



Crimea, where all the criminals are! (For now. but soon...not!)

INTERMISSION #136

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and other sciencifiction fans. (Sorry Garth for the sports!) Follow ed's news-tweets fr @SFJournalen.12pubZ4U+, One To pub Zine For You goes (gerns-)back in time! Full speed ahead, damn the typo-does! Early Sep '23

Editorially: Gernsback, Ukraine, Soccer, Book Burning, Etc

This will be a special Hugo issue! No, *Intermission* hasn't won that golden dildo. Hasn't even been nominated, for reasons that seem incomprehensible... No, the famous History Corner department has simply dug deep for info and tidbits about one Mr Gernsbacher. Or Gernsback as he Americanised his name when he immigrated from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. As you saw in last issue Hugo had two big interests: gadgets and sex, machines and girls, inventions and erotica...*Amazing* and *Sexology*, as two of his magazines were titled. But let's drop this raunchy subject.

You'll learn about Hugo's 1920's (!) TV station, with studio and programming. The spinning disk technology wasn't really suited, so from what I gather the output was short TV snippets + radio. But think of it: TV in the air almost 100 years ago! Hugo also had interesting solutions on how to deal with enemy trenches, maybe something for Ukraine to use against the extensive Russian trench system!

We'll have a peek at Hugo's long series of Christmas booklets, and study a few other of his wacky "inventions" - VR glasses, land dreadnoughts of ridiculous size, how to signal Mars, etc. But we'll begin with his ideas of how to write "science" stories, probably history's first how-to-write article for the sf genre.

BTW, I'd like to point to the article "Terror and Books" below, that I think is important! Do you agree?

Don't You Know There's A War On! Every issue of this respectable magazine ends with the phrase "Glory to Ukraine!" in Ukrainian Cyrillic. Tom Clancy smiles in his grave and was vindicated when the Ruskis February 24th last year let his tanks across the Ukrainian border. Vladimir Dickheadovich Putin in his deranged anno-dazumal mindset thought he could and subdue a neighbour in three days. The Americans had seen warning signs and had begun airlifting Javelin portable missiles to Ukraine. The Brits sent in NLAWs. (A UK-Swedish joint project, easy to use and effective, main developer SAAB.) And this stopped the Russian tanks virtually at the gates of Kyiv. Putin hadn't counted on that smart, modern weapons beat medieval thinking. That and a president who didn't want a lift but ammunition.

Putin is 1 1/2 year later is in deep sh*t. Russia is crumbling. Exports have been halved, their military has proven incompetent and weak, squandered by corruption, Russian TV is full of the silliest propaganda. Drones hit Moscow's government buildings almost daily. The Russian population know all isn't going "according to plan". Their oligarchs, who previously stole all wealth, have very limited enthusiasm for the "special military operation". Some are found hanging from the ceiling, fallen from a high-rise window, or dead from sipping unhealthy tea. One even began a coup so Putin donated an anti-aircraft missile to him. Inflation goes up as the ruble falls, Russian hospitals are full of wounded and have difficulties getting medicines. Pensions, social benefits and all are hollowed out as the criminal in the Kremlin spend most of his state budget on the war. Travel is very limited and Russian assets abroad are frozen. Thousands of companies have left the country. E g as IKEA said bye-bye some oligarch opened the



The cause of this unconventional congregation explained below, if you read on.



The Russian IKEA imitation "Swed House". We wonder why they are allowed to use blue and yellow? These colours can get others arrested in today's Russia!

imitation "Swed House", with cheap local or Chinese stuff of questionable quality and they don't seem to be very well stocked. One million of the best educated, productive young men have fled this totalitarian state, to avoid getting drafted and being killed or maimed. Russian Gestapo will give you a free ticket to Gulag if you as much as wave a blank sheet of paper on the street. 100 000s of Russians are dead or wounded. Scores of their generals and colonels have been killed. Putin dig deep in the leftovers from USSR for tanks and APCs that has stood rusting in Siberia since the 1950s. The Ruskis blow

up up dams in desperation, prepare the same for Europe's biggest nuclear site and even threatens the world with a WIII. We see signs of extreme desperation.

