

INTERMISSION #132

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and more Homo Fannishus. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen. Here are the votes from the Intermission jury: History Corner 8 points, LON Olsson 10 points, Lots of Typos 12 points. Thanks for a wonderful show! Late April 2022.

Editorially: Eurovision, NATO, Leaks

This issue comes just before next Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) in Liverpool, 9,11 and 13th of May. No, Britain didn't win last year, but as they came second - their best run since the win in 1997 - they were offered to take over the show, since the ESC couldn't be in winning Ukraine, risking Russia would send an entry in the form of a missile. And what place is better for music than the hometown of the Beatles! I adored them as a kid...still do, I must confess.

This year there's a fair chance for the Swedish entry, an ESC comeback by the 2012 winner Loreen whose "Tattoo" is bookmaker favourite with quite a margin. She might tie the score with Ireland, to seven wins for both Ireland and Sweden (also joining Johnny Logan as twice winner). I think the best should she happen to win would be to get the ESC to ABBAland precisely *50 years after "Waterloo" in 1974!* - the year ABBA stormed the stage, if you remember. Mamma mia, imagine what a huge party that would be! Especially as the foursome recently made an album and avatar comeback. More about the Eurovision later.

As I write this the Finnish flag has just been raised over the NATO Brussels HQ. The blue and yellow cross flag lies folded around the corner. The wait is just domestic Turkish politics. Their big-mouthed president Erdogan faces an election in May and needs to look like a tough guy for the voters. He knows that we won't and can't get Swedish citizens extradited, and that this Danish provateur burning books isn't our fault. (Personally I think that this organised superstition we call "religion" is a legitimate target for criticism and ridicule, but burning books has bad Nazi vibes. There are other ways.) After their election the NATO janitor will go and fetch our flag, probably coming summer. The Americans and others are mad with the Turks and won't sell them even a slingshot if they don't get in line. I'm not too worried, as the Russians are too occupied scrapping their tanks on Ukrainian soil, killing children and scare their young boys to flee the country. Putin brings out rusting T-54/55 tanks, a design from the 1940's, from outdoor Siberian storage, uses helmets from WWII, issues body armour made for paintball and use a second line to shoot unwilling gun fodder soldiers if they retreat. These huge Russian failures are rooted in corruption, clumsy Soviet tactics and sanctions in an already mismanaged and lethargic economy going in a downward spin.

The expression "take a leak" has a new meaning. Everyone talks about this 21 year old wargamer imitating Kim Philby. I'm not too worried: the equipment deliveries and military speculations leaked are just about what we already know from newspapers and other open sources. The worst damage is probably what it does for trust in US info gathering and security. The leak is a junior air national guardsman (!) wanting to brag for 30 friends in a wargames group. Up to 2 million (!) military affiliated Americans are said to have similar access to secret files. Good grief! Even the ESFS has tighter "security"... They still refuse to inform the fannish public about nominations for the Grand Master award, an official, public business. <https://www.esfs.info/esfs-nominations-2023/> is mysteriously silent! Faithful readers remember how claimed "four" nominations mismatch 6+ known ones for well-deserved Bertil Falk, but refuse to give info so the lost nominations can be checked! This zine will continue to cover and if needed *act* upon these irregularities. BTW, congrats to Bertil, 90 in a few days! If anyone around wants to spring a leak the ESFS-nominations he richly deserves, you have my E-mail...

There'll be a mixed bag in History Corner. Research material from the Royal Library hasn't fully dried up yet. At the same time I have a lot of fannish and skiffy history material collected through the many years I spent researching my Swefandom fancyclopedia. I continue to sneak around and find interesting stuff, so the History Corner won't be history any time soon. To the contrary, sf and fan history is a cornucopia and there's a huge need to show it! It seems many who today who imagine they are "fans" have little grasp of fandom's naturhistory and true nature.

I'll also report on this fascinating guy Swedenborg. Scientist, space traveller in spirit, inventor.

And with those words I leave the case to the jury: you, poor readers!

--Ahrvid Engholm, *Rédactrice en chef*

And please review or mention Intermission in your soc media etc. New readers may ask ahrvid@hotmail.com for the PDF!

EScape into Schlager

We call it "Schlager", a word borrowed from German and meaning "hit songs". The biggest Schlager festival in the world is the Eurovision Song Contest, and in early May it takes place near Penny Lane, just off Strawberry Fields - ie Liverpool. It should have been in Ukraine but certain problem relating to one Mr P in Moscow makes it a bit risky. So a

			Öppnings erbjudande	Öppnings erbjudande	insätt kr 100 frå 350	100% BONUS	upp till kr 1000 BONUS	insätt kr 100 frå 100	100% BONUS	upp till kr 500 BONUS	100% BONUS
		winning chance	BET365	UNIBET	COOL BET	BETSSON	BETFAIR SPORT	COMEDON	BETWAY	10BET	BWIN
1	Sweden Loreen - Tattoo	40%	1.8	1.83	1.8	1.85	1.83	1.83	1.91	1.83	1.8
2	Finland Käärijä - Cha Cha Cha	15%	5	4.5	4.3	4.5	5	4	4.5	4	5
3	Ukraine Tvorchi - Heart of Steel	10%	7	8	7.5	8	6	6.5	9	6.5	8
4	Norway Alessandra - Queen of Kings	5%	15	11	15	12	13	13	13	13	15
5	Spain Blanca Paloma - Sasa	5%	13	13	15	15	17	13	13	13	13
6	Israel Noa Kirel - Unicorn	3%	26	26	23	25	21	21	26	21	21
7	Austria Teya & Salena - Who The Hell Is Eu...	3%	26	31	29	25	31	29	26	29	21
8	Czechia Vesna - My Sister's Crown	2%	31	51	41	30	23	26	29	26	26
9	France La Zarra - Évidemment	2%	34	41	41	35	26	34	34	34	51
10	United Kingdom Maa Mulder - I Wrote A...	2%	46	76	61	60	31	34	34	34	34

Odds look good for Loreen to be crowned Eurovision queen!

certain Space Man took the ESC to Britain, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU5cJfaX3DI> (Rhis will have several links, just click to to hear the music). If you want to know more about Eurovision there are instructions here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuszTGJIRoo> from the 2016 host Måns & Petra, that many want to see more of (a reason to vote for...us!)

Since Agnetha, Björn, Benny, Anni-Frid left the Waterloo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FsVeMz1F5c>

battlefield victorious in 1974, the history book has repeated itself five times - six wins in total make us the runner up after Ireland with seven. The Irish even had one Mr Johnny Logan winning twice. In 2023 the most Schlager crazy bunch in Europe has taken up the challenge to get even with the Irish, aiming for a seventh laurel, and duplicating Johnny's double. Many think that one of the best winners after ABBA is Ms Loreen's "Euphoria" from 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nJcmLMb5to> . So why not dust her off, squeeze here under a giant LCD screen and tell her to sing her heart out! The result, "Tattoo", is presently oddsmakers favourite at 40% 'with Finland second on 15% (which doesn't worry me, maybe something is wrong in my head but their entry this year is more sounds than music! - *anteeksi Suomi!*). Have a



Petra & Måns, 2016 hosts, explain what's it all about. peek and say what you think:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3vJfR81xO0> Moroccan-Swedish (born, raised here, by parents of the Berber tribe) Loreen has explained that tattoos are traditional decorations for Berber women, for protection and good luck, so the song is a homage to her background.

The coronation of king Charles III takes place May 6th and just a few days later we may see the coronation of Queen Loreen of Melodyland. The pessimist will note there's



ABBA in Brighton, 1974.

60% risk she'll lose, but there's a good reason to hope for the best: if the stars have aligned

themselves in such a way that if this spectacle comes to Sweden in 2024 it's exactly half a millennium after colourful leotards and the smiles of two of the best singers in pop, with the two best pop composers since John & Paul, melted the hearts of hundreds of millions from a stage in Brighton. (And who won't remember the sf Worldcons taking place there too!)

Having ESC finals celebrating 50 years of the best band in pop'n'roll, barring the Beatles, will cause cosmic cataclysms. It will be the mother of all parties. If we're lucky we'll see Måns and Petra return (history's best ESC



Loreen on stage with "Tattoo". 40% favourite! Long-nailed Fingers crossed.

host according to polls), not to forget the unforgettable, confused, funny EBU "spokesperson" Lynda Woodruff https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5_KHY5ZEWM And maybe they'll borrow the ABBA-tars? (The grey-bearded, cane-carrying band itself only do studios today, not stages.)

To understand the background, the Swedes are the craziest eurovisionaries you'll find. The local SVT network selects every year's entry with a six weeks long big, travelling show, to top viewership and miles of newspaper columns, where 32 songs compete selected from thousands mailed in.

Ten years after ABBA, the pastel coloured dancing shirts of the Herrey Brothers conquered the ESC trophy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGNUco3mmk0> with "Diggiloo Diggiley" (meaning just "tra-la-la").

Dancing also commenced when Carola in 1991 secured our third win <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wnS4nu-bOc>. Both Herreys and Carola sang in Swedish, but to be on the safe side Charlotte grabbed the fourth statuette in English in 1999

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFn9Hd8_3Wk .

Language rules have shifted but since many years any language is permissible - made up fantasy languages have happened, but not Klingon (this far).



Brothers Herrey won in 1984, diggilooping with golden shoes.

"Lynda Woodruff" (Sarah Dawn Finer) misunderstands things as "EBU spokesperson". Back in 2024?

Win five and six for Sweden was in my view two of the best.

