben i händelsen på målet skulle ha betytt, själva saboterat arbetet för att rädda världen från de fruktansvärda följderna, skriver FTF.

Detta meddelande kommer från den oppositionskrets, som bildats omkring Flygöverstyrelsen i Weimar, kommander vid Luftkriegsakademin i Gatow, vid Berlins utbildnings- och forskningsinstitut för det tyska luftväpnets generalstabsofficerare. Dr Kraus, känd i internationella luftfartskretsar som Luftwaffens direktör och ledande tysk flygstrateg, tillhörde enligt vad den krets 1944 hitt anställda journalisten, Dr Arnold Müller, meddelat i en intervju — den grupp i generalstaben, som sedan 1945 stod i opposition mot Hitler. Dr Müller flydde själv till Sverige på grund av delaktighet i Heberleinerna (11-20 juliattentatet).

General Kraus avslöjades redan i februari 1944 från sin post som chef för luftkriegsakademin på grund av sin defektistiska hållning. Han hade redan mot slutet av 1943 meddelat de med Wilhelm-Stauffenberg sammansvärna, att de vetenskapsliga medarbetare han hade under sig redan sossade med framställning av en storbomb och dessutom arbetade med störningsstrålar, som skulle kunna slå motorerna i angripande flygmaskiner ur arbete.

— Både uppfinningarna hade kunnat dras till ett framgångsrikt slut på nazist-

kriget, meddelar generalen och inte de vetenskapsmännen som arbetade på uppdraget, hade behövt ett undan-ått förhållanden alla de flygvetenskapliga anläggningarna i Tyskland på Hitler och Hitlers ledare för att vitt framtida världskriget skulle kunna utvecklas till ett lika framgångsrikt som världskriget.

I spåret för denna arbeten stod ledande tyska vetenskapsmän och främst från den tyska högskolan i Charlottenburg och i Kaiser-William-institutet i Dahlem. Professor Otto Hahn



Prof. Planck.

— Han var av de tyska vetenskapsmännen som tog till tilläggs av de västberädda och fört ut till England och Amerika av flygförarna, en del var av främst av medlemmarna i Washington och London, i tillfälle att bekräfta detta.

De bör kunna finna väsentliga bidrag till de forskningar, som bedrivs för atomteknikens utveckling, då de torde som de gjort när i en någon annan riket ning än de anglo-amerikanska försöken — FTF.

But from what I know we-sabotaged-the-bomb is a bit of a constructed "alibi". German scientists didn't have to sabotage, because they weren't close to a bomb and neither did Germany have the huge resources needed. Heisenberg miscalculated the critical mass, getting it to tons instead of kilograms. They did research but it was slow since they thought a bomb to be unpractical.

But which atomic scientists where there? September 28 Aftonbladet exclaimed: "Where are the German Atomic scientists?" (for the original article see next page). Reporting from a meeting with foreign ministers in London the paper notes the victorious powers begin to split in a west and east bloc (I summarise the start of the article).

And atomic scientists Heisenberg and Hahn have disappeared. As a reply to Russian demands to split Europe into two spheres of interest The Times had suggested a federal system, European states as federal units linked to a world covenant. The Brits wanted that, starting with a Czech-Polish federation the Russians torpedoed and went on to take over all of Eastern Europe. The British was forced to abandon the Polish London government and now works on establishing a western bloc. The open east-west split is echoed in Washington where a member of the Congress military committee, Arend, said that:

...the atomic bomb over Hiroshima was just a little firecracker compared to what can be done now. He explained that you now with one giant atomic bomb "in all ease can kill millions of unsuspecting inhabitants in a single operation. The value of the atomic bomb as means of political pressure has a time limit. Churchill himself in one of his speeches explained that the Anglo-Saxons were 3-4 years ahead with the bomb. Here there are however circumstances that causes doubt on that the lead is that big. The English came onto the secrets of atom splitting from notes left behind in London by the Russian-born professor Peter Kapitza who lived there earlier. In 1935 Kapitza unexpectedly went to Moscow and stayed there. He got an institute at his disposal, at it is know he a few years later received the Stalin Award for industrial production of heavy water and liquid helium, the two main components of atom splitting. In all likelihood Kapitza's research has advanced since then. /WHERE ARE THE GERMAN ATOMIC SCIENTISTS?/ From a statement by the Allies, the German atomic scientists had regarding theories advanced even further than the Anglo-Saxons. Because of bombings they hadn't had time to turn their theories into practice or built the giant factories necessary to produce atomic bombs. The two leading German atomic scientists are Hahn and Heisenberg. Hahn was first in the world to split an atom, and it is known about Heisenberg that he even during the war long cooperated with professor Bohr. After the German collapse not a word has been heard about the fate of both. It's unknown if they are in the west or east occupation zone. If they are with the Russians it means they too have the atomic secrets, provided they aren't already known through Kapitza. No information on Hahn and Heisenberg has been published by either side. But it is known that the English sent a special troop out to take care of German supplies of heavy water, about 1000 kg taken from Norway. But then it's a question of if Russian sharing the secret of the atomic bomb should be seen as a disaster, as many seem to think. It's rather that onesided knowledge of such a secret can be dangerous for the world. / See WWI when poison gas use was limited since both sides had it./ It may be the same with the atomic bomb. No one dare to use it, knowing you'll get a reply in the same manner.

More on Kapitza https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyotr_Kapitza whose London notes I hadn't heard of, and don't think had anything with UK or US atomic bomb research to do. As for the German atomic

scientists, it's known they were rounded up and put in an English country manor where they were bugged 24/7. Interesting recordings have been published on their reactions to the Hiroshima bomb. But I didn't know they were kept hidden for several months. Maybe it was a ploy to confuse Stalin? (Who wasn't too confused "thanks" to spy Klaus Fuchs.) A lot was written about the atomic bomb at this time, but have you heard about the "anti-atomic bomb"? Arbetartidningen writes October 17, 1945:

New York Herald Tribune recently criticised president Truman for claiming that the US could keep a monopoly on the atomic bomb for an undefined time in the future. This statement which has poisoned the international atmosphere was seen to indicate that the president hadn't grasped the fundamental meaning of the weapon. The British scientist A M Low has called president Truman's claim baloney, since every person who is knowledgeable in physics could make atomic bombs by the thousands if he only had financial resources enough. And the former minister of aircraft production, Lord Brabazon, has said that every physician knows the general principles of the atomic bomb and anyone having 400 million pounds sterling can make one. And on top of that the Crosby Research Foundation in the USA claims to have made an anti-atomic bomb which can cause an atomic bomb to detonate long before it has reached its target. In the picture the proponent of the anti-atomic bomb Larry Crosby (left) with the brother Bing - he who plays the lead in Going My Way - and Pat Hyatt studying a model of the newest defence weapon.



New York Herald Tribune kritiserade hörområden president Truman för hans söga överhaktiga påståenden att USA för obestämd tid framåt skulle kunna behålla monopol på atombomben. Detta uttalande, som förfäddat den internationella atmosfären, används tyda på att presidenten inte fattat den fundamentala betydelsen av vapnet. Den brittiske vetenskapsmannen professor A. M. Low har betecknat president Trumans förklaring som nonsens, eftersom varje person som är utbildad på fysikens område skulle kunna åstadkomma atombomber i tusentals om han bara hade tillräckliga finansiella resurser.

Och förre ministern för flygplansproduktionen, lord Brabazon, har sagt att varje fysiker känner atombombens allmänna principer och var och en som har 400 milj. pund sterling kan göra en.

Och så till på köpet påstår Crosby Research Foundation i USA sig ha gjort en anti-atombomb, som kan komma atombomben att bräsa långt innan den nått sitt mål.

På bilden ses anti-atombombens företrädare Larry Crosby (t. v.) med brödern Bing — han som spelar huvudrollen i Vandra min väg — och Pat Hyatt studera en modell av det nyaste försvarsvapnet.

There we have professor Low from the British Interplanetary Society again. He and others were right on that much around the atomic bomb wasn't much of a secret for atomic scientists. (An earlier *Intermission* reported on a Swedish scientist who at this time said he could construct one.) Making a Bomb is

more a matter of industrial capacity. It's a pity that the anti-atomic bomb never became such a hit as many of the songs sung by the designer's brother Bing... *I'm dreaming of a white Christmas - but not a nuclear winter!*

The French wanted to get into the game too. Aftonbladet Sep 16 1945 reported on "Atomic bomb in French film":

PUTIN IS A LOUSE!

VAR ÄR TYSKA ATOMFORSKARNA?

Bakgrunden till utrikesministeriets möte i London. — Måttningarna ger sig i Washington, där ett kongressman talar om Hiroshimabomben som en liten flyvkräslor, som det var men nu kan prövas. — De tyska atomforskarna under professor Kapitan. — De tyska atomforskarna Hahn och Heisenberg i Berlin som andra V-dagen. — Atombomben en spårfull till sluttgång?



PROFESSOR PETER KAPITZA, är tyska atomforskningens framgångsrika.

Så länge kriget varade kunde de Sautatiga utskottningarna lura det allierade läget någottenda överröstas av propagandans trolltrummer. Men knappa fem månader efter V-dagen kan man konstatera, att en utgruppering är i full gång bland ägarstrukturer, som delar sig i ett västligt och ett östligt länder.

I detta sammanhang är väl att minnas ett artikel uttryckt i Times från den tidpunkt då de tyska beströ på Europas uppdelning i två interkontinentala zoner blev synliga. Tidningen bekräftar också detta, att det amerikanska presidenten skulle uttala sig om fysiska principer. De amerikanska atomerna skulle kunna i en praktisk betydelse förstås, som skulle utgå i en utveckling, som är utomordentligt och värdelöst. De skulle kunna göras till stabila och förhållandevis en utveckling av Europa i två interkontinentala zoner. Detta skulle kunna göra till ett stort utkast till ett nytt världsbild.

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Det blev emellertid som ryktena ville. Den realitetspolitiska situationen i London skulle uttryck av ryktena var, som skulle kunna göras till stabila och förhållandevis en utveckling av Europa i två interkontinentala zoner. Detta skulle kunna göra till ett stort utkast till ett nytt världsbild.

De tyska atomforskarna skulle uttala sig om fysiska principer. De skulle kunna i en praktisk betydelse förstås, som skulle utgå i en utveckling, som är utomordentligt och värdelöst. De skulle kunna göras till stabila och förhållandevis en utveckling av Europa i två interkontinentala zoner. Detta skulle kunna göra till ett stort utkast till ett nytt världsbild.

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Den politiska atombomben.

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Var är de tyska atomforskarna?

Enligt ett uttalande från allierat håll hade de tyska atomforskarna i Berlin varit i kontakt till och med några av de amerikanska. Men de hade på grund av bombningsrensningen blivit tvungna att flytta till olika länder, som de skulle kunna göra till stabila och förhållandevis en utveckling av Europa i två interkontinentala zoner. Detta skulle kunna göra till ett stort utkast till ett nytt världsbild.

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The atomic bomb has blown all fuses for the possibilities off the fantastic also in French film, where they otherwise usually don't meddle with craziness à la Superman. But now they are shooting a story that must be rather unique and as a poor excuse it is announced the writers of the film "L'Invité de la 11:eme Heure" have been inspired by atomic research. You are thus transported to the giant laboratory tower where Frankenstein, the Invisible Man and the Werewolf were created. It's Dr Caligari's cabinet in super-modern version - but you really didn't really thought that the French would thrive from superhuman fantasies. In this French film an omnipresent all-seeing artificial eye is presented, not to mention a deathray and a mind-reading machine. If these props are used gloomily destructive or jokingly isn't

known, but the casting looks promising: Blanchette Brunoy is female lead and Jean Tissier the male, and there is also a good debutante, Roger Pigault.

The title translates to "Invitation to the 11th hour" and besides finding a magazine cover (or film poster) from the film, I know nothing about this masterpiece. IMDB has nil. Does anyone know more?

As noted, missiles are often called "robots" in Swedish, so that's what the lead article is about in Aftonbladet August 23 1953, "Robots over Sweden" (next page). The threat from nuke carrying missiles was new at the time, and quite fittingly the article then dives into...science fiction.

On frequent occasions we have from sources in USA come to know that Russian missile bases are aimed at Sweden. These weapons are of course very dangerous and must be taken into account by any country that may be a victim. But that doesn't mean that Sweden is particularly in the risk zone. There are other countries above us on the list in case of a Russian missile attack. And it's BTW not sure we're on the list at all. The missile weapon is now more lethal than by the end of the war. How modern missiles differ from V1 & V is then described. They count on a range of 350 to 500 km at max. The claim Kiruna can be targeted from the Riga area is thus just as exaggerated as earlier talk about that the missile weapon would darken the sky over the Baltic Sea. It's unknown if the Russians have built missile bases in the Porkala or Petsamo area. Mines are also relatively safe. The development of the missile weapon is serious, but as yet is just another addition to destructive means. For us it'll in some areas to a high degree demand protection of civilians and makes it necessary to be able to quickly evacuate bigger cities. Missiles against Sweden may become an efficient terror weapon if civilians aren't taken care of with the same priority as developing purely military weapons.

/SCIENCE FICTION/ The literary genre called "science fiction" has been criticised in a lead article in Skånska Dagbladet, ending in that it's dispensable. It's an assessment that people of cultural background could make about virtually any type of entertainment reading. But the public asking for entertainment reading is less demanding, and "science fiction" has in the Anglo-Saxon countries found to have much of pleasure. It seems the genre fills a need, but the relevant question is: which? A novel of the type "science fiction" is about atomic beams, robots, star rockets and similar things, fruits of a technical development that is partly real, partly result of technical imagination. The simplest sort of "science fiction" doesn't reach further than so: it's about which explosive effects you can make with these new toys. But the more advanced sort ask how people are doing in this world of advanced technology. It's questions like this that give double levels to "science fiction" when it's at its best: the wondrous development in technology and the problems occurring in human society's life. The fear Nobel laureate Urey expressed when he warned for what atom splitting technology could lead to if used without sense, is a typical starting point for "science fiction". This must be a vital problem for the large American audience as they want it seen treated in an easy literary form: technology as the master of mankind and democratic society being doomed. But the conventional demand for a happy end shows up: man always manage to regain control of everything, and democracy is fine in the end. The genre will of course - just like crime fiction - contain stuff of shifting values, from what is technically reasonable and solves problems in a captivating way, to things that just use raw effects. But literature shouldn't be judged from its junk. In any case



ATOMBOMBEN har tydligen sprängt fördomningarna för det fantasiska möjligheter även i fransk film, där man inte annars brukar syssla med vansinnigheter à la Stålmannen. Men nu håller man på att spela in en historia som torde vara rätt unik och som en liten ursäkt meddelas att författarna till filmen, som heter "L'Invité de la 11:eme Heure" blivit inspirerade av atomforskningen.

MAN FÖRFLYTTAS sålunda tillbaka till de jättelika tornlaboratorier där Frankenstein, Den osynlige mannen och Varulven skapades. Det blir dr Caligari's kabinet i ultramodern upplaga — men man trodde egentligen inte att fransmännen skulle kunna trivas i denna luft av övermänskligt fantasteri. I den franska filmen kommer man att lansera ett allseende konstgjort öga, för att inte tala om en dödsstråle och en tankeläsningssmaskin. Om denna rekvisita användes i dystert destruktivt eller rentav skämtsamt avseende är inte känt, men rollbesättningen lovar gott: Blanchette Brunoy har den kvinnliga och Jean Tissier den manliga huvudrollen och dessutom framträder en bra debutant, Roger Pigault.

it is worth noting that "science fiction" has gained an audience of millions in a world where technological development has this far only been seen from the angle of "progress". But it seems it is that angle of view we need to question.

A rather fair article, mentioning both the good and the bad. Not only using but also producing the atomic bomb was dangerous, as we learn in Aftonbladet August 7, 1945, where they have Swedish atomic scientists in Sweden, "Cosmic rays threatened to blow up the atomic factories" and "Yet another atomic scientist with Stockholm roots":

Giant facilities being built in America. The Uranium ore is in Canada, Czechoslovakia and Russia. "By inventing the atomic bomb man has managed to release the energy that keeps the sun glowing for a terribly destructive means. It's done by fulfilling the dream of the old alchemists - transformation of elements". These were the words by which a physicist of Oxford University presented the difficulties of producing atomic bombs, says the Reuter correspondence Geoffry Parr via telegram from Oxford. The physicist described the process with the scientific facts that aren't military secrets. The metal uranium, mentioned by war minister Stimson, is the heaviest element science knows. Just as the other strange and rare element, radium, it is found in pechblände ore. Some finds have been in Joachimsthal, Czechoslovakia, others in the Ural mountains. When the uranium has been mined and purified the scientists face the first big obstacle, and overcoming it is a big part of the progress now being made. Like many other elements uranium actually consists of two different atoms, called isotopes, with chemical and physical properties virtually identical and therefore mix together, but with specific weight having an infinitely small difference. Now there is a double problem. First, for their purpose the scientists only need one of the isotopes, but here are about 200 000 times as many atoms of the "worthless" isotope as of the useful one in any given quantity of uranium. Secondly, there is no known chemical method to separate the two types. Only by using a complicated process with cathode ray tubes and magnetic deflection may the uranium be separated into its parts. The next difficulty is quantity. The amount of uranium you may extract from many tons of ore is in itself very little. The quantity of the useful uranium isotope that may produced is so small that only by applying a truly gigantic scale can you obtain a practical amount of the rare substance. This could explain president Truman talking about factories in America built by 150 000 workers. When all the mentioned difficulties are overcome it's time for the latest scientific invention. The uranium is subjected to "atomic bombardment". "Atomic canons" fire a stream of particles called neutrons towards the uranium, and a process developing energy starts, which finally creates the terrible explosive force. The uranium is split into new elements. This also creates new neutrons, which continues the splitting process. The main goal will be achieved if this revolution in the atomic world can be contained and concentrated on itself. But here the universe itself interferes and threatens with disaster. The weapon of the universe is the cosmic radiation. The other big victory when producing the atomic bomb is the victory over this radiation that threatens to blow up the whole factory. Reuters' scientific expert says that even if an atomic bomb's



25.8.53.

Robotar över Sverige

Med korta mellanrum har man från källor i USA erfarit att ryska robotbaser är installerade på beskjutning av Sverige. Dessa vapen är naturligtvis oerhört farliga och bör tas med i beräkningen i varje land som kan räkna ut för dem. Men det är därför inte sagt att Sverige i särskild grad befinner sig i riskzonen. Det finns andra länder som står före oss på listan i händelse av ett ryskt robotangrepp. För övrigt är det inte givet att vi kommer med på listan alla.

Robotvapnen är numera farligare än vid krigets slut. Rysarna är i fyra avseenden bättre rustade än tyskarna var då. Befästningarna vid baserna är starkare. Projektilerna har ökad sprängverkan, precision och räckvidd. Skjuthastigheten är dock bara en projektil i kvarten från varje utskjutningsanordning. V 1-vapnet är på grund av relativt billig framställning avsett för massverkan men särbart från flyg och luftvärn på grund av sin låga fart. Mot V 2-vapnet med dess höga fart har man däremot intet aktivt motmedel, men vapnet är mycket dyrt att framställa.

Man räknar med en räckvidd av 35 respektive 50 mil som det maximala. Uppgiften om tillräckligt beskjutning av Kiruna från Rigaområdet är därför lika överdriven som det tidigare talet om att robotvapen skulle förmörka himlen över Östersjön. Det är inte känt, att rysarna byggt robotbaser i Porkkala- eller Petsamoområdena. Gruvor tillhör också de relativt okända målen.

Robotvapnets utveckling är allvarlig nog, men ännu betecknar det bara ett viktigt tillägg till förstörelsemedlen. För vårt vidkommande ökar det inom vissa områden i hög grad kraven på skydd åt civilbefolkningen och nödvändiggör en del större stöders snabba utrymning. Robotar mot Sverige kan bli ett effektivt terrordömsel om inte civilbefolkningens skydd ägnas lika stor uppmärksamhet som utvecklingen av de rent militära stridsmedlen.

Den litteraturart som kallas "science fiction" har synats i sömmarna i en ledare i Svenska Dagbladet, som utmynnar i att arten i fråga är umbärlig. Det omdöme torde av folk med kulturella anspråk kunna föllas om snart sagt varje slag av förtroelseläsning. Men den allmänhet som efterfrågar förtroelseläsningen är mindre anspråksfull, och den har i de anglosaxiska länderna funnit stort behag i "science fiction". Tydligt fyller genren ett behov, och den relevanta frågan är: vilket?

En roman av typen "science fiction" handlar om atomstrålar, robotar, stjärnraketer och snarlika ting, frukter av en teknisk utveckling som delvis är verklig, delvis assister av en tekniskt betonat fantasi. Den allra enklaste sciencens "science fiction" når inte längre än så: den handlar om vilka knalleffekter man kan ställa till med med dessa nya iksaker. Men den något mer avancerade sorten frågar sig hur människorna har det i denna värld av avancerade tekniker. Det är denna frågeställning som ger de dubbla bottenarna åt "science fiction" när den är som bäst: den vidunderliga utvecklingen på det tekniska planet och de problem som uppstår på det mänskliga samhällsplanets plan. Den fruktan som Nobelpristagaren Urey uttryckte, när han varnade för vad atomsprängningstekniken kunde ställa till med om den användes oförnuftigt, är den typiska utgångspunkten för "science fiction". Tydligt är detta ett problem som står levande för den stora amerikanska publiken eftersom den vill se det behandlat i lättköpt litterär form: tekniken som människans herre och det demokratiska samhällslicket vigt till undergång. Det konventionella kravet på happy end står emellertid i genomsnitt: människan lyckas alltid återta kontrollen över det hela, och demokratin rader sig i slutspelet.

Givetvis rymmer genren — liksom detektivgenren — ting av skiftande värde, från sådant som är tekniskt vederhäftigt och genomfört problemlösningen på ett fängslande sätt, till sådant som håller sig till de råa effekterna. Men litteraturarten bör inte dömas efter skräpet. Det är i alla händelser värt att notera att "science fiction" vunnit majoritet i en värld, där man allt hitills sett den tekniska utvecklingen endast ur "Farnabaskridandets" synvinkel. Tydligt är det just det betraktelsesättet som börjar sättas i fråga.

ORCS! THAT'S WHAT UKRAINIANS CALL THE RUSSIAN INVADERS.



Kosmiska strålar hotade spränga atomfabrikerna

Jätteanläggningar har byggts i Amerika.

Uranmalmen finns i Kanada, Tjeckoslovakien och Ryssland.

LONDON, tisdag. (TT)

"Genom uppfinnningen av atombomben har människorna lyckats för ett förfärligt, destruktivt ändamål utnyttja den energi som håller solen glödande. De har gjort det genom att uppfylla de gamla alkemisternas dröm — omvandling av element." Med dessa ord inledde en fysiker vid Oxforduniversitetet i dag en berättelse om de svårigheter som mött vid framställandet av atombomberna, telegraferar Reuterkorrespondenten Geoffrey Parr från Oxford.

Fysikern skildrade processen i termer av vetenskapliga fakta, som inte är militära hemligheter. Den av krigsmästar Stimson omnämnda metallen uran är det tyngsta grundämne vetenskapen känner. Liksom det andra oegendomliga och sällsynta elementet, radium, påträffas uran i pechblände. En del fynd har gjorts i Joachimsthal i Tjeckoslovakien, andra i Uranbergen. När uranet utskilts och renats möts vetenskapsmännen av den första stora svårigheten i vars övervinnande ligger en stor del av de framsteg som nu gjorts. I likhet med vissa andra grundämnen består uran i själva verket av två olika slags atomer, kallade "isotoper", vilkas kemiska och fysiska egenskaper är praktiskt taget iden-

tiska och vilka därför förekommer tillsammans, men vilkas specifika vikt uppvisar en oändligt liten skillnad.

Oerhörda svårigheter, endast små kvantiteter.

Det tvåfaldigt problem uppger sig nu. För det första behövs vetenskapsmannen för sitt ändamål endast den ena av isotoperna, men det finns omkring 100.000 gånger så många atomer av den "värdefulla" isotopen som av den användbara i varje given kvantitet uran. För det andra finns det ingen känd enkel metod för särskiljande av de båda slagena. Blandt genom en komplicerad process med användande av katodstrålar och magnetisk avböjning kan uranet uppdelas i sina beståndsdelar.