This madness can't go on. The Ukrainian counter offensive admittedly goes slower than we hoped (millions of mines is the problem) but it grinds on, and increases the pressure day by day – they have picked up a bit of speed now, breaking through some lines.

The final outcome will be that the Russians either are kicked out or by themselves realise the folly of their doings and withdraw. There are shrinking odds for the Putin regime to collapse, and that may lead to a retreat, especially if Ukraine seriously threatens Crimea, the Jewel in Putin's land robbery. As a news junkie I follow what happens as detailed as I can, through news outlets, web sites and especially Youtube*. The downing of Prigozhin's plane shows Putin doesn't feel and sit very safe.

Presently, the Ukrainian forces have liberated two oblasts and in the new offensive more than 300 sqkm of land along the fronts, especially in Zaporizhzhia by which they can corner Russian forces in and near Crimea. The ultimate aim is to reach the Azow Sea, so the Russians are cut off via land. (The Crimea bridge is already unserviceable to a substantial degree. Ukrainian drones can probably cut the rest at will any day. I suspect they allow some capacity to let Russians flee from Crimea.) The Russians have dug extensive trenches and spread mines everywhere (de-mining will take decades). The mines are a bigger problem than the extensive trenches, often manned by conscripts who see supplies go up in smoke, don't know why they are there and would rather go home to mama. Many run away or surrender.

My guess is that the Ukrainians, instead of a foolhardy push forward at any cost, are careful with their troops and concentrate on destroying as much Russian forces and material as possible. Against military experience the Ukrainian attackers seem to have much *lower* losses than the Russian defenders. Usually it's the reverse. Zelensky clearly wants to minimise Ukrainian human costs. Intelligence, good planning, precision (delivered Western artillery is much more accurate), protection (troops get real flak jackets, not cardboard, and delivered Western IFVs have better crew survivability) let them take out Russians with less risks to themselves. I see daily videos of Ukrainian special units storming Russian trenches, where Putin's troops in many cases do the sensible thing and surrender (to Geneva convention food, bed, medical care, in contrast Putin's cohorts who have never even heard of Geneva).

Putin has great difficulties with replacing the heavy losses. The Russian economy can ill afford it, an increasing number of families get bad news about loved ones, which causes growing resentment, the fighting spirit among unwilling and confused conscripts is plummeting. It all weakens Russia from within and may break the Russian will to fight - what von Clausewitz declared was the aim in war. Ukranian C-inC- general Zaluzhnyi has read his Clausewitz.

On Youtube I've seen Swedish vehicles in action in Ukraine (Strv122/Leopard 2, CV90 combat vehicle - recently praised by Zelensky, and Ukraine will take up producing it - and the world's fastest mobile artillery: Archer) though the Ukrainians this far has held much of their fresh reserves back.

They wait for de-mining and a weak spot for a hammer blow.

And they are very innovative! In Soviet times, Ukrainians were known for being the engineers of that empire. Much of the USSR electronics, space, metallurgy etc industries were in Ukraine. Now they adapt drones for dropping grenades with 3D-printed fins. They employ lots of decoys that Russians waste expensive missiles on (AFAIK not a single Himars or Patriot system has yet been lost). They use IT competence for communications, to track Russians moves, to counter Russian cyberattacks (and Elon Musk with Starlink should stop whining!). They Ukrainians have shown to be fast to master Western equipment. When the US for security reasons delivered their M777 howitzers without some software - Ukrainians simply wrote their own! They adapt old MIGs to carry Western missiles They upgrade the old Soviet equipment they have, so a Ukrainian T-72 is probably better than a Russian T-72. Their sea drones - a totally new innovation in naval warfare! - attack Russian ships and challenge their presence in the Black Sea. The Neptune missile that sank the Moskva was an original Ukrainian design. They build thousands of new drones, some of which reach Moscow or take out Russian nuclear bombers. When the war is over they'll have tons of experience to teach the rest of NATO.