Loreen's "Euphoria" 2012 has a link above and Måns Zelmerlöw became a winning "Hero" in

2016 (later returning to host the event) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuE1azNwNeo> .

One thing I haven't mentioned yet is how the date April 6 1974 (ABBA in Brighton) was very significant in another way: *that very date* Björn Skifs climbed to #1 spot on the Billboard list in the US, as the first Swedish singer ever. He did it with a fine cover of "Hooked on a Feeling", for unknown reason also used in the movie "Guardians of the Galaxy" (2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZKZ_IQ5FW May 6 1974 has thus been called the birthday of Swedish international pop music.

But to take us back to the Eurovision, let me finish with a favourite that never made it to the ESC finals. The jury must have had wax in their ears not to fancy "Michelangelo" sung by Mr Skifs, here in an English version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOhBlaOt1oU>

Se you in Stockholm...perhaps Gothenburg...or Malmö...in 2024! Fingers crossed.

And that concludes the report from the Intermission jury.

History Corner

In last issue famous space reporter and artist Eugen Semitjov showed kids building a rocket in the back garden. But of course you need a space suit too. Here's Eugen again, from Allers #25 1958. We begin with the description at the page bottom and you can probably fit the other texts to the right parts of the drawing.

WE MAKE A SPACE SUIT. / The space suit will become of the most important tools for man when conquering space. We are adapted to earthly conditions, and the space suit will have oxygen, the air pressure and temperature we are used to and must have even when we are in empty space or on planets with different conditions. It shall also have a radio receiver and transmitter so we can talk with each other. There already exist some space suits that could be used on the Moon. They have costed more than 1 million SEK to construct. But the space suit you can make will be much cheaper - with a little imagination it may cost almost nothing. The big figure is a spaceman in full equipment and other things you see are things you need and how to make them. If you like you can try to make your "space suit" resemble a real one even. / THE HELMET is your crown, so be careful when you make it. You should be able to find a bucket or a tin can big enough. / THE ROCKET GUN isn't a weapon, but a little hand-held rocket to use to move around in space. Beside following the instructions here, you could also adapt and put a handle on a flashlight that lights up when you "fire". / A SAFETY CORD is what the spaceman uses outside the rocket or space station. You can make it like a lasso. / THE DASH-BOARD on the chest is used to regulate air and heating in the suit. / ON THE BACK the spaceman has tubes, air for the suit and fuel for the rocket gun. Make hose connections between the tubes and the helmet and rocket gun. Use corks to fasten the hose. / THE STRAPS carrying the equipment on the back and chest can be thread through the helmet so everything goes together. / The space helmet can be made by a big cookie can. Cut out the window and room for the shoulders. Use a file to even the edges or glue rubber mouldings there. Glue a sheet of celluloid over the window. Drill or cut up breathing holes at the front and the sides and make sharp edges soft. Make an antenna from iron wire and solder it in place. Then paint the helmet with a bright colour - preferably white so it won't become too warm in the sun.../You make the rocket gun from a block of wood. Make a handle and fix it with nails. Glue a funnel from cardboard to the front. Paint all details. Put the fuel hose on a piece of cork. / The cord can be made like a lasso. The dials control the air and temperature of the suit. Put some radio dials on a plank or cardboard box and then paint it. Nail a couple of long straps ton the back. Use the things you have and - your imagination. The straps must be attached to the tubes in the back. Fasten them to the helmet so so everything is more tightly attached. / The air tubes are made from paper rolls or boxes. Both round or squared work equally well. Cork. Crossbars to run the straps through. Fuel for the rocket gun. / The space suit itself can be made from a tracksuit. Put swimming trunks over it. It becomes more "real" with a hose from the tubes to the helmet, and one to the rocket gun. Put thick rubber under a pair of sandals and you'll have space shoes. Now you are ready for your first space journey!

Intermission still has some left of the Royal Library finds, also much from my general sf & fandom research and lots more (if in English you can read it directly, no need to spend all efforts translating!).

To my Swedish readers (on 2023 story contest): 24e upplagan av FANTASTIKNOVELLTÄVLINGEN är igång. Prispengar, böcker och hemligt pris för din fantastiska novell! Max 50 K senast 3 sep till fantastiknovella@yahoo.com SAMT ahrvida@hotmail.com.

<https://www.freelists.org/post/skriva/FANTASTIKNOVELLTÄVLINGEN-2023.1>

VI GÖR EN RYMDDRÄKT



TRÄ BRÄNSLESLANGEN PÅ EN KORK



BRÄNSLE FÖR RAKETPISTOLEN



RYMDDRÄKTEN
KAN DU TILLVERKA AV EN STOR KAKBURK. KLIPP ELLER SÅGA UPP FÖNSTRET OCH URTAGEN FÖR AKLARN. JÄMNA KANTERNA MEN EN FIL OCH KLISTRÄ MJUKA GUMMILISTER ÖVER DEM. KLISTRÄ EN CELLULOIDSKIVA ÖVER FÖNSTRET. BORRA ELLER SKÄR UPP LUFTHÅL FRÅMTILL OCH PÅ SIDORNA OCH JÄMNA ALLA SKARPA KANTER. GÖR EN ANTENN AV STÅL-TRÅD OCH LÖD FAST DEN. MÅLA SEN HJÄLMEN MED LJUS FÄRG, GÄRNA VIT - SÅ BLIR DEN INTE HET I SOLGASSET...

RAKETPISTOLEN
GÖR DU AV EN RUND TRÄKLASS. TÄLL TILL ETT HANDTAG OCH SPIKA FAST DET. LIMMA EN TRÄTT AV KARTONG FRÅMTILL. MÅLA DETALJERNA.

LINAN
KÄN DU GÖRA SOM ETT LASSO.



REMMARNÄ SKA TRÄS GENOM FÄSTEN PÅ RYGG-TUBERNA. GÖR GÄRNA FÄSTEN PÅ HJÄLMEN OCKSÅ SÅ SITTER DEN STADIGARE.

MED REGLAGEN KONTROLLERAS DRÄKTENS TEMPERATUR OCH LUFT-TILLFÖRSEL. PÅ EN BRÄDA ELLER PAPPPLÅDA FÄSTER DU NÅGRA RADIO RATTAR OCH MÅLAR. NUBBA FAST ETT PAR LÅNGA REMMAR BAK. ANVÄND DE GREJOR DU HAR OCH - DIN FANTASI.

LUFTTUBERNA
GÖR MAN AV ETT PAR PAPPRULLAR ELLER LÅDOR. DET GÅR LIKA BRA MED RUNT ELLER KÄNTIGT.

RYMDDRÄKTEN
BYGGER VI NÄSTA VECKA!

I ÖVRIGT KAN RYMDDRÄKTEN UTGÖRAS AV EN TRÄNINGSOVERALL, BADBYND UTANOM OCH ETT BRETT SÄTE JÄNGAR UPP DEN. ÄNNU MER "ÄKTA" BLIR DET MED SLANGAR FRÅN LUFTTUBERNA TILL HJÄLMEN OCH EN BRÄNSLESLANG TILL RAKETPISTOLEN. SÄTT TIOCKA GUMMSULOR PÅ ETT PAR TRÄSANDALER SÅ HAR DU RYMSKOR OCKSÅ. NU ÄR DU KLAR FÖR DIN FÖRSTA RYMDFÄRD!



Rymddräkten blir ett av människans viktigaste redskap under erövringen av rymden. Vi är anpassade efter jordiska förhållanden, och rymddräkten ska omge oss med syre, det lufttryck och den temperatur vi är vana vid och måste ha även när vi vistas i tomma rymden eller på planeter där förhållandena är helt annorlunda. Den ska också ha radiosändare och mottagare, så vi kan tala med varandra. Det finns redan nu enstaka rymddräkter som skulle kunna användas på månen. De har kostat över en miljon kronor i framställning. Men den rymddräkt som du kan tillverka blir mycket billigare — med lite fantasi behöver den nästan inte kosta nånting. Den stora teckningen visar en rymdman i full utrustning, och på de andra bilderna ser du de saker du behöver och hur du ska göra dem. Har du lust och möjlighet kan du ju försöka göra din "rymddräkt" ändå mer lik den riktiga.

HJÄLMEN är kronan på verket, så gör den omsorgsfullt. Du kan säkert hitta någon plåtburk eller plasthink som är stor nog.

RAKETPISTOLEN är inte något vapen utan en liten handrakett att förflytta sig med i tyngdlöst rum. Förutom anvisningarna härinvid kan du också bygga om och sätta handtag på en stavlampa, som lyser när du "trycker av".

SÄKERHETSLINA kommer rymdmannen att använda när han är ute i rymden utanför raketerna eller rymdstationen. Den kan du göra som en lasso.

INSTRUMENT-BRADAN på bröstet används för att reglera luft och värme i dräkten.

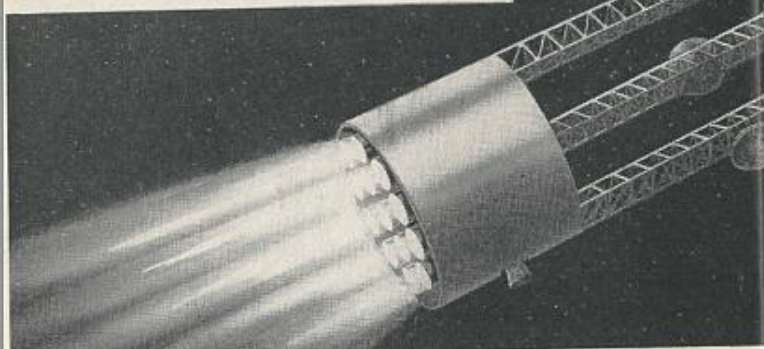
PÅ RYGGEN bär rymdmannen tuber med luft och en bränsletank för raketpistolen. Ordna med festsättning av slangar på tuberna — hjälmens och bränsletanken — raketpistolen. Du kan använda korkar som slangarna kan träs på.

