

SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2016 אוקטובר – חדשות האגודה



[/http://2016.iconfestival.org.il](http://2016.iconfestival.org.il)

מועדון הקריאה של חודש אוקטובר יתקיים במסגרת פסטיבל אייקון, ולכבוד נושא הפסטיבל "משחקים" יעסוק בספר "המהלכים בקצוות" מאת דיאנה ווין ג'ונס. יתקיים ב-18/10 ב-16:00 במתחם פסטיבל אייקון (עירוני א' ואשכול פיס), רחוב הארבעה, ת"א. כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים ב**לוח האירועים** (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף ל**רשימת התפוצה** או ל**דף האגודה בפייסבוק**.

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

לשנה טובה ה'תשע"ז – Happy Jewish New Year 5777

א גוט געזונט יאר

Readers' Real Remarks:

Dear Leybl, I was glad to meet you at the Aguda's 20th birthday event. Thank you for your work in editing the monthly CyberCozen fanzine. I enjoy reading it, and it is nice to have something Israeli in English about SF.

Keep up the good work,
Sara G.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The above is just one of the pleasant surprises from my visit to the 20th anniversary celebration of the **Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy (ISSF&F)**... – Read more below.

Well, that was quite the issue! A wide variety of new SF items to mentally imbibe, digest, and consider -- great food for thought! I particularly enjoyed the various color images -- something that the old CyberCozen in black-and-white didn't feature. The various links, reviews, and other features all add up to a winning combination! As always, I look forward to next month's CC!

Gary

This month's roundup:

- Our (preliminary) report on the 20th Anniversary celebration of the **Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy**
- Part III of "The More the Merrier" on Duplicates / Clones/ etc. – with a review of the TV series "Orphan Black"
- The promised Terry Pratchett write-up

And, of course, the Sheer Science section by Dr. Doron Calo: The Impossible Propulsion Drive
– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

(...and still on the backburner [but getting closer to realization] the completion of the Zombie series special issue ...)



מזל טוב!!! חגיגת 20 שנה לאגודה
Congratulations!!!
20th Israeli Society for SF&F Anniversary



Editor's Boo-Boo...

Uh oh... I've misplaced the scribbled notes I took at the event ... so I'll have to do this by memory....

The ISSF&F 20th Anniversary Event– A Short Report (PART-I)

<http://www.sf-f.org.il/archives/1294>

A memorable event took place on Thursday the 19th of August, 2016 at the Tel Aviv ZOA House: the well-attended and well-organized 20th anniversary celebration of the *Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy (ISSF&F)*.

In the past, I've visited various events of the society (e.g. ICON [***NOTE: Next one is coming up in 2 weeks' time!!**]), came to a few lectures, and even gave one myself. However, this was the first time I had a real up-close contact with the members of the Society at both the organizational level and the 'ordinary-extra-ordinary' level (the uncommon, common folk – like you and I) – and I was greatly impressed!

I know that they do wonderful things, but this was a great opportunity to see them in action – at their best: acting very naturally and breathing freely – not stiff or 'over intellectual'. Geeky in their own way, the people I met and heard on stage were all non-Alien: Real warm, and funny, and intelligent down-to-earth, yet sometimes slightly flighty human beings. Most were young, in their twenties, but many older models were visible as well (who were obviously in their twenties, 20 years ago, when it all began).

The schedule for the evening began with a formal meeting of the executive – open to all members and guests. I came in at the tail end of the financial report. When I say 'formal' it's only because the executive members were on stage and we were sitting in the audience. That having been said, the half-dozen or so were sitting at the edge of the stage – and not in chairs talking from a podium. The talk was a friendly exchange and there was nothing stuffy about it.

Following the 'formal' part (some decisions were taken) – the real fun began.

The evening was divided up into several parts:

- a very few number of formal speeches – short and to the point
- a hilarious presentation by some of the veteran members, recounting some nostalgic memories, the funny and absurd, etc. of events going right or wrong during the years – in particular concerning humorous moments at the various ICON events – including a brilliant walk-through by one of the members giving us a blow-by-blow race up and down the building trying to locate some missing key to some room. It was very well done – only a bit too long in its repetition. BTW – as a souvenir, we were all given a disk-on key with electronic memorabilia of the past 20 years of activities AND a "key" key-chain inscribed with the ISSF&F Society logo (probably as a reminder of the famous key-chase – some kind of inside joke that if you weren't there – or at this event – you wouldn't "get it"...)
- A special commendation ceremony honouring Emanuel Lotem – one of the founders of the Society and one of the most prominent and popular translators of modern SF from English to Hebrew. He also made a short presentation outlining some of the history of the Society and the development of SF and interest in SF, in Israel.
- A singing duo
- A very humorous, very well done "SF" theatrical performance (more next time ...)