Yes, Ukraine also has problems. Some military actions fail. There is still some corruption, even though they seem to pick a fight with it.

(Zelensky PM Ulf Kristersson with president Volodymyr Zelensky recently fired mobilisation officials, suspected of taking bribes.) But AFAIK nothing of West's heavy weapons have leaked into less desirable hands. Sweden has this far contributed ca €2bn (€1.7bn in military aid). It would be €60bn in US terms - we have 1/30th in population - compared to the ca €75bn the Americans have actually given, so we're not far behind. To take out Putin's military capability without having to send your own troops is a very cheap and efficient investment. (We should worry about the costs of rebuilding the Southeast of Ukraine that Russia to a large part has destroyed. Will our purses be open when this important job comes up? I hope so.)

And recently, as I'm writing this, we we saw Volodymyr and first lady Olena on an unannounced visit to Sweden. It's a way to thank us for the aid. The Ukrainian president meet PM Ulf Kristersson, leaders of the political parties, Sweden's Commander in Chief and also the King. Out of it came an agreement on defence cooperation, eg to produce the Swedish Combat Vehicle 90 in Ukraine (of which they already have 50, which Zelensky gave high praise for). One source says Poland is also very interested in this vehicle, already sold to half a dozen countries. Zelensky also hoped to get the Gripen fighter jet ("Gripen" means "Griffin"). The problem is what while 4000 F16s have been

produced, only 400 Gripens have been made, so there aren't many around to shake loose. Ukraine of course needs fighters. In the short term it will be F16s, but there are speculations that Gripens aren't totally off the table (the Social Democrat opposition just announced they want it). After the Swedish visit

Zelensky went to Denmark and Netherlands (and later Greece for a Balkan summit) where he did get jet fighters, though it will take time before those Falcons fly. We should have begun this already in February...2022!

It was a great honour to welcome Mr Zelensky. The presidential couple of course also had a meeting with the Swedish king. Olena Z paid a visit to a hospital that treats Ukrainian war wounded.



The Zelenskys certainly works hard with rallying support!

Intermission will be with the yellow and blue as long as it takes. Our fanzine blockade against Kremlin continues in full force. We've heard that desperate Kremlin officials have approached and tried to bribe ministers in Kazakhstan to get hold of issues brought there by Iranian smugglers. Half a floor of the S:t Petersburg troll factory sees hackers trawling the 'net in desperate search for pirated copies. Some try to sell Kremlin cheap Chinese replicas of *Intermission*. But so far to no avail.

Despite this, unless there is a sudden collapse of the Putin regime, it unfortunately looks like the war will go at least well into next year.

So I'll continue to have something to write about, in this blasted Tom Clancy alternate history world

--Ahrvid Engholm, editor

* Suggested informative Youtube accounts: [Anna from Ukraine](#) (a well-spoken, sometimes emotional academic from Lutsk), [Denys Davydov](#) (a Ukrainian commercial pilot with daily updates), [Operator Starsky](#) (an information officer with the Ukrainian forces), [UATV English](#) (Ukrainian TV news, with eg president Zelensky's daily updates), [TVP World](#) (Polish TV, in English), [Artur Rehi](#) (an Estonian military, active with eg collecting supplies to help Ukraine). Avoid the many unserious accounts, recognised by their wild claims.

Terror and books

I'm against bans to burn books, including the Quran, but I urge everyone to refrain from it. As you might have seen in the news different people have done a number of Quran burnings in Sweden. It's opportunistic reasons vary. Some dislike the religion of Islam, others don't like immigration, still others want to disrupt Sweden's NATO process. They know book burnings attract maximum attention. Some politicians have demanded that Quran burning or burning any book should be banned, while the government has announced a review of the "public order" laws to see if book burning can be outlawed in some cases.