Nästa svårighet är av kvantitativ art. Den mängd uran som kan extraheras ur många ton malen är i sig själv mycket liten. Den kvantitet av den nyttiga uran-isotopen som kan framställas måste därför relativt sett bli så ringa, att man endast genom produktion i väldigt förtärliga anläggningar kan få fram en praktiskt användbar mängd av den svåråtkomliga substansen. Detta skulle förklara president Trumans uppgitt om fabriker i Amerika, nämligen att de byggts av 150.000 arbetare.

Sedan alla de såldrade svårigheterna övervunnits sätter den senaste vetenskapliga uppfinnningen in Urans utvinning för ett "atombombberedning". "Atomispanner" avfyrar en ström av partiklar kallade neutroner mot uranet, och en energitvånande process av successivt underdelning och omvandling inleder, vilken slutligen avslutas med fruktansvärda explosiva krafter. Uranet skänds i nya grundämnen. Härvid skapas emellertid också nya neutroner, vilka fortätter underdelningsprocessen.

Om denna revolution i atomvärlden kan slängas in och koncentreras på sig själv har huvudmålet nåtts. På denna punkt inryper emellertid universums själva och hotar med katastrof. Universums vapen är den kosmiska strålningen. Den andra stora sagan vid framställandet av atombomben är sagan över denna strålning som hotar att spränga hela fabriken i luften.

Deutera vetenskapliga anseende ansåg, att även om en atombomb i sin sprängkraft motsvarar 20.000 ton högexplosiva sprängämnen dess verkan inte är lika stor som av 20.000 atombomber som släpps ned med regelbundna mellanrum. Genom en fysisk matematisk beräkning kommer man fram till att effekten av en atombomb utgör tillräckligt motsvarande verkan av 500 ton sprängämnen, även om atombombens explosion givits ut utlopp för en betydligt kraftigare koncentrerad energi.

* * *

De kosmiska strålarna, som anses komma långt utifrån världensrymden och bestå av ioniserade partiklar, har starkt geomagnetisk kraft och har påvisats långt under Jordytan, i botten på alpska sjöar, o. s. v. Tydliga har de stora katedraler, som varit förbundna med atombombens framställning — president Truman nämnde 2 miljarder dollar — till en betydande del gått till att avskärma fabriksanläggningarna från dessa strålar, som annars kunnat spränga hela anläggningen i luften.

Atomernas vilddom i England som den största vetenskapliga upptäckten i historien och det mest fruktansvärda vapen människligheten någonsin har känt till.

Sir John Anderson, som är ansvarig för forskningsrätt över atombomben, förklarar, att "den energi, som är innesluten i bomben är ofattlig. Problemet att kontrollera utlösningen har ännu inte lösts, men kommer utan tvivel att bli löst, och en stor del av arbetet har hållits."

Det finns stora möjligheter, om energi i den skala, som representeras av bomben, kan användas för att driva maskiner och vara kraftkälla. Detta skulle åstadkomma något revolutionerande inom det industriella livet. Det höll nytt fält öppnas för den vetenskapliga forskningen. Detta är inte blott en utveckling av tidigare utveckling — det är absolut nytt — och öppnar nya perspektiv för det vetenskapliga arbetet."

En representant för brittiska flygproduktionsministeriet förklarar, att om kraften utnyttjas för industriella ändamål, skulle det vara förebildande som att driva tosen Mary tvärs över Atlanten med en teacup bränsle, chivra det kanske dröjer 20 år, innan man har kommit så långt. Det skulle vara en förtärlig att ge alla engelska hus centraluppvärmning, nästan att det knappt skulle behövas något bränsle.

Ännu en atomforskare med rötter i Stockholm.

Fyrtioårig forskare har föräldrarna här, deltar själv i experimenten i New Mexico.

Professor Lise Meitner — numera bosatt i Sverige som framgår av en annan artikel i dagens nummer, diskuterade den viktiga upptäckten med sin unge släkting dr Otto Robert Frisch, som sedan 1934 varit assistent vid professor Niels Bohrs Institut för teoretisk fysik i Köpenhamn och som i januari 1938 besökte Stockholm.

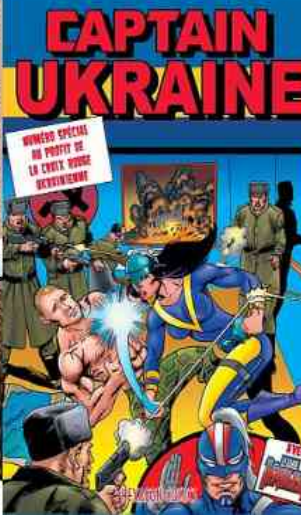
Efter återkomsten till Köpenhamn började Frisch experimentera för att i praktiken utföra klyvningen av uranatomer. Professor Bohr befann sig vid denna tidpunkt i Amerika. Redan den 23 februari kände Høbr-Institutet meddela, att det sensationella experimentet hade lyckats.

Genom att bombardera uran med neutroner från radium hade Frisch lyckats spränga uranatomer, varvid energi släpades som värdade sig på en styrka av 200 miljarder volt eller mer än som någonsin fört uppåt till jorden.

Denne atomsprängning blev en världsensensation, och det är bekant att professor Bohr senare fortsatte med experimenten. Hans assistent dr Frisch reste i juli 1938 till Birmingham, där han samarbetade med professor Oliphant, och senare till Liverpool där han arbetade med nobelpristagaren sir James Chadwick, neutronens upptäckare. 1942 blev han brittisk

medborgare och i december 1945 avreste han till Förenta staterna och arbetade med den grupp vetenskapsmän som utvaldes för krigssträngningen under ledning av professor Vannevar Bush. Man kan tryggt utgå ifrån att han varit en av huvudakterna vid konstruktionen av atombomben. För närvarande lär han vistas i Santa Fé i New Mexico.

Dr Frisch är född 1901. Hans föräldrar bor fortfarande i Stockholm. Där hans fader, dr Justian Frisch är skulen till Bermann-Fischers förlag.



destructive power equals 20 000 tons of high explosives its effect isn't as big as 20 000 one-ton bombs dropped with regular intervals. Through a superficial mathematical calculation you find that the effect of an atomic bomb equals approximately 500 tons of explosives /sounds wrong! even if the atomic bomb explosion releases much more concentrated energy. The cosmic rays, thought to come from far away in space, have strong penetration and have been discovered far below Earth's surface, at the bottom of Alpine lakes, etc. It seems much of the costs connected to producing the atomic bomb - Truman mentioned 2 billion dollars - has largely gone to screen the factory from these rays which otherwise could blow it up. The atomic bomb is welcomed in England as the greatest scientific discovery in history and the most terrible weapon mankind has ever known. Sir John Anderson, responsible for researching the atomic bomb, explains that the energy trapped in the bomb is huge. The problem of controlling its release isn't yet solved, but will be solved and much of the work has been done. There are huge possibilities if the energy of the scale found in the bomb could power machines and be a power source. It would be something revolutionary in industrial life, a whole new field opens for scientific research. This isn't just a development of an earlier development - it is totally new - and opens new perspectives. A representative for the British ministry of aeroplane production explains that if the power is used for the industry, it would be equal to power the Queen Mary across the Atlantic with a teacup of fuel, even if it may take 50 years before we reach that far. It would be easy to give all English households central heating, since it would hardly require any fuel.

That cosmic radiation would have meant any specific danger for the atomic plants must be an exaggerated fear. Note how they here already talk about civilian atomic power. The presented facts are quite advanced for coming virtually hours after Hiroshima. That Stockholm newspapers had some insight into atoms may be explained by having atomic scientists connections nearby, as this newspaper explains in the same issue: "Another atomic scientists with roots in Stockholm":

40-year old scientist has his parents here, but he takes part in the experiments in New Mexico. Professor Lise Meitner - nowadays living in Stockholm as stated in another article in today's issue - discussed the important discovery with her young relative dr Otto Robert Frisch, who since 1934 had been an assistant at

professor Niels Bohr Institute for theoretical physics in Copenhagen and who in January 1939 visited Stockholm. After returning to Copenhagen Frisch began experimenting to perform the split of the uranium atom in practice. Professor Bohr was in America at this time. The Bohr Institute could announce that the sensational experiment had succeeded already February 23. By bombarding uranium with neutrons from radium Frisch managed to split the uranium atom, by which energy was released with a strength of 200 million Volts or more that has ever been recorded on Earth. This atom splitting was a world sensation, and it is known that professor Bohr later continued with the experiments. His assistant Frisch travelled to Birmingham in July 1939, where he cooperated with professor Oliphant, and later to Liverpool where he worked with the Nobel laureate Sir James Chadwick, who discovered the neutron. 1943 he became British citizen and in December 1943 he travelled to the US and worked with the group of scientists doing war work led by professor Vannevar Bush. You can safely assume that he was one of the main figures behind constructing the atomic bomb. At this time he is said to live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dr Frisch is born in 1904. His parents still live in Stockholm, where his father Dr Justinian Frisch is connected to Bermann-Fischers publishing house.

What isn't mentioned is that Meitner and the Frischs were Jewish and had fled to Stockholm from the Nazis. The process behind splitting the atom is that Otto Hahn did the first experiments, but didn't fully understand the results. Lise Meitner uncovered the theory behind it (in correspondence to Hahn) and Frisch, her nephew, then confirmed the experiment at the Niels Bohr institute. That Lise Meitner was snubbed when it was time for a Nobel prize is one of the great scandals of this award. Here's an interesting interview with Otto Frisch about atomic research, Nazis and his aunt Lise Meitner:

<https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/4616>

When digging through the Royal Library newspaper archive (which was the start of my history digging series in *Intermission*) I found a lot about the atomic bomb and WWII. If you have followed what *Intermission* has covered you've seen that much more was known and speculated about the Bomb even before Hiroshima! Swedish newspapers already in 1943 (see *Intermission #103*) talked about the heavy water raid in Norway, clearly saying it was to stop atomic weapons research. The Bomb has numerous connections to skiffy. Apart from being the advanced science which is the breathing air of our stuff, we also have eg HG Wells' 1914 Atomic Bomb, how authorities investigated John W Campbell's *Astounding SF* and Cleve Cartmill's atomic bomb story "Deadline" in 1944, we have Captain Future's spaceship powered by "cyclotrons", and much more.

Maths is also science, which brings us to codebreaking during the war. You all know about how Alan Turing, Tommy Flowers and a bunch of a few thousand crossword puzzlers broke into the German Enigma coding machine. I've noted it before, that a perhaps even bigger feat was performed by Swedish mathematics professor Arne Beurling! He locked himself into a room and with paper and a pencil he cracked the more complicated German Geheimschreiber ("Secret Writer"), used for telegraph lines the Germans leased through Sweden to occupied Norway. You can find the story in Bengt Backman's *Codebreakers: Arne Beurling and the Swedish crypto program during WWII* (review <https://people.kth.se/~haakanh/publications/Fhed-crypto-beurling.pdf>) but it was revealed in detail when a former diplomat wrote his memoirs, as we read in Dagens Nyheter November 1, 1964, "He deciphered the German war code in 14 days":

The man who cracked the German military cipher was the then 35 year-old professor at Uppsala University Arne Beurling. He is now, since more than a decade, attached to the famous American Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. In 14 days in the beginning of the war - it didn't take longer - the Uppsala mathematician managed to crack the German cipher based on wiretapped messages to and from Norway.. After Beurling had solved the code Swedish authorities could follow such important things as orders between Berlin and Norway and Finland and their reports to the overcommand throughout the war. After Erik Boheman in his new memoirs unveiled the secret around the feat after a quarter of a century, professor Arne Beurling talked with how it was done..."It was simply so - yes, he says simply - that I cracked the German machine cipher and constructed the machines we then could use to interpret messages. When it was



cracked the rest was routine. Many others had worked with cracking the German cipher before, but it showed their working material was incomplete so they failed. "The German cipher traffic from Norway went on leased lines, partly through Sweden, so we tapped them. Prof Beurling says. But a difficulty was, as it later showed, that we only had the cipher messages in one direction. There was no solution to be found in such material." What the professor means is that machine cipher is made so that each letter isn't represented by the same symbol each time. Symbols also shifts lengthwise after a system and when the material is incomplete you get nowhere. "After a while I understood the material was faulty for our needs," Beurling says. "But then came a day when wiretapping went well and we had the ciphers in both directions. I still remember it was May 25 1940. And later there was another day when we had complete material. This became crucial. When no bits were missing you could figure out how the text had been replaced by the cipher symbols. We had the solution in 14 days. And then we could construct machines working along the same principles as the German and allowed for continuous interpretation of the ciphers tapped." What professor Beurling calls "routine", to translate the daily messages into clear, is described with more respect by Boheman, second in the Foreign Department through the war and in such a position to know what value the tapped and interpreted messages had for Swedish authorities. "The Germans changed the cipher key every day, but it didn't cause much trouble," Boheman says in his new memoirs about the war years and the time afterwards. "Every morning a couple of young math geniuses were busy trying to fund the key, and usually succeeded after a couple of hours, Through this we could in all detail follow all messages to German troops, first in Norway, later in Finland, and also the messages to and from the German embassy in Stockholm. That Sweden read some German military ciphers during the war has earlier been revealed in connection to a court case against the Nazi-friendly newspaper Dagsposten, where it was proven that the German embassy received enciphered orders concerning the paper. In a "whitebook" published by the Foreign Department in 1946 concerning the land defence command expedition and the German military attache in Stockholm we also learn that "during the war years the Swedish side managed to read some cipher telegrams sent from the German embassy in Stockholm to Berlin". These telegrams, it is said, "were put at disposal for the military leaders and to a large degree also to the Foreign Department." Professor Beurling says he was among those who already in September 1939 were brought from Uppsala to work in Stockholm with the cipher work. He stayed with that for 14 months, and was after having a break, was once more attached to it but the only half time. Among those not rarely seen in the crypto office, where Beurling and others did their secret work, was governor Rickard Sandler, Foreign Minister until the Finnish Winter War /also former Prime Minister/, the professor says. The interest Sandler has in

Han dechiffrerade...

(Forts. från sid. 1)

Sedan Erik Boheman i sin nya memoarbok gått på förliden kring den i ett kvarta sekel hemligt hållna berättelsen om professor Beurling berättat för DN:s New York-korrespondent hur det gick till.

Med en trygg Göteborgsman, som de många ären i Amerika inte kunnat utplåna, säger professorn

— Det var helt enkelt så — ja, han säger förtvåkigt "helt enkelt" — att jag förordade tyskarnas maskinchiffer och konstruerade de maskiner vi sedan använde för att tolka upptäckta meddelanden.

När förretningen väl klarat, var resten ett rättsmått. enligt professor Beurling. Flere andra hade arbetat på att knäcka det tyska chifferet först, men det visade sig att det material de fått att arbeta med var ofullständigt och därför lyckades de inte.

— Den tyska chiffertrafiken från Norge gick på fyra telegrafledningar, som delvis passerade genom Sverige, och där blev de första "upptecknade" av oss, säger professor Beurling. Men svårigheten var, som det så småningom visade sig, att vi fått fatt i chiffermeddelandet endast i en riktning. På det materialet gick det inte att hitta lösningen.

Vad professorn berättar är att maskinberedelser är så utvecklade, att varje tecken inte motsvaras av en och samma symbol varje gång den uppträder i kryptotexten. Byråhollarna föreslog att ett bestämt system, och när man har ofullständigt textmaterial kommer man ingen vart.

"Rutinarbete"

— Så småningom begrep jag att materialet för våra behov var tillräckligt, säger Beurling. Och så kom

en dag då vi var utredningsinbjudna och fick dechifferradiogramen i bågen riktningarna. Jag minns ännu att det var den 25 maj 1940. Senare inträffade det ännu en dag då vi fick komplett material. Detta blev avslut av utredningen. När dessa bitar var samlade gick det att gå fram till kryptotexten omgående i dechifferradiogram. På fjortiden dagar hade vi lösningen. Sedan kunde maskiner konstrueras som arbetade efter samma princip som de tyska och tillät fortgående tolkning av de chiffermeddelandena som snappades upp.

Vad professor Beurling berättar om "rutinarbete", att övermitta de dagliga meddelandena från tyskarna till kryptotext, inbegripet att respekt för Boheman, kabinettssekreterare under hela kriget och som sedan i position att veta vilket värde de uppmärksammade och tillräckliga meddelandena hade för svenska myndigheter.

— Varje dag behövde vi de tyska chiffernyckeln, men det tillade ännu större svårigheter, säger Boheman i sin nyutgivna memoarbok om krigsåren och tiden efteråt. "Varje morgon använde ett par unga matematiska genier med ett litet tryck och lyckades i allmänhet efter ett par timmar. Genom denna verksamhet kom vi i förtid till alla meddelanden som gick till de tyska trupperna, först i Norge och sedan mera i Finland och också de meddelanden som gick till och från tyska legationen i Stockholm."

Att Sverige läste det tyska militärchifferet under kriget har tidigare kommit fram i samband med en process mot den namnsvårliga utvärderingen Dagposten, där det kunde bevisas att tyska legationen fick dechiffererade ord och riktiga ledningar.

Fått utlösa

I en 1946 av UD utgiven vittnesom förhållanden mellan chefen

för landförsvarens kommandoexpedition och tyske militärattachén i Stockholm heter det också i förordet att man "under krigsåren lyckades från östrik sida läsa en del chiffertelegram som avskickades från tyska legationen i Stockholm till Berlin". Dessa telegram skickades, heter det, "all den militära ledningens och i stor utsträckning även till utrikesledningens förfogande".

Professorn Beurling berättar att han hade till dem som redan i september 1939 kallades från Uppsala för att i Stockholm arbeta med chiffertrafiken. Han stannade i det arbetet i fjortiden månader och blev efter en tid avkortad ledning åter anknuten, men nu endast på halvtid.

Hans namn som inte tillika tyckes i de kryptologiska kretsarna i de kryptologiska kretsarna och andra utövade med ett hemligt arbete var landshövdingen Rickard Sandler, utrikesminister från till finska vinterkriget, berättar professorn. Sändlers efter- och chiffertrafiken ledde honom till att han skrev en bok om dessa allmänna problem, och Beurling säger att han minns hur Sandler kom och hjälpte på äran i början av 1940 för att se hur arbetet gick.

Det har tilläggats att Sandler själv hade övertygande del i förberedelsen av tyskarnas chiffer, men såsom tal har landshövdingens alltid slögt bort. Beurling säger också att han får sin del av utredningen eftersom de att Sandler direkt deltog i den väsentliga verksamheten som ledde till att Sverige kunde tjäna de tyska meddelandena kriget ägde rum.

Intervju med professor Beurling berättar att de Boheman minns sig när han i sin bok berättar om tyskarnas vid slutet av 1942 ändrade att chiffer så att det inte längre kunde lösas från svensk sida. Av alla det gamla fortgående dechiffraingen till krigsintet.

published by the Foreign Department in 1946 concerning the land defence command expedition and the German military attache in Stockholm we also learn that "during the war years the Swedish side managed to read some cipher telegrams sent from the German embassy in Stockholm to Berlin". These telegrams, it is said, "were put at disposal for the military leaders and to a large degree also to the Foreign Department." Professor Beurling says he was among those who already in September 1939 were brought from Uppsala to work in Stockholm with the cipher work. He stayed with that for 14 months, and was after having a break, was once more attached to it but the only half time. Among those not rarely seen in the crypto office, where Beurling and others did their secret work, was governor Rickard Sandler, Foreign Minister until the Finnish Winter War /also former Prime Minister/, the professor says. The interest Sandler has in

numbers and ciphers made him to later write a book on these general problems, and Beurling says he remembers that Sandler came on visit as late as the beginning of 1940 to see how the work went along, It has sometimes been hinted that Sandler was involved in cracking the German ciphers, but the governor has always rejected that. Beurling also says he has no experience of that Sandler ever took part in the technical work that lead to that Sweden could eavesdrop on the German messages throughout the war. The interview with Beurling confirms that Boheman is wrong when he in his book explains that the Germans towards the end of 1942 changed the cipher so it couldn't be cracked on the Swedish side. It seems the cracking went on until the end of the war.

In fact, what happened was that the Germans in the end of 1942 suspecting the operation (after a possible leak) began to make changes to the ciphering. It made cracking more difficult but in many cases not impossible. Capacity to crack some of the traffic remained up to 1944. But then Germany was on the defensive and Sweden had re-armed, so there was no credible threat of an invasion.

And to wrap it up, as the Russians at the time of writing are still launching missiles into Ukrainian cities. But it's not new, as we see in Aftonbladet August 27, 1957, "Wondering and fear from to Russian distance missile":

The announcement by the Soviet Union last night that they have successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile has been met with questions, doubt and fear in the western world. The message came as a total surprise for the western powers' military observers in Moscow. If it is true it means the Soviets have overtaken USA in the missile field. In London where the Russian news dominate the front pages of the papers it is noted that the time is chosen well from a political viewpoint. They believe that a lot of propaganda lies behind it before resuming the disarmament talk and to give the Soviets a stronger position. "You hadn't expected," the Daily Telegraph's military expert writes, "that an intercontinental missile could have been produced before the 1960s," The Russian experiment that has "shown it is possible to send rockets to any part of the world without using strategic bombers" Let the rocket - of multi-stage type - fly to an unprecedented altitude before hitting the designated target area. It is the first time a country has announced a successful experiment of this type. The first distance

Undran och skräck för rysk fjärrrobot

Propaganda inför nedrustningen?

LONDON 24/10 Sovjetunionens tillkännagivande i går kväll att man med framgång provat en interkontinental fjärrrobot har mötts med undran, skepsis och fruktan i den västliga världen. Meddelandet kom som en fullständig överraskning för västmakternas militära observatörer i Moskva. Om det är riktigt innebär det att Sovjet gått om USA på robotteknikens område.

I London, där den ryska nyheten dominerar morgontidningarnas förstasidor, påpekas att tidpunkten är väl vald ur politisk synpunkt. Man anser att bakom meddelandet kan ligga en hel del propaganda inför återupptagandet av nedrustningsförhandlingarna och där ge Sovjet en starkare utgångsställning.

— Man har inte väntat sig, skriver Daily Telegraphs militära medarbetare, att en interkontinental robot skulle hinna framställas före 1960-talet.

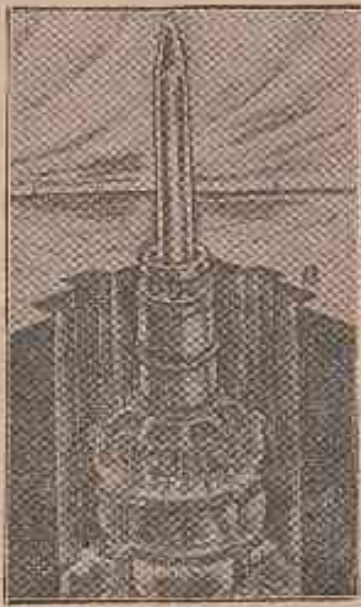
Det ryska experimentet, som "visat att det är möjligt att skicka roboter till vilken del av världen som helst utan anlitande av strategiskt bombflyg", gick ut på att raketerna — som var av flerstegstyp — hade flugit på tillrämlig uppnädd höjd och slagit ned inom det utsedda målområdet. Det är första gången som ett land har tillkännagivit ett lyckat experiment av detta slag. USA:s första fjärrrobot "Atlas" detonerade för tidigt vid ett experiment i juni i år och arbetet på det andra robotprojektet "Titan" ligger ett år efter planerna.

"Det slutgiltiga vapnet"

Fjärrroboten betecknas på militärt håll som det slutgiltiga vapnet och kan enligt vissa beräkningar tillryggalägga 8- å 10.000 km.

Till skillnad från de fjärrstyrda projektilerna — för taktiskt bruk och luftvärnsändamål — kan fjärrrobotarna inte dirigeras från marinen under flykten utan de inriktas vid starten och beskrivs sedan av kulhanelkännande böge till målet. Hastigheten beräknas till mellan 16- och 32.000 km/tim.

Särskilda tillsatsraketer ger roboten en hög utgångshastighet, och därefter övertar de inbyggda raketaggregaten — för första eller flytande bränslen — framdrivningen. Roboten når därvid en höjd på upp till 960 km. Raketen



En amerikansk teknikers skiss av hur han tänker sig en långdistansprojektil.

misserna fördrivas utåt, och de förändrade aggregaten sköta av raketens och faller till marken. I Moskva-nyheterna meddelande hävdades utan omsvep att Ryssland snart USA i kampflygningen om vem som skulle bli först med detta nya vapen.

