

move, and we'll henceforth be paying in Canadian rather than U.S. funds.

There was a considerable cache of data, accumulated over many years, to transfer from former host to new, which took some time. The site is currently up again and running; there are a few "settling in" issues which we are in the process of working out, and a certain learning curve, of course, but all is proceeding as well as can be expected.

Webmaster Cathy Palmer-Lister has been tirelessly tackling the task, and we commend her for all efforts made on behalf of the club.

FEBRUARY MonSFFA MEETING

February's MonSFFA get-together was an e-meeting via ZOOM, held on Saturday afternoon, February 8.

We began with a discussion of those genres that folk thought mixed particularly well with our favourite genre, SF/F! Citing favourite books, films, and television series, each participant outlined examples of, for instance, good sci-fi/romance, or sci-fi/horror stories. The distinct elements of both SF/F and the genre with which it was coupled, people commented, lent to the story an extra punch, making for an elevated level of enjoyment. Most of us, after all, are fans of more than one genre, and so savour a good mix that offers us the best of both.

Alien (1979) was cited as a great example of sci-fi/horror; it is, essentially, a gothic horror or monster movie in space. Sequel *Aliens* (1986) added a third genre: military fiction.

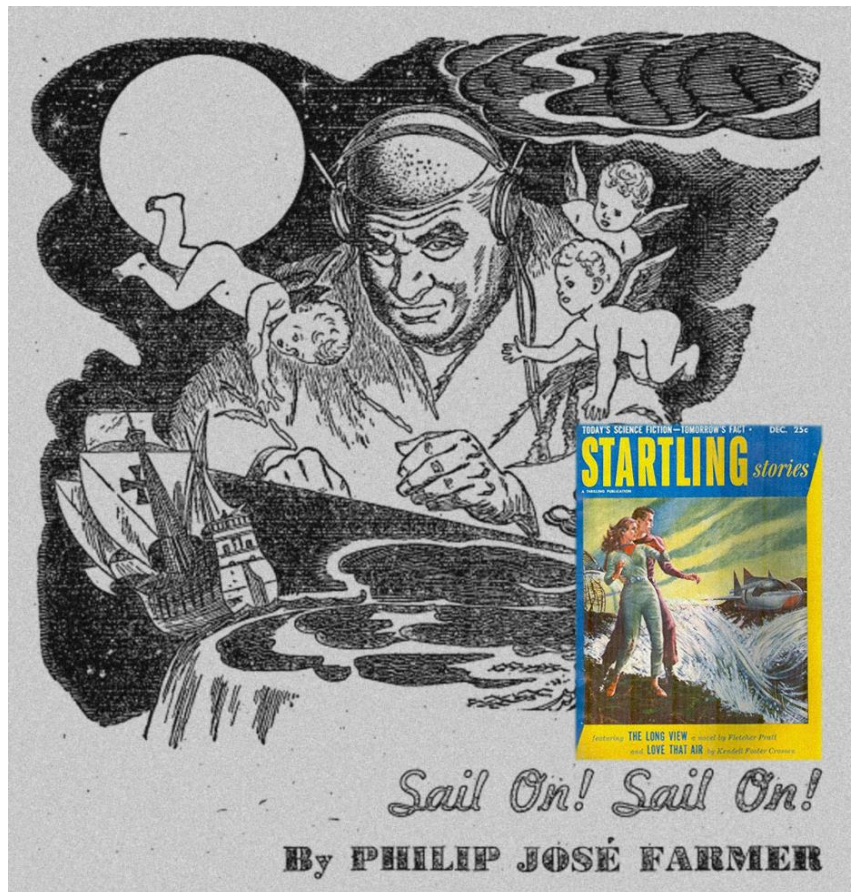
Several people mentioned historical fiction as a genre they quite enjoyed, made all the more captivating when SF/F is stirred into the pot. Similarly, alternate history, with Harry Turtledove's *Worldwar* series spotlighted—space aliens invade Earth as World War II rages.

And let's not forget the blending of science fiction with fantasy, as in Anne McCaffrey's *Pern* series!

Danny Sichel followed, putting up a presentation on water in SF/F. He began with the basics, the elemental composition and different states of water, one of the Earth's most precious, life-supporting resources.

Tribal man set out to explore that which lay beyond his immediate region and traversed the world in ships large and small, down rivers and across oceans, discovering new worlds, and new civilizations, to borrow a phrase. We have harnessed water for the purposes of agriculture, the generation of electrical power, and for recreational activities.

Danny spoke of water as employed in SF/F, from water-based superheroes like Aquaman and Namor to films like *The Abyss* (1989), *Creature From the Black Lagoon* (1954), and *The Shape of Water* (2017) to stories in which water figures significantly, citing SF heavyweights such as Jules Verne, Isaac Asimov, J. G. Ballard, and China Miéville. The latter's YA novel *Railsea* (2012) pays homage to Herman Melville's classic *Moby-Dick* (1851). Danny focused briefly on Philip José Farmer's *Riverworld* series (1971-1983), and such as Hal Clement's *Ice World* (1953) and *Ocean on Top* (1973), Mira Grant's si-fi/horror mermaid tale *Into the Drowning Deep* (2017), and Mary Robinette Kowal's *The Calculating Stars* (2018). Farmer's short



story "Sail On, Sail On," published in the December 1952 issue of *Startling Stories* (pictured here), presented readers with an alternate history in which Columbus does, in fact, sail off the edge of the world because in this timeline, Earth is not a globe but a disc!

January's meeting did not include our usual raffle draw and to compensate for this oversight, two prizes were awarded during this February meeting's midway break, and will be delivered to the winners at an upcoming, in-person club meeting, or by postal mail, if necessary. We take this opportunity to thank those MonSFFen who have donated prize items to our raffles.

The afternoon's final programme item showcased the hobby workstations of club members. Each person spoke of their hobbies, and of the "hobby space" they've set up in their home, some sharing photos of the spot with the group. We ran the gamut from corner nook to kitchen table to basement or garage workshop!

Also, as winter blustered outside, Keith Braithwaite shared with the group two lists, one of SF/F's most memorable winter worlds, the second of the top dozen superheroes or -villains themed after ice and snow. These were originally meant to be posted on the club Website during the meeting, but as the site was temporarily down, Keith offered them to his fellow MonSFFen through ZOOM.

We thank our presenters and discussion moderators for their contributions to our programming on this occasion, and tip our hat, as well, to all who helped to plan and run the meeting.

DISRUPTIONS TO IMPULSE RELEASE/DELIVERY SCHEDULE

We regret the recent disruptions to the release/delivery schedule of *Impulse*, in particular regarding the print version of this publication. Some club members may have received the January-February edition late (and perhaps this March issue, too). Delays were because of issues related to the Canada-wide postal strike and mail-delivery delays post-strike, as well as the sporadic absence of our editor, who is currently undergoing medical procedures which are keeping him away from his keyboard. Rest up and get well soon, Mr. Editor!

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

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: Keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the *Impulse* mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9

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