A demonstration needs police permission, but under the freedom of expression rules of the constitution demonstrations must virtually always be approved. The police earlier tried to deny Quran burnings as a danger to public order, but were smacked on their wrists by courts establishing that it was illegal to deny permission. Swedish freedom of expression laws are rather wide, covered by the Freedom of the Press Act with roots from 1766 (the world's first with constitutional status) and a later Freedom of Expression Act. And constitutional changes need two Riksdag votes - and there's no majority for that - with an election in between.

Freedom of expression is important. It's the way to scrutiny claims to find the truth. It lets opinions clash to find out which one is the most beneficial. It lets new information spread to improve science and enlarge mankind's knowledge base. Since we can't be 100% sure of what is true and beneficial without testing it, even lies and the despicable must be covered by freedom of expression. That includes Mr Trump's right to lie and make a fool of himself, the right of activists to deny that gender lies in the genes, the right to criticise religion, and more.

It includes the right to ridicule, to joke, to satirize, etc - all that are different ways to criticise. Burning a religious or any book is to say: the message here is false. Followers have no right to demand others to "respect" untruth within the pages of a book. (No one has ever the right to demand that others must "respect" wicked opinions. Religious books tend to have plenty, from stoning adulterers to claiming aliens live under volcanoes in the Pacific.) You can and should argue against what you don't like, but shouldn't ban it.

However, in the case of *burning* books we get nauseating flashbacks to Germany in the 1930s, with



Mr & Mrs Zelensky met the Swedish King and Queen.



Well-known Quran burner Rasmus Paludan. He was first, but others have followed.

the demonic Dr Goebbels inciting crowds to burn books. That was as we know a preparation to burn 6 million people in death camps. How can someone be so stupid and insensitive to follow in the footsteps of Nazis? "Where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people too", the German author Heinrich Heine correctly predicted.

If you want to protest against religion, there are better ways. A suggestion is to bring along a dustbin, throw the book there and hold a short speech about why you do it. Throwing things in a dustbin is a clear gesture people often use, so why not!



So Islamists burn Swedish flags. Local religious leaders entice people, to gain influence and power. Note that their legmen have pretty sturdy watches, probably expensive.

afterwards) And brain scientists have found mechanisms in the brain that are behind false impressions of a ruling being. A hypothesis that's very credible is that stress, strong emotions and similar disturbs the connections between the brain halves. This causes the illusion that something extra is present, while its only one half of the brain not recognising the other. Certain other sorts of conditions produces similar effects, the feeling of "a presence". Astronomers, physicists and cosmologists dig into the structure of our universe and only find particles, natural laws, and quantum effects. Not a god in sight! Science goes back to a millionth of a second after the Big Bang, which works perfectly well without needing a "creator".

But for my part I don't feel any great need to actively turn against the Bible, Quran, Torah, etc, because interest in religion is dropping by itself. The notion of a supernatural, invisible being running everything loses as it meets science and the modern society. Fanatics burning flags to support imaginary gods are the last flickery flames of such ideas, just as a candle flickers intensely prior to burning out.

Those burning Swedish flags and maybe inciting terror attacks (hope not, it's illogical something claiming to be the Ultimate Good would advocate violence) just try to rally supporters to selfishly gain more power. To find huge significance in trivial acts of symbolism is a sign of unhealthy fanaticism, regarding *both* book and flag burning.

BTW, concerning the right to express and criticise, the electronic private Post Offices of Internet tend to set up their own restrictive private laws called "terms of use". I've noticed how this on eg Youtube produces obstacles to inform about the war in Ukraine, to learn about atrocities committed by Putin's troops, to gather support. Is this kind of censorship reasonable? It's as if Putin's troll factories have decided these rules. Private, restrictive, intolerant "terms of use" are unacceptable! Bans and censorship must remain extreme *exceptions*.