"Anskräckandet" borta

— Nu kan västmakterna inte längre göra uttåg på överflygsområdet inom länsflygsområdet, skriver News Chronicle. Det stora avskräckande momentet är sträket av den västerländska diplomatin i Moskva.

— Ryssarnas hastighet är så stor, påstår en annan skribent i samma tidning, att den nå kan till målet innan någon med elektriska apparaterna konstaterat raketens förbrukning av rapporterna dess

ankomst. Det enda avskräckande moment som världen nu har kvar är vetenskapen som vad som skulle hända i en sådan eventualitet.

— Om roboten verkligen existerar, får den en viktig betydelse för strategin eftersom den gör det onödigt att upprätthålla en flotta av långdistansbombare.

"USA på efterhåll"

WASHINGTON 24/10 Meddelandena om en rysk fjärrrobot anses på officiellt håll ännu alltför knapphändiga för att tillåta en korrekt bedömning, men på många håll påpekas att USA nu synes ha kommit på efterhåll om frågan om dyllna vapen.

New York Herald Tribune skriver att den ryska militärledningen har lagt ett förtroende för att det finns inget försvår mot en fjärrrobot med en vätebomb i nosan.

— Det är väl tvivelstämigt om ryssarna verkligen avfyrat en färdig projektil, förklarade den demokratiska medlemmen av senatens försvarskommitté Henry M. Jackson men medgav att han stärkte i sin tro att USA "kommit på efterhåll".

— Nationens liv och död kan nu mycket väl bero på vår verksamhet inom raketforskningens område, förklarade f. flygmästarerna, senator Symington, och påpekade att det är praktiskt taget omöjligt att kontrollera den rysska uppgiften, vars intressantaste ord han ansåg vara att det är frågan om en "Herculesrakett". Det är skrämmande hela Europa med utöbet under Sussekeisen att använda raketvapen. Det är då omöjligt att förstå hur Eisenhower-regeringen kunnat gå med på ett av rent budgetära skäl skära ned våra utläggningar på fjärrrobotvapnens område.

Representantsmedlemmen J. Pattenman, som är ledamot av husets militärutskott, erinrar att de militära myndigheterna ofta varnat för Sovjets förtäring inom raketforskningen och tilläddet.

— Vi i utskottet har energiskt protesterat mot den föreslagna nedskärningen på in proc i budgeten för robotforskningen. — AP, UP.

missile of USA, Atlas, exploded too early during a test in June this year and work on the other missile project, Titan, is one year behind schedule. Distance missiles is by the military called the ultimate weapon and can according to some calculations travel 8-16 000 km. Unlike guided projectiles - for tactical or anti-aircraft use - the distance missiles can't be guided from the ground during their flight, but are targeted when starting and then have a ballistic trajectory towards the target. The speed is calculated to between 16 and 32 000 km/h. Special booster rockets give the missile a high initial speed and the built in rocket engines then takes over - for solid or liquid propellants. The missile then reaches an altitude of 980 km. The propellant is burnt in stages, and used engines are dropped and fall to the ground one by one. In the Moscow Radio message it was frankly claimed that Russia had beaten USA in the race to build this weapon first. "The west can no longer claim being superior with nuclear weapons," News Chronicle writes. "The element of big deterrence is erased from the diplomatic vocabulary." "The speed of the missile is so huge," another writer notes in this newspaper, "that it reaches the target before any radar station directed by an electronic brain manage to report its arrival. The only deterrence remaining for the world is the knowledge of what would happen in such a case." "If the missile really exists it will be strategically important since it makes it impossible to maintain a fleet of long distance bombers." News about a Russian distance missile is by official sources yet being too sparse to allow for correct assessments, but by many it is said that USA now seems to have been left behind about such a weapon. New York Herald Tribune writes that Russian military power has taken a giant leap ahead. There is no defence against a distance missile with a hydrogen bomb in the nose. "It may be in doubt if the Russians really have launched a finished projectile, Henry M Jackson explained, Democratic member of the Senate's defence committee, but he admitted he had become justified in his belief that USA "was left behind". "The life and death of nations may now very possibly depend on our work in rocket science," the former aviation minister senator Syrnington, and noted that it's practically impossible to check the Russian claims, in which the most interesting part was that it's a "multi-stage rocket". The Soviets scared the whole world with their threats of using rocket weapons during the Suez crisis. It then becomes impossible to understand how the Eisenhower government could agree to cut down on our efforts in distance rockets for fiscal reasons. The house member J Patterson, member of the military committee of the House of Representatives, reminds us that the military authorities have often warned about the progress in rocket technology by the Soviets. "We in the committee have energetically protested against the suggested 10 percent cut in the budget for rocket research." (Caption: An American artist sketch how he imagines a long-distance projectile.)

Just over two month later, October 4th, the world would wake up to the beeps of something called Sputnik, making rounds around old Terra. Sure, the Russian missile was real, but what isn't said is that their big rockets was a sign of technical backwardness rather than being advanced. You see, their nuclear warheads were so big and clumsy that USSR was forced to make bigger rockets to carry them. That US warheads were slimmer and smarter didn't prompt developing the biggest rockets possible and made their inventory more flexible and advajnced. And the USSR had problems building the rockets in greater numbers. As late as during the Cuba crisis in 1962 it is estimated that while the US had hundreds of ICBMs, the Soviet Union only had about 20 operational ones.

But now maniac Vladimir Putin has over 6000 nuclear warheads at his disposal! We must do something about the constant threat of such weapons - from any side. A good start would be to let globalisation, political freedom, free information, trade, economic growth create a better world so that short-sighted, intolerant, chauvunistic nationalism melts away. Existence isn't a zero sum game where you must constantly clash with competitors to get better, there's no need for conflicts, war and weapons.

Mailing Comments

This zine started in and still goes APA. An Amateur Press Association is interesting stuff! Ask me if you want to know more. You should join eg EAPA (the first MCs, below) or N'APA (next MCs, John Thiel is in the middle, as he is in both), from the March mailings. Do a fanzine!

William McCabe: The Donbas Russian rebels in the Donbas area are and have always been puppets of Putin. There's no substance to the claim that Kiev is into ethnic cleansing or something. They are and have always been Moscow tools for attempting territorial expansion. Moscows



Holy shit! Here's Lars LON OLsson again!

urge for expansion became clear when the war started for real. 🚫 The Johns Hopkins report deals primarily with numbers and the effects they have had, and for this society/social experts and economists are quite relevant people. Economists are highly capable in statistics, and statistics is what reveals that lockdowns only saved 0.2% extra lives. Most of the virus deaths have been from underlying medical conditions, as excess deaths indicate. One reason why lockdowns didn't help much is that you get all into limited spaces, where they are almost guaranteed to infect each other! Also, too harsh "restrictions" tempts many to drop all respect for any measures - as eg Boris and his government demonstrated time after time!

Henry Grynsten: Disagree with you on language history. Why should elements of language pop up suddenly in polished shape, when everything else - biology, computers, poetry, cars, etc - require incremental evolution? Beside, I also think that the human brain's adaption to use language has also been partly incremental, just as its ability to make and use tools. We find more and more advanced tools along a stretched



out timeine as well as more and more advanced used of symbolism ("language"). 🚫 We love our fika in Sweden. I wonder when the police goes after the fika smugglers and dealers and junkies... 🚫 I agree with that we sometimes take even slight body odour too seriously. I guess the companies selling deodorants, shampoo, perfume etc are to blame. They benefit from making people think any scent beside something from a bottle is a crime against humanity. Today, there are some people who treat the slightest smell of eg smoke as a personal insult claiming to be "allergic" - but tobacco allergy is actually very rare. But of course smell shall be taken seriously above a certain level. The London stench in the 1700s was something extra. A thing to remember is that natural body odour carries signalling substances, like pheromones important for sexual attraction. The extremely clean man may find it more difficult to get the girl!

Garth Spencer: If cat herding became popular, those herding the cats would be called...catboys. (Sorry, I don't find much else to comment.)

Finally, Yours Truly was awarded the Oliver Twist Prize by the Short Story Masters in March! On the fine diploma my stories, the short story contest I organise through the SKRIVA list and this zine's history research is cited. Fame, fame at last!

John Thiel: I'd like to see that photo of the LASFS clubhouse. It must be a later one, and not the Bixelstrasse clubhouse of the 1940s.) 🚫 I think John W Campbell deserves attention still. He took the genre up from the simple pulp level, introduced that inclusion of real science would be

a good idea and that people and stories could be a bit more complex. But also, if radical activists want to cancel him, you he must have done something right... 🚫 When Alvar Appeltofft died, Dénis Lindbohm edited a memorial booklet about him. It'll have more about his life, and is available here as a PDF, <https://esseffesseff.wordpress.com/arkiv/forhistoriskt/> Unfortunately in Swedish. (Lets hope that someone translates it.) I know a few things about Alvar - to complicated to go though now - both the good and the not so good. For a while I eg corresponded with Alvar's mother Ellen. 🚫 What, is there a film based on Fred Brown's What Mad Universe?

Will Mayo: Hm. No comments. Sorry.

George Phillies: Your assessment of the Swedish political parties and majorities is correct. I should add that the Sweden Democrats isn't just "any" party. They have Nazi roots as late as 30 years ago. They are among new nationalist extreme that's popped up - I call them *neonationalists*. For my part, I think nationalism is a bad idea. We should have lower borders, international cooperation, globalisation - everything that eg Vladimir Putin is against. I don't trust neonationalists. 🚫 On awards and politics: only 18% of the recent Nebula nominated authors were men. It's discrimination. A significant majority involved in sf is male (guys tend to be more interested in technology, gadgets etc) and less than 1/5th nominees for the Nebula says something is ascrew.

Samuel Lubell: California took a hard line against the virus, Florida much less so. Both *had about equal outcome!* Some of the harshest measures were in New York, resulting in among the worst outcomes. Stats of excess deaths indicate the majority claimed as virus victims succumbed the pre-existing conditions. 🚫 The Andre Norton books I've read have been exciting and good reads. Being entertaining, as she was, isn't all that bad! 🚫 I don't like having a worldcon in Chengdu and China. See my complaints about this communist dictatorship in #118. We risk that the Chinese will try to take over worldcons more in the future. If there are any problems, the WSFS clause of removing the con from Chengdu should be use. Sf from inside China is AFAIK restricted to echo the vile communist party line. And the bastard Lukianenko who supports invasions and murdering Ukrainian civilians must be given the slip as GoH. 🚫 Slut. Hej då så länge! --Ahrvid, rädd-aktör

Слава Україні!

(Glory to Ukraine!)

Archive Midwinter
a zine for N'APA 258

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20 March 2022

Comments:

Cover: via Internet search -- from The Empire Strikes Back, except I think this is post-movie material, because the picture is a lot sharper than the actual movie still.

Ahrvid Engholm: Intermission 117: Northern Lights: I've never seen 'em, but my mother, growing up in Chicago, sometimes did. I've seen photos and video that are truly remarkable. Maybe someday!

John Thiel: "Life is but a dream...or is it?" I could wish! I've had some truly wonderful dreams! Also the other kind. I'm reminded of the lovely riff in "Voyage of the Dawn Treader" where they approach an island "Where dreams come true." Then they thought about that, realized the implications, and reversed course in a hurry!

re neckties, I wonder if the preference of diagonals upwards/rightwards is left over from the damnation implied by the reverse, the infamous bend sinister. Could medieval heraldry still have that much effect? I'm fortunate to work where neckties aren't necessary, but when I do wear one it's solid black. I have a knapped-flint arrowhead tie-tack: quite pretty!



I halfway agree with the principle, "Say no ill of the dead." "Why flay persons who are deceased?" But in many cases the evil men do *DOES* live after them, and, too, their wrongs can be instructive. We learn from the past (or else what is the past good for?) There are evil persons who, like the gunpowder plot, should never be forgot.

re funding SF conventions, I have a little experience with that, having been convention Secretary for ConDor (alas, now gasping its last.) Basically, one works up, from really small conventions, run pretty much on the funding of an "angel" up to larger and larger affairs using the previous con's profits as seed money. Carefully husbanded, these funds can lead to things like the San Diego Comic Con, which started as a one-room affair in a seedy hotel. I am also the Secretary for the corporation (a California registered non-profit) that is the legal face of ConDor. We had a good twenty-four year run...and then the virus took the wind out of our sails!

re women in science fiction fandom, ConDor has had two chairs in all those years, both women. I have, personally, enjoyed the benefits of very good women as leaders. (And yet, too, the worst

boss I ever had was a woman... The population is large enough to embrace any combination of sex and personal characteristics.)

Ahrvid Enghold: Intermission 118: A depressing time indeed, with hideous echoes of 1939.

****FUN**** cover of a 50's style pulp magazine, with heroic guy, lady in distress, and Nazi villain! "Captain Dynamite" is a great name for a pulp hero!

I've heard nothing but good, ever, of Montaigne. I may have to put him on my reading list!

Wonderful triumph for history in the discovery of a copy of the program book for The Coming Race at the Albert Hall. Three cheers for the discoverer -- and the people who kept their old copy all these years!

240 pence to the pound, wasn't it?

I didn't know the Bulwer-Lytton Contest was still running! I'm glad to hear it! At one point it was well-enough popularized to support the professional publication of small paperback books collecting the entries and winners of the contest. In later years it has fallen into obscurity, so I am delighted to learn it still exists!

Will Mayo: "I have no idea where I'm going. But I'm ready." I ain't! I am in no conceivable way ready, neither for my ultimate fate, nor, in practical terms, for tomorrow! I can only "get by" and hope that bad things don't happen. Meanwhile, there are pleasant digressions: good books, good movies, a nice hike in the woods with my sister... Someone once said, "Life is what happens to us after we had made other plans." That describes my existence quite well!

George Phillis: Aye, the ugly "racism" of the past, when people of Irish descent were the "subhumans" of the era. Today (and this is

being written only a couple days after Saint Patrick's Day) being Irish is a thing Americans celebrate and respect. May all other differences follow, insofar as losing their cachet of hatred.

Congratulations on finishing your novel! Few things in all the world are quite as gratifying as writing every author's favorite two-word sentence fragment, "The End." It is a blessed truth that re-writing is a lot easier than writing, so may have you much pleasure in producing the second and final drafts!

Samuel Lubell: I learned recently that Columbus did, in fact, sight the South American mainland. I had always been taught he never set foot on the mainland...but that was the North American continent! He "discovered" South America (shh...don't tell the Mayas and Olmecs...)

rct me -- it may be possible that you are filtering your memories with the nostalgia of youth, but it is also possible -- and highly likely! -- that fiction has, in fact, evolved in the years of our lives and is less good in some ways, better in others. As I can attest from judging the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, *many* stories written today do indeed evoke that beloved "sense of wonder." Perhaps youthfulness is a benefit both in writing and in reading!

I remember reading a story by E.E. "Doc" Smith, where a starship captain and his chief engineer spend three story-pages telling each other what a "light year" was. SF has improved since then!

Congratulations on progress in project to read all of Dickens! Not too long ago I read Bleak House and...er...I guess it didn't inspire me to want to read more. But I am glad to have read it. Dickens is sort of like high school homework: you hate doing it, but you're at least somewhat glad to have done it. (It is famously said that writers don't like writing...but they like having written.)

Sorry to hear Chengdu WorldCon is showing signs of dis-organization, and, of course, very sorry that global political issues

are embroiled in the mess. I guess there's no way to avoid that, but it is a shame. Good luck with Orlando NasFic bid! We held a NasFic here in San Diego, some years ago. (I was bid and con Secretary.) We had fun, and I'm sure you will also!



Snow Poster Township #4

April 24, 2022

Snow Poster Township is an apazine published by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com; 718-755-9840 mobile; 323-916-0367 fax. It is prepared for contributors to N'APA and select others. (Previously, it was prepared for FAPA. My previous N'APA apazine was titled *Snow Poster City*, and this effectively combines both.) A recent copy can be requested for The Usual.

A Brief Explanation

This apazine is a continuation of an apazine I used to contribute to FAPA between April and November 2009 (*Snow Poster Township* #1-3). I was also previously active in the National Fantasy Fan Federation's apa N'APA, submitting an apazine titled *Snow Poster City* between January and September 2009 (#1-6), contributing to N'APA issues #195-197, 201, 203, and 205.

So this apazine has rested moribund and untended for 13 years. I've rejuvenated it under the title *Snow Poster Township*, continuing its original FAPA numbering, to take advantage of some wonderful artwork contributed by Henry Chamberlain, who comments on comic books, movies, culture, and related themes in *Comics Grinder* (<https://comicsgrinder.com>). It's good to be back.

Fantastic Metal Music

A few days ago, my son and I went to the Belasco in downtown Los Angeles, for a concert. It was his first rock concert, and it was a bit of a crap shoot because neither of us was that familiar with—or necessarily fən of—any of the four bands performing. On the bill: Seven Spires from Boston, Visions of Atlantis from

Austria and France, Firewind from Greece, and Dragonforce from England. It was a solid bill of power and symphonic metal, and the venue was excellent and visually interesting.

The Belasco Theatre was opened in late 1926 by Edward Belasco—brother of New York theater producer David Belasco—and partners, who also opened the Mayan Theatre next door. Both venues were designed by Morgan, Walls & Clements, and the Belasco was intended to host “legitimate” drama, while the Mayan was designed for comedies and musicals. The theater's exterior displays an exotic Spanish conquistador theme, featuring seven conquistador figures along the top of the facade. Inside, the auditorium offers Spanish Renaissance and Moorish styles, including a gilded dome. While the glory of the theater has faded, multiple elements are still visible inside; the domed ceiling is quite wondrous, and the tile work of the multiple, now inoperable water fountains, is impressive. We spent much of our time on the balcony, which affords a slightly better view of the stage.

Despite our lack of knowledge about the bands performing—I had listened to some Visions of Atlantis at one point, and my son was familiar with Dragonforce because one of its songs was featured in video games including *Guitar Hero III*—we ended up enjoying most of the performances. My son would rank them best to least best Dragonforce, Seven Spires, Visions of Atlantis, and Firewind, while I'd rank them Dragonforce, Firewind, Visions of Atlantis, and Seven Spires. (That said, Seven Spires is growing on me as I listen to their records; more on those below!) Power and symphonic metal might not be your forte, but the bands are slightly notable for fən of sf and fantasy—as are the genres generally.

Boston-based Seven Spires has released three albums, two of which are concept records. For those who might be unfamiliar, concept albums are records that are unified by a theme. Sometimes, there are even story elements, including characters consistent and persistent throughout the songs. Seven Spires's first album, 2017's *Solveig*, tells the tale of a lost soul traveling through a decadent, sunless underworld ruled by an ancient demon. 2020's *Emerald Seas* serves as a prequel to *Solveig*; in its songs, a sea captain undertakes a quest for eternal life—perhaps ending up in that very underworld.

Classically trained vocalist and orchestrator Adrienne Cowan graduated from Berklee College of Music. Her favorite movies include *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Pirates of the Caribbean* 1-3, *The Labyrinth*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Interstellar*; her favorite books include Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, J.R.R.

Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Brandon Sanderson's *Mistborn*, and Neil Gaiman's "Other People." Guitarist and songwriter Jack Kosto, who also graduated from Berklee, lists the *Lord of the Ring* movies, the *Underworld* series, and *Bram Stoker's Dracula* among his favorite films, as well as Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Cycle of young adult fantasy novels, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, and Stephen King's *Salem's Lot*. Related sf, fantasy, and horror themes appear throughout Seven Spires's albums.

Visions of Atlantis was inspired by the myth of Atlantis, as you might have guessed. While not as focused on recording concept albums, the band still draws heavily on fantasy and horror themes, incorporating nautical elements in many of their records. Their forthcoming album, *Pirates*, expected May 13, is—you got it!—pirate themed, and the band performed in pirate-inspired costuming and garb. My son and I thought the costuming was a bit much, and there was a sizable amount of dramatic interplay between vocalists Michele Guaitoli and Clementine Delauney. Even without being able to understand the lyrics, their set felt like a musical theater piece without the non-singing dramatic elements in between songs.

Of the four bands, Firewind was the most straightforward, performing an excellent set of power metal that at times reminded me of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal. Founded by Greek guitarist Gus G., who also attended Berklee, the band has featured vocalist Herbie Langhans—a highlight, in my opinion—since 2020. During Seven Spires's set, Langhans joined the band for a song wearing a Visions of Atlantis T-shirt, and Cowan joined Firewind to sing a song, as well. The interplay between bands was a fun aspect of the show and suggested the bands have enjoyed touring together.

Firewind's 2017 album, *Immortals*, its most recent, is also a concept record. The album's songs detail a historic battle between the Greek and Persian empires in which the Greek army was able to withstand attack by Persian warriors for seven days. The band's set ended with a goofily energetic—and dance-filled—cover of Michael Sembello's song "Maniac" from the movie *Flashdance*. That was not at all expected! (Actual fen were perhaps less surprised; the cover is on Firewind's album *The Premonition*.)

Finally, Dragonforce. I mean, come on; their band name includes the word "dragon." Since 1999, the British power metal band has trafficked in fast guitar solos—it's reportedly the fastest band in the world—fantasy-themed lyrics, and a sound inspired by older video games. The group's 2014 album, *Maximum Overload*, while not a concept record per se, was inspired by "the constant bombardment of information

we are subjected to during our daily lives." 2017's *Reaching into Infinity* comes a little closer, with most of its songs focusing on fantasy-oriented lyrics. One of the songs on that album is the 12-minute progressive epic "Edge of the World," based on the Sumerian legend of Gilgamesh and the flooding of the world. Their set featured the most complex, complicated, and dramatic stage design and effects, including bursts of confetti and streamers, and other theatrical spectacles.

All in all, the concert was a success. My son had more fun than I expected, he's now experienced going to a rock concert before he finishes high school and goes to college, and my ears have been opened to several new bands that might be of interest to others.

Genre Media Soundtracks

The last few years have also been a very good time indeed for science fiction-, fantasy-, and horror-related television and film—and video game—soundtracks. In the past, movie soundtracks were somewhat challenging to obtain, usually relegated to smaller sections within record stores. But with the advent of streaming services and increased attention paid to the music selection and sound design for TV shows, more soundtrack recordings are now available through streaming music services.

On Apple Music alone, the Film, TV & Stage category offers new releases weekly. In recent days, the streaming service has offered the following new soundtracks of interest to fen:

- *Aelita, Queen of Mars* Music Inspired by the Film by Chris Bullock
- *Assassin's Creed Valhalla: Blood, Fire, Tears Dawn of Ragnarok* Original Game Soundtrack Single by Einar Selvik
- *Avengers Campus: Welcome Recruits* EP from *Avengers Campus* by Avengers Campus Orchestra
- *The Batman* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by Michael Giacchino
- *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by James Newton Howard
- *Far Cry 6 x Stranger Things: The Vanishing* Original Game Soundtrack by Blitz//Berlin
- *Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts* Soundtrack from the Special by John Williams, Synchron Stage Orchestra, and Wizarding World
- *The Lost World* Music Inspired by the Film by Sirintip

- *Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy: Welcome to Knowhere* Original Video Game Soundtrack EP by Richard Jacques
- *Moonshot* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by David Boman
- *Music from Solo: A Star Wars Story* EP by Ondrej Vrabec and Czech Studio Orchestra
- *NORCO* Original Video Game Soundtrack by Various Artists
- *The Northman* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by Robin Carolan and Sebastian Gainsborough
- *Nosferatu* Music Inspired by the Film by Bob Lanzetti
- *Pacific Rim: The Black—Season 2* Soundtrack from the Netflix Original Anime Series
- *Raised by Wolves: Season 2* Soundtrack from the HBO Max Original Series by Marc Streitenfeld
- *Returnal, Vol. 2* Original Video Game Soundtrack by Bobby Krlic
- *The Rising* Original Series Soundtrack by Carly Paradis
- *Shining Vale* Soundtrack from the Original Series by Tim Phillips
- *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* Music from the Motion Picture by Tom Holkenborg
- *We're All Going to the World's Fair* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by Alex G
- *The Wind* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack by Stanley Myers and Hans Zimmer

Available on a playlist at <https://tinyurl.com/genresongs>.