REMMARNÄ som bär apparaterna på ryggen och bröstet kan du träs genom fästen i hjälmens så att det hela hänger ihop.

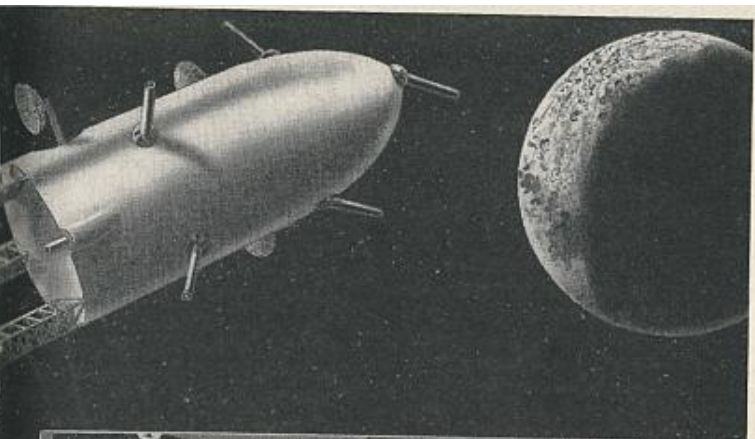
Let's turn to Uncle Hugo G. Not only did he publish electronics mags, the first clean-cut sf magazine, the serious sex rag *Sexology* (covered in an earlier issue), ca 1952-1963 he every Christmas distributed about 5000 copies of a booklet titled *Forecast* full of gernsbackian technological wet dreams! (I have PDFs of the 1955-59 issues. Tell me if you have other ones!) His 1954 forecast correctly assumes the first spacecrafts will be unmanned carrying cameras (see "*Television-Guided Spaceship*"), but was wrong thinking it'd be atomic powered (though correct with designing ship with the atomic part separated because of radiation). But for some reason this gung-ho Mr OneToForeseeForUs pessimistically thought first flight would be in 1970...

Following Hugo's space speculations, he begins to talk about having a radio inside a watch. He is right saying transistors make it possible, but thinks you'll listen to it by continuously holding your hand

TELEVISION- Guided SPACESHIP



Above: Earth-Moon spaceship in full flight. Atomic power plant is in rear. Funnel-like object on atom section is a rocket; when fired steers spaceship to right. Other rockets are out of sight on opposite side. Dish-shaped circular objects are six search radars. The six long tubes are television-telescopes. They can be pointed in any direction. The telescopes are inside the tubes, for easier telescoping. Right: Observer station on Earth, whence rocket is guided electronically. Everything spaceship sees is instantly transmitted by television to eight screens simultaneously. (1) Close-up of Moon. (2) Sun corona. (3) Half-Earth. (4) Saturn. (5) Mars. (6) Andromeda nebula. (7) Test animal on spaceship now weightless. (8) Instrument board on spaceship.



IN a recent symposium, some 65 rocket experts, scientists, space experts, and others were asked their opinions as to the most likely date of the first spaceflight.

My own conjecture was the year 1970. This figure coincided with that of several other scientists.

My opinion, furthermore, was that the pioneer interplanetary flight would be an *unmanned* one. It is almost certain that humans will not be allowed to risk the first spaceflight, due to the many hazards inherent in the undertaking. However, a number of small animals will make that

epoch-making trip, so that the scientists in charge of the venture may better formulate their plans for future trips with *manned* spacecraft.

Up to the present we know little or nothing about the possible behavior—and survival—of animal life during the 250-hour

trip through outer space to the Moon and back.

- There are the hazards of extreme heat and cold—near absolute zero to hundreds of degrees heat—cosmic rays, ultraviolet radiation, weightlessness of animal internal organs for days,

spacesickness, ship damage from small meteorite collisions, and other unknown hazards. Much more scientific information must be gathered first in unmanned flights before we can risk the lives of human passengers.

Furthermore, even at the present state of science, it is comparatively more simple to undertake an unmanned flight than a manned one. Air-conditioning and chemical air-purifying a large space for four to six men comprises a big load in an outer spaceflier where the saving of every pound and every cubic foot of space is critical. Humans must have water, food, cooking range, bunks—all weighty, all space-consuming. Such weight and space is needed more to go into instrumentation for compiling data to make future flights possible for humans.

- More important—and far better than human observers on that first pioneering trip—are a number of instruments that are never off the job for eating and sleeping. These devices don't get ill, but will accurately observe every detail around the clock and will radio the information to Earth every second during the comparatively long trip. These instruments hear, see, and feel incessantly.

They enable the scientists and

engineers to correctly evaluate the flight and keep the spaceship on a predetermined exact course. As far as the observing scientists and technicians on Earth are concerned—and for all practical purposes—they are making the trip in person.

- A manless outerspace trip could be made *without television equipment*, but it would be pointless and of little scientific value. It would be like sending blind men on an expedition to the top of Mount Everest. With television as advanced as it is today—and with color television now assured—the continuous visual link in unmanned flight has tremendous possibilities. Manless flights in television-guided planes are no longer a novelty. Numerous such flights have been made since the closing years of World War II.

This idea originated with your writer and was fully described in a technical article long before the advent of television. The article, illustrated, was entitled "The Radio-Controlled Television Plane," and it was published in the November 1924 issue of *THE EXPERIMENTER*. This particular projected airplane was a war-plane that could look simultaneously in six directions—north, south, east, west, up, and down—something no human can do. The plane could fly beyond the

horizon and release bombs over selected targets, visible to the distant ground observer.

The future Earth-to-Moon spaceship will be guided successfully on its course in the same way. To do so will require certain elaborate installations on Earth. Let us assume our atomic-powered ship has been launched on its Moonward trip. From the moment it has left its launching site, it will be in constant, uninterrupted communication with the Earth. Due to the Earth's rotation on its axis, and the Moon's rotation around the Earth, we must have from 4 to 6 observation points at widely separated stations on the Earth, located somewhere near the equator. Thus, by means of radar, we can track the spaceship continuously during its entire course except for a few short hours when it circumnavigates the Moon.* All the observation points around the Earth are linked together by short waves, thus operating as a single unit. There will be one

*Because of the intense interest of all scientists to view the other side of the moon—perpetually invisible to us on Earth—we might arrange to send a relay accompanying rocket with the spaceship. This relay would be visible from Earth while the spaceship was behind the Moon. Thus we could see the reverse side of the Moon via television. This suggestion was made to me by Professor Donald H. Menzel of Harvard Observatory.

central point which co-ordinates all the far-flung units.

- In the spaceship we have several transmitters, radio as well as television. All are powered by the main atomic generator. Automatic machines constantly send Earthward all sorts of special signals for interpretation by the mundane observer staff. These are: temperature inside and outside the ship, cosmic ray and ultraviolet intensity inside and outside the ship, atomic power generation in plant, and many others. Besides these, a number of microphones through which any noises are transmitted to the Earth-listener-observers are located in various strategic points all over the ship. The likely bombardment of sandgrain-size meteorites as they impinge on the ship's outer hull will be clearly heard on Earth. It will sound like hail on a tin roof. While not dangerous to the onrushing ship, the scientists must know how dense such meteorite showers are and how often they occur.

- The danger of big meteorites, in my opinion, is negligible, if we take the correct safety precautions. By means of continuous search radar, as I have pointed out in a former article,* these

*See article "Radar Possibilities," *RADIO-CRAFT* magazine, May 1945.

meteorites can be located while still hundreds of miles distant. The search radars, coupled to an electronic machine, change the course of the ship automatically in an instant, thereby averting the high-velocity missile.

● The test animals can be seen and heard at all times by the distant observers. Special microphones and a television camera transmit all sounds and sight while we look in and watch the behavior of the animals, when they are weightless. Confined, each in a roomy wire cage, so they cannot injure themselves by hard collisions, we will gain much valuable information how animal life can endure the long-drawn-out siege of weightlessness. Automatic devices provide food for the animals several times a day, while special moving trays under the wire cages dispose of waste matter, thus keeping the quarters sanitary.

While all this takes place, a more or less constant stream of electronic signals is flashed from the Earth observation points to the ship in flight. If the ship is off course, this condition can be instantly corrected by electronic telemachines on board. If the ship speeds too fast or is too slow, the atomic rockets can be so adjusted that the ship runs its course on the exact schedule desired. The

various television cameras can be pointed into new directions, or refocused in seconds by remote control from Earth.

There will be seven or more television cameras on board. Six of these, with wide-angle lenses would cover pretty much the entire sphere. In space, however, we do not make use of the usual points of reference. There is no "up" or "down." We do not even have a "north, south, east, or west." The reference system will be either that of the ship itself or the stars in the sky.

These television cameras will be supplemented by others whose lens system is more powerful, giving the effect of a television telescope. In this way we shall see clearly the depth of lunar craters even when we are at a considerable distance from the moon. Similar powerful television telescopes will record the sun and planets.