If something is legal to say no private infrastructure company of information distribution should have the right to ban it. They are like a Post Office or government telecom agency, but as private

I'm not religious. I don't believe in any gods (except Roscoe:

<https://fancydopedia.org/Roscoe...>) or any supernatural being the ultimate good, secretly in command of everything - still allowing people to do evil and letting suffering exist. Science has never found any evidence whatsoever for religious beliefs. The "power of praying" has been scientifically tested and its only effect is to some psychological comfort to the practitioner - nothing else. The "miracles" described in religious books have alternate natural explanations, are figments of imagination or are distortions of numerous

mouth to mouth jumps after long delays (the New Testament was written 50-100 years

afterwards) And brain scientists have found mechanisms in the brain that are behind false impressions of a ruling being. A hypothesis that's very credible is that stress, strong emotions and similar disturbs the connections between the brain halves. This causes the illusion that something extra is present, while its only one half of the brain not recognising the other. Certain other sorts of conditions produces similar effects, the feeling of "a presence". Astronomers, physicists and cosmologists dig into the structure of our universe and only find particles, natural laws, and quantum effects. Not a god in sight! Science goes back to a millionth of a second after the Big Bang, which works perfectly well without needing a "creator".

companies they are too sensitive to intolerant "opinions" that feel "uncomfortable". So they tend to gravitate towards the lowest bar for freedom of expression! But if something is debatable it should be debated, not banned!

The real lawmakers should make laws outlawing restrictive "terms of use". A post office shouldn't have opinions about letters or magazines sent, a phone company shouldn't listen to your telephone calls. If you don't like a message, argue against it or use the off button

We see similar tendencies of intolerance for sf conventions BTW. Concoms of certain ideological stance create "Codes of Conduct" to ban anything that may make some "feel uncomfortable". It's preposterous! It's wrong to try to silence opinions through backdoors. Freedom of expression isn't for creating comfort. The most important progress of Mankind has come when and *because* some have felt uncomfortable. Muffling speech is also dangerous. We won't get warnings against poison. We won't learn how to handle it. Making a kindergarten full of pillows makes us stupid and less aware of the world. In rare cases it also happens that the "poison" instead is a valuable nutrient! Constitutional freedoms and the Laws of the Land should apply, nothing else.

Could You Upgrade Our Subscription, Please?

Last *Intermission* has a little box urging Swedish Women's National Team in football to "grab that metal" in the ladies' World Cup. And they did!

The valkyrians from the North did pretty well, eliminating two former world champs, the US and Japan, from the tournament...but loosing to Spain in the semi. Well, though the Spaniards were slightly better the game should at least have gone to extra time. Spain's winning goal was *offside* by a couple of light years! A young Swedish fan made newspaper headlines by reporting the game's referee to our Justice Ombudsman. "It wasn't fair! I must do something" he explained.



OK, perhaps less than a light year, but offside it was...

Unfortunately JO has no jurisdiction over sports. We may get our revenge Sep 22, when we meet Spain in the Nations League, a good chance as Spanish football is in chaos now due to a scandal with their head honcho groping a player in the SpainWNT.

Anyway, Swedish Women's National Team had a far from ideal opponent in the bronze medal game: hosts Australia, on their home turf, in front of 50 000 Aussies throwing boomerangs, drinking XXXX, wearing koala masks! Not an easy task...

But we shouldn't have to worry!

The blonde bombers dominated. They are pros. *Chelsea's* Musovic kept her net clean with 3-4 terrific saves. *Arsenal's* Blackstenius caused a penalty being tripped in the box, and *Barcelona's* Rolfö put it in the net. Blackstenius again in the second half found *Milan's* Asllani with a superbe pass, and she hit the right corner of the Aussie net with a powerful, precise shot. So, sorry mates! (BTW, Spain beat England for the gold next day. Felicidades! Not for the mentioned scandal, though.)