Comments on N'APA #257

I've enjoyed seeing **Ahrvid Engholm's** emails occasionally hit my inbox via the fmfzen discussion group, so I was pleased to see him contributing to N'APA, as well as EAPA (good to see that apa is also still around!). Earlier in April, he distributed *Intermission* #119 via email, but I'll focus on his N'APA contribution(s) primarily.

In *Intermission* #117, Ahrvid opened with a mention of Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society member Marty Cantor and Rob Hansen's ebook *Bixelstrasse*. I just hung out with Marty and other LASFS members during the online meeting this week—we gather every Thursday—and you can download Hansen's book at <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=Bixel>. Thank you for also recommending *Ah! Sweet Laney!* and *The Incomplete Burbee*, both of which I've downloaded.

Jealous of your seeing the Aurora Borealis in Stockholm, I thoroughly enjoyed Marty's comments to you in the History Corner. Marty and I connected through LASFS when I moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 2009. I attended meetings to help collate the club's apae APA-L and LASFAPA. I'd previously met member John Hertz at a Lunacon near New York City. Of the clubhouses Marty discusses, I attended gatherings at Clubhouse 2. I haven't seen any others—and never made it to the American Lutheran Church when we met there—and look forward to the club procuring its own dedicated meeting space again. It was grand to have a place to stop by, hang out, screen movies and TV shows, and host a library. When I edited *The National Fantasy Fan*, I donated review copies of books that went unclaimed by members to review to the LASFS library. I stamped them with a red N3F stamp, and there might still be some of our donations in the club's storage.

Your discussion of Canadian fan and H.P. Lovecraft correspondent Nils Helmer Frome was intriguing. I wonder if any of his letters show up in the collections of Lovecraft's correspondence. The excerpt from *WCSEzine* #5 was particularly welcome. Thank you for bringing him to my attention. I'll have to explore the scanned copy of *Supramundane* and his still available writing. Frome has a lot of interest going for him at this late date: Swedish, Canadian, lumberjack, faned, illustrator... so much to explore! I can understand your attraction.

Per your comment to Henry Grynsten, I'll have to look into John Ronald Ruel; his name is new to me. What do you mean by "social sf"? The German TV program *Raumpatrouille Orion* was also new to me. Bookmarked to return to! N'APAs can check out your Swecon report in *Locus*—awesome that you contributed one!—at <https://tinyurl.com/swecon2021>.

It was wonderful to see **Jefferson Swycaffer's** Archive Midwinter from October 2021. Comforting, almost, that it's still on green pages and utilizes the same illo he used when I first participated. Some things might stay the same! I often forget that you're just down in San Diego. We ought to make weekend plans some day. I encounter Orange County Science Fiction Club members at Loscon most years and am intrigued by their anthologies and publications of members' writing.

I enjoyed your review of Roger Riccard's *Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas*. I haven't read a lot of Holmes pastiches but at one time acquired a Moriarty novel written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, of all people. I have yet to read it. Is *Sonic the Hedgehog* really the longest-running media tie-in comic book ever? The 2021-2022 *Overstreet*

Comic Book Price Guide indicates it ran 290 issues between 1993 and 2017, so perhaps! Interesting. I've seen most if not all of the live-action *Alita: Battle Angel* movie. I remember being impressed by the character design, especially Alita's facial features. Did you enjoy the movie?

In *Synergy* #33, **John Thiel** remarks on the humble necktie. I haven't had to wear a tie for absolute ages and tend to do so only for weddings, funerals, and formal events. But early in my career as a newspaper reporter and magazine journalist, I wore them daily. As a newsman, I mostly wore knit ties, which can come across as even more shabby than a poorly tied tie. I agree; you can usually tell when a tie is tied by someone not accustomed to tying a tie. I recommend a simple double windsor knot, personally.

In a comment to Jefferson, John said, "I have always wondered who finances and does the main business for sf conventions." As we gear up for Loscon this winter, the LASFS is entertaining bids for a con committee. Positions include a con chair, hotel liaison, Webmaster, and treasurer. I don't necessarily know what those people do, but my understanding is that memberships—attending and supporting, if offered—fund a con's outlay. Filthy Pierre's *The Con Committee's Guide* is somewhat dated (1984) but might offer some insight. It's available at <https://tinyurl.com/runacon>.

We are blessed with a second ish of **Ahrvid's** apazine in this disty, *Intermission* #118. I enjoyed your remarks on *The Zine Dump* #54; I recently sent Mr. Lillian a letter of comment on that very ish. Your forthcoming book *Rumtidsenligt* makes me wish I could read Swedish. Perhaps I'll order a copy for a friend of mine in that part of the world. Any plans to translate it into English? History Corner continues to fascinate me. I've been reading about Arthur C. Clarke's early involvement in British fandom in Philip Harbottle's *Vultures of the Void*, which I learned about from Justin E.A. Busch's sercon zine *Far Journeys*.

The text got so dense on pp. 34-37 and 40-41 of thish of the apa that I'll have to return to it more intently not so late on a Friday afternoon. My eyes got buggy, and my attention wandered. My apologies.

What a surprise **Will Mayo's** *The Contents of a Good Life* was! I've only read Will's shorter writing in various N3F clubzines—and included in Cathode Ray's Rabid Ears column—to date, so I enjoyed seeing something longer form (an apazine in its entirety!) from him. It's still relatively brief, almost impressionistic, and largely visual. RAE, as they say.

In **George Phillis's** brief *Ye Murdered Master Mage*, he mentioned his progress writing *Practical Exercise*. I'm looking forward to seeing it when it's

done! In response to your call for reviews for *The N3F Review of Books*, I've sent over some reviews, and I plan to send more soon after the next ish comes out. I've even enlisted a local friend to submit a couple, too, and I'm hopeful that a fellow LASFS member will also let me submit some reviews he includes in his apazine on his behalf. It'd be good to get some fresh voices in those pages.

Neat to hear that you were also once a member of LASFS: "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." How long did you live in Los Angeles?

And in *Samizdat* #12, **Sam Lubell** offers comments on the previous disty. I'm glad Boskone was able to be held, even in a hybrid form. Our most recent Loscon was in person and seemed to attract fewer participants, and I totally blanked on my membership in Gallifrey One, the local *Doctor Who* convention, so I can't report on that event. I made a note to check out James Schmitz's *The Witches of Karres* and Telzey stories.

I'd like to learn more about the Washington (DC) Science Fiction Association. Do you attend meetings? What does the group do? In addition to my involvement in the N3F and LASFS, I also occasionally participate in activities of the Science Fiction Association of Bergen County in New Jersey. They hold regular discussion meetings on a number of subjects and occasionally meet for lunch.

I enjoyed your remarks on Andre Norton. Robert Jennings's *Fadeaway* #67 includes a great piece by David M. Shea that explores fen who write and why they stop. In it, he recounts unsuccessfully submitting a shared-world story to a *Witch World* anthology. Initially, the story was rejected. "At some Worldcon years later..., I gave a copy of the story to Ms Norton. She sent me a detailed letter saying she mostly liked the story, and offered specific suggestions toward how it might be improved by a rewrite. Which I never did. The story was written explicitly as a *Witch World* story. As the *Witch World* shared-world anthologies had stopped by then, there was no remaining market. Attempting to rewrite it as a generic fantasy story would have destroyed the purpose and focus of the piece." I didn't realize Norton had a connection to *Beastmaster!* Spicy.

Your method of breaking down avocational projects is glorious. Forgive me for stealing it! Good luck making progress on Project Classics, Project History, Project Trek, and Project Shakespeare. Good endeavors, all! I also appreciated your comments on the China Worldcon controversy, a situation about which I need to learn more.

Ye Murthered Master Mage

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N3F Issues

Historically, I have been able to publicize for the N3F on Facebook. This advertisement was a major source of new members, short story contest entrants, etc. Alas, Facebook has introduced two-factor authentication with different levels of security depending on where your activity level and followership. Mine gives me a series of choices for two-factor authentication, every single one of which at some stage requires that I own a cell telephone that will receive text messages. I don't, so I can no longer use Facebook. If you want Facebook publicity, you have to do it, or persuade some other Neffer to do it.

Too few members leads to strange complaints. For some reason I have on several occasions been asked why the nominations for the N3F Neffy Award for best novel and the nominations for the Hugo Gernsback and John Campbell Awards for best novel do not overlap.

The answer is a simple exercise in mathematics. Consider Fandom. Besides novel fandom, we have short story fandom, poetry fandom, anime fandom, comics fandom, cosplay fandom, convention attending fandom, convention running fandom, film fandom, TV fandom, video fandom, Star Trek fandom, Star Wars fandom, Tolkien fandom, fannish history fandom, milSF fandom, Regency Revival fandom, fanzine publishing fandom, fan

fiction writing fandom, collecting fandom, the Prestigious Interstellar Gourmand Society, author fandom, drinking fandom, paranormal romance fandom, most important of all the N3F Gourmet Bureau, etc., etc., and etc. That's a lot of fandoms. Even if each of our voting members participates in several of these, when we distribute our membership over all these fandoms the number of Neffers who are novel readers is a bit limited, perhaps several dozen members.

How many SF novels come out in a given year? A few years back I did a monthly list of new novels from one source, and found a hundred a month. This did not include the hardback, paperback, and trade paperback publishers, nor the people who published on Amazon Kindle and nowhere else, nor the sfnal romance novels. As a rough estimate, there are a couple-three thousand sfnal novels published every year.

If the book fans each read a book or two a month, and no two of them read the same book, that's perhaps 500 titles a year that our book fen read, a quarter or less of all titles. The odds are then only moderately in favor of even one member having read one of the Hugo finalists. By the time we ask if that member liked the book enough to support it being a nominee and then actually made a nomination, the odds are much against there being any overlap between our list of nominees and the nominee lists of these more modern awards.

Comments on the Last Issue

Intermission 117 – But what are preexisting conditions? Old age. Obesity. Smoking. Alcohol consumption. Diabetes. These come immediately to mind. They are bad for you but rarely fatal by themselves. The 'with but not because of' line does not hold up well.

An interesting account of Frome. Thank you for the hard work needed to recover it.

Archive MidWinter – I agree on N3F Membership count, but do not see what to do about it.

Do we actually perceive time passing? Or do we note that our list of memories keeps changing?

Thank you for the reviews.

Synergy: I have called for a Cosplay Bureau, but the only member I know with an interest in cosplay is too busy with other matters. Volunteers for a Cosplay bureau are most welcome.

Intermission 118: Interesting bit on the Winter Olympics. Bravo for writing short stories. Please consider submitting to Eldritch Science via me. *“But the Martians treated the crew with a remarkable indifference,”*

It could have been worse. They could have started by shelling and bombing the position of the human invaders. Bulwer-Lytton, viewed at the time as the greatest Victorian novelist, is now in some circles looked down upon. Vegetarianism? A cat on a vegetarian diet will go blind. No taurine in the diet.

You will not use a regular telephone, and I do not own a cell phone, meaning that people cannot send me text messages.

“for every new law and regulation adopted 200% of OLD regulations must be removed!” Our former President had this policy, or something similar, but I do not know how well it was followed. His follow-through on his policy statements was a tad limited.

The Contents of a Good Life: Nice photos, interesting thoughts. Endeavor not to go soon. Poe was a character. Verne was a vampire? Good thing we had a medusa to stop him.

Samizdat: The ‘native Americans’ got here 15,000 or perhaps – occasional very fragmentary and controversial evidence -- 100,000 years ago.

Bova by report had issues with strong female characters, and was reportedly blunt enough about it that Schmitz apparently stopped writing.

The N3F has a variety of handouts and trifold. What shape is needed for the flier rack? How do we find papermail addresses for SF Cons?

Practical Exercise is now back from its editrix and will perhaps this month be on the ebook stands.

Through books, authors will perhaps be immortal.

Thank you for the Andre Norton review. For some reason in period she seemed to be less well regarded.

It appears to be a bit late to be complaining about the location of the Chengdu convention, but this is fandom, so all sorts of odd things can happen. Disinviting a GoH was a bad idea that has not aged well.

Best of luck with your convention bid.

Safari in

Ukraine:

"GUYS! ANOTHER SUCKER!
IT'S OUR LUCKY DAY!"

"OH! SHIT!!!"

INTERMISSION #120

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and other fanalphabets!
Follow @SFJournalen's sf/f/h&fandom newstweets. Spring is here and the typos bloom.
Unfortnuttly ålso here. Sörry! But to err is hu...mour! Slava Ukraini! May 2022.

Editorially: Frome Russia Without Love

This fanzine of course supports the struggle of the Ukranian people. I have as you saw in #118 put Putin under fanzine blockade! That'll teach him! I've after all had Ukranian fans (Boris & Alexander with friends) on visit to Stockholm, for our Conscience 95 con. I remember watching the Stockholm Water Festival's big fireworks with them, from the penthouse flat of Peter A near Mosebacke. Sadly, there are now different fireworks over Ukraine. *Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine! Ära till Ukraina!*

But otherwise this will be dominated by presenting the life and fanac of the fancient Swedish-Canadian fan *Nils Helmer Frome*. (No newspaper stuff this time, but still have much such left for future issues.) I covered Frome quite extensively already in #117, but also asked for more info and known material on him which I didn't have access to.

One Rob Hansen of Britain, if you have heard the name (no, not "Britain"...Hansen, the fandom historian!) remembered he had the ultimate collection of Fromeriana: *Nils Helmer Frome 1918-1962*, articles about and material by Frome, including his fanzines. It's 170+ pages and edited by Frome's friend and sort of agent Sam Moskowitz (a part of the services of his short-lived New Fandom organisation). And since Hansen's research is centred on Britain (if you've heard the name) and not Canada, he offered to mail it to your humble servant. Ta, Rob! (For "thanks!" That's how the British say it. Uncle Google says is from Scandinavian "tack" with the end dropped.) And despite virus-stricken supply chains, and regular mail soon down to being delivered once per fortnight, it arrived. It took time to go through, but now it's done. So, on this Frome stuff:

1) The Frome article has been a bit complicated. I had the earlier one, to which I've added new material, cut, edited, rearranged etc. It's rather delicate and the source material isn't exactly chronological. There's a lot of info which often sort of runs a slalom race around subjects. I'll do my best. And note that it isn't "my" research, except finding a pulpmag letter and googling a little on where Frome lived. I'm a messenger, editor, to some extent an interpreter of things. My hope is it will give you a grip of this somewhat forgotten fannish pioneer. Comments welcome, and I will run LoCs if you have info to add.

2) Already the draft of the article is rather long so there'll be little space for things around Putin's insane, cowardly attack on Ukraine. But I give my thoughts on little Putin boy's all fails and wrongs. You can follow war news virtually everywhere, and what I could add would be out of date.

Now, the analysis of the tiny braincell collection of Mr Vladischmuck Genocidovich Putin...

--Ahrvid Engholm

Putin's Numerous and Massive Mistakes

He always had a knack for words, ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus, and in his intro to Swedish TV's Ukraine fundraiser he called Mr Putin an ASSHOLE ("skitstövel") for starting this war. (Watch with subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxm1naVquXo>) Tens of thousands have been killed, including civilians tortured and shot with arms tied behind their backs, executed Stalin style. Bombing civilians, rape, looting are legion in the Russian legions. Abominable, gross war crimes won't even begin to describe it! Tens of millions forced to flee from their homes, scores of towns are reduced to rubble... All because Putin think it'd be a good idea to try to revive the biggest geopolitical disaster of the 20th Century, the Soviet Empire. All based on Putin delusions and Russian blunders, and among them:

➔ Putin's intelligence was rather unintelligent. His tip-top army would take Kiev in a couple of days and the Ukranians would cover the tanks with flowers. But the Ukrainian army, run by general Halfrack from Beetle Bailey (they thought), somehow forced Russians to tip-tip away. Putin was a

victim of his own propaganda, as he surrounds himself with yes-sayers who don't dare to correct him.

→ Putin's troops suffer from rock bottom fighting spirit. Many soldiers are from Russia's poorest oblasts, where young peasant boys sign up for \$400/month. They thought they were just on a manoeuvre. But when they realised they were in a full war and 10 000's in their ranks have fallen, many began to defect, give up, refuse to fight. Their morale went to the depths of the Black Sea - just as the Russian flagship, cruiser *Moscow*, BTW.



→ The Russian army has a rigid doctrine. Fling a lot of shells and move forward with armour - that today often is hit by the new generation of anti-tank weapons. And what's the point of taking a *Safari hunter* town when you have destroyed it? The operation was successful but the patient died... Command is centralised and Russia doesn't have the culture of flexible NCOs, taking initiative, having lots of tactical responsibility. A western sergeant act as the father to the boys and adapts actions to circumstances on the field. Russian NCOs are more like bullies, with the task of putting fear into the troops and strictly follow orders from above. With a centralised command generals have to move to the front to steer up things, with the result the Ukrainians have been able knock off over 10 of their top brass!

→ And they don't have enough troops. The Russians started with 200 000, of which up to a quarter now is killed, wounded or MIA. And analysts note that to successfully attack and occupy a 44 million country like Ukraine a 0.5-1m would be required. Russia overstretched from start on four fronts. They failed in Kiev, are failing in Kharkiv, are stuck in Mariupol against just a few defenders, and aren't even close to Odessa. Putin can't mobilise conscript reserves since it's not a war but a "special operation" (untrained conscripts won't be worth much anyway). Ukraine now probably numbers 400-500 000, with the territorial defence volunteers, and all of them know what they fight for.

→ The Russian Air Force hasn't exactly made Putin happy as a lark. More than 300 jets and helicopters have been shot down by Ukrainian "manpads" (MANPortableAirDefence) and longer range systems. It's reported that when the Russians air force fire missiles they fly inside Russian air space, scared to cross the border and become dead as a dodo. And aircraft are bloody expensive, mind you! But when they do dare to enter the airspace they have to fly low to hit their preferred targets (=hospitals, kindergardens, schools etc) since they lack guided smart bombs. The much smaller Ukrainian air force is still active and contests the air together with missiles, of which Ukraine recently got batches of the S300 system, Starstreak from the UK, Mistrals from Norway, more US Stingers, etc. Ukraine also make good use of drones, like the Turkish Bayraktar, which is armed to take out armour. Drones should be easy to kill, but Russian troops are short on advanced manpads!

→ The Russian army fails in logistics - big time! They send long columns of trucks, which the Ukrainians see coming through drones, and probably info from Western satellites - all ripe for ambushes. The blue and yellow move with small, motivated units in a terrain they know. They call hunting the Russians to "go on safari". Corruption makes the problems worse for Russia. Field rations are often 40 years old since a middleman stole the money meant to update them. Equipment has been stolen or replaced with cheaper less useful things, like Chinese tires that go flat on heavy APCs. And supply lines always follow the big roads. They even have to, as spring has come when rain and melting snow turns the ground to mud. Ukraine officials claim that while they themselves lost 70 tanks (compared to, it's claimed, 800+ lost for Russia), they have gained 170 taken from Russia, crews who fled as they ran out of fuel. They thus have more tanks than before. Ta Ivan, terribly kind!

→ Quite counterproductive is the habit when taking a town, instead of using the momentum to push further, Russians stop to murder civilians, rape and loot! An episode from the Finnish Winter War 1939-40 is how the Finns after a skirmish were forced to leave their field kitchens behind, with the dinner boiling. The starving Red Army troops stopped their attack to fill their bellies - for hours. So the Finns could lick their wounds, regroup and counterattack, oust the Russians and retake their field kitchens. It's also counterproductive in that all atrocities undisciplined Russian troops are guilty of, just unites the world against them! Cameras have recorded how Russians mail their loot from crowded Belarus courier offices. They are not only murderers and thieves - they are also stupid.

→ Putin also never counted on the wide sanctions against Russia. From what I understand, two thirds of Putin's war chest has been frozen abroad and Russian banks are cut off from doing business, including with the important SWIFT system. (I think that frozen Russian assets should be given to Ukraine after the war to help paying for the massive destruction Russia is guilty of. Take it all and auction off the oligarch yachts too!) Russians can't travel. Shops are empty. Hundreds of companies leave the Russian market. Russian oil and gas sales remain, mainly because Germany is so dependent of it. More than 50% of their energy comes from Russian imports, because they were Dumbkopf enough to shut down nuclear power in this program called "Energiewende". I hope Russian gas and oil will be stopped RSN with spring warmth. Less energy is used and we'll have until autumn to find other energy suppliers. (Sweden buys negligible amounts of Russian energy. We have nuclear and hydro power, growing number of wind farms and district heating that burns left-overs from the forestry industry and recycled paper and other waste.)

→ Putin underestimated his opponent, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky. He might have been a comedian and actor, but he has certainly risen to the task and got his act together. *"I need ammunition, not a ride!"* he answered when the US offered to evacuate him from Kiev. He has made many addresses to parliaments all over the world (Sweden's Riksdag too) with sharp messages to raise support for Ukraine and get weapons flowing in. Zelensky's poll popularity was stalling before the war. But now everyone supports him, also a big majority of Russian-speaking Ukrainians. It's encouraging to see someone rising with the occasion. Next *Time's* Man of the Year for sure.

→ Something we probably will see growing is opposition within Russia. It's reported Putin's lapdog oligarchs are beginning to doubt his wisdom. Recently a couple of them were found dead, with families, claimed to be "suicide pacts". (I have doubts.) Advisors are reported being jailed. Information about the Russian fiasco is seeping into the population. Young people can use VPNs to break Putin's censorship. A Russian anchorwoman bravely protested against the war on the TV news with a banner. Jails are filling up with protesters, as even calling the war a war can give you 15 years in prison. We have the project "Call a Russian", where people who speak Russian are asked to phone up random Russian phone numbers from a database of 40 million, and inform about Putin's war. And Russian mothers and grandmothers will in increasing numbers mourn their kids being killed. Don't underestimate the grief and anger of a babushka! Putin only controls TV, but he doesn't understand that traditional, linear TV is losing ground and becoming irrelevant.

→ And finally: an argument for Mr P-as-in-prick to invade was to "stop Nato expansion". But this defence organisation has now pulled together more than ever. And traditionally neutral Sweden and Finland are on their way in. Clumsy Russian threats just nudge us closer to join. Putin does not have a degree in psychology, to put it mildly. He threatens to place nukes in the Baltic, which is pointless since he already have nukes here. Finland has decided to join and I think Sweden with 90% certainty will follow. PM Maggie Andersson has made up her mind, there's a majority in the Riksdag and polls show growing Nato support after the butchery in Bucha and Mariupol. I said I'm 50/50 in this, so whatever happens I guess I'll be half happy...

Can the shoenummer-IQ Putin survive all this? Biden is right, putrified Putin can't remain in power! The bloodshed and destruction must end. Russian troops must withdraw. We must help Ukraine with reconstruction. Let's hope for a new Russian regime, to "normalise" the country and identify and extradite war criminals. The star prize would be Putin, if he can be identified after all this botox and plastic surgery! Russia has such a sad and bloody history. Why do they do this to themselves?

What else? 35-40 000 Ukrainian refugees have come to Sweden, figures uncertain as not all have yet registered with the migration authority (it's only needed for those who want to stay beyond 3 months). There will be new Swedish weapon deliveries to Ukraine, but details are undisclosed (the modern, powerful 155mm Archer artillery system is rumoured). Boris of Britain flew in to sign a defence deal! Nato boss Stoltenberg says Swedes and Finns would be welcome and could join quickly. (He's Norwegian so I guess he's biased.)

All because Putin wanted...eh, "to liberate Ukraine from Nazis".

History Corner: Frome Depths of Fannish History



Nils H Frome. Photo through copying machine and phone camera which affects quality. Cheeks' shadows are probably from the less than ideal copying chain.