● As soon as the rocket ship has cleared the earth's atmosphere, various powerful telescopes will be exposed directly to outer space. These will presumably be reflecting telescopes, for the most part, which will not absorb the ultraviolet rays that do not penetrate our atmosphere. These rays, coming to us from the sun, stars, and planets will convey important secrets of the chemical and physi-

cal nature of the various heavenly bodies. The spectroscope—a television spectroscope—designed to record the extreme ultraviolet will relay this information to eager astronomers waiting at the television screen.*

● The six-direction television cameras will now relay whatever they observe during the entire trip and transmit the result Earthward via v.h.f. (very high frequency) short waves. The Moonward camera will be constantly pointed to the Moon and we will thus see how the size of the Moon steadily grows larger. The Earth-pointing camera shows our planet as it spins on its axis and shrinks visibly from hour to hour. We may also see the extraordinary spectacle—never seen by human eyes—a first-quarter, or last-quarter crescent-Earth, or a half-Earth. (Seen in different positions from various points in free space, the Earth shows the same phases as the Moon.) The camera pointing Sunward will give us the most spectacular view of all—the Sun in all its fantastic glory, no longer hampered by the terrestrial thick blanket of air which robs us of a clear view.

*Professor Donald H. Menzel, acting director of Harvard College Observatory, who kindly read the proofs of this article, graciously supplied the interesting information contained in the above paragraph.

FORECAST

1954

21

so that dangerous or too powerful destructive radiation will not affect either the test animals or instrumentation.

I am quite sanguine, however, that by the time the first atom-spaceship is built, the present bothersome radiation problem will have been solved. By that time the dangerous radiation will have been either neutralized or more likely put to work giving more useful power. Radiation in reality is energy, or power. So why not use it instead of wasting it in useless shielding?

● For a number of technical reasons we do not land our spaceship on the Moon. We can get within a reasonably close distance of our satellite, sufficiently close to get excellent television views in abundance. In circumnavigating the Moon, we follow a figure-eight course. This takes us around the rear side of the Moon, which has never been viewed by human eyes. As the spacecraft gravitates around our satellite, the ship will be out of communication with the Earth for a short time—unless we use an accompanying relay rocket, as already mentioned before—because radio waves cannot pass through the Moon or around it. As the ship obeys the laws of motion of all celestial bodies, we

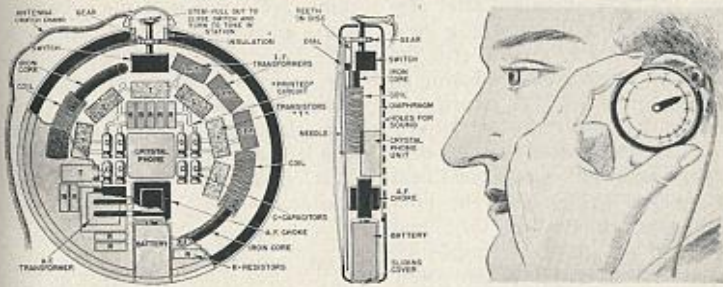
need not be concerned about the short time it will be out of our view. Indeed, it requires no power on its circumnavigation of the Moon—the rockets having been shut off long before the ship approached the Moon. It now gravitates free, as do all celestial bodies.

● The entire round trip takes approximately 250 hours, or about 10 days. It could be done in less time if more power were expended, but at this stage of development, nothing would be gained, at least from the science point of view.

The landing operation is effected in the classic, rocket-retardation manner. The ship in this case must be turned around completely some minutes before landing. Now the rockets are pointed Earthward and fired, giving rise to powerful braking action. Thus the ship can land without much danger, always provided the landing is made reasonably close to an observer point, enabling the ground technicians to directly watch and electronically control the landing operation closely.

The knowledge gained from this historic pioneering voyage will then open the way for the rapid human conquest of space.

RADIO WATCH



Radio watch which will be on market in near future. Size about 2" in diameter, 1/2" thick. Dial of watch is calibrated for all broadcast stations. You tune by pulling out watch stem and rotating it. You listen to radio by putting it against ear. Perforations on other side of watch allow sounds from speaker to reach ear.

DURING the next few years *miniradios*—as I term them—will make their appearance all over the world.* Millions of them will be sold, for the reason that the miniature portable radio, small enough to slip into the coat pocket, vest pocket, or a lady's purse, is in high demand today. In the home during power failure, in the theater, in the movies, in camp, in a boat, or on a walk, the new personalized miniradio will give weather forecasts, the news, or entertainment. The upkeep will be absurdly low, for its single dry-cell battery, obtainable anywhere, costs but 15c.

*See my editorial on this subject, September 1944 *RADIO-CRAFT* and November 1953 *RADIO-ELECTRONICS*.

Now we will see the awesome solar streaming corona, the million-miles-long streamers and the mysterious solar prominences.

Other TV cameras will give us fine views of several of the other planets, certain of our closer stars, a much better sight of the Milky Way, various galaxies, and other heavenly objects. *We need only a single television transmitter* for the many TV cameras. By means of an electronic switching arrangement, each camera is switched on for only a fraction of a second. This switching can be done so rapidly that we require only a single transmitting channel. Yet on the distant Earth screens, different views are thrown on six or eight (or more) TV screens, *simultaneously*. The result is then watched by a number of observer-scientists. At the same time, a permanent record is made on a magnetic tape, so that the television recordings may be studied later at leisure.

Several times a day the country's television networks can be connected into the observation circuits, making it possible for the entire population to watch the pioneer spaceflight, as it takes place, in all the various aspects.

● A word about atom power:—The illustration shows the atom-power plant sufficiently far removed from the body of the ship

● While I predicted the watch-size radio as long ago as 1944,** it was then not possible to actually build one, for the simple reason that up to very recently the radio components were far too large for the small space in a watch size case. But the *transistor*, that marvelous new electronic microwonder, the size of a match-head, now replaces the cumbersome vacuum tubes. It requires so little electric current that a tiny dry cell, the size of a large button, will power the small radio receiver.

The radio watch here described can no longer be called visionary.

**See *TAME*, my 1945 Christmas booklet, *The Perpetual Radio-View Watch*. This was a wristwatch-size radio with television.

near the ear! (Earphones, Hugo?)

Time for very early atomic war speculations. In Dagens Nyheter Nov 28 1946, scientists fear there'll be atomic bombs around every major city - hovering in space - and anyone can blow up any city any time so Danes getting mad will simply blast Stockholm (*mange takk!*), but hopes are we get "Peace and Quiet Instead of Dramatic Ragnarök":

Visions of the future can't go beyond Ragnarök, says professor Gustaf Ljunggren of the Defence Research Institute...with the resources war has brought along the end of mankind may be dramatic. But visions of future doesn't have to lead to Ragnarök. You may also imagine a quiet and peaceful world, where the inventions and progress made in war are used for productive work /The reporter meet the professor in his office in Ursvik/ "Nothing is more difficult than predictions," he says. When he came to Ursvik the facilities were considered too big - now 8 years later they are hopelessly cramped. As

proof he picks a book from the shelf published by a foresighted military 1916. It's about future wars and says air power will never become important, as "aeroplanes are worthless in rain and the dark" - Zeppelins could be considered, operated from hangars in Boden, Stockholm and Malmö. "It's easy to laugh. But these authors weren't very conservative in 1916., they knew their stuff. We can't blame them for not predicting echo radio and other things to come. /Guided Atomic Projectiles in the Stratosphere/ Future wars? Professor Ljunggren picks up a booklet from his pocket, the US scientist and atomic researcher Louis Ridenours one-act play on the end of the world. Here is portrayed how the US president sometime in the future enters a HQ and wants to see the defence arrangements. Yes, there is peace but everything is ready: guided atomic projectiles hover above all cities, and from the HQ they can be sent to any city they want to obliterate - to rub out what's not wanted, there are death buttons everywhere on a neat map. "The only thing," they tell the president, "every country has done the same. An attack is immediately responded by a counter attack. There are atomic bombs ready to blow up the US too." And then someone happens to put the finger on the button for Copenhagen. It blows up, and the Danes who know no enemy, suspect Sweden and presses their button for Stockholm just to be safe, and the Swedish government targets London, London targets all of America - and the curtain slowly descends over a dark world. /Next War in the Laboratories / Tactics is technology in practice, Professor Ljunggren continues..."and technology is science in practice - all future predictions in military science depend on basic sciences and the progress there. During the war there was practically no branch of science not engaged in the war efforts. I may prophecy one thing about future wars with certainty: they will more and more be influenced by science - what comes in next war is right now worked out in scientific laboratories and institutions around the world. Those doing the experiments may perhaps not think of war use of the results -

Längre än till Ragnarök kan ju framtidsvisionen inte sträcka sig, säger professor Gustaf Ljunggren på Försvarets forskningsanstalt. Förr tänkte man sig att solen skulle slockna och att de sista människorna skulle amyga omkring luttrande av köld kring ekvatorn. Nu tror vi inte på det perspektivet längre — med de resurser kriget har frambragt kan nog mänsklighetens slut bli betydligt mer dramatiskt. Men framtidsvisionen behöver ju inte nödvändigtvis leda till Ragnarök: man har också rätt att tänka sig en lugn och fredlig värld, där de uppfinningar och landvinningar som gjorts i krigets tjans kan utnyttjas i produktivt arbete!

Professor Gustaf Ljunggren sitter i sitt arbetsrum ute på försvarets forskningsanstalt i Ursvik, och medan eftermiddagsbrisen sjunger i tallar och grannar utanför fönstret talar han med den sydlandske slättbons eftertänksamma besinnning om framtiden: Det finns inget svårare än att göra profetior, säger

han. När han kom ut till Ursvik var den allmänna meningen att lokalerna här var för stort tilltagna — nu ätta år efteråt är de hopptöst för små!