This was the *fourth* World Cup bronze medal for the Swedish soccer girls. We have a subscription to that particular metallic mix. *Could you upgrade our subscription next time, please?*

An interesting effect of a good (while not perfect) WC campaign by the Swedish Women's National Team is that they climbed to #1 spot in FIFA's world ranking! Their algorithms reflect results over a longer period, that's why new world champs Spain are "only" #2 (they may reach #1 later). Former #1 US and #2 Germany had a bad WC and dropped behind SweWNT. The Swedish footy women have one Euro gold from way back in the 1980's, one WC silver and two Olympic silvers. They are consistently among medal candidates.

Rank	Team	Total Points	Previous Points	+/-	Posit
1	 Sweden	2069.17	2049.71	19.46	
2	 Spain	2051.84	2002.28	49.56	
3	 USA	2051.21	2090.03	-38.82	
4	 England	2030.14	2040.76	-10.62	
5	 France	2004.17	2026.65	-22.48	

Their team deserves a lump of gold one day - don't you agree! Crown Princess Victoria agreed and therefore invited them to the Royal Palace as they returned. The boy in a yellow team jersey in front is the son prince Oscar. Inserted, the final SweWNT penalty ending the US tournament, and the *cigarette-paper thin* margin by which the ball passed the goal line...



How to Write "Science" Stories

by Hugo Gernsback

(originally in Writer's Digest, Feb 1930 - Hugo did a few issues of an sf detective mag)

In modern detection of crime, the X-ray machine, test-tubes, bunsen-burners, the microphotograph, the spectrograph, the spectrophotometer and the polarizer are preceding the baton and police whistle in usefulness. As the pioneer in publicizing these advances in criminal-detection, and in educating both police and public, Scientific Detective Monthly is performing invaluable duties.

The primary aim of this magazine is to interest and entertain. Apart from the fact that all material must deal with scientific detection of crime, no editorial foibles and policies exist against which the writer so often battles in vain. There is only one editorial dictum—scientific accuracy. That accomplished, the author can give his imagination free reign.

Realizing that Scientific Detective Monthly, published at 96 Park Place, New York, is exploring a new field of action, I have prepared for the readers of WRITER'S DIGEST the following lengthy treatise on the Scientific Detective Story. Let it be understood, in the first place, that a science fiction story must be an exposition of a scientific theme and it must be also a story. As an exposition of a scientific theme, it must be reasonable and logical and must be based upon known scientific principles. You have a perfect right to use your imagination as you will in developing the principles, but the fundamental scientific theory must be correct.

As a story, it must be interesting. Even though you are making a description of some dry scientific apparatus, invention or principle, you should never bore your reader by making your description dry or uninteresting. A really good writer arranges descriptions so that they will always be interesting.

The rules that are given here are recommended for your careful consideration.

Scientific detection of crime offers writers the greatest opportunity and most fertile field since the detective first appeared in fiction. Radio, chemistry, physics, bacteriology, medicine, microscopy - every branch of science can be turned to account. The demand for this material is large, the supply is small. But authors who wish to capitalize on this new source of income must be careful to follow certain well-defined principles. These may be explained by setting forth a list of rules: What To Do, and, as the colored character in Octavus Roy Cohen's story says, "What To Don't."

Here are some hints that will increase your remuneration very materially, and will insure your

manuscripts a thorough reading and prompt report.

(1) A Scientific Detective Story is one in which the method of crime is solved, or the criminal traced, by the aid of scientific apparatus or with the help of scientific knowledge possessed by the detective or his coworkers.

(2) A crime so ingenious, that it requires scientific methods to solve it, usually is committed with scientific aid and in a scientific manner. Therefore the criminal, as well as the detective, should possess some scientific knowledge. You will see that this is not an absolute essential to a good story; a scientific detective can use science in tracing the perpetrator of an ordinary crime, but judicious use of science by both criminal and detective heightens the interest because it puts the two combatants on a more equal plane.