In *Intermission* #117 I wrote about the Swedish-Canadian fan Nils H Frome, active in fancient days of the 1930's and 1940's. He isn't perhaps well-known today, but he was a penpal of none other than HP Lovecraft, who also contributed to his fanzine. And he published the first Canadian zine of which copies still survive. Frome was also a friend of Sam Moskowitz who even took upon himself to act as agent for Frome's prose, poetry and artwork, and later called him "*the leading Canadian fan of the day*" and "*the first ACTIVE Canadian science fiction fan*". Other Canadian fans had written sf or collected it earlier, he notes (like eg one Chester D Cuthbert), but never entered into general fandom activities. Frome even co-wrote stories with the young James Blish, with whom he also corresponded. The *Canadian Fancyclopedia* calls Frome

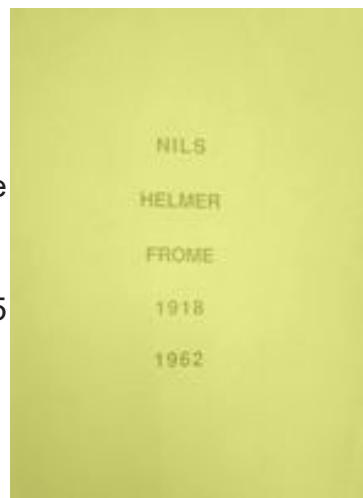
"Canada's first BNF" and fan historian Harry Warner jr added "*Frome was the first Canadian to publish a general circulation fanzine to make himself prominent*".

The earlier article presented a lot of material about and by Frome, found on this marvellous Interweb that Al Gore invented. I'll expand upon it here, but it's inevitable that stuff will be repeated. It should be noted that I'm not guilty of much original research (except for finding one of Frome's pulpmag letters - there may be more, let me know if you find some). I've just found material here and there and sorted it, added what I can and tried to bring into some sort of order.

I've relied a lot on this thick volume, *Nils Helmer Frome 1918-1962* (1989, No 5 in the Moshassuck Monograph Series, 170+ pages!) edited by Sam Moskowitz - known as SaM - where much Frome material is collected. SaM's own material is mostly reprints from the academic journal *SF Studies*, which also thought Frome was of interest, it seems. I'll call SaM's volume *NHFvol* below. The inside colophon page title of it is "Phillips Lovecraft and Nils Helmer Frome: a recollection of one of Canada's earliest science fiction fans". Luckily British fandom historian Rob Hansen happened to have it and graciously sent it too me. Glory to Rob! *Slava Robu!*

I took some time to make a "quick and dirty" PDF of SaM's *NHFvol*. I fired up my (cheap) mobile phone, which doesn't have the greatest camera in this solar system, sometimes focusing slightly bleary-eyed - and I shot the pages like a Ukranian soldier shoots tanks. Some parts are slightly blurry but it should all be readable. Download it from <https://e1.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZE9VzZUJ108QNEHf7O7IzHtj86yYvCurdV>

I can't cover every detail - some sources go into the smallest ones! You can't boil down an entire human life to a few pages, but if you want more you have the link to *NHFvol* above, with biographical articles, Frome's fanzines, illustrations, short stories, some correspondence, etc. It's worth finding out about Nils Helmer Frome, because though sometimes troubled he seemed to be very talented and was active for more than a decade during formative years of fandom. He was a pioneer in those very early fandom days which at least I find extremely interesting. (Note how *Intermission* earlier covered 1940s LASFS and the Swedish Atomic Noah club!) That Frome was a pal of Lovecraft and



Moskowitz says something. He is often mentioned in SaM's fanhistory *The Immortal Storm* (https://archive.org/details/The_Immortal_Storm_A_History_of_Science_Fiction_Fandom_1954_Sam_Moskowitz_siPDF) turns up in Garth Spencer's "A History of Canadian SF Fandom" (https://www.fanac.org/Fan_Histories/) and a lot in R Graeme Cameron's *The Canadian Fancyclopedia*, <https://efanzines.com/CanFan/> (I will call it *CanFan* from now on), which is also a good source for this article. (And thanx to Garth and R Graeme for proofing and commenting drafts of this article!)

Frome didn't have an easy life. He lacked a typewriter sitting there in a logging camp somewhere in the Canadian bush. He was shy and poor. Each page of his fanzine *Supramundane Stories* - the first Canadian fanzine with a known editor which also has survived! - took hours to run off on the strange multigraph machine he acquired (from US *Tesseract* fanned CH Bloomer) - as wolves howled in the night, I'd like to imagine! (CanFan says, p71: "*The identity of the Vancouver fan who in 1936 produced The Canadian Science Fiction Fan, Canada's FIRST Science Fiction fanzine, remains unknown*". It came half a year before Frome's, but no copy of it is known. It's only known through a remark in a Don Wollheim fanzine, but he unfortunately didn't give the name of the editor - it wasn't Frome, though. More on p93 in CanFan.)

Frome described himself for SaM as blonde and six foot two inches tall (1.87m) weighing 143 pounds (65 kg - he was thus rather slim). In 1937 he wrote, to SaM (NHFvol, p8):

I'm Swedish. And part Norwegian, but I think in English, Like drawing girls. Like movies, Jean Rogers, Nan Gray, tap dancing, singing. I don't step out for the main reason I don't have the money - having no job. Have not many friends and no pals. Have movie aspirations." /SaM adds: / "His great ambition was to emigrate to the US. At least once he illegally tried to cross the border but was caught and turned back. Hollywood was his big lure, but in 1939 he was hopeful of coming to New York to live with an aunt - apparently that did not mature."

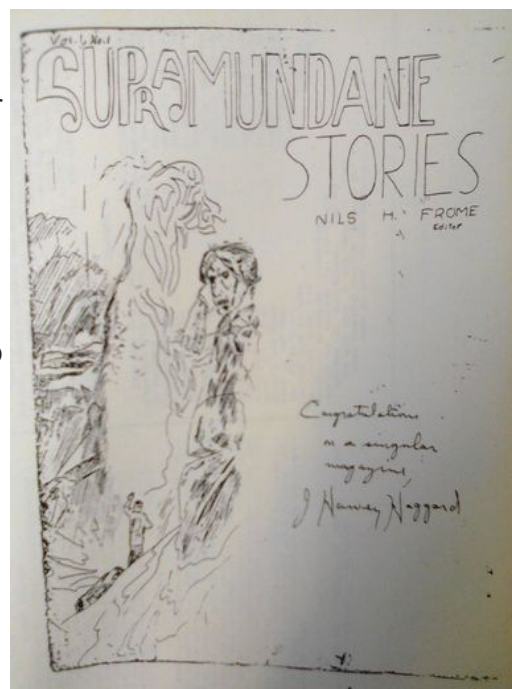
The surname "Frome", BTW, means "the pious" or "the reverent" in Swedish but without the trailing "e". SaM says in NHFvol that the surname was originally without and e. It was probably added when the family immigrated so the name wouldn't read just "From". Imagine the problems in writing addresses with the name From! Those short names are often Swedish "soldier names", hinting a Frome family ancestor was in the army of the short-lived Swedish Empire...and being lucky to survive. (Soldiers came from an allotment system, where groups of farmers were each required to recruit and pay for a soldier's uniform, weapons, and a small cottage with some land to farm.)

Anyway, Nils Helmer's mother died when he was a baby and we learn he was given to friends to be a foster family, surnamed Frome. They called him Helmer, but he'd later prefer to use the name Nils (or sometimes "Niles"). It was supposed to be temporary but four years old Nils Helmer refused to go back to his biological father and was instead adopted by the foster family. (He'd much later visit his biological father in Sweden, so they had some contact.) At the age of six in 1924 he emigrated with the adoption family to Canada.

Evidence indicates his first language was Swedish, from growing up in a Swedish-speaking family. We see comments on that his English later "improved", so he probably spoke Swedish first.

NHFvol (p2) tells us about his family that his adoptive father died in 1959, his adoptive mother lived to the age of 92, and beside half-brother Lars he also had a half-sister from his natural father's second marriage and a full brother who drowned early in his life.

Frome's health was bad, and his family history not much better. He was separated from his biological parents as very young, his mother died while he was in the crib and later a brother drowned. It is said he liked his blog but he was also very creative. He constantly produced drawings and had a talent for writing, though hampered by a lack of a typewriter. CanFan says, p239, "*After high school he attended Vocational Art School in Vancouver*". (The high school could be East Coquitlam High, opened in the 1930s, <https://coquitlampubliclibrary.omeka.net/exhibits/show/history/education/students> .) He



Supramundane Stories #1, early 1937.

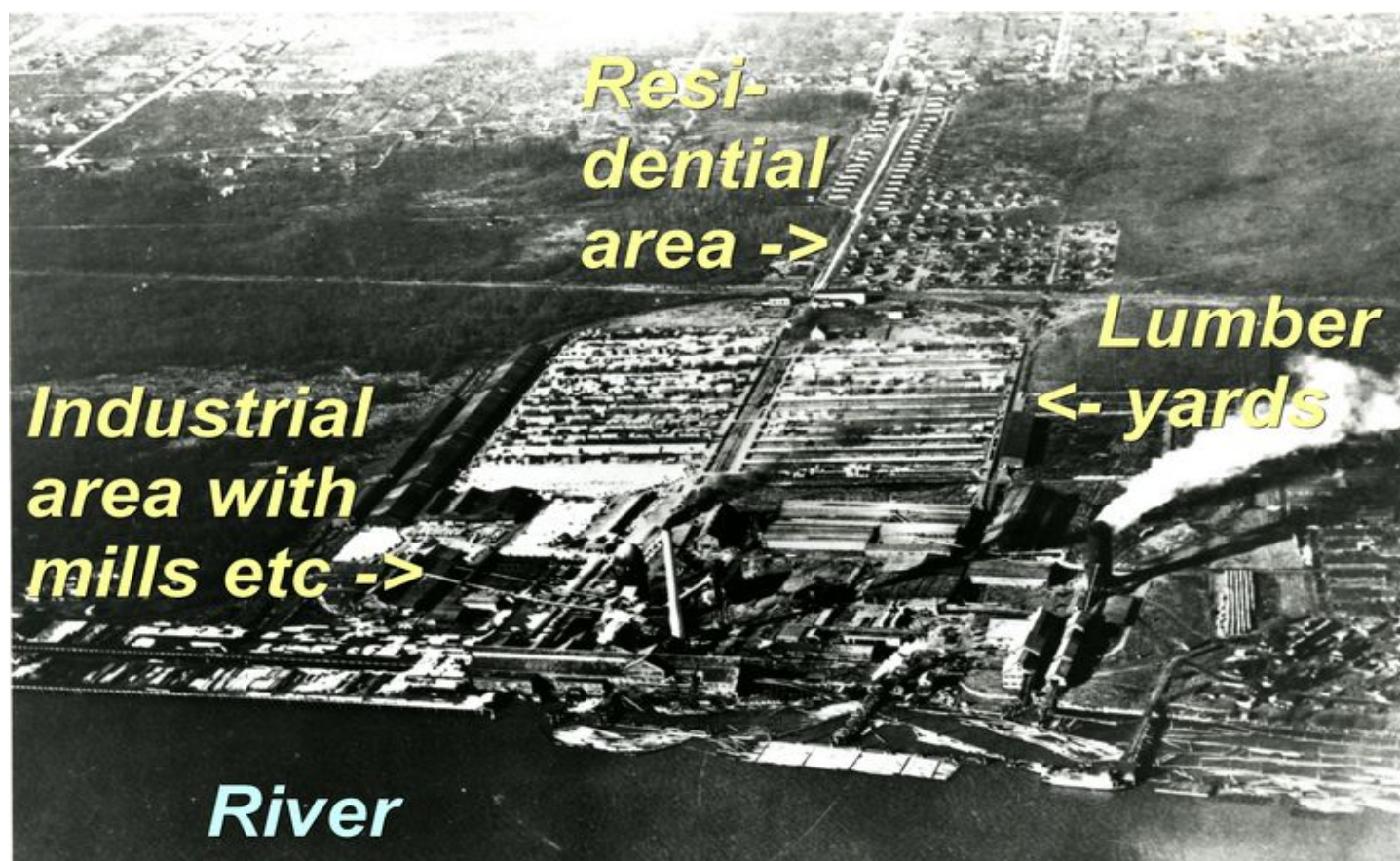
did get art published, but not much, so it was nothing to make a living from. The biologically orphaned Frome lived between cultures, isolated in Canadian logging communities, moving between different parts of British Columbia's wilderness, with mostly unfulfilled artistic ambitions. And his life ended penniless in a boarding room in Wales, UK, beside a diary suggesting suicide.

This raises sympathy and you want to know more. For me it's of course of special interest that he was a Swedish immigrant. And a friend of both Lovecraft and Moskowitz is more than a nobody. He also corresponded with a very young James Blish (13-14 years at the time) and even co-wrote stories with him. SaM writes in his own fanzine *Helios* #1 (1937) that Blish:

is also trying his hand at professional writing. His First effort "Empty City", a collaboration with Nils H Frome, has been rejected by Astounding Stories. Another, "Spacecast", is still going the rounds.

Frome was the earliest active fan in Canada, but also one of the most isolated. When he left native Sweden he came with his adoptive father Oscar Frome to Fraser Mills east of Vancouver, British Columbia, and later lived in a logging cabin together with - or having him nearby - his half-brother Lars. Wikipedia notes, about Fraser Mills:

Located on the northern shore of the Fraser River, the area was originally the site of a sawmill. The mill was known at first as the Ross McLaren Mill and opened in 1889. However, it closed soon after when co-founder James McLaren died. The site remained unused for many years until the mill was reopened as the Fraser River Sawmills... During the Great Depression many workers were laid off...The mill eventually closed in 2001. The Fraser Mills neighbourhood is located in the southwestern part of Coquitlam, and south of Maillardville neighbourhood, which was founded as a townsite for the workers at the large Lumber mill...The city has designated the area as Waterfront Village Centre and has re-zoned it to include both commercial and residential use.



Aerial view of Fraser Mills from around that time.

Here's a short history of the Western Lumber Company, which was the name of the company adopted after 1910 <https://snaccooperative.org/history/71592942/10462839>

Frome was exempted from the Canadian army since his logging-related work was deemed essential for the war effort. (I also wonder if there could be health issues for the somewhat scrawny Frome?) His work was cooking for the lumberjacks. After Fraser Mills he moved around a bit to other towns or camps in the province of BC, working in what was called cook houses. It is suggested he also did logging but I wonder: he as lumberjack, was that OK? Out of this he made a living until 1953 "when

serious illness forced him to withdraw from his work" (NHFvol, p2), having what was "a bowel obstruction". Wiki indicates it can be quite serious, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowel_obstruction - painful, impeding, often requiring an operation and having a not insignificant death rate.

From the West Coast Science Fiction Association came a mini-biography on Frome, "Nils Helmer Frome Found and Lost", published in their *WCSFzine* #5, and also in *New Canadian Fandom*, May 1983 (and in NHFvol, starting p28), researched and written by Michael Dann and Brenda Yvonne. They located Frome's half-brother Lars (nicknamed Louie) and his wife (Alice), who they personally interviewed. They examined what personal papers there were from Frome, though there wasn't much left, but they at least got some late drawings and photos of the half-brother Nils. A longer excerpt:

Canada's second SF faned, 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 Rätansbyn, Jämtland, /added missing dots to "a" / Sweden on July 10th, 1918. After his mother died, he was given by his father to another family to raise. At the age of four, he refused to go back to living with his father! Eventually he was adopted by a foster family, who moved to Canada, ultimately settling in Fraser Mills, BC, 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



Rätansbyn in the province of Jämtland probably had 3-500 inhabitants when Frome was born (in 2005 it was 130). His Swedish and Canadian environments were similar.

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 from 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 /hinting he beside cooking also cut down trees!/, 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, BC. /Later in the 50s he'd also work and stay in Thasis and Bakerville, all in the same region/ 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."

Frome did two issues of *Supramundane Stories* out of Fraser Mills in 1937-38, and produced an issue of *Fantasy Pictorial* for the May 1938 First National SF Convention in Newark, New Jersey. SaM added a short biography and did the printing, but Frome made the hektograph originals - he had acquired a hektograph in 1938 (NHFvol, p12) - and the Newark conzine was:

six pages, hektographed in purple and green, and contained seven illustrations and an untitled poem. Like other Frome publications, it was stitched on a sewing machine; we sold it for five cents.

All 35 copies sold out! A second issue was less successful as Frome for that used too weak or little hekto ink, according to SaM.

In *The Golden Atom* (ed Larry Farsaci) fanzine, March 1940, Frome talks about how he became interested in science fiction, in the article "But Stars Still Shine..." (NHFvol, starting p18). SaM says:

According to that piece, the first SF that Frome remembered seeing was A Merritt's The Metal Emperor (published in 11 installments in Hugo Gernsback's Science and Invention between Oct 1927 and Aug 1928). When he first saw The Metal Emperor, or rather installments of it, Frome had not yet learned to read the English language. "All I remember of that was a couple of illustrations by /Frank R/ Paul which had an incredible effect on my imagination. Science fiction and fantasy is still the only kind of fiction that holds my interest. I can take or leave it now. There is no longer the tingling awe and wonder that had a life scarcely incidental to reality." ...The first SF story Frome remember reading was the third installment of Edward E Smith's The Spacehounds of IPC in the September 1931 issue of Amazing Stories..."Every word had magic in it, to me, then: every sentence individualized itself from the rest." The story Frome liked next to Spacehounds of IPC was, he said: "'The Ice Entity' by Clark Ashton Smith...I read it while I was still able to enjoy it with the unique relish of the formative mind...That story really struck a responsive chord with me - I suppose because it was flavored with the awe of time travel."

Sam corrects Frome on a title, which was "The Ice Demon". It's about a world slowly being covered in ice, which is being fought off with an artificial sun. Frome cites CA Smith's "The City of the Singing Flame" (*Wonder Stories*, July 1931) as another favourite, and Edmond Hamilton's "The Man Who Evolved" (*Wonder Stories*, April 1931). He also mentions "The Twin Souls", by Amelia Reynolds Long, in *Weird Tales* and "Burned Things" by Robert Sandison, from the same Magazine, December 1930. He also read Robert E Howard's "Pigeons from Hell" (*Weird Tales*, May 1938) and J E Keith's "Between Dimensions" (*Wonder Stories*, Oct 1931). Frome must have read many of these at the age of 12-13 - what has been called The Golden Age of SF! - but he may have begun even earlier (NHFvol, p21), saying in a letter to SaM:

I think I started on science fiction by a nickel kid magazine published in England about the time Amazing came out. It was titled Boys Magazine, no defunct...the first interplanetary story I ever read was in that little magazine.

If read when *Amazing* came, Frome would be around 8 years old. I wonder if English magazines were distributed in Canada, or if Frome's family had a longer stop in England on their way to jump the pond? It was rather common for North America immigrants to pass through England.

The first notice relating to Frome is from the editorial of the then 13 years old James Blish's fanzine *The Planeteer* #1 December 1935 (NHFvol, p17) where it is mentioned the fanzine would soon have a group of new artists - and among them we would see Frome. He and this later to grow up as a great sf author had obviously begun to correspond in 1935 (Frome was then 16) and as many others they probably got in touch through the lettercols of the pulps, where they also published the addresses of the letter writers.

Frome letterhacked the pulps of the days. I found this letter in *Weird Tales* in 1936 (Aug-Sep), https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Weird_Tales/Volume_28/Issue_2/The_Eyrie#Frome but the letter must have been forwarded by someone in NJ, maybe Blish or a later mentioned New York aunt? Otherwise, Frome's address at this time was Box 3, Fraser Mills, BC, Canada (Box 3 was used for a later address):

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 favors 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.

Frome's first appearance in fanzine text should have been in C Hamilton Bloomer's fanzine *Tesseract*, May 1936 (NHFvol p8), "Notes on Writing Science Fiction" by "Canadian author Nils H Frome...adapted by Jim Blish." A part two of this article came in the June issue. SaM speculates that this was written by Blish, but why then not under his own name? It is more likely (my assumption) it was notes from correspondence between Blish and Frome that Blish took upon himself to adapt into an article. As mentioned Frome collaborated with Blish in story-writing, the couple writing at least two short stories together, making the rounds among the pulps but being rejected. David Ketterer writes about Frome's contacts with young James Blish in *Science Fiction Studies* #35 (vol 12, Mar 1985)

Frome seems to have dropped off the face of the Earth. His death 1962 was widely unknown! Colombo writes, "The last reference to him in fan literature seems to be the letter he wrote to the editor of Canadian Fandom, published in September 1947. It was sent from Camp 5, Bloedel, BC." (p155) In "A Science fiction Coming of Age," which will appear in a forthcoming collection of James Blish essays entitled The Tale That Wags the God (Advent, 1985?) and edited by Cy Chauvin, Blish mentions that in the 1930s, "Through my published letters, I had gotten into correspondence with another youngster named Nils Frome, of Fraser's Mills, Ontario, who did very skillful fine-line drawings with the back of an ordinary fountain pen, and who also wrote gloomily Lovecraftian stories with the front side of the pen." Blish completed one of Frome's many incomplete stories, but "the story didn't sell." Another of Blish's collaborations with Frome that Blish had submitted to Astounding met the same fate. "To the best of my knowledge, Nils Frome never did break into print." "Our correspondence dwindled and died. I wonder what happened to him; out of my absolute ignorance of the graphic arts. I still have the feeling that he drew very well, gluey though his prose undeniably was, but as far as the record shows, he never sold a drawing either." Later he did. But Blish never forgot the hapless "dud" Frome. My researches into the Blish Papers in the New Bodleian Library reveal that in at least one instance, a potentially embarrassing questionnaire that Blish filled out towards the end of his life, he used "Nilsson Frome" as a pseudonym. Frome, then, became for Blish a shield against recognition, a guarantee of nonentityship. The ploy has ultimately failed. Gradually, Frome is emerging from obscurity, and so is Canadian SF and fantasy.

Frome corresponded with Lovecraft towards the end of HPL's life. He sent Frome two short stories, "Nyarlathotep" which he published, and the second HPL story titled "What the Moon Brings" eventually ended up in James V Taurisi's fanzine *Cosmic Tales*, April-June 1941, since Frome didn't publish a *Supramundane* #3. In the correspondence Lovecraft even sent Frome a "list of really solid books on the sciences you should read" (NHFvol p83). I skip the 20+ books long list but it is astronomy, atomics, biology, chemistry, even psychology and is available in other Lovecraft literature. ST Joshi says (*I am Providence*, p1215) that HPL:

no doubt was pleased to have a correspondent in a country that still retained loyalty to the British throne, but Frome was a strange, mystical character who belived in numerology, fortunetelling, the immortality of the soul and other conceptions Lovecraft found preposterous, And yet, Frome seemed to be a man of such keen native intelligence that Lovecraft strove to instruct and aid him as best he could.

In *HP Lovecraft: Letters to Robert Bloch and others* (Hippocampus Press, 2017) we find a Lovecraft letter to William Shepherd (dated Jan 1937) mentioning "One Nils H. Frome, of Fraser Mills, BC, seems to be full of plans for *Supramundane* stories" and Jan 25 the same year he wrote about Frome to Robert Bloch:

*If you want bold & nutty scientific concepts to work on, get in touch with the kid who is about to edit *Supramundane Stories* - Nils H Frome, Box 3, Fraser Mills, B.C., Canada. Some of his vague & unformulated concepts would do credit to an Einstein or a de Sitter on the one hand, or to an asylum case on the other hand! I've been obliged to decline the honour of collaborating with this fertile young genius - but if you feel like dressing up some highly intricate concepts for *Astounding*, *Wonder*, or *Amazing*, he's your man!*

SaM notes (NHFvol, starting p8) about placing Frome material through his fanzine agency:

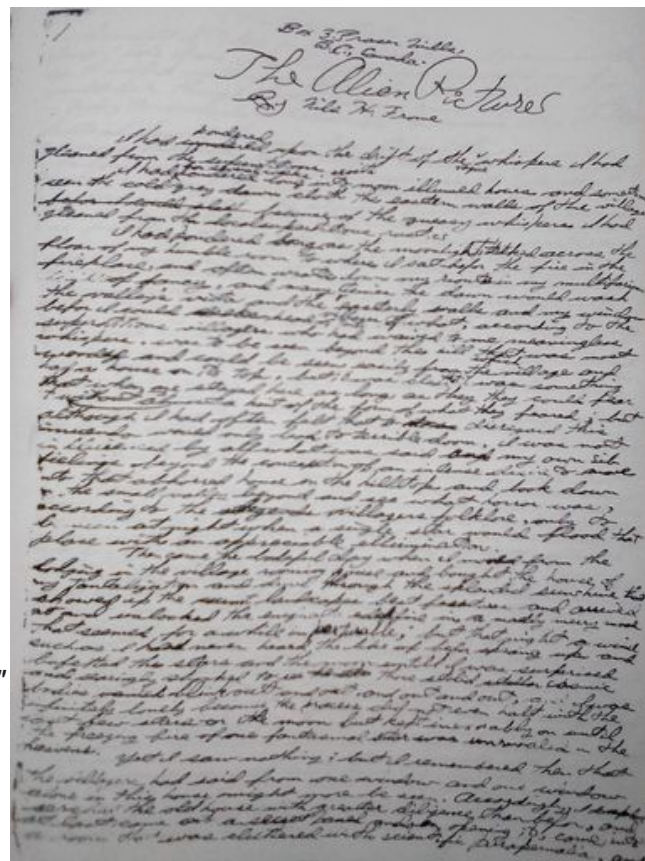
Frome was the most difficult because he didn't own a typewriter and all of his submissions were written in a cramped style that made Lovecraft's script look like a bad case of elephantiasis. They were written on the thinnest paper possible and on both sides (to save postage - though letters were only three cents an ounce in those years) with a generous number of corrections and revisions on the same sheet. His writing style was considerable above the average of the fans of the that day and his leaning was towards the Lovecraftian." /SaM had several unpublished stories by Frome, as they were in longhand probably the only copies existing - he continues:/ 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 and Austin Briggs - entirely line work with some cross-hatching in the background /SaM also published Frome artwork, eg a big piece in hekto ink in the series called "Fantasy Artists" together with a short biography./ I sold out my 35 copies and received many letters of praise.