Och ur hyllan plockar han som ytterligare bevis fram en bok som insiktsfulla militärer gav ut 1916. Den handlar om framtidens krig, och där slås bland annat fast att flyget aldrig kan få någon betydelse, "aeroplanen är ju värdelös i regn och mörker" — möjligen skulle man kunna tänka sig zeppelinare, opererande från lufthallar i Boden och Stockholm och Malmö —

— Det är lätt att skratla, säger Gustaf Ljunggren. Men de här författarna var nog inte särskilt konservativa av sig 1916, de kunde sina saker. Vi kan inte le åt dem för att de inte förutspått att ekoradio och annat skulle komma i deras tid —

Styrbara atomprojektiler i stratosfären.

Framtidens krig? Professor Ljunggren tvelar — så fiskar han upp ur kavajfickan ett litet häfte: den amerikanske vetenskapsmannen och atomforskaren Louis Ridenours enaktare om världens undergång. Där skildras hur den amerikanske presidenten en gång i framtiden kommer in i amerikanska högkvarteret och ber att få litta på försvarsanordningarna. Ju då, fred råder, men allt är klart: över alla städer på jordklotet kretsar styrbara atomprojektiler, som från högkvarteret i USA kan dirigeras mot och sopa bort den stad man vill ha bort — stryk vad som ej önskas, det finns döds-

Additional headlines

(not shown here):

Looking at the Future...

Copenhagen blasts Stockholm

US atomic scientist predicts

knappar överallt på en prydlig världskarta.

— Det är bara det, säger man till presidenten, att så här alla länder ordnat. Ett anfall besvaras omedelbart med motanfall. Det finns atombomber redo att spränga Amerika också.

Så räkar någon i misshugg sätta fingret på knappen Köpenhamn. Köpenhamn sprängs, och danskarna, som inte vet av någon fiende, miss-tänker Sverige och trycker på sin knapp Stockholm för att inlet må vara ogjort, svenska regeringen trycker på London, London på hela Amerika — varefter ridån sakta går ned över en mörk värld.

Det är en makaber profetia, men vill man nödvändigtvis höra en, så var så god!

Nästa krig i laboratorierna.

Taktik är tillämpad teknik, fortsätter professor Ljunggren på mer energisk skänka medan han promenerar i sitt arbetsrum. Och teknik är tillämpad vetenskap — alla framtids-typer på militärforskningens område är bebyggda av grundvetenskaperna och framstegen där. Under det utkämpade kriget var det praktiskt taget ingen gren av vetenskapen som inte var engagerad i krigsansträngningarna.

En enda sak vågar jag säkert profetiera om framtidens krig: det kommer mer och mer att beläggas av vetenskapen — vad som kommer i nästa krig befinner sig just nu under arbete i vetenskapliga laboratorier och försöksanstalter världen runt.

Och de som sysslar med experimenten tänker kanske inte på krigisk an-

LUGN OCH FRED I STALLET FÖR DRAMATISKT RAGNARÖK

vändning av resultaten — Och den utvecklingen måste vi följa med i.

Atombomben? Nu suckar professor Ljunggren — vad nytt kan väl sägas om den?

Planet som gemensam fiende?

— Vi skall komma ihåg att det oberäknade av atomenergin kommit fram nya drivmedel, raket- och reaktionsdrift, styrbara raketprojektiler med överljudhastighet, Jules Verbes "Från jorden till månen" var ingen dålig framtidsvision i det sammanhanget — fast han kände inte till reaktionsdriften, utan räknade med kanonen. Att åstadkomma förbindelse mellan de olika planeterna kan emellertid bli en verklighet fortare än man antar — och då kanske H. G. Wells "Världarnas krig" visar sig bli lika god som Vernes månnresa. Måhända när vi inte enighet på vår oroliga jord förrän vi fått en gemensam fiende i någon främmande planet —

Krigsforskningen kan bidra till fredlig värld.

Men låt oss inte glömma bort, säger Gustaf Ljunggren och ler gott och varmt, att många av de saker som arbetats fram till krigets tjänst kan kopplas in till en fredligare och bättre värld. Krig stimulerar ju företagsamheten — vad som tar tio år i fred tar ett eller ett halvt i krig; tänk på penicillin, insektskyddet DDI och annat formerades fram under ofreds-åren.

Luftskyddsfrågorna aktualiserar en ny stadsbebyggelse, mer utbredd än den nuvarande hoppyttade — och det medför en ändrad livsföring, som kanske visar sig bli av godo. Behovet av arbetslokaler under jorden tvingar vetenskapen till framsteg på ventilationens, luftkonditioneringens och belysningens område — det ger bättre arbetsmiljö inomhus och "sommarsol" med! Där kan vi komma långt i framtiden.

and we must follow that development." The atomic bomb? Professor Ljunggren sighs. "What new can be said about it?" /A Planet as Common Enemy/ "We must remember that independently from atomic energy we have new fuels, rocket and jet power, guided supersonic missiles, Jules Verne's From Earth to the Moon wasn't a bad prediction here - though he didn't now about reaction power and counted on cannons. But to establish communication between the different planets could become reality faster than one thinks. - and then HG Wells War of the Worlds will become just as good as Verne's lunar journey. We may perhaps not reach unity on our planet until we get a common enemy from an alien planet. /War Research May Contribute to A Peaceful World/ "But let's not forget," professor Ljunggren says and smiles warmly, "that many of the things researched in service of war can be connected to a better and more peaceful world. War stimulates enterprising - what takes 10 years in peace takes 1.5 year in war. Think about how penicillin, the insect repellent DDT and other things were rushed through during the troubled years. Questions of protection from the air will cause city building to be more spread out than the crammed one today - and that leads to a different way of life that may show itself to be for the good. The need for workplaces under the ground forces science to make progress for ventilation, air conditioning and lighting - it gives a better workplace indoors and also "summer sun". We may come far there in the future.

LUNCON
Sveriges första science fiction kongress
i Lund den 18-19 augusti
Arrangör: SF-KLUBBEN UTOPIA

Professor KNUT LUNDMARK
Föreningsskildrare vid kongressen

Alla SF-intresserade inbjudas

Luncons syfte:

1. att skapa personlig kontakt mellan sf-fans
2. att få fram en verklig sf-anda och att främja utbyte av idéer och åsikter i såväl diskussioner som klubbtskrifter
3. att stimulera sf-klubbarnas arbete

Vid kongressen förekommer bl. a.:

- Föreläsning i olika vetenskapliga, högskolefrågor
- Föreläsning om sf-litteraturen
- Auktion på sf-manuskript, tidskrifter och böcker
- Sf-film

Väl mött i Lund den 18 och 19 augusti.

Kjell Pettersson och Börje Larsson, SF-klubben Utopia
Arvid Gyllenberg och Lars Persson, club Chaos
Dennis Lindholm, club Metis

Kommittémedlemmar

Pris 1:50

Getting better working conditions because of atomic bombs...!
Sweden's first sf con, Luncon 18-19 Aug 1956, have been covered here before. Here's more I found in my *Fandboken*, the Swefandom fancy encyclopedia, material folder (I add stuff there for future new editions). I think it's from a Swecon, likely from legendary fan Lars-

Olov Strandberg who always snpped photos. First we have a full page ad from sf mag *Häpna!* Saying: Luncon Sweden's first sf con in Lund 18-19/8 / Organiser SF Club Utopia / All sf interested invited / Luncon's purpose: 1. To create personal contacts between sf fans. 2. To create a true sf spirit and benefit exchange of ideas and views in both discussions and club magazines. 3. To stimulate the activities of sf clubs. / The con has eg: lectures on scientific, topical questions. Lectures on sf literature. Sf manuscript auction, magazines, books. Sf films. Last a welcome and names and

LUNCON — Första SF-kongressen i Sverige i Lund den 18—19 aug. 1956. Alla svenska fans måste med. Ingen har råd att missa denna chans.

Det blir föreläsning av professor Lundmark i något astronomiskt ämne, auktion på sällsynta SF-manuskript, tidskrifter och böcker samt mycket annat, värdefulla kontakter inte att glömma. Vidare föreläsning om de sista nyheterna om mutationer, SF-film, konfidentiella upplysningar om forskningen i fråga om rymdstationer och "antigravitationen". Och naturligtvis behandlas SF som litteratur i såväl föreläsning som debatt. Kongressen i Lund blir säkerligen mycket intressant och sensationell. Skicka därför in anmälan redan i dag till Lund-klubbens ordförande Kjell Pettersson. (Formulär se omstående sida).