(3) As most of our readers are scientifically minded, the methods used by criminal or detective must be rational, logical and feasible. Now, this does not limit the author's imagination; he can develop many imaginative uses of science, provided they are reasonable. For example: one author sent us a story of a man who rendered himself invisible by painting his clothes and face with a non-light reflecting paint. By explaining some of the laws of light and color he made this accomplishment sound plausible, as indeed it is. But he forgot to mention the shadow which is naturally cast by any object standing in the light, whether or not it is visible to our eyes. Readers of our magazine pick us up on these little details. To avoid such mistakes in writing, which really arise from lack of thought, consider your story from every angle before you write your final copy.

(4) What description of clouds and sunsets was to the old novelist, description of scientific apparatus and methods is to the modern Scientific Detective writer. Here again the author must remember that his work will be read by competent scientists among our readers; and, without careful reference to the encyclopedia, no descriptions of scientific instruments should be included in your stories. If you are not in touch with a Public Library, it is advisable to buy a few really good reference books. Criminological fiction has come to stay and your investment will pay you dividends.

(5) A scientific crime is, ipso facto, a mysterious one. Do not underestimate the value of mystery and suspense in your stories; but remember that it is not necessary to commit wholesale slaughter in order to obtain these effects. A story is a good story when the reader can imagine himself threatened by the same peril as the characters in the tale. I can imagine myself killed by a diabolical bacteriologist—I find it harder to visualize wholesale destruction by a mythical organization. The latter is less personal and individual. Your object is to project scientific diablerie into truthful settings.

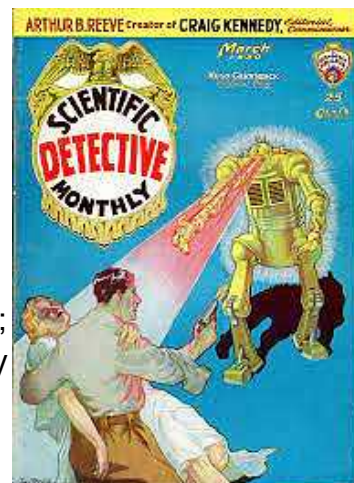
(6) For your own sake, avoid hackneyed characterization. Keep clear of fair-haired, blue-eyed Irishmen; long, lanky, keen-eyed, dark-complexioned clean-cut Americans, et al. Although good characterization helps a story, better none than poor ones.

(7) With the advancement of science, the criminal-in-fact is turning scientific as well as the criminal-in-fiction. Therefore we prophesy that Scientific Detective fiction will supersede all other types. In fact, the ordinary gangster and detective story will be relegated into the background in a very few years. It is worth your while, then, to study this new development carefully, devoting all your time and efforts towards turning out good stories of this type. Literary history is now in the making, and the pioneers in this field will reap large rewards.

A few Don'ts must be remembered if you are to turn out a good story. Here are some:

(a) Don't look through your old manuscripts and tack scientific endings to them. A Scientific Detective Story is a particular type, in which the scientific atmosphere is coherent and permeating right through the tale. To write really good fiction, saturate yourself with the required atmosphere. Read scientific books, visit chemical laboratories and electrical engineering shops. When you are charged with scientific enthusiasm, then sit down and write your stuff.

(b) Don't make your professor, if you have one, talk like a military policeman or an Eighth Avenue "cop." Don't put cheap jokes in his mouth. Read semi-technical magazines and reports of speeches to get the flavor of academic phraseology.



(c) Don't drag in television. It is worked to death and there are so many better appliances you can use in your stories.

(d) What you are not sure about—look up at the library. Don't make your criminal or detective sit down at a table and twirl dials and snap switches without an explanation of what these are for, and why they are operated by the character. Your readers want to know about this; and it gives you a good chance to pad your story legitimately from a scientific text book. Scientific Detective Stories are easy to write once you grasp the swing of them.