Frome was thus quite active in fandom in the 1930s: corresponding, publishing pioneering Canadian fanzines, letterhacking the pulps, and writing and drawing for other fanzines. SaM had begun corresponding with Frome in early 1937 and mentions (NHFvol, p11) that Frome also corresponded with for example William H Miller, Alex Osheroff, Morris Dollens and one would presume many others - surely all editors of the fanzines he contributed to - with art, poetry, short stories, sometimes some non-fiction.

In NHFvol, starting p10, SaM makes extensive summaries of the contents of the Frome fanzines. I leave that for now, but you'll get some later. (It would also be a bit exhausting with all the details - SaM was a man of many details!) Fanzine contents are tricky and The Frome fanzines are available in the NHFvol-PDF you can download to study if you feel the urge.

Frome sometimes used the pen name Herkanos (CanFan, p264) also in his LoCs, so look out for that if you scan zines and pulps for Frome traces. And on Frome's pencraft here's Taral (CanFan, p184), himself an artist:

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.



Manuscript page by Frome, in wobbly, small longhand. Story "The Alien Pictures" (reprinted in NHFvol too).

His own *Supramundane Stories* had an impressive roster of contributors: (NHFvol). SaM:

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)

He "*did illustrations and wrote fantasy fiction for my own fan magazine Helios*" SaM adds. Frome had contacts with Clarie Beck too and contributed to his *The Science Fiction Critic*, Fancyclopedia says, https://fancyclopedia.org/Nils_Helmer_Frome and notes his fanzine he edited was "*the first Canadian genzine, and possibly the country's first fanzine, in the late 1930s and*



A multigraph printing machine.

1940s /he/ contributed illos to many American fanzines."

Supramundane Stories was produced on a multigraph, a piece of equipment that printed from a drum like a mimeograph, except that the typewriter style letters were set a slug at a time, as with a letter press, on the drum. To do one page on the multigraph would take no less than four hours, 2 1/2 hours to set the type, 1 1/2 hour to remove and sort it to be used again (NHFvol, p105). Frome also used a hektograph from 1938, ie a box where you put sheets on a jelly bed, drawing ink from an aniline-inked original. Several pages and the cover of *Supramundane Stories* #2 were fully or partly done on this hektograph. He would also use hekto ink to draw illustrations he sent to others, to be used directly. Hektography was furthermore used to add colour to otherwise printed pages. Frome would on top of this hand-draw illustrations in his fanzine, in white spaces left out. It was a lot of work, 10-12 illustrations per copy might be needed. All extra work is probably why only two issues came.

M Dann/B Yvonne tell us about *Supramundane Stories* #1, through CanFan, p413:

70 copies of 32 pages printed on a multigraph mimeo Frome had earlier purchased from San Francisco fan C. Hamilton Bloomer (who had used it to print the first American multigraphed zine TESSERACT). A multigraph has movable type which has to be set by hand, which is very time-consuming. Any illustrations have to be hand drawn for each copy, which in the case of SUPRAMUNDANE led to an unusual situation... SUPRAMUNDANE's pages were stitched together on 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.

#2 of the fanzine was printed in 100 copies. Moskowitz says (NHFvol)

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.

Frome wanted to join the then newly founded (in 1937) Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Jack Speer says in his early fandom history *Up to Now* (1939) <https://efanzines.com/UpToNow/>:

Wollheim pointed out that all of the publishers of Convention /1937 in New Jersey/ publications were members of the FAPA. Exception was Nils Frome, Canadian, whose magazine arrived too late.

I don't know if he joined later. Since I don't have the rosters, but possibly not since he lived far away and his multigraph machine was complicated to operate.

The contents of *Supramundane* #1 is mentioned in CanFan, p414:

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 acerb 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, Contents of *Supramundane Stories* #2 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*

EARTH WITHOUT ART IS JUST...EH!

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 here also wrote a poem under the pen name Lionel N Dwight. It's titled 'All Cold', and is about the heat death of the Moon. 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.

CanFan, p141, notes:

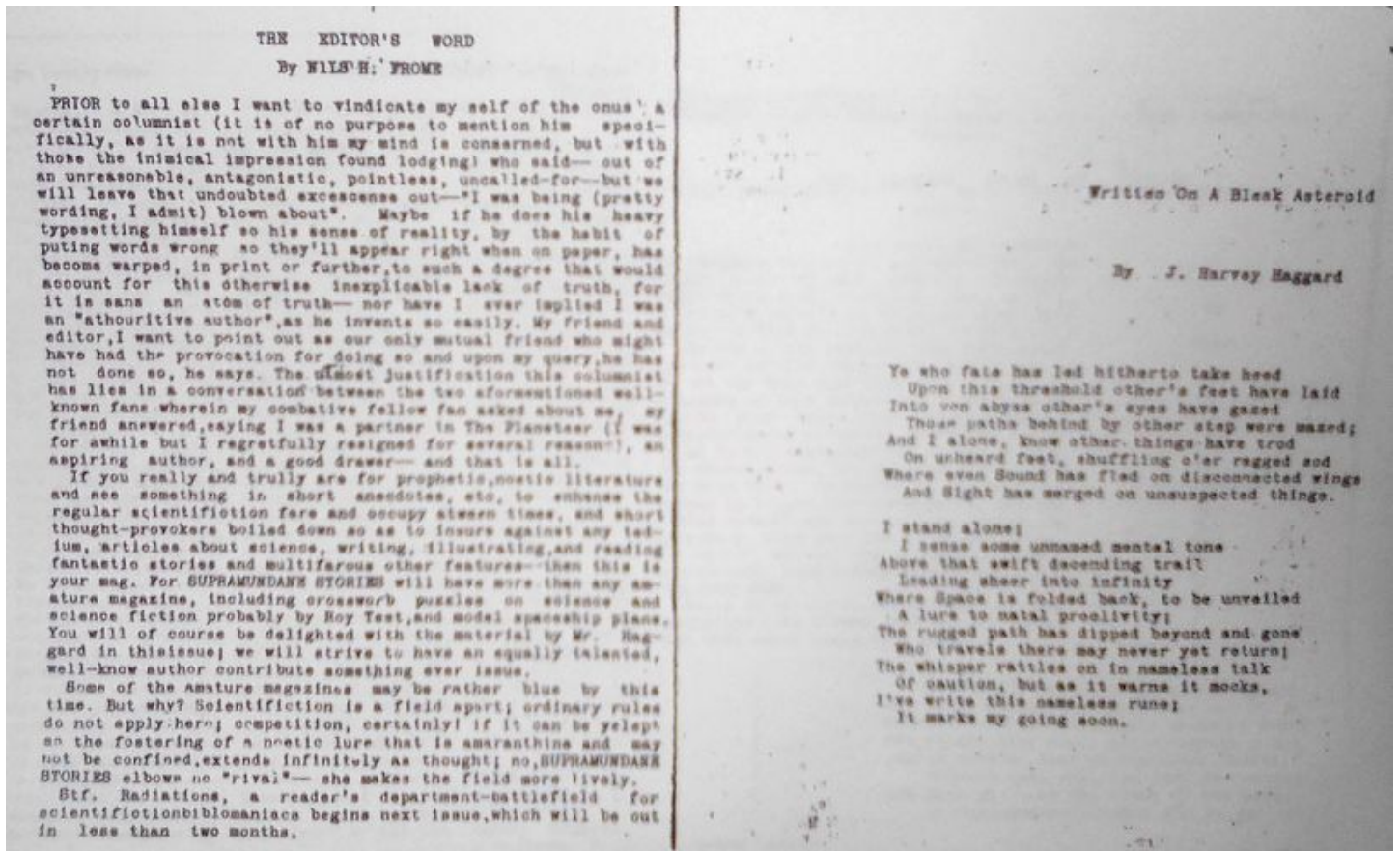
The standout item in the issue is the poem 'Written On A Bleak Asteroid' by J Harvey Haggard, a professional author and poet. whose stories had appeared periodically in WONDER STORIES & ASTOUNDING STORIES...had several poems appear under the pen name 'The Planet Prince' in WONDER STORIES... (And from NHFvol, p10/ 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.)

And here's an excerpt from his editorial, titled 'The Editor's Word' in which he sets forth the purpose of Supramundane Stories #1 (NHFvol, p124):

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;



1950s drawing. Unknown where it was used, but Frome was still into fantasy it seems.



Two pages from Supramundane Stories #1, "The Editor's Word" and J Harvey Haggard's poem mentioned. Though slow the multigraph had the advantage you could easily create straight right margins by sliding the type on the drum.

ordinary rules do not apply here; competition, certainly! If it can be yeleft 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.

Supramundane is also 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/>

Here's SaM's list of publications he agented Frome's work to (CanFan, p239-240):

HELIOS & FANTASY ARTISTS, ed Sam 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 Tarusi
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, who probably stopped acting as agent after 1940 as the New Fandom organisation dwindled down, so later fanzine contributions are not listed. He continued through most of the 1940s with fillos, prose and LoCs. He for instance wrote fiction for Les Crouth's Ontario fanzine *Light*, and did both covers and illos Joseph 'Beak' Taylor's *Canadian Fandom*.

In Walter Marconett's *Scienti-Snaps*, Feb 1939, we find a short story by Frome, "The Mother" (not in the NHFvol) and you can find it too here: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Scienti-Snaps/>

While continuing to be active until the late 1940's - being mentioned even in the early 1950s - the intro of NHFvol (p2) claims that Frome had "*become disillusioned with science fiction and fandom by the forties. His sense of 'otherness' and interest in the outre had much in common with similar attitudes share by Howard Philips Lovecraft.*" SaM notes that Frome was getting sour on SF in 1940 (NHFvol, p22):

For the present day pulp s-f I have nothing but contempt, particularly so in the case of Ziff-Davis science fiction magazines (Amazing Stories, Fantastic Adventures). Like Lovecraft he seems to have had a strong desire for female companionship but unlike his mentor he never seem to have ventured into matrimony." His desire to meet a good girl, especially a red-haired one, is obvious from his story "The Cloud People" and in correspondence with Sam Frome talked about his admiration for actresses like Nan Grey and Jean Rogers.

In a letter to *The Golden Atom*, dated January 9, 1940, Frome says (NHFvol, p17):

No, I have no fan mags for sale. I have no fan mags, I've destroyed them all - I dislike a lot of useless paper laying around. I do have a couple or so Planeteer and some early Science Fiction Fans that somehow missed the fire, but that is all. Them you can have for as little as you care to offer.

In 1943 Frome contributed to Canadian fan Beak Taylor's hektographed fanzine *8-Ball*, February of that year, with the short story "The Box" (CanFan, p82):

It told of a housewife who receives in the mail a little black box that carries her off to other universes. The writing would have been good for the 1930s, but already ot was too weak for the '40s, when the average fan



Riverboat and portrait of unknown man, by Nils H Frome.

was in his 20s, not in his teens.

In the second issue Taylor reports this Frome story was poorly received. His fanzine would change name to *Canadian Fandom* with issue 4 and becoming one of the leading ones in Canada "also highly respected in the US", and Frome eg did the cover for its August 1944 issue "a handsome satanic face and nine naked women with butterfly wings gazing up at him. The drawing, approaching professional quality, was photo offset." He also did the cover for the issue February 1945, "a gigantic humanoid holds an earthman in the palm of his hand, while the earthman and companion are firing rifles at him." The October 1945 issue has a Frome cover "of a naked man riding a winged horse obit short of professional standards". In the same issue Frome has a short story, illustrated with an "exaggerated self-portrait", titled "The Mirror. It's a story "in which a man, without realizing it, sees his death mirrored long before it occurs." The July 1947 cover had a montage of four Frome illos, with a poem by him in the middle. That issue also has a letter from Frome which has been wrongly interpreted that he was then in the military, but "camp" in his address is a logging and not an army camp. (Various quotes from NHF, p13.)

According to CanFan, p85:

Joseph 'Beak' Taylor - (#12 - Jul) - "For the cover... /of Canadian Fandom/ Taylor took four Frome illustrations and arranged them in a montage with a poem by the artist at the centre which seems to relate to them." (SM) The four illustrations depict: 1) A giant with a serrated Mohawk haircut, naked but for a loincloth, staring down a sunset, 2) the head of a man with pointed ears, exaggerated cranium & intensely staring eyes, 3) an explosion (possibly atomic) bursting out of the ocean offshore of a tropical beach, & 4) a sad, almost Negroid face gazing down at a city under intense bombardment, its citizens scurrying in panic through the streets. The poem by Frome reads:

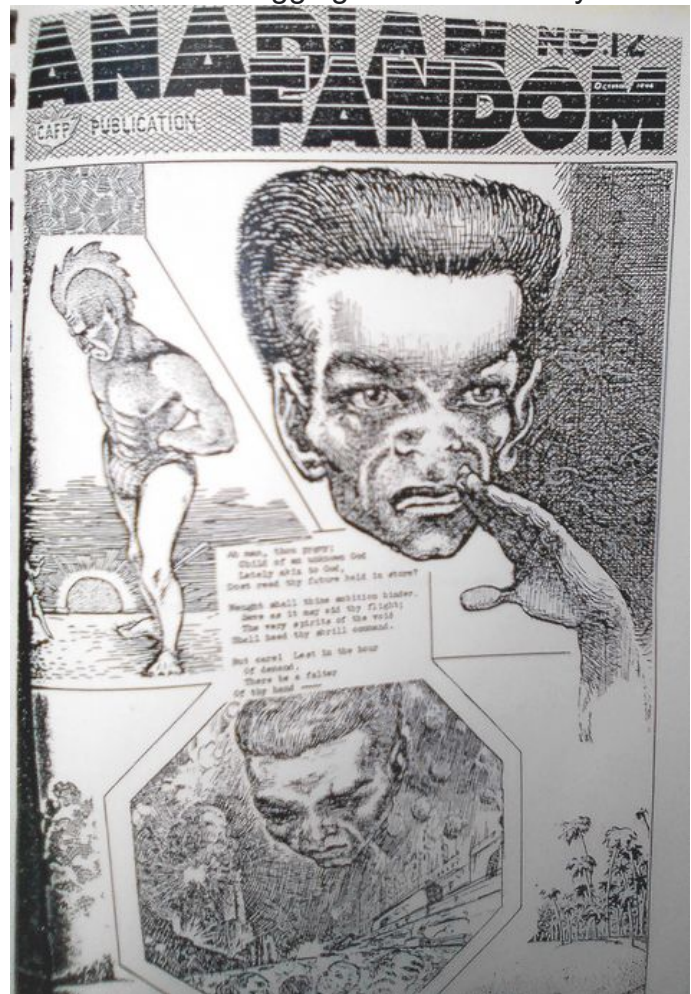
"Ah man, thou pygmy;
Child of an unknown God
Lately akin to God,
Dost read thy future held in store?
Naught shall thine ambition hinder,
Save as it may aid thy flight;
The very spirits of the void
Shall heed thy shrill command.
But care! Lest in the hour
of Demand,
There shall be a falter
Of thy hand....."

Around 1985 SaM had only heard rumours that Frome had died (NHFvol, p13):

But I have no confirmation of this from any reliable source.

When Frome corresponded with me, his greatest ambition in life was to get a god job, get married, and raise a family. Maybe that is just what happened to him. He was certainly a pioneer in Canadian fandom. Compared to other fans, he had an aptitude for writing fiction, but it never matured. His artwork was approaching professional quality...his taste in editorial material was in the right direction...He was flundering , mostly because he was out there in the middle of nowhere. He was generous of himself, and the lack of typewriter in his early years /hints he got one later/ hurt him gravely as far as getting more placements and recognition. Perhaps now that we are alert, we will find the rest of his story. Let us hope it is a happy one. Frome's activities shed light on other figures in the SF and fantasy field. He is unquestionably another link in the life of the elate HP Lovecraft...His relationship with James Blish is of definite interest, not all favorable to Blish. There are also letters and other personal connections with Clark Ashton Smith.

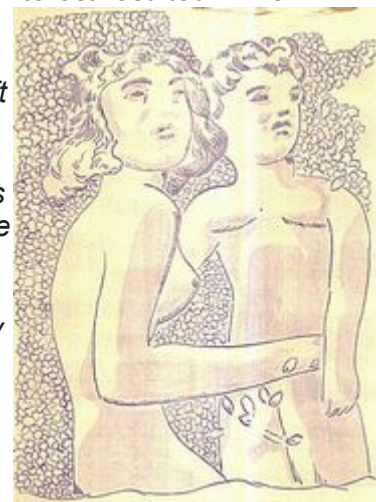
The Blish comment refers to a complicated feud with Bloomer of *Tesseract*, about Blish taking over Bloomer's fanzine, but not fulfilling his obligations, but it's outside the subject of Frome. There's a long letter by Moskowitz in *Science Fiction Studies*, November 1985 (NHFvol, p27), commenting and



Frome cover, 1947. (A bit cropped already in NHFvol.)

speculating 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. It seems he had left Fraser Mill since the next address to him goes to Bloedel and we learn he also for a time worked in Thasis, all in British Columbia that he never seemed to get very far from. He was not entirely unsuccessful with his art, 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. He was not quite 44 years old and a diary indicated that he had been considering suicide for some time. His finances consisted of a three-penny piece, worth about 10 cents at that period...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.



A Frome hekto illo, from Scienti-Snaps 1939.

It has been noted that the loner Frome was a typical fan, unfortunately without a fandom to join where he lived. Had there been an organised fandom around Vancouver in his days he might have had more inspiration and his life could have turned out differently. Frome was fanactive off and on until at least 1948. Maybe he felt that other sf fans were his only friends. He worked in logging camps until 1953 when bad health hit him. But CanFan says, p218, that he *"was still listed in the Canadian fan directory in 1952"*. In 1958-59 Frome worked for the BC Department of Conservation and Recreation, to restore the town of Barkerville and open a museum there. The artistically talented Frome was eg responsible for making the museum's dioramas. He then traveled to Europe, also visiting his native Sweden, but was by then lost from fandom's radar. He was hospitalised and ill in periods and apparently had health problems. Since he committed suicide (probably) in a hotel room in Wales in 1962, one may speculate that the reason was a combination of failing health, being broke and unfulfilled artistic ambitions. CanFan, p240, tells about his 1950s doings, illness and death:

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 BC "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 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.

A very sad end! One could make a guess that his 1953 illness and long hospitalisation left a mark on him, and with boozing and a generally bad outlook on life all that's behind that he finally ended himself. He had gafiated long before his early 1960's trip to Sweden, and I'm pretty sure there were no contacts with local Swedish fandom. I've never seen his name mentioned here before.

Fandom is a harsh mistress.

From p32 and on NHFvol mainly reprints several of Frome's short stories, articles, artwork, and letters to him and from him. Here's a list of that with short comments:

*"A Pessimistic Outlook - But the Stars Still Shine" (from *The Golden Atom*, March 1940): Frome comments some of the sf stories he likes best and generally about the genre.

*"The Cloud People" - adventure story in the upper atmosphere with airships and so on. (Unpublished?)

* "Spectrum Shift" (from *Helios* #5, February 1938) - short story of an interstellar spaceship, with a twist.

* "Ghoul of Selem" - lovecraftian horror story. (Unpublished?)

* "Into the Violet Flame" - space adventure story (Unpublished?)

* "The Alien Pictures" - lovecraftian horror story. (Unpublished? A facsimile of the original manuscript of this story, in longhand, is also reproduced. Frome's writing was small and rather special, "which makes H.P. Lovecraft's notes look like large-type books" and SaM notes he often used green and blue ink, *CanFan* p264.)

* "The Enigma of Thought" - article talking about intelligence. (Unpublished?)

* Letters from HP Lovecraft: Dec 19 1936 being sceptic to interplanetary travel; Jan 20 1937 more sceptic notes on interplanetary travel and against fortune telling; Feb 28 1937 long letter about the universe, science, listing science books to read.

* Letters from Frome to Claire Beck: Feb 13 1937, Apr 8 1937, Apr 30 1937, Nov 25 1937, mainly comments on Beck's fanzine and Frome's own and plans for them.

* Frome letters to Sam Moskowitz: Aug 7 1937 commenting Frome's own *Supramundane* and plans for it, incl a proposed advertising text to run in SaM's *Helios*; Dec 2 1937 commenting SaM's manuscript agency and promising material, Frome presenting himself, comments on films and film stars he likes, comments on *Helios*; Feb 1938 comments on Frome's artwork for publication on the 1938 Newark convention; July 8 1938 comments on the artwork fanzine for said convention; Nov 1938 sending a drawing and comments on artwork; Jan 25 1938 comments on a story he sent SaM and on his wish to visit New York where he has an aunt; March 1 1939 comments on which to visit New York and on stories he has sent. (The letters are certainly many more, but are those that have surfaced.)

* Brief sketches on the actors Nan Grey and Jean Rogers that Frome liked (by Kenneth W Faig Jr). Both of them appeared in sf related films, like in *Flash Gordon* serials.

* On the Multigraph, by Claire Beck, a description of how this printing machine worked, somewhat like a mimeograph but with type placed on the drum.

* Facsimile of Fantasy Artist #1, ed Sam Moskowitz, with short Frome bio and one of his drawings.

* Facsimile of Fantasy Artist #2, with further info on Frome.

* Facsimile reprint of Supramundane Stories #1.

* Facsimile reprint of Supramundane Stories #2.

Reprinted are also three photos of Frome (see the this article's start, another photo has him indoors sitting in an armchair, on a third he sit outdoors, it all seems to be from the same photo session). And some artwork which I don't list, it's difficult to cover in words, but some of it is reproduced with this article.

* Last is a list of publications where Frome placed artwork 1955-1960, including The British Columbian (at least 12 pieces of art), The Northwest Digest, The Emigrant Soldier's Gazette and Cape Horn Chronicle, The Province, A History of Coquitlam and Fraser Mills (single issues, unknown if it was one or several pieces of artwork in each), ad for Dove Moving & Storage, ad for McMan's Dairy, sketches of Holy Trinity Church from the church bulletins, ad for the Irving House, drawing of Fort Langley done as a postcard. Also listed are unpublished work: drawings for Barkerville restoration, sketch of the oldest house in Surrey, BC, drawing of Frome's niece.

The lists of material is probably far from complete. There should be much more in old fanzines (which I don't have), maybe letters in pulpmags and more art in non-fannish publications. If you have additional information on or material by Nils H Frome, let me know!



Drawing by Frome. It says "Historic Centre" over the entrance, so it could be from the Barkerville restoration project 1958-59

Mailing Comments

Only EPA this time (there's no new N'APA mlg). Why not do a fanzine and join? These little magazines are much better than Facebook and should be the backbone of fandom. Doing a PDF is easy and unlike in old times E-mail postage is free. Come on! Are you a fan or a mouse? Squeak!