**** Unfortunately, as mentioned above – in my rather embarrassing disclaimer – I seem to have misplaced my hand-written notes, so I'll have to continue in the upcoming issue.**

Here are some pics:



The More, the Merrier (Part III) "Orphan Black" (2013-2017) TV Series Review

Did you ever wonder what it would be like if you discovered that you had an exact duplicate twin brother (if you're a boy) – or sister (if you're a girl)? Now, maybe, some of you are actually twins or even triplets (like the triplet Olympians from Estonia or even the triplicate boys and girls going to grade one this school-year in Israel)



... but what if you discovered not one, or two – but a dozen of you ...? And what if you were the actress that had to play all the different parts...?

Well, this is the Canadian SF TV series "Orphan Black" that I've been following with keen interest and with great enjoyment – and mostly because of the great acting ability of the heroine. Having completed its 4th season, this is how it starts:

A young British girl, Sarah Manning (played by the multi-talented Tatiana Maslany), is standing at a subway train terminal (I think it's NYC). She observes another young lady (seemingly upset) who just arrived at the other end of the waiting platform drop her handbag and remove her shoes. As Sarah approaches her, the woman turns around and they are surprised to look into each other's faces – they could be twins. Just then the subway train arrives, and the woman spins around and jumps in front of the train, committing suicide.

Sarah is visibly shocked (on both accounts), but at the same time – being street-wise – she sees an opportunity and picks up the woman's bag and makes her way to the woman's apartment using her keys and IDs. It turns out that the woman is well off, has a boyfriend who

Sarah must now trick into believing that she is the original – and worse, that woman is a police officer, Beth Childs. Sarah must now "fit into the dead woman's shoes" and transform her life to adapt to a totally new lifestyle – not an easy task.

As the series progresses, however, Sarah begins to discover that the dead Beth was following up on a series of clones of herself and she begins to track them down. For example, Alison Hendrix, a typical suburban housewife with all the standard accoutrements: Husband, 2 kids, a dog, an SUV and a handgun. Later she discovers Cosima Niehaus a biology student, and that there are a dozen more. Interestingly enough, Sarah has a daughter, but none of the others can have kids (Alison's are adopted). Oh and there is also Katja – a crazy Ukrainian clone, bent on killing all the other clones.

The series has lots of intriguing and suspenseful moments, and not a small amount of humour – usually around Alison and her suburban lifestyle (as well as with Sarah's gay adopted brother).

The highlight of the show is, of course the actress, Tatiana Maslany, portraying all of the different clones, each with a unique personality (and accent). In a few cases, Tatiana Maslany – playing Sarah, must not only act as if she is Beth, but also fill the role of Alison, or of Alison playing Sarah... it's not all that confusing, but it can be sometimes...

Of course there's more to the story, such as the secret corporation that created the clones, why some are dying from a breathing deficiency, why they are sterile (but Sarah isn't) and most importantly, that the clones have all been marked with a DNA stamp as being the legally owned property of that corporation ...

We'll stop here, so as not to get into spoilers...

- First and second season are really, really worth watching. We haven't had time to see the rest, but the fifth season is in the making - so it must be good all the way through.

***** Write us about your favorite book, comic, or movie duplicate/clone(s) *****

Terry Pratchett's Wonderful World of ... Words

- By Leybl Botwinik

Terry Pratchett, may he rest in peace¹ was a wonderfully wicked wizard with words... and names (first and last), and place names, and... - but we'll maybe cover that another time. What I would like to touch on this time 'round, is the 'talking' words.

I.e. use of language, such as the words used by the tiny but terrifying Nac Mac Feegles - for which he created a glossary that may be found at the front (intro) of "A Hat full of Sky" and "Wintersmith" and the back of "I Shall Wear Midnight" (possibly elsewhere - but I haven't read all the books).