(e) Don't fall into the misapprehension that, because your story has plenty of science in it, a plot is therefore unnecessary. The science improves the plot - not vice-versa.

(f) Break up your story into action, dialogue, and description. So many lines of one, so many of another. If you have a long descriptive passage to write, interlope some action, as, for example:

"- -so the machine works best in an atmosphere of seventy degrees." The Professor crossed the room, closing the copper contact as he passed it. "The higher level of the atmosphere is cold," he continued quickly: "When the machine - -" etc.

(g) Don't underestimate the importance of properly-prepared manuscripts. Not only is the easy-to-read manuscript favoured by editors; but care in typing and layout will induce careful and orderly thought in your actual writing. Short lines are easier to read than long ones; this is due to a well-known optical law. Therefore, leave a wide margin on the left-hand side of your page. You will find it much more remunerative to write one story well and carefully, than three rapidly and carelessly. Therefore edit and retype before submitting manuscripts. Clean the type bar of your typewriter. Triple spacing is even better than double. Give an accurate word count on the title page. Don't put in your own captions or chapter heads; we do this after the story is in type. (h) Don't imitate other writers. Many a story is rejected simply because it is too "close" to another one.

(i) Don't name your characters after those in well-known books. Since Van Dine's books appeared, Adas and Sibellas are appearing in every editorial office. We wish to be introduced to some other ladies.

(j) Don't "splurge." Our office is full of stories that are the "greatest, most terrible, fearful, mysterious, world-shaking mysteries of the age." These stories are usually bad; because, in order to make them sensational to the editorial staff, the author has gone beyond the limits of reason. Besides, we cannot fill a book with superlatives. Many (in fact most) scientific murders are little known, are buried deep in public ignorance. Write stories of which the reader will say: "By Gosh! that might have happened right in this town, and no one heard of it." If you have a good idea, in scientific detection of crime, your story will interest us and our readers. That is all we want.

(k) Don't think that Scientific Detective Stories are hard to write. You are working on virgin ground. The whole field of science is your oyster to open with your pen and extract the pearl of steady work and good pay.

Finally, before you mail your manuscript to us, submit it to some local professor or authority on science, or to a physics teacher, to check the scientific principles involved. If you have studied a text book before writing your story, your theme will probably sound logical and sensible.

Remember that short stories should run from 8000 to 20,000 words; serials 50,000 to 60,000 words. The rate of payment is from one-quarter to one-half cent a word, depending on the value of the story. Higher prices are paid for exceptional stories.

When you have finished the first draft of your manuscript, hold it for a few days. Then read it over carefully and see if you have left any points unexplained, and threads tangled. Although you must try to avoid "giving away" the secret of the mystery at the start, your finale must clear up everything completely; so that the reader understands just what has happened.

The whole secret of scientific fiction lies in reading about your subject before you start your story. Get an idea of what the murderer is going to do and how he will do it before you even put a word on paper. Then think out what clues the detective will find, and what scientific apparatus or methods he will use to trace the criminal. If you have a mental vision of your story before hand, and the scientific

details at your finger tips, the story will almost write itself as you work.

I have gone through this subject at length, because I am very much interested in having our writers become successful. As time goes on, you will see certain writers forging steadily to the front and gaining a reputation and a following. Those are the authors who have spent a good deal of time and effort in the construction of their early stories, making them works of art from every point of view.

History Corner

Intermission has covered Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967) many times in earlier issues, but we're not finished with this fascinating figure!

Hugo was a radio pioneer, inventor (80 patents), business man, visionary, publishing giant, and instrumental in making sf a distinct market genre - and also publisher of magazines for...sex. His title *Sexology* was far more successful than *Amazing Stories*, selling up to 200 000 copies. (It had a short lived companion too, *Sexologia*.)

After coming to the US from Luxembourg he began importing and selling radio equipment