Henry Grynsten: A great issue, as usual. ♦♦About imagined great growth of the Soviet economy... As said, USSR statistics isn't to be trusted! There was a huge incentive for plan economy bureaucrats to report huge "progress" - if not, Gulag next! You note about the near zero starting point that "Isn't growth growth, regardless of where you start from?" The main point is, while it is growth it still isn't much success, since it's very easy - it doesn't take much success - to pick low-hanging fruits or in this case even fruits on the ground... (The "zero" from being a low-production agrarian society ravaged by wars.) ♦♦On taxes: "taxes are (mostly) put to good use" - well, my take is that taxes (at least here) are *not* mostly used for services you can argue are good (health, education, law system etc). They are *mostly* used for shuffling money from one group to another, a system which in itself also requires a money-consuming bureaucracy. We could keep the smaller, good expenses, but should limit the shuffling and bureaucracy, and if we limit the shuffling, need of bureaucracy decreases. It may be that many countries high in the taxation league are working fine (though there are other factors too, long period of peace, good education, stable politics, etc) but I believe we should compare to how much *more* successful they'd be without *wasting* money on bureaucracy and letting amateur politicians without personal responsibility driven by utopian theories handle vast amounts of money! Economic growth began to falter in Sweden in the 1970s as the tax level rose - there is a connection! It has been calculated that if we'd managed the economic growth of the 1950/60's we'd be *twice* as rich now. ♦♦"Getting every person to decide in every political question is an impossibility". Well, you can always at least get *more* people influence over *more* issues. But also, you don't have to see every question as something a bigger collective must decide over! Building roads may be a question to be raised over the individual, but many other things can be left to the private citizen. Many regulations are just there because politicians in their utopian intolerance want to force all others to be moulded along their own preferences. Housing? Why should the local council decide what house you can build? Pubs? Let the owner of the pub decide if you can dance or smoke! Why must you waste time, energy and resources on "energy declarations" or making "equality plans" for your business? If you own forest land, why should politicians decide how to take care of your property? The political-bureaucratical complex has already too much power. They track your entire life through registering your transactions electronically, your movements on CCTV (in Stockholm through the congestion charge-taxing) and when you "blip" tickets), communication is followed by FRA (auditing have found that the "restrictions" put on FRA are routinely ignored), and so on, and so on. Limit and decrease the reach of politicians and bureaucrats! And for this it is absolutely necessary to limit the money resources they have at their disposal. ♦♦As for the Piraha people in Amazonas, I don't think their life was so idyllic as claimed. From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piraha_%C3%A3_people we learn they can't make canoes, necessary for their fishing and being able to cross the river. They grow manioc on a quite small scale, and only "make a few days' worth of manioc flour at a time". They "don't store food in any quantity" and don't know any conservation methods (or rather "Piraha have ignored lessons in preserving meats by salting or smoking"). This points to a narrow and precarious food supply chain! If their canoes break, they can't make new ones to fish. They have flour for just a couple of days. They don't conserve food. If there's bad luck with hunting and gathering they are very shortly starving! This explains their average lifespan of 45 years (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2012/mar/25/daniel-everett-human-language-piraha>) from diseases they can't treat, but I guess also from uneven nutrition. The later source also notes their alcohol problems (getting it from local traders), quarrel and violence - the author was threatened with "either an arrow or a shotgun blast to the face". It is said how the Pirahas smile all the time, but smiling often indicates insecurity, weakness. Laying on your back resting is just lack of a drive to do something to improve your life. The noble and happy savage wasn't a myth already during Rousseau's time!

Garth Spencer: I actually followed the events around the trucker protests rather closely. Read articles, saw reports on Youtube, etc. They did *not* behave like "merely hooligans" and if you saw a "confederate flag" it was from an outsider. Demonstrations will always attract odd individuals having their own agendas. The point of a demonstration is to get noticed. If it's neglectable there's no point with the demonstration. So of course you park where it's disturbing and honk your horn. Blocking a few streets in central Ottawa doesn't mean more than making it slightly more difficult to reach a few shops and offices (you may have to walk after parking a bit away...dear me!) and can't possibly be a major threat to Canada's economy or a threat at all of any significance. And the bridges blocked were cleared long before Trudeau invoked Martial law - so that was no legitimate reason. The reason Trudeau used martial law was that he was personally irritated by that great many Canadians refused to buy his narrative and be nice boys and girls and do as he said. My evaluation is that the truckers represented a *huge* number of Canadians, possibly even a majority. When the convoy started 100 000's (there are numerous videos of it) stood and cheered along the roads in bitter cold. There were sympathy actions by the farmers, by native Canadians (=indians), by churches, and as time progressed by governments in several of the provinces. It was by no way a "fringe"! Trudeau's government had pushed too hard with corona restrictions for too long, people saw how unreasonable it was and was dead tired of it. This

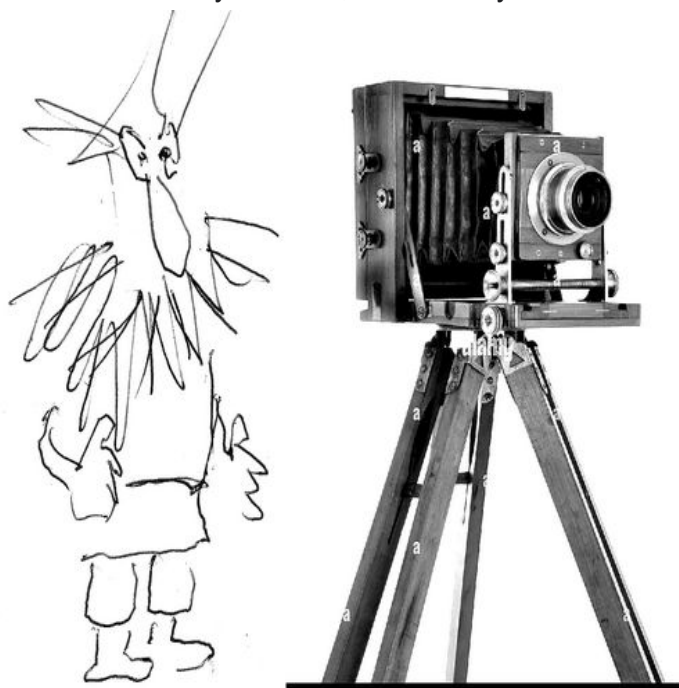
stubborn schoolboy PM should have listened to the people. And he had particularly weak case to push for forced injections and medical tracking documents under the Omicron variant, as Omicron proved to be very mild. ♦♦As for the problems for hunter-gathers, see my comments to Henry Grynsten. If you have to move all the time you have a very uncertain existence. Farmers had much more steady nutrition, while it may be true they had more disease, an effect of living more closely together which makes disease spread easier.

John Thiel: Didn't find much to comment. Nice artwork, though. Liked the airship.

William McCabe: I think much of James Bond could qualify as sf! Just think of the outrageous weapons constructed by Q and the super weapon used by Bond's enemies. Remember eg the scene when a giant laser threatens to cut Bond in half, in a 1960's film... There were no lasers of that capacity at the time and I think there still aren't, so that's a science-fiction laser. "Moonraker" is BTW definitely skiffy! ♦♦interesting about utopias and dystopias! I have read some but not all the works mentioned. ♦♦I'm aware of that Ukraine isn't in any way a perfect democracy and that they have had troubles with eg corruption. However, it is far, far better than Russia in these respects and at the time of Putin's stupid invasion they were moving in the right direction. Corruption is a legacy of communism, which as we know works so bad that the only way to get through bureaucracy or get hold of stuff was bribes. Joining the EU - which I hope Ukraine will, eventually - starts with negotiations where EU presents what reforms they want to see, for instance to fight corruption. When Romania joined the EU demanded and got that Romania must open an anti-corruption office and appoint a special anti-corruption prosecutor. And the corruption situation has gradually come more and more under control there. Something similar will be the case with Ukraine. Ordinary folks and responsible politicians truly want to get rid of corruption. You have to do what you can, though it may take years. ♦♦The Russian-speaking minority of Ukraine don't want to be Russian. They have (in peacetime) better economy, freedom and better prospects in Ukraine than in Putin's dictatorship. "Separatists" in Donbas is a small minority and basically Putin puppets.

Roger Sjölander: I was also an early reader. For me the reason was that I wanted to know what programs there were on the telly, so I learned the mysteries of letters to find out from the papers. ♦♦I remember the "If the War Comes" section of the phonebook. There's a recent new edition called "If The War of the Crisis Comes" made as a brochure distributed to all households. ♦♦As for "hen", I think it is very important *not* to accept or go along with the notion that gender is "just social construction". That would be unscientific, as the gender exists in every single cell in our bodies, in the chromosomes (ie genes). What really *is* a "social construction" or rather a psychological construction is the idea that you could be "born in the wrong sex". The human mind can construct very strange beliefs, which still doesn't make them true! Take for instance the famous Prussian general Bluecher who thought he was pregnant with an elephant (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gebhard_Leberecht_von_Bl%C3%BCcher) or the French king who believed he was made of glass (<https://daily.jstor.org/french-king-who-believed-made-glass/>) - or for that matter, the Russian guy who believes neighbouring country is run by Jewish Nazis. There are concrete danger and substantial harm in the notion of gender just being a whim. Registered "wrong gender" claims ("gender dysphoria") has increased ten-fold among Swedish teens, most certainly fueled by the topic being prominent in media and pushed by activists. This may lead to *irreversible* hormone treatment and operations, for young persons that may become damaged for life by things they later regret. We all know who insecure and lost and flip-flopping teens are. Those promoting the notion that gender is just a social construct carry a heavy burden for causing damage and suffering. And promoting a certain, invented "pronoun" to promote such ideas is a part of it. BTW, try using the *existing* neutral pronoun - *den*! It works! "Det märker den som skriver så."

Finally: Since I've written about the American Song Contest, modelled after the Eurovision Song Contest, a short note as the ASC has begun. I've seen the first shows, aired by Swedish TV. I doubt it will fly, alas, and ratings are reported (in Swedish press) to be rather low. The intensity, the wackiness from ESC isn't there. But on the other hand, I think the songs themselves and the performances are quite *good*. The finale could get a string of really good tunes. Good music, questionable TV, but if it survives to a new run in 2023 seems uncertain. The original, ESC, is BTW on soon. Favourites are...Ukraine! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiEGVYOruLk> Sweden #3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWDTThAfyW4> in the odds. ♦♦



Rysk spion med spionkamera

Russian with spy camera. Artist Lars LON Olsson.

Слава Україні!

(=Glory to Ukraine!)

Synergy 39



NAPA MAILING 258 May 2022

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“Hello, fellows, going Up?”



Feel life

as being free.



Let's stop pretending I'm not pushing synergy. I want everyone in this apa to get into a Love Circle, psych a bit and then a lot, and reach into corporate pockets and allot a lot, provide room for a séance on a parking lot, and don't consider leaving, you'd be like Lot. They say synergy has been broken down by social distancing and Covid masks, but perhaps they have not seen a Phoenix arising from its ashes. I don't have an axe to grind as I write this; my "axe" is actually a colloquial term for saxophone, upon which I play clear cadenzas. Only one thing, I think the new Synergy Revolution should take care to depart from the original premises of Sturgeon. True, "Saucer of Loneliness" has taught us a lot, but it is still the Sturgeon viewpoint. Take departure from that on your own. Studying Sturgeon's metaphysical writings shows a determination on certain points which are not altogether understandable to others. He is not a guru, nor yet a capitalist like L. Ron Hubbard, but merely a person who has called the principles of synergy to our attention. The fans are still lined up at the doors of auditors, thinking Scientology is a good departure from Dianetics, little realizing that Hubbard has got into everything he can get ahold of, and made lasting principles of what he was doing. And the Sturgeon circles are tending to degenerate into the study of things Sturgeon likes, like T-Bone steak, rowboats and the like, which all you could do was watch him; these were largely things of the self. Neither man is considered to be actually dead by his followers, and much of their time is spent in invocations, or, in the case of scientology, evocations. Both men had the answers, but they were mostly of interest for the questions. There weren't those questions until they raised them, and they were proposing questions which they had themselves, but they could not resist saying out speculative guesses as if they were verities. Then there's Timothy Leary, inviting people to share his soul struggles, of which he was the master. That's like listening to Gerard Manly Hopkins and Brother Antonius' soul struggles. Hopkins would grind his teeth and roll about as he made his difficult way toward divine love, which was almost unattainable, as he said, to mortal man. The thoughts, not the people, is what I would urge in these pursuits of, ultimately, thoughts as well as feelings. People seem to need a psychiatrist's help in order to feel, but all they can do, really, is help people get their intellect in proper coordination with their feelings, which I'd think a person would be better off doing for themselves, once they've got the word on their condition, not to say that they should not leave a token of esteem and pay for their assistance in these matters, but it is better for them to find their own way, and it should be

remembered that they should be sincerely trying to do this. Not someone else's sincerity, their own. Catabran, catabran B. You may remember the wise man on the mountain whose followers would ask him how to rid themselves of fear of death. He said, "Have you ever considered that this fear has come from somewhere? It comes from having been dead, or, as it may be, from being dead. Learn to study this thing called death better." Of course, the alternative to what he said was its coming from other people, but that's psychic and it's no good for a psychic to discuss someone else's psychic if he is trying to maintain his own. The final proof that all these wise men didn't know much has been their deaths, but perhaps this should be ignored. Nobody lives forever, though there may be some questions as to why not.

We do have some problems with the lack of a spirit, and the unfamiliarity with our souls, to return to Synergy. Things were always better when we had an awareness of our spirits and were more one with our souls. We are not just a bunch of bodies. There is an absence of what should be a part of us, which could be rectified by caring about it. Perhaps we need the help of others to help us do that. Synergy believes that group thought should tend in this direction, and that when there are questions asked there are apt to be answers when there are enough people present. It may be thought that these will be dud answers, but have you ever noticed that answers are totally lacking now that the dud answers are disposed of? So there is another lack, the lack of there being answers, and answers had something to them at least, and kept people from being left with nothing. "No harm there," zen may say, but we are not all likely to get attuned to zen. Yes, let our own spirits overtake us once again, instead of frightening them off with that which is detestable to the spirit. Of course you've heard of the man who got real spiritual and thought he had it made, but he didn't any more than his sister and aunt did, because he kept getting manifestations of distress which he was unable to identify with his new outlook. It turned out they were coming from his body. He had found his spirit but now was neglecting his body. It should have come along with him. Learn what there is to the body, don't just dwell in it. Ghandi may have gone blank listening to this, but he should have been told, patiently, that when his reasoning was stalled, there is always someone else, and he should have looked around for someone he liked best. Sartre it was said, "Hell is other people". But it's also some other things. In "Heaven and Hell", I believe Huxley toyed with the idea that both are a matter of consideration, as Schopenhauer wrote of, and Shakespeare said, "There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so." So heaven may be other people too.



EDITORIAL



Well, Everything's an Editorial in a Perzine

Sure it is, but then, this wouldn't be a perzine if it were a proper apazine, because it would have more than one contributor in it, but I'm pretending to have a more advanced zine like what I have named by putting an editorial in it.

I've been giving more consideration to my regular fanzine Pablo Lennis recently, and have decided that it should have worthwhile contents. Which it does, but I mean worthwhile on a higher plane. What I could think of doing to improve its contents was to write a piece of fiction of my own that I could consider to be of some worth, nothing like my early work in my earlier fanzine— "The House that Jack Built", in which a man who wanted to build his own house because he wanted more pride of ownership did build the house in which he was going to live, and his mind started blowing after awhile because it was not a good enough house, and the fantasy in the story was that his spirit came to talk to him, which is good by synergy standards, but now I want something that is outside the realm of spirituality and which restudies these material realms, and I found it in devising a work called "Omnis Vivandi" which concerns a young girl of some virtue selling herself to a society of evil because life around her had degenerated so much that there was not good reason not to. This story is now appearing in Pablo Lennis, issue by issue, and I am able to call it a good story, which has not previously been the case with what I have been writing. Don't worry, it has ghosts in it, and thereby is a fantasy. So that's what's new with me this month.

And to justify having an editorial...

ODE TO A SPIRIT LOST by Gerald Heyder

“Some people are never meant to be appreciated in this world, their legacy comes from beyond!”

It's a ghost that rides the wind
A cloud that wafts upon the sea,
A poor lost soul not completely free
From this world
That keeps it as a wandering, lonely entity.
We are all invisible
And intangible
Being depleted of life when terra firma claims
Our remains
No longer chained
To the strife of breathing the foul air
We must beware
As upright, walking, talking homo sapiens we are 'ere to be.
Yes, we are all a spirit lost to a fate, a destiny
Of which we have no control
Like a mole burrowing a tunnel
We travel a funnel
With very little light at the end to see.
We are born lost beings until we are free
To be lost spirits to roam through an unseen universe
Of infinity and eternity.
That is our destiny
Unfortunately decreed by unseen gods we are never meant to be!

Here's one by Will:

THE HAUNTED TOWN by Will Mayo



And so there are reports
of ghosts about my town.
About the old bell tower,
through the park
and in the better
and worse neighborhoods.

Over here, it is said
a man died an ugly death.

And over there,
a Revolutionary soldier
died in vain.

Some ghosts died
for old love affairs.

Others in a quarrel
over nothing at all.

They come to the haunting grounds
one and all.

Death pleases them least of all.



Mailing Comments

Not much to my mailing comments this month. I'm not in a very sociable mood, and I didn't find much of personal interest to me in the last mailing. But here's some few observations, that will take the place of more detailed comments made otherwise.

Intermission: finnegans wake ought to be easy to translate. Just write whatever you want to and measure it to the same length. There was a coterie of admirers at one time waiting for it to be written and it was finally concluded after some time and gotten into print with some difficulty. It did not glean as much recognition as one might guess from being preceded by ULYSSES and PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN. "The Ballad of Perce O'Reilley" is the part of the book I liked best.

Archive Midwinter: Why don't you drive up to LASFS so frequently that they start making you out as a visitor, and perhaps kick up some trouble there?

The Contents of a Good Life: Being ready is a good thing to be—very essential.

The Murdered Master Mage: I'm sorry to see you (and Will) gone from Facebook, both at the same time for some reason that might have been interesting to Charles Fort. Was anything said of getting back after a period of time? How did it suit the interests of Facebook to drop you? Usually you have to have done something before Facebook will drop you, and they have something like an unlimited tolerance. It seems that you might tell the whole story of it at some time. Will doesn't seem to know the story.

Samizdat: How did Sturgeon manage to get his comment enacted as a Law?



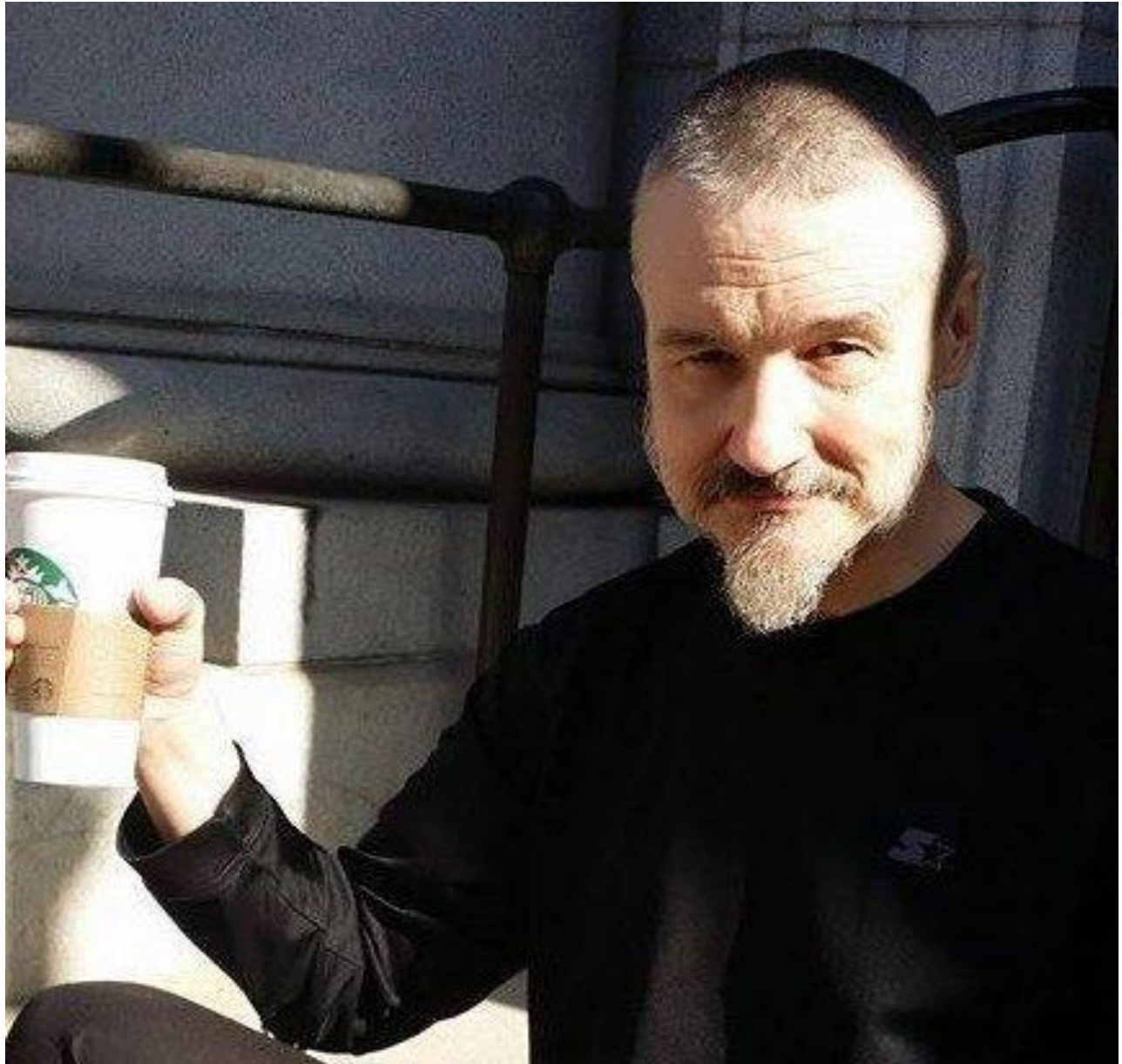
"I'm happy just being what I am. Is it the same thing for you, Earth person? Do you also find satisfaction in being what and how you are? You seem pretty restless, if you don't mind my pointing out an observation I have made. I had a funny thing happen to me on my way out here to have contact with the earthly observationists. I was asked, 'Do you intend to stand as a representative of man in the study that is being taken of the species? If you do, you have some competition, as the earthly representative of mankind and manhood has already been settled upon, and is standing with his arm held up to the sky. They say this is one of five positions he will assume as he serves as the representative of mankind. I doubt if he will leave his place to make room for you.' I told them, 'I am not of the earthly species, and do not intend to represent my own species. If I am not going to be spoken to on my own terms, I shall leave again. Did anyone give this person who is standing as you say a probe? Something can be learned in that way.' They said they did not wish to learn anything they did not already know and wanted now to study his endurance and certitude of his own being. I described a probe and they said they did not want me to stay around. So I left and came over here. If it is your wish to talk, I will do so, and listen also. We will both talk and listen. When this interchange is accomplished I will return to my people and we will have made contact. I may be contacted again through Mack and Gwendolyn Light. And to round off what I say, we received our first intimations of life here by way of SETI. This now being said, I have completed the whole of my beginning statement. No, there are not others with me; they have remained at a distance. We want nothing less than we want war. It is not a thing we would feel enthused about where there is a participation on our part."



HAPPINESS

may be found anywhere.

THE CONTENTS OF A GOOD LIFE #25



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I ANSWER TO MY OWN

For all that was done,
all that could have been done,
I remain a man all my own
at the end of the road.

All sin,
all saving grace
rest with me,
no other.

I answer to my own.

And when at last
death's door opens,

I shall say,
"Welcome."

I shall be complete.
No need of heavens or hells
or other lives.
I rest content within myself.

NIGHT RISING, 2022

Lying awake nights,
trying to make sense
of a chaotic life
when there's no sense
to be had.

At last, rising
with demons fresh
in the field.

Knowing what's known
and not knowing
the vast unknown.

It is life in the darkness.

Pass me another round, friend.