K O G S

clubs of the committee. The picture is of Professor Knut Lundmark, lecturer at the con. He was actually a world celebrity, but in the end couldn't come due to illness. *Fandboken* has these examples from the program: Lecture by KG Kindberg - *Häpna!* Publisher - on anti-gravity,

dito Lars Persson (on UFOs?), dito by Dr Anna Lundquist on mutations, dito Björn Nyberg on sf literature. (Nyberg had co-authored a Conan novel published in the US!). In a small reminder in *Häpna!* we read, after name/date/place: All Swedish fans must come. No one can afford to miss this chance. And for the program it adds: confidential information and research about space stations and "anti-gravity" ... The con in Lund will certainly be interesting and sensational. Submit your application already today to the Lund club chairman Kjell Petterson (form on opposing page). And the form From SF Club Utopia in Lund informs: For the con to run smooth we've done our best to attend to the comfort of attendees. Since the committee includes a travel agent it's possible to make travel plans and book tickets (ordinary, seating, sleeping). And likewise we'll if possible book hotel or other lodging. Private lodging for at least

Från SF-klubben Utopia i Lund

För att konferensen skall gå väl i lås, har vi gjort vårt bästa för att ordna så mycket som möjligt för deltagarnas trivsel. Genom att en resebyråman ingår i kommittén är det oss möjligt att göra upp resplaner och ordna eventuella sov-, sitt- och färdbiljetter för deltagarna. Likaså åtager vi oss naturligtvis att i möjlig utsträckning ordna hotellrum eller annan inkvartering. Privatlogi för minst to deltagare kan ställas till förfogande gratis, under förutsättning att sänglinne eller soväck medföres. Föreläsning kommer då att ske dels i Malmö, dels i Lund. Deltagare torde uppge vilket alternativ som önskas. Om en deposition på 5 kronor inbetalas i samband med anmälan till LUNCON, så skall vi ordna hotellrum om så är möjligt. Uppgiv i så fall i vilken prisklass rummet får vara, och om det skall vara enkel- eller dubbelrum. (Medlemmar från samma klubb kan ju lämpligen dela rum, då det visat sig vara lättare att ordna dubbel- än enkelrum.)

Då det är väsentligt, att vi kan möta konferensdeltagarna vid tågen, så bär varje deltagare ifylla nedanstående kupong fullständigt. Vi kommer då i god tid att sända en resplan med tidtabell.

Anmälningsblankett till LUNCON den 18—19 augusti 1956

Namn Alder

Adress Postadress

Adress från hemstation ca kl. den .../... 1956
Sittplats

Sovplats önskas i klass från till Lund/Malmö
natten mellan / och / , samt tillbaka från Lund/Malmö
till natten mellan / och / .

Färdbiljett mellan och Lund/Malmö i ... klass önskas.

Hotellrum enkel/dubbel önskas i Lund/Malmö. Rummet får kosta ungefär
..... kr. (5 kronor bifogas som deposition.)

Gratis privatlogi önskas.

Övriga önskemål: (T. ex. om logi i vandrarhem e. dyl.)
(Styrk det ej tillämpliga)

Anmälningskupongen inlämnades till Kjell Pettersson, St. Tvärgratan 24 a, Lund, före den 1 augusti. Ev. beställda biljetter sändas i god tid per postförskott direkt till beställaren.

Väl mött i Lund den 18—19 augusti.

Kommittémedlemmar



The venue for Luncon, called Herrgården ("The Mansion") Unfortunately owned by a sobriety organisation... And as earlier noted, the main and only radio news of the day reported!

ten can be had for free, provided you bring bedsheets or sleeping bag. Accommodation will then be partly in Malmö, partly in Lund. Attendees should state preferred alternative. If you deposit SEK5 paid together with the application for LUNCON, we will if possible arrange a hotel room. In that case state what price range the room may be in, and single or double. (It's suitable if members from the same club share a room, as it has shown easier to find doubles than singles.) As it is of importance that we can meet con attendees by the trains, everyone should fill in the below completely. We will then in good time send a travel plan with a time table. The form asks for name, address etc, details about the train (leaving, returning, stations, 1 or 2 class, sleeping ticket, hotel room, price

range, private lodging wanted, other wishes) to send to Kjell Pettersson, 24a St Tvär street Lund before 1 Aug. Your ordered tickets will be mailed in good time, cash on delivery. Finally, a shocking picture from Luncon! We here find the hidden truth about the womenizing Don Juan Lars-Olov Strandberg (2005 Worldcon GoH) On this picture from Luncon (see note on the door). He's busy seducing some unfortunate lady. Who knew he was such a lady-killer! According to a list of the 39 attendees, three femmefans attended, so she is either Maj-Britt Krabisch, Barbro Olsson or Gisela



Molander .(Gisela was BTW co-editor of the first femmazine, *Space Reporter*, published around that time.) The picture on the left from next con Stockon, 23-25 Aug 1957, was taken from one of the many newspaper articles (in earlier History Corny). But I did something interesting. I used a filter to reduce the print page halftone dotting, an AI sharpening service and let another AI colourise it! We see (L to R): Carl-Olof Elsner, Gabriel Setterborg, Sture Lönnerstrand, Leif Helgesson, Lennart Sörensen and Carl H Bierbaum, all BNF of the days! Gabriel coedited early zine Cosmos News, Sture was poet, author, founder of the Futura club, the others headed clubs and an (short lived) SF Union. The big artwork on the wall was by Sven O Emilsson (later Gripsborn).

Through most of the 1970s until the early 1980s, a certain Stieg Larsson was quite active in sf fandom. But



there's been few photos of this by now famous crime writer. But one I found is here: Stieg talking on the phone in the Scandinavian SF Association (where he also became chairman) clubhouse, which doubled as the first SF Bookstore. I recognise the general layout of the shelves you can see in the background.

Finally, a fun story in Dagens Nyheter 10 Aug, 1967, "The Ultimate Weapon":

Sf is a misunderstood and maligned genre you read too little of. That's a pity because deep inside the genre isn't as strange and crazy as it would seem. Many who rightly sees the scourge of God and illusions of the Devil in the concoctions of space technology reacts to the



Stieg Larsson and phone in SFSF HQ, aka the SF Bookstore. Was this when he tried to fix films for Mnicon 5 just before the film companies closed for the weekend?

Det yttersta vapnet

Sciencefictionen är en missförstådd och bakslad litteraturform som man bäst avlidde för lite. Detta är synd, ty genren är innerst inne inte alls så underlig och rubbad som den verkar vara.

Många som med all rätt i rymdteknikens påbrätt ser ett Guds gissel och ett djävulens blindverk reagerar mot det maskinella hopskåpet i sciencefictionmiljön. Andra som är pessimister och misantroper och därför har en riktig syn på livet skriver av de vanliga fantaserna i samtliga sf-böcker om en förenad värld där människor lever ett civilt liv utan att slåss med varandra. Och de flesta hån förkyrnade över själva grundtanken i sf-litteraturen, att på utvecklingen i förväg och skilja om hur det kommer att bli i framtiden; det är ju sedan illa nog.

Men allt detta är missförstånd. Ty just genom att fylla med tidspen-

bägda råd, och alla galskorna invärare är djupt civiliserade, psykiskt och moraliskt oförmögna att slåss och lever därför i fred. Utom de egenartiga människorna på planeten Jorden; de var så krigiska till sin konstitution att de inte kunde umgås med andra varelser utan att slå ihjäl dem; och därför hade man en gång i civilisationens gryning efter mycket bråk kövat jordmänniskorna och sövt ner dem på deras planet, där de nu förvarades i ett slags kylboxar, i långa långa rader.

Precis som USA:s president nu för tiden via en hemlig telefon kan ge order om ett kärnavapenangrepp — om det skulle behövas, för fredens skull — så har ordföranden i galaxens högsta råd ensamt måkt att i katastroflagen utlösa det yttersta vapnet. Det är det vapen det fredliga imperiet håller sig med, och det är ett förskräckligt tillhugge.

Och så, en gång, kommer en invasion av några underliga grymmsa figurer från en främmande värld. Polisen får inte på dem, de plundrar och spränger och förstör. Det galaktiska imperiet hotas av undergång. Med förtvivlan i sitt fredliga hjärta måste rådsordföranden ge den order som sätter i gång det yttersta vapnet. Då linar man upp jordmänniskorna som kliver ut sina boxar, sträcker på sig i sina fina uniformer, kliver in i rymdskeppen och läddar kanonerna. Kriget börjar. Det blir synd om inkräkterna.

Historien slutar inte riktigt där, men den kunde ha gjort det. Jag tänkte att folk säkert, om de läser historien, kommer att slaka på huvudet åt sådana fantasier om en så oerhört avancerad civilisation. Så jag satte in det gamla tidsskriftshäftet i bokhyllan igen och återgick till verklighetens tidsningsläsning.

SANDER

Salon Gablin



späktiven och älska ihop en hypotetisk miljö kan sciencefictionförfattarna i lugn och ro skriva om den pågående civilisationen och säga de röste och upprifligaste sanningar, utan risk att lästredade teknikkor förtärr vad de menar. Det måste vara skönt för författare att kunna skriva på det viset.

Jag kom att tänka på detta när jag nyligen läste ett run i Lund av en oerhört belest vän och i mitten av hans djupa bokhylla hittade några nummer av en gammal sciencefictiontidskrift som hette "Häpnal" — ett bra namn — och som man kanske inte kan få tag på nu längre.

I ett av numren fanns en liten konstig historia som jag kände igen; jag hade nog läst den någon gång för många år sedan.