But more so, his books contain very specific scripts and fonts for his characters' voices.

e.g. Death: **SPEAKS ONLY IN BOLD SERIF CAPITAL CHARACTERS**

e.g. Golem: **THEY CAN'T SPEAK, BUT CAN WRITE TEXT ON A SLATE IN BOLD CAPS IN A SPECIAL FONT THAT LOOKS SOMEWHAT LIKE THIS**

e.g. Klatch: *The people from this continent often have their speech displayed in a strange (sometimes difficult to read) italicized script-like font*

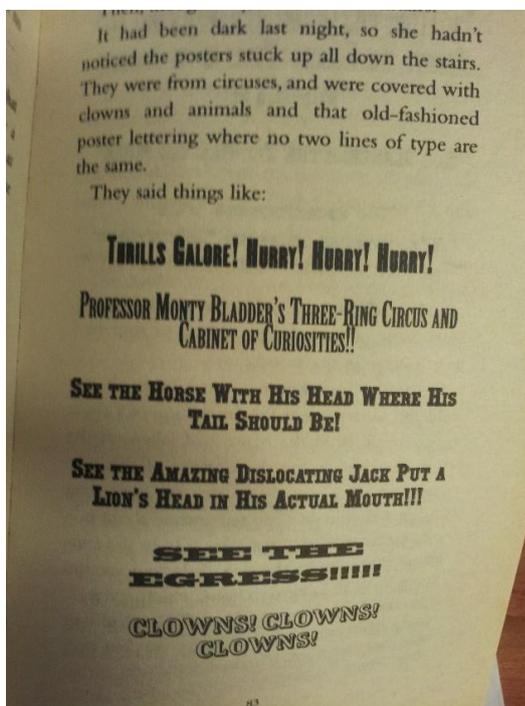
e.g. Hex - Unseen University's complex calculating contraption (something between a mechanical hand-blender and a super-computer run by ants) types out its answers with formal fonts and lots of "++++" and "----" and "?????" combinations as the computers of the 1960s-80s used to do. Here's a sample snip of a typical Pratchett text:

In short, Ponder was just a little bit worried.
 He sat down at the keyboard. It was almost as big as the rest of Hex, to allow for the necessary levers and armatures. The various keys allowed little boards with holes in them to drop briefly into slots, forcing the ants into new paths.
 It took him some time to compose the problem, but at last he braced one foot on the structure and tugged on the Enter lever.
 The ants scurried on new paths. The clockwork started to move. A small mechanism which Ponder would be prepared to swear had not been there yesterday, but which looked like a device for measuring wind speed, began to spin.
 After several minutes a number of blocks with occult symbols on them dropped into the output hopper.
 "Thank you," said Ponder, and then felt extremely silly for saying so.
 There was a tension to the thing, a feeling of mute straining and striving towards some distant and incomprehensible goal. As a wizard, it was something that Ponder had only before encountered in acorns: a tiny soundless voice which said, yes, I am but a small, green, simple object—but I dream about forests.
 Only the other day Adrian Turnipseed had typed in "Why?" to see what happened. Some of the students had forecast that Hex would go mad trying to work it out; Ponder had expected Hex to produce the message "????", which it did with depressing frequency.
 Instead, after some unusual activity among the ants, it had laboriously produced: "Because."
 With everyone else watching from behind a hastily overturned desk, Turnipseed had volunteered: "Why anything?"
 The reply had finally turned up:
 "Because Everything. ????? Eternal Domain Error. +++++ Redo From Start +++++."
 He was beginning to suspect that Hex was redesigning itself.
 And he'd just said "Thank you." To a thing that looked like it had been made by a glassblower with hiccups.
 He looked at the spell it had produced, hastily wrote it down and hurried out.
 Hex clicked to itself in the now empty room. The thing that went "parp" went parp. The Unreal Time Clock ticked sideways.
 There was a rattle in the output slot.
 "Dont mention it. +?????++ Out of Cheese Error. Redo From Start."

¹ Though, he's probably not resting - in whatever heavenly place he finds himself - and maybe even on Discworld itself. - BTW, Pratchett has lots of similar footnotes dispersed among the pages of his books with side/snide/sarcastic remarks and side-thoughts well worth reading.

Back when there weren't any PCs with word processors and DTP (desk top printing) and today's hundreds of different fonts – posters and printed texts were usually typeset with a limited, but given set of 'standard' fonts. However, for variety, certain large-size fonts were used in posters for special effect.