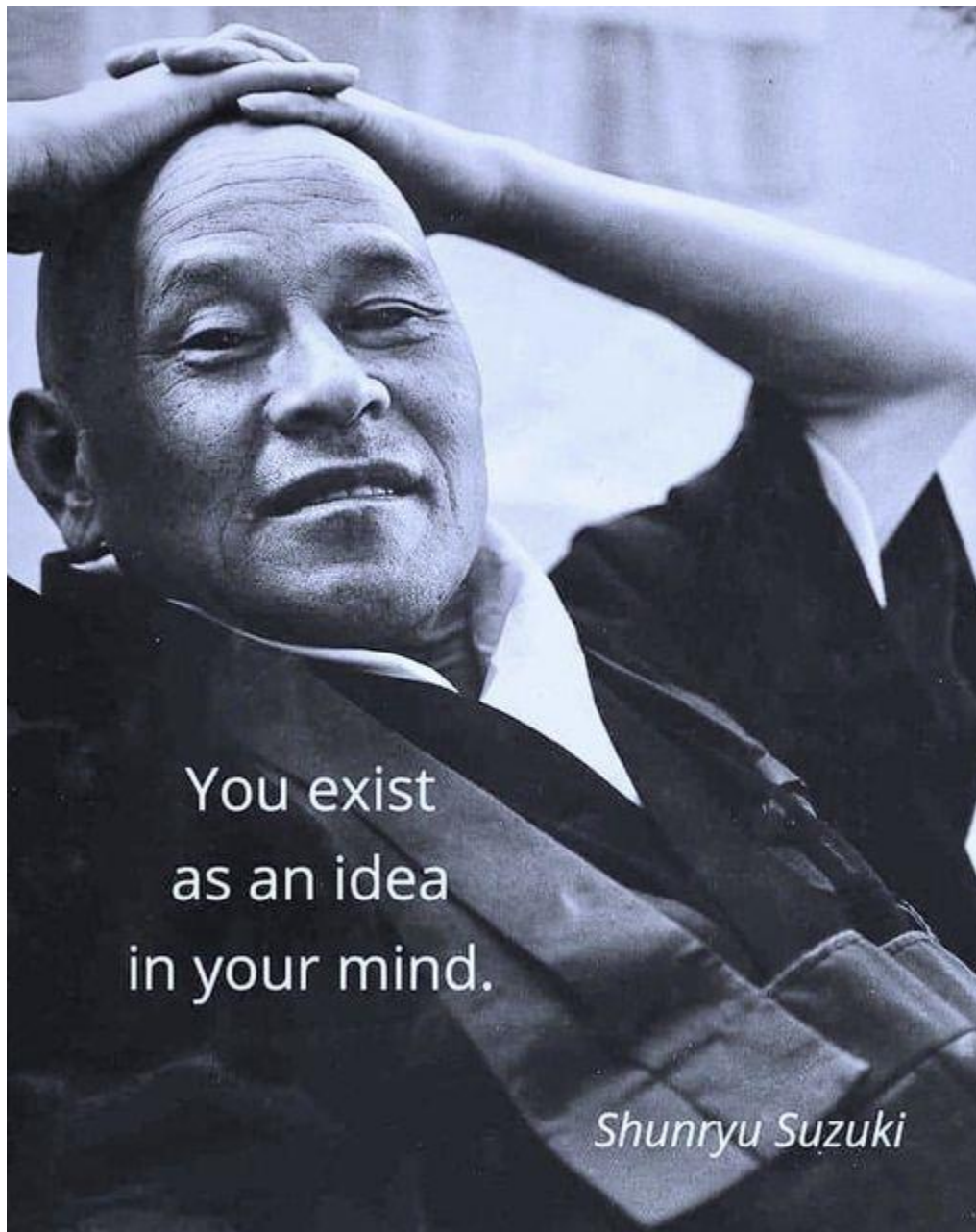
We're on.

Yes, I've tried writer, student and madman. But these days the name that best fits what I do is ghoul. It fits me perfectly.

Somewhere in another universe— another timeline, if you will— there is another me that is better than I am. He works well and profitably at his job and goes home to kiss his wife and children good night. And sleeps comfortably in gratitude, for he knows that he is well off compared to his fellows, even if he does not know about me. I think about such a man and smile, knowing that somewhere out there in the space-time continuum he is busy making all things right.

Many years ago a woman—a woman probably long since dead by now—asked me “Who is the real Will Mayo? Let me speak to the real

Will.” I didn’t have an answer to her then. I don’t have an answer now. And I honestly don’t know if anybody walking among us—and this includes me, of course—is exactly real. We all appear to be just various unions of the fictions that make up our lives. But we all do try for the reality in question that makes us our lives. And in trying we may possibly become something greater.



Oh, it's not out yet, but the following will be the cover of my new book.

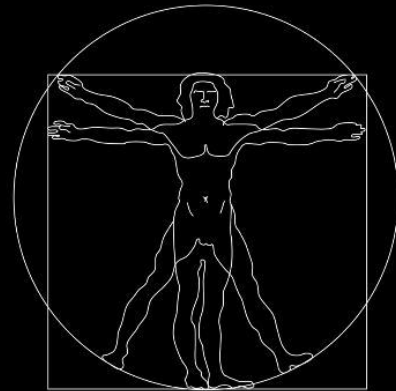
Space stretches on to infinity. With trillions of planets circling billions of stars. Life rocks on. It means nothing in the long run, yet everything right here and now. Enjoy that now. This now.

—Will Mayo

ISBN: 979-8-88680-309-9

\$12.99

Perfection is Failure



by Will Mayo



Generations ago, the good doctor William Carlos Williams noted that while it's hard to say what's to be gained in poetry every day men die for want of what is to be found in poetry. Myself, I find something not quite moral there. Certainly never profitable in the moneymaking sense but something joyful just the same.

Yes, something joyful to be found in poetry.



angliarchi



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Intermission #117-Omicron is not just a flu. In the U.S. we're still getting thousands of new cases a day. Also while a smaller percentage of Omicron victims die, compared to previous variants of COVID, many who survive have long Covid that lingers for months. This isn't a case of power-hungry politicians but medical experts who truly want people to be safe. It is too bad LASFS lost their clubhouse, although I have to admire their timing since they wouldn't have gotten much use out of a clubhouse during COVID. I admire those who produced fanzines in the stencil age. That took a lot more effort than typing something into the computer and then printing it out. Science fiction fandom does seem to attract a lot of talented people who struggle with a normal life. I disagree with you that official virus stats are exaggerated. Governments are more likely to reduce the numbers so they can claim things are getting better than to exaggerate the threat. While it is our own body, when something is as contagious as Covid, it makes sense to have restrictions to stop the spread. Books are certainly more bloated than in the Golden Age,

and there is less of a sense of wonder. But the books are much better on a literary end with lots more characterization and better writing. I agree that the age when women writers were using initials and pseudonyms is mostly over, but it was the norm for a long, long time. And not just in science fiction – George Elliot, the author of *Middlemarch*, was really Mary Ann Evans. It wasn't that long ago that all the winners of the Hugo were men. All of the writer Hugos went to men in 2010.

Archive Midwinter – I don't think *Sonic the Hedgehog* is the longest-running licensed comic ever. Wouldn't that honor go to *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* which ran uninterrupted for 44 years (1940-1984) and then continued with the numbering after a couple years gap? It hit #743 in 2018 before renumbering.

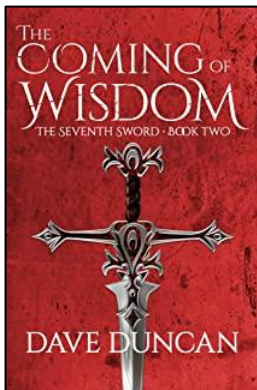
Synergy 33 – Looking at my ties I have as many that go from left to right and from right to left. I do not see as many people with ties as there used to be, even in DC. Andre Norton started off as a pen name (her birth name was Alice) although she later had her name changed legally. And yes, the pen name was to be taken seriously as a writer with a male (or at least genderless) name. I've heard that Star Trek and later Star Wars brought in a lot of female fans.

Intermission #118 – Yes the Putin invasion of Ukraine was shocking and alarming even here in the States, so I imagine it is especially worrisome in nearby Sweden. I've already disagreed with you on COVID so I'll just note that since most U.S. states abandoned COVID restrictions death numbers have begun to rise again. It sounds like you had a lot of fun writing pulpish Captain Dynamite stories. What you are describing as the Vrill event strikes me as more akin to a themed

Fair or Festival than a science fiction convention. To my mind, what separates a convention from a fair or festival are panels or solo talks discussing science fiction ideas. Yes, by this definition a lot of book festivals count as conventions.

Good Life #24 – I like that photo of Jules Verne rising out of his grave.

Master Mage – Yes, American concepts of who is white have changed over time and for a while Italians were not considered to be white even though many of the achievements held up as the history of white civilization were Roman. Many Americans did not consider the Irish to be white (or at least not the same level of white as other Northern Europeans). And the Jews of course were excluded from definitions of white as non-Anglo Saxon Protestants. In the early 20th century, when exclusion and immigration restrictions were common, the U.S. limited Eastern European immigration too.



...Author Spotlight – Dave Duncan

There are writers who make a big splash with their first book, writers who slowly build up a following, and writers who somehow never make it big despite producing excellent work. Dave Duncan was the latter. He wrote light, entertaining fantasy adventures but never got the attention of writers like Piers Anthony or David Eddings despite being at least as good (and never descending to the level of the Piers Anthony after about book three or four of Xanth).

Born in 1933 in Scotland, Duncan became a petroleum geologist in Canada. He did not make his first sale until age 53, two years after he started writing, with *A Rose Red City*. Despite this late start, he published about 60 novels before his death in 2018. He won the Canadian Aurora Award twice for *West of January* (1990) and *Children of Chaos* (2007). Most of his books fit into series. He is probably best known for his *King's Blades* series about great swordsman magically bound to the king—or someone the king chooses—in a mystical ceremony. In his *Man of His Word* series magic is performed by knowing up to four magical words, and the fewer people who know each word, the more power they have. This series has a sequel series *A Handful of Men*. Another notable series is *The Seventh Sword* about a dying Earthman who wakes up in the body of a barbarian hero in a magical world. While most of his books are set in invented fantasy settings, he has written historical fantasy (most notably *The Great Game* set in WWI) and science fiction (such as *Pock's World* and *Hero!*).

His books generally are light, fun, adventurous, and even romantic. He never goes grim dark and has a clever touch throughout. His ebooks are currently published by Open Road Media which have frequent sales; you frequently can get Duncan ebooks for \$1.99, less than a cup of coffee. I suggest starting with his *Man of His Word* series or his *King's Blades* books.

...Going Public

As the Covid threat has declined, at least temporarily, things have begun to open up. I am now going to the office three days a week (to keep my cubical, those who come in fewer days have to find an open spot each time they come in). It feels a bit odd to be going physically to the office after two years of working from home. And the office is still very empty with the people in the union not going back until June and the contractors just started up again this week.

I did not go to Ravencon in Richmond, Virginia this year. I am going to Balticon in Baltimore at the end of May. For Balticon I am running two discussions – on the Hugo nominees and on the Compton



Crook Award for Best Debut Novel. I am also running the newsletter and helping to man tables for the Orlando NASFIC bid and for Capclave, the DC area SF convention. After that my next convention probably will be the Worldcon in September. I am going to live meetings of the Baltimore SF Society and the Washington SF Association. And it looks like one of my book groups may start live meetings again.

...Longest SF Series

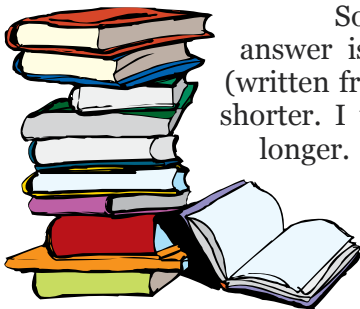
Genre tends to have longer series than does the mainstream. In the mainstream there are a few family sagas, say *Barchester Towers*, or books with the same character at different ages, like Updike's *Rabbit* books. But it is rare for such a series to go beyond five books. One exception is William Faulkner's *Yoknapatawpha County* series which stretches to 18 books.

Science fiction and fantasy are different. Once an author goes to all the trouble of doing the world building and creating a backstory, the author decides it would make his life easier to reuse all of that for the author's next book. While science fiction and fantasy do have series that follows the same character through a series of adventures, they also have series that are a series only by virtue of sharing a setting. Sometimes a series can include books set centuries apart in a different country and planet. It would be like a series containing both *Apollo 13* and *Wuthering Heights* simply because they are both set in the same solar system.

And science fiction and fantasy series can go long. Which one is longest? It depends on whether you go by words or books. And if you only count books by the same author. And whether you include media tie-in novels.

If you count non-English series, the longest series is the German *Perry Rhodan* series which claims over 3,000 novels. But many of these do not qualify as full novels, but are novellas or even novelette size. And it has multiple authors.

In English, a case could be made for the *Tom Swift* books depending on whether you count reboots. And these were ghost-written for a house name so not really all by one author.



So for English, all by the same author, all with the same character, the usual answer is the *Dumarest of Terra* series of 33 novels by Edwin Charles Tubb (written from 1967 to 2008.) However, these were written when novels were much shorter. I would not be surprised if by word count some more recent series are longer.

The *1632* series by Eric Flint and a bunch of co-writers has close to 30 novels plus 13 anthologies plus the Grantville Gazette magazines (which in turn have been collected into books). And the Ring of Fire press has another 40 or so volumes, many expanded versions of material from the Gazette. If this is not the longest series, it soon will be. Again though, these are not all following the same character(s) and many of these books do not have Flint as an author or co-author. And they take place all over the world. They do hold together as a series since everything is the result of the transportation of the American town of Grantville back to the Germany of 1632. George RR Martin's *Wild Cards* shared world anthology series is up to 29 volumes and this is still being produced. Of course these are by a large crew of writers and George RR Martin is merely the editor, not the cowriter.

CJ Cherryh writes long series. Her *Alliance-Union* series, which contains several sub-series, has 32 books plus seven shared world anthologies (*Merovingen Nights*). Her *Foreigner*



saga has 21 books. While the *Honor Harrington* Series by David Weber only has 14 books, these are long books and the number is higher if you include the 6 anthologies and the 16 spin-offs (some with co-writers), this may be longer by page count.

Another lengthy SF series is the *Darkover* series by Marion Zimmer Bradley with around 40 books (including anthologies, co-written novels, rewritten versions of novels, and books written by other authors after her death). A case can also be made for Andre Norton's *Witch World* series, with 30 books, which started out as science fiction although the fantasy elements soon took over. But not all the books are by Norton or even co-written by her. And if you include Asimov's effort to merge his Empire/Foundation books with his Robot books, that series has 16 books.

However, I'd like to suggest a series rarely considered these days—the interconnected work of Christopher Stasheff. There are 12 books in *The Warlock in Spite of Himself* series, four in the *Warlock's Heirs* series, 10 in the *Rogue Wizard* series (about the son of the Warlock), three *Escape Velocity* books (one a collection of stories), and another three in the related *Starship Troupers*. Despite the names, these are science fiction with spaceships and robots and psi powers. That's 34 books by the same author in the same universe and mostly about the same family. While shorter than the Weber books, most of these novels are probably longer than the Tubb books.

Fantasy tends to have more and longer series than does science fiction. It is worth noting that three of the longest series listed above, *Warlock*, *Witch World*, and *Darkover* all have fantasy elements (sometimes disguised as psi powers.)

L.E. Modesitt's *Recluse* series has 23 books. Terry Goodkind's *Sword of Truth* is at 21. Mercedes Lackey's *Valdemar* books are around 25. *Xanth* has about 40. *Discworld* around 40. If you count children's books, the *Warriors* series by Erin Hunter has about 70. John Norman's *Gor* has 36. *Shannara* has 29.

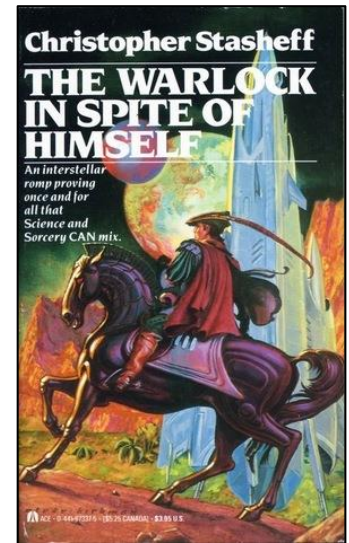
Brandon Sanderson has said that most of his works are part of an interconnected multiverse, but currently it is unclear how many books they will be and most do not read as if part of the same universe.

The Hugo has just begun recognizing best series. While this award was intended to honor series books that are not nominated for best novel, in practice there has been considerable overlap and many of the lengthy series by Weber, Flint, and Modesitt have never become finalists.

...Status of Projects

As readers of previous issues may remember, I have started a number of projects to make my life better. While for most people, watching more TV wouldn't be a self-improvement project, it is on my list. I've not made as much progress as I would have liked on some of these as I have been reading short stories for the WSFA Small Press Award.

Project Trek- Netflix has stopped showing all Star Treks except for Deep Space Nine, so that's what I'm watching. At some point I will either subscribe to Paramount+ or use library DVDs for TOS and TNG, but for as long as Netflix is showing DS9, I might as well watch it there. DS9 was always my favorite of the Trek shows, perhaps because it was the least Trek-like and had real conflicts between the main characters. It also was the first Trek show to feature real arcs.





- “Emissary” – This two-hour pilot does an excellent job setting up the series in which the Federation takes over a space station, formerly run by the evil Cardassians when they controlled the planet Bajor. I liked how Commander Sisko blames Picard for his actions while under Borg control, which killed Sisko’s wife. Sisko shows signs of PTSD and is thinking about resigning from Starfleet. His efforts to cope with his wife’s death become a major plot point when the wormhole aliens, who have no understanding of linear time, keep asking Sisko why he chooses to exist at the moment of her death. DS9 is not a prestige post as shown by an amusing conversation between Dr. Bashir telling Kira, a native of Bajor, that he chose

this position because he wanted to be on the frontier where heroes were made. Bashir in these first few episodes comes across as an overeager puppy who is more than a little naïve. Jake is a much more realistic child than TNG’s Wesley, since he is not a super genius, although it makes it harder for the script to find ways to fit him into the plot.

- “Past Prologue” focuses on Major Kira Nerys when a Bajorian terrorist, who is still fighting Cardassians, forces Kira to pick a side. This introduces the friendship between Bashir and Garak, a Cardassian who claims to be a plain, simple tailor (in a civilization that has replicators?) who everyone knows is a spy. It also shows that Kira is willing to go over Sisko’s head to a Starfleet admiral, much to the annoyance of Sisko when that admiral tells him to get her under control. I cannot imagine Riker doing that to Picard.
- “A Man Alone” focuses on the shapeshifter Odo, who demands Sisko kick a known smuggler off the station. So when the smuggler is found murdered, Odo is the logical suspect. While the murder plot is predictable, the story is interesting for its characterization and the subplot about Miles O’Brien’s wife, Keiko, being bored on a space station with nothing for a botanist to do so she sets up a school. Yet the show shows the class, consisting of students with multiple ages, learning through computers so I’m not sure what teaching she actually does.
- “Babble” is a medical episode as an old device planted on the station by Bajorians back when the station was owned by the Cardassians triggers an aphasia virus. This allows the actors to show off their non-verbal acting as they become visibly frustrated with their inability to communicate.
- “Captive Pursuit” has O’Brien befriend the first alien from the wormhole who is being chased by other aliens. It turns out that Tosk has been bred for the hunt and doesn’t want asylum. O’Brien violates the Prime Directive and acts without orders to free Tosk so the hunt can continue. This episode hints at the idea that human culture is always superior to alien culture (which I found to be a big problem in later seasons where all the aliens become alienated from their own cultures by behaving human-like).

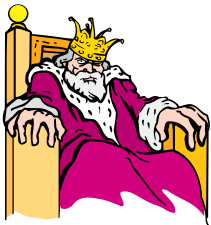


Project Netflix – I’m trying to get more use out of my Netflix subscription and watch movies and such before they leave streaming. Although I get Netflix via DVD and streaming, I was only watching about one DVD per month and sometimes didn’t watch anything streaming. I’ve resolved to watch more to get my money’s worth.

- I watched *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?* a 1967 film about a California couple whose 22 year old daughter has fallen in love with a Black man (which the film calls Negro). It

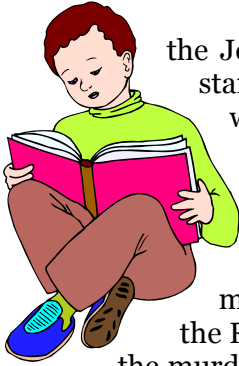
was less polemical than I had feared since the parents are liberal and the mother says they brought up their daughter to be color-blind but never expected... and the priest character is frankly surprised at the father's resistance since the father, a newspaper editor, had always been so liberal. Also the Black fiancée's father was perhaps just as opposed to the marriage. The film still holds up today and is the last film role for Spencer Tracy (in partnership again with Katharine Hepburn) and an early role for Sidney Poitier. Tracey died less than a month after finishing the film. The screenplay and Katharine Hepburn won Academy awards. The acting is fantastic.

- I also watched *Léon: The Professional*, with the 1994 debut of Natalie Portman. This has the charming relationship between a hit man and a 12-year-old girl who forces him to basically adopt her and train her in how to "clean". For a killer, Leon is oddly passive and Portman already shows signs of her star quality.
- A bunch of superhero movies were leaving Netflix streaming, so I rewatched *Green Lantern*, which I don't think deserves its bad reputation. It's clearly not a top film, as the producers tried to cram too much into it, but it was fairly faithful to the Green Lantern comics and I liked how the mask didn't fool the love interest for a minute. I liked it at least as much as *Superman Returns*, another flawed superhero movie that I rewatched. Why can't anyone make a good Superman film these days? The idea of Superman abandoning Earth for years does not ring true to the character and portraying him as a deadbeat dad (aside from the scientific problems of an alien having a baby with a human) is certainly far from the best take on the character even if he didn't know Lois was pregnant when he left Earth. I also rewatched *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight*. The latter deserves its reputation as one of the best superhero films ever, more for the character of the Joker and the superb performance by Heath Ledger than the script or Christian Bale as Batman. It did go on too long (2:32) with the entire last act with Harvey Dent becoming Two Face a little anticlimactic.



Project History – I completed *The Magnificent Century* (1959) by Thomas B. Costrain, covering the era of King Henry III, who was a rather weak, ineffective king so there are lots of rebellions and such. Costrain seems to like Prince Edward better, so it will be interesting to see how well he does in the next volume (which is in my room somewhere). The book is old-fashioned elite history, told as a straightforward history of kings and nobles, with very little on the common man. This is also popular or narrative history so the author makes no attempt to weigh various sources or provide footnotes. I would have liked more dates as it is sometimes confusing to place when something occurred (especially since this cannot be read in one setting).

I also read *American Made: What Happens to People When Work Disappears* by Farah Stockman (2021). This is more journalism than history but I am including it here under the idea that journalism is the first draft of history. This book examines the lives of blue collar workers at the Rexnord steel bearings factory in Indianapolis, Indian and what happens to three of them – a white single mother, a black man, and a white male union leader – when the plant shuts down. It covers the anxiety of worker when jobs are outsourced overseas. It helps explain why so many people voted for Trump even though his policies actually hurt them. They felt betrayed by the globalists in both parties and Trump at least claimed he would listen to them and, as an outsider, would do something about it.



I've started *A History of the Jews* by Paul Johnson (1987). This is a history of the Jews written by a non-Jew who previously wrote a history of Christianity. I just started this so will cover it in my next issue. I also listen to lectures when driving and walking. I listened to a series of lectures on the Great Pharaohs and am in the middle of lectures on the Ancient Near Eastern Mythology. I am also listening to a survey course on Western civilization while I go on walks.

Project Classics – I read *The Black Arrow* (1888) by Robert Louis Stevenson, the author of *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island*, both of which are much better books. In this book young Daniel Brackley gets involved in the War for the Roses and learns that his Uncle and guardian is really a villain and was involved in the murder of his father, that his new friend Matcham is really his promised future wife in disguised (naturally they fall in love), and that the outlaw Black Arrow may be his own hope. *Lost in the Funhouse* by John Barth (1968) is a collection of odd short stories and other short fictions that don't quite qualify as stories. "Night-Sea Journey" seems to be told from the point of view of a fish, which the author denies, or possibly a mythical swimming creature. A couple other stories seem to be rewrites or inspired by mythology. This probably was the wrong place to start with this author. Next on my list is *Creation* by Gore Vidal and *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens.

Project Shakespeare – I've stalled on *King John*. I need to finish that one so I can move on.

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