Det handlar om Det Yttersta Vapnet, i världen sedan den är organiserad omkring prectivision är framåt i tiden. Alla platser i Gaa är galaxen är förenade i ett slags universalsamfund, under ledning av ett

machinery lurking in the sf environment. Others who are more pessimistic and misanthropic and therefore see life the right way are irritated by the insane fantasies in some sf books about a united world where people live a civic life without fighting each other. And most are angry at the basic thought of sf literature, to anticipate development and write how the future will be. That's bad enough. But it is a misunderstanding. You see, by meddling with the time perspective and inventing a hypothetical background the sf author may peacefully write about the contemporary civilisation and criticise the raw, honest truths without risk that the easily irritated people understand what they mean. It must be be relief for a writer to write that way. I came to think of this when I recently borrowed a room from a well-read friend and in the middle of his deep bookshelf found a few issues of an old sf magazine Häpnal! - a good name - which you perhaps can't find any more. /Title means "Be astounded!" and the mag folded in 1966. / In one of the issues was a strange little story I recognised. I had probably read it sometime many years ago. It's about The Ultimate Weapon, about the world is it's organised in about 3000 years forward in time. Everyone in the galaxy are united in some sort of universal empire, lead by a high council and everyone are deeply civilised, psychologically and morally incapable of doing harm and therefore live in peace. Except the strange people on planet Earth. They were so warring that they couldn't mix with other beings without slaughtering them. Because of this they in the beginning of time after a lot of hassle subdued earth people and sedated them on a planet where they now were stored in some sort of refrigerators in long, long rows Just as the US president these days through a secret telephone may order a nuclear attack - if needed, in the name of peace - the chairman of the highest council of the galaxy the lone power to in times of disaster release the Ultimate Weapon. The weapon the peaceful empire has is a horrible device. And so there is an invasion by some strange, cruel figures from an alien

world. The police can't deal with them, they loot and blow up and destroy. The galactic empire is threatened with going under. Despite despair in his peaceful heart the chairman issues the order that releases the ultimate weapon. They thaw up the Earth people, who step out of their boxes, raise up in their fine uniforms, enters the spaceships and loads up the guns. The war starts. It goes bad for the intruders. The story doesn't end there, but it could have. I think that if people read the story will shake their heads at such fantasies about a civilisation so advanced. So I put the magazine back in the shelf and returned to reading about reality in the newspaper.

I don't know who signature "Sander" is, but it seems he likes our skiffy. Does anyone know what story he describes? I have a vague memory of having read it. I sounds like something by, say, Eric Frank Russell.

Finally, I'm not sure this qualifies for the History Corner, except it's about the possibly oldest amateur film club in the world, the *Bradford Movie Makers*

<http://bradfordmoviemakers.com/> founded in 1932 (as the Bradford Cine Club but stemming from meetings began in 1926, the *Amazing* year). With dwindling membership, no money and a clubhouse in need of repair, the documentary "*A Bunch of Amateurs*" is a charming story about real enthusiasts. Our local SVT shows it here <https://www.svtplay.se/video/8q13vzy/dox-ett-gang-amatorer> (geo-restricted, but use VPN or something if you know how).

As you know from eg my report from Sweden's Short Film Festival I like amateur film making. These guys have made 300 films through their 90 years! Read <https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/23077119.worlds-oldest-amateur-film-making-club-hits-big-screen/> But now an unexpected fannish twist...

Suddenly we see our old buddy Jim Walker in the middle of the gang, who at I have met on numerous sf cons! I remember Jim once treated me with typical British fish & chips on a Worldcon! (Glasgow 2005 I believe.) He says he'll be on Eurocon in Uppsala (8-11 June) so we can all met him there. The world is small, indeed.

An Evening with Swedenborg

I'm like Ukraine: I'm being occupied. At least partially. I have a writing project, kept under wraps for the time being, and this spring I'm taking the course "Creating Worlds" (distance course, 'Net learning), all of it taking up extra time. So I've cut down on external events, and though there's been a couple since lastish they were rather mundane, not anything from the top of your list.

But I must tell you about an evening with the Swedenborg society!

I went there last year too, when there was the annual Stockholm Culture Night, an evening when hundreds of museums, galleries and other institutions have extra programs and events for free. The Swedenborgians have their Library and Forum in the southern district (51 Öland Street), kilometres from most of the other things that went on this year's Culture Night (April 22). So for logistical reasons I decided to start with Swedenborg and try something else if it turned out dull.

It didn't. They offered both music and literature and film! And chocolate and red wine. And of course this strange, interesting man Swedenborg, scientist and inventor and mystic spiritualist from the 18th Century. He claimed to have had contacts with aliens and other worlds and started a New Church. He designed one of the earliest aeroplanes and published Sweden's first scientific journal! In those days the borderline between science and the occult was very thin. (Newton was into alchemy gold making. Astronomy mixed with astrology. Etc.) Born of a wealthy mining family (the father later became bishop) as Emanuel Swedberg. He

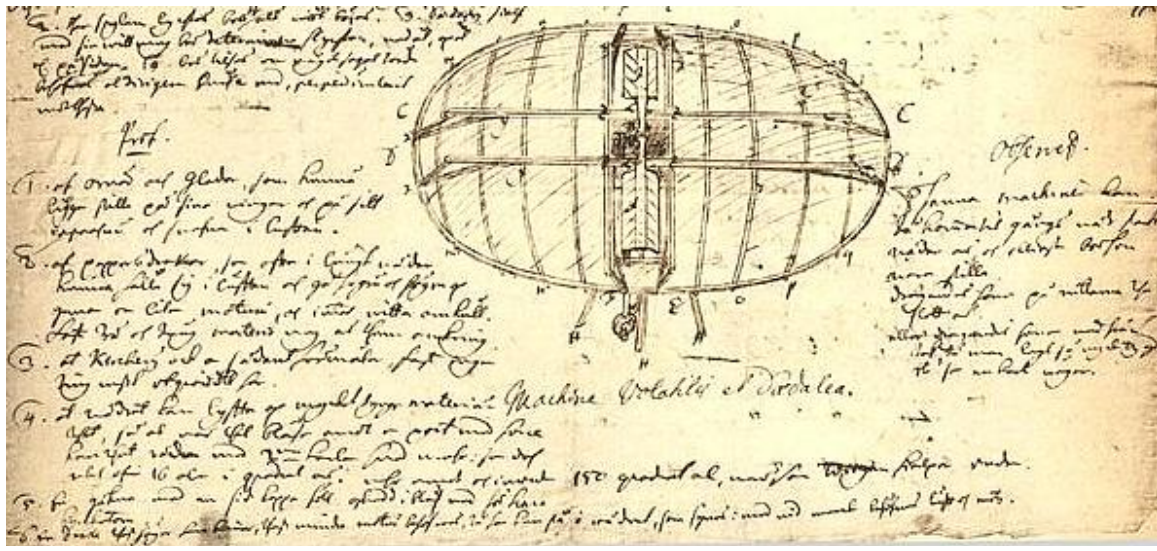


Jim Walker, from the world's oldest film club.



Emanuel Swedenborg 1688-1772, scientist, mystic, writer, inventor.

modified his name to Swedenborg when he was ennobled in 1712. He studied science at Uppsala University and went on the - for the wealthy - customary Grand Tour of Europe 1710-1715 where he met several leading men of science. He devoted himself to science and



Swedenborg's notes about "A Machine to Rise in the Weather". He left 20 000+ pages of engineering for a couple notes: "dream sights", religious speculations, inventions etc! Mostly written in Latin. of decades when he came back and became a friend of the great scientist and engineer Christopher Polhem, whose many inventions and ideas made up the bulk of the scientific journal - Sweden's first, with active support by king Charles XII who Swedenborg had met - *Daedalus Hyperboreus* (six issues 1716-17 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Daedalus-Hyperboreus>). After 20 years of serious science he became increasingly interested in religious and occult speculations, especially after 1744 when he began having strange dreams. On his science writings: <https://swedenborg.com/emanuel-swedenborg/scientific-writings/> About his life: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emanuel_Swedenborg



A model of Swedenborg's flying machine. It could perhaps have worked as a glider?

In his spiritual speculations and dream sights, he often ventured far out in space claiming to have dream meetings with angels and beings of the planets in our solar system and even further away worlds. It was presented in 10 800 numbered paragraphs. These seem to be the basis of his revamping of Christianity, leading to what became the New Church. It is fully alive today, particularly in London, UK, and the USA, Cambridge (Mass).

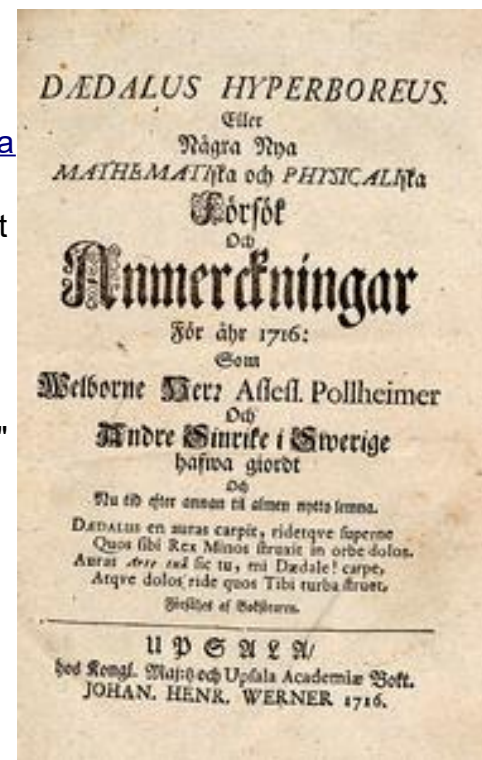
Some info sites:

<https://swedenborg.org/> <https://swedenborg.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedenborgian_Church_of_North_America



Page from Swedenborg's science mag, equations and all.