In his own inimitable way, Pratchett gives us a quick 'history lesson' with something as subtle as describing some old circus posters and without actually showing us pictures of the posters (which would probably make us lose our attention). He focuses us on something few of the new generation might know, and many of us 'older' folk, barely remember. Here is a photo from a page in "A Hat full of Sky":



In another example of his creativity, the enjoyable book "The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents" has a very special twist:
How do intelligent mice communicate in writing?

Terry Pratchett has the answer.

Here is an excerpt about the pack's scribe, Peaches – an intelligent mouse:

The first Thought had been: In the Clan is Strength.
This had been quite a hard one to translate, but she had made an effort. Most rats couldn't read Human. It was just too hard to make the lines and squiggles turn into any sense. So Peaches had worked very hard on making a language that rats could read.
She'd tried to draw a big rat made up of little rats:



The writing had led to trouble with Hamnpork. New ideas needed a running jump to get into the old rat's head. Dangerous Beans had explained in his strange calm voice that writing things down would mean that a rat's knowledge would go on existing even when the rat had died. He said that all the rats could learn the knowledge of Hamnpork. Hamnpork had said: Not likely! It had taken him years to learn some of the tricks he'd learned! Why should he give it all away? That'd mean any young rat would know as much as him!
Dangerous Beans had said: We cooperate, or we die.



That had become the next Thought. "Cooperate" had been difficult, but even keekees would sometimes lead a blind or wounded comrade by using a stick to guide them, and that was certainly cooperation. The thick line,

And continues with:

where she'd pressed heavily, had to mean "no." The trap sign could mean "die" or "bad" or "avoid." Peaches had written down a great many Thoughts. The last Thought on the paper was: Not to Widdle where you Eat. That one was quite simple.



She grasped the piece of lead in both paws and carefully drew No Rat Shall Kill Another Rat.



She sat back. Yes...not bad. "Trap" was a good sign for death, and she'd added the dead rat to make it all more serious.

"But supposing you have to?" she said, still staring at the drawings.

"Then you have to," said Dangerous Beans. "But you shouldn't."

Peaches shook her head sadly. She supported Dangerous Beans because there was...well, something about him. He wasn't big or fast, and he was almost blind and quite weak and sometimes he forgot to eat, because he came up with thoughts that nobody—at least, nobody who was a rat—had thought before. Most of them had annoyed Hamppork no end, like the time when Dangerous Beans had said, "What is a rat?" and Hamppork had replied, "Teeth. Claws. Tail. Run. Hide. Eat. That's what a rat is."

Dangerous Beans had said, "But now we can also say 'What is a rat?' And that means we're more than that."

"We're rats," Hamppork had argued. "We run around and squeak and steal and make more rats. That's what we're made for!"

"Who by?" Dangerous Beans had asked, and that had led to another argument about the Big Rat Deep Under the Ground theory.

But even Hamppork followed Dangerous Beans, and so did rats like Darktan and Donut Enter, and they listened when he talked.

Peaches listened when they talked. "We were given noses," Darktan had told the platoons. Who had given them noses? The thoughts of Dangerous Beans worked their ways into other people's heads without their noticing.

He came up with new ways of thinking. He came up with new words. He came up with ways of understanding the things that were happening to them. Big rats, rats with scars, listened to the little rat because the Change had led them into dark territory, and he seemed to be the only one with an idea of where they were going.

She left him sitting by the candle and went and looked for Hamppork. He was sitting by a wall. Like most of the old rats, he always stuck to walls and kept away from open spaces and too much light. He was shaking.

"Are you all right?" she said.

The shaking stopped.

"Fine, fine, nothing wrong with me!" snapped Hamppork. "Just a few twinges, nothing permanent!"

"Only I noticed you didn't go out with any of the squads," said Peaches.

"There's nothing wrong with me!" shouted the old rat.

"We've still got some potatoes in the baggage—"

"I don't want any food! There is nothing wrong with me!"

...Which meant that there was. It was the reason he didn't want to share all the things he knew. What he knew was all he had left. Peaches knew what rats traditionally did to leaders who were too old. She'd watched Hamppork's face when Darktan—yonger, stronger Darktan—had been talking to his squads, and knew that Hamppork was thinking about it, too. Oh, he was fine when people were watching him, but lately he'd been resting more, and skulking in corners.

Old rats were driven out, to lurk around by themselves and go rotten and funny in the head. Soon there would be another leader.

Peaches wished she could make him understand one of the Thoughts of Dangerous Beans, but the old rat didn't much like talking to females. He'd grown up thinking females weren't for talking to.

The Thought was:



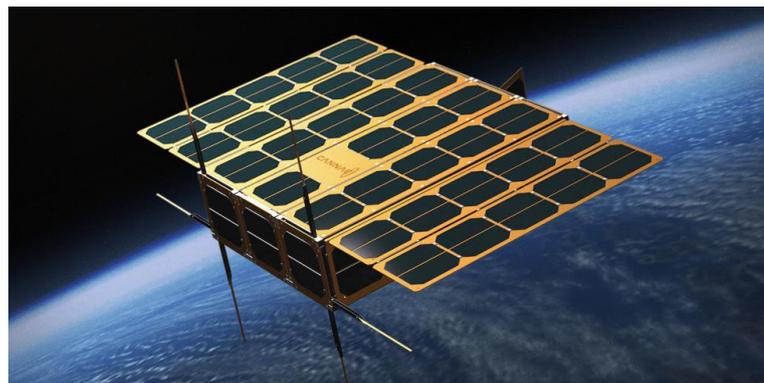
It meant: We Are the Changelings. We Are Not Like Other Rats.

Sheer* Science: A Reactionless Test Drive

(* In memory of Aharon Sheer (7"ט) – Founding Editor)

– Prepared by: Doron Calo*, PhD

(*our CC Sheer Science editor ☺)



One of the most underrated tropes of SF is, in my opinion, the **reactionless drive**. This unsung hero of speculative spaceflight is featured quite extensively in series such as Ringworld (for instance, by zipping the Puppeteers' **General Products Hulls** hither and yon whenever they need to travel outside of hyperspace), yet is it always the **faster-than-light** drives that get all the glory. Well, what if it turns out that reactionless drives are a **reality**? I'll bet it will boost their ratings considerably.

So yes, a specific type of reactionless drive, namely the "**electromagnetic drive**" (**EmDrive**), will soon be getting its big chance to step out of the books and into real spaceflight.

them from July 2016 CyberCozen?) and will be tested in space. The engine's job will be simple: to help correct the satellite's orbit and thus keep it in position, **without the need of propellant**.

A prototype EmDrive is planned to be launched aboard a **CubeSat** (remember

If this experiment works, this will be great news for the satellite engineers who

currently have to use up a big chunk of a typical satellite's payload just to store fuel.

applied to temporary **quantum vacuum virtual plasma**, whose existence still needs to be proven.

And here's the funny thing: no one really knows how the EmDrive works. The theory itself is not really new. Such an invention was first demonstrated in **2003**. Its originator, Roger Shawyer, claimed that thrust is produced by a difference in **radiation pressures**.

Given that the EmDrive apparently violates the fundamental law of the **conservation of momentum**, the positive results that were produced in several experiments were initially attributed to **technical errors**.

Others say that it might involve **electromagnetic forces**. NASA suggested that thrust will be produced from forces

The only way to refute this and show that this magical engine really works is in Space – and personally I'm hoping that this experiment will succeed!

Link: The Impossible Propulsion Drive Is Heading to Space
<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/energy/a22678/em-drive-cannae-cubesat-reactionless/>

Follow-Up: Weird Quantum Science

Speaking of quantum phenomenon, there's been an interesting advancement in the field of **quantum teleportation**. No "real" objects were transported yet, just bits of information, this time across **7 km of optic cable**, using the "**entanglement**" phenomenon I discussed in Sheer Science a few months back (See January 2016 CyberCozen).

This is the first time that such teleportation was achieved using **infrared photons**, and it has serious implications. It takes the concept of **quantum computers**, which is very much upon us, and gives it an upgrade. In the near future, we may see the emerging vision of linking super-fast quantum computers into a **global quantum Internet**, and the sky (or maybe **Skynet?**) is the limit. Wow!

Link:
 Quantum teleportation over 7 kilometres of cables smashes record
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2106326-quantum-teleportation-over-7-kilometres-of-cables-smashes-record/>



UPDATE:

As mentioned in a previous issue, Leonard Nimoy's son, Adam, has produced a film about his father, entitled "For the Love of Spock".

It's just been released.

See a NY Times review with a link to the trailer:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/09/movies/for-the-love-of-spock-review.html?_r=0

We'd love to hear your thoughts on any of the above subjects and we may publish some of them!

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