For some reason, Swedenborg has much more followers abroad than in Sweden! I don't have exact figures, but the group running the Swedenborg Library and Forum probably numbers 50-100 or so. About 30 turned up this evening, but I also learned the Swedenborgians have a lot of "hang-arounds" who are interested in Swedenborg without being active or members. Also, the Swedenborgians seem to be very open minded and nothing like one of those strange cults we sometimes see. I had a good look through their well-stocked library, which contains a bit of everything - all about Swedenborg of course (and much has been written!), philosophy, science, religion, the



Daedalus Hyperboreus ("Northern Daedalus") published by Swedenborg 1716-1717 with six issues was Sweden's first scientific journal.

occult, art. A good description may be that it's a smaller version of the Archive for the Unexplained, that *Intermission* covered a few issues back.

The evening began with romantic music on flute and piano to get us into the right mood.



Then it was time for actor Berit Lundberg to talk about poets of early 19th Century English romantic poets and read poems by them: Byron, Shelley, Coleridge, Wordsworth and finally Keats. She read Swedish translation. Keats was her favourite and he was translated by Sven Christer Swahn who we know from the sf world (SCS used to read my sf newszine!). English romanticism was described as a "revolutionary" art movement, and supposedly that connects it to Swedenborg who also had many revolutionary thoughts. Percy Shelley was of course husband of Mary Shelley, though he unfortunately died much too early, drowning during a storm at age 29. I like poetry! The famous "Frankenstein" horror workshop in Switzerland in 1816 wasn't covered, alas.. Why did romantic poets suddenly indulge in



Bergman was inspired by eg Japanese woodcuts, as you may see. Fowerbed's colours in Swedenborg's thought meant: white=faith, red=love, blue=truth, yellow=mercy.

ghastly terror one wonders.

Here's a fragment of Lord Byron's "Darkness", that venture into space, later followed by Armageddon,

<https://genius.com/Lord-byron-darkness-annotated> (I don't remember if this was read):

*I had a dream, which was not all a dream.
The bright sun was extinguished, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless, and pathless, and the icy Earth
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;
Morn came and went - and came, and brought no day*



Watching a Swedenborg documentary.

Next was a lecture by Susanna Åkerman on the artist and Swedenborgian Oskar Bergman, 1879-1963 (who read through all the 10 800 dream sights etc twice!). He liked to paint birch trees.

After a pause with chocolate and some wine we saw a documentary about Swedenborg. It's not exactly these, but I found others on Youtub, and have a look if you're curious:

"Heaven, Hell and Other Places"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UR-ik9JQT0> , "Splendors of the Spirit:

Swedenborg's Quest for Insight "

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdzeFKh9_D4 and "The Spirituality of

Aliens - Swedenborg & Life"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHKcQE1EbRA> - and there are more to find. The last film has heavy skiffy vibes!

I've never been impressed by "dream sights". Scientists can tell us that dreams are just the brain rehashing impressions and info you already have, to purge and sort among them, so I guess I'm not much of a Swedenborgian. At the same time, I find the man interesting, even fascinating! He invented aeroplanes (of sorts), believed in life in the universe, published sciene magazines, etc!



From "The Spirituality of Aliens". Have Spacesuit - Will Travel...

Mailing Comments

Comments to only EAPA (NAPA has no new mailing). And why not consider doing a fanzine, and join!

Henry Grynsten: "/Asimov/ was under the impression, that this was legitimate and permissible flirtation." I agree. // "Gjor" was a silly typo. I meant "gjord" of course (fixed!). ★★I saw "foo fighters" explained as ball lightning produced by static electricity, which charged when the bombers moved through the air. The way they moved around the wings indicates that it could be so.★★I've never written a TV or film script, don't think I could and the film "UFO Sweden" (see January ish) has already done something similar. ★★"The term sexual assault refers to.." etc. I googled your definition, and it seems to come from organisations like Rainn.org, dedicated to sex crimes and thus having aim to describe things as gross as possible. Lets consult Webster's, a reputable source. "Assault" is described as "1. a violent physical or verbal attack /"verbal" is irrelevant/. 2. a military attack... 3. a concentrated effort..." I defined assault as "violently attack with the purpose of hurting or subduing someone" That's consistent with Webster's 1 and 3 (2 is irrelevant since no one argues that Asimov militarily assaulted women). Groping can't be called an "assault"! You say Asimov couldn't have been "inhibited and insecure in his relations to the opposite sex /since he/ didn't stammer, blush, or fall silent". But people behave in different ways. You may be inhibited without blushing, stammering or being silent. It is for instance well-known that many try to hide insecurity by talking too much and being outward-acting. You simply try to over-compensate. Asimov had problems knowing how to connect to women, so he over-compensated by making physically direct contact (=groping). ★★"Asimov's/ character development was sparse". For me, that usually feels liberating. Some writers writes lengthy internal psychological babble that's just boring. I think Asimov's character development was adequate, he wrote what was needed for the story and the plot. (In a later comment you BTW seem to agree that it works for Asimov's stories.) ★★You say "general fiction" (what we often call mainstream) is about people. No mainstream is *also* about ideas, or more precise: how to resolve a conflict or solve a problem. All meaningful stories are about that. In mainstreams conflicts/problems are dealt with via the methods we have in our world. In a sf we may also speculate about new methods that don't exist yet, but *what if* they existed... ★★"Psychology" in fiction is overrated because it is always based on only one person - the author. That makes the psychology very narrow and one-sided. ★★Well, Asimov was autodidact in many areas and very intelligent. I would trust him to have interesting and revealing things to say on many subjects, even though he wasn't "formally" an expert in it. ★★"the human brain is far too complex to be copied exactly with current systems". Well, not really. The human brain's complexity is from *connections among huge number of basically simple things* (braincells). The low-level components themselves aren't complex. The layout of the town of London is very complex, but that's from having a huge number of streets. But every street in London itself isn't anything complex or difficult to comprehend. It's a stretch of flat ground. The human brain's smallest components, some 85 Billion neurons, can be fairly well be simulated in AIs. But the huge number of the components between the simple neural components is what matters and those self-organise. AIs make a lot of trial runs and create the connections by lightning fast trial and error. Our brain is here slower. Cab drivers in London are required to know how to find *every* street, something that may take years to learn (and studies have show that the brain parts for localising of London Cabbies actually grow as they train).★★"AI has ideas in areas that we can't understand, we can't know that they are wrong." Difficult to know anything about *yet*, and we know the principles behind (connections, trial and error). My tests with ChatGPT this far implies it's imagination is rather limited. With minor exceptions results are rather bland... *But they will improve!* ★★"You

may put in an algorithm which /doesn't say/ under which circumstances you STOP" Well, AI's using an *external* "check algorithm" should work, as independent of the AI. You claim " we have no possibility of writing those kinds of algorithms" but we don't write them, we create them through training (and we *can* write the training algorithms). You can set conditions for calling for the fire brigade even if ignorant of how to build a house. Do we see smoke? Yes. Do we see flames through a window? Yes. Call the fire brigade! ★★"the AI trainers continually interfere with the system and correct problems" - no the algorithms interfere and correct. Systems can learn wrong things, a Microsoft chatbot became a Hitler for example. ★★Interesting *Wild Ideas* issue, anyway. I agree with a lot of what you say about identity politics. People's mental ability to think they are - or pretend they are - something else than in reality seem to have no bounds. The Prussian general von Bleucher thought he was pregnant with an elephant. King Charles VI of France thought he was made of glass. People sometimes think they can fly - even *without* LSD. Some have contact with aliens via devices implanted in their heads, they think. The solution isn't to capitulate to such whims, but to try counter them. The very tragic thing with promoting "trans rights", "intersexuality" and such is that it lures undeveloped, insecure young teenagers to make bad decisions they may (and often will!) regret for the rest of their lives. We should not let people under legal age have hormones and operations, never without the consent of the parents (as fully grown-ups they have better judgement and they are responsible for their child), or make it easy to "change legal gender", a move that can only encourage the risk of making damaging decisions.

William McCabe: Yes, this modern, electronic world often makes it difficult if you don't have the right device, card, account, or whatever. That's sad. Those cretins designing these systems should think a bit more. ★★I don't think wages is the only thing that can make people feel valued. Creating something that looks good also works! I think it's OK if machines, robots, AI and such take over a number of jobs and tasks. That means we haven't to do boring things. The problem is to translate the surplus from that productivity into something benefiting everyone. (Though at minimum we should always give assistance to those worse off. (But not at any cost try to level all differences. That'd be counterproductive! It ignores the individual, requires oppression and slows development.) Eg certain taxes are needed, but those must have limitations. (I won't here go into details.) "/Market economy/ needs a large proportion of the population in paid employment so that it can value things based on what those people want." Well, paid employment or self employment may be good but charity, grants, subsidies also works. Market demand works no matter from where the money comes. ★★"When the



machines take over /market economy/ fails. " I doubt it. BTW, I replace "capitalism" with the term "market economy". The market is a *much* more central property than capital. ★★I know about luminist.org. I don't care if it isn't 100% legitimate. For old material, especially, copyright is overreaching what is morally defensible. ★★ Oh, it's easy to fit Finnegans Wake into 500 pages or 350 or whatever! Just use smaller type, tighter lines, a more efficient typeface. I have the book, and as I remember it's reasonably tightly set, and the book's size is a bit bigger than a normal paperback.

Garth Spencer: I forwarded the message that Fanac.org wants more fanzines ("European" ones also) to Tomas Cronholm, who has scanned some historically important Swedish fanzines. I urged him to contact Fanac.org, but don't know if he did. ★★Well, a groper could be called a leech. I don't like that with Asimov, but I guess but his background made him what he was. ★★Yes, language is often used in a sloppy way. ★★ Time to sign off. Do your duty. Do a fanzine! Masquerading, plastic swords and games ain't for *real* sf fans!

Слава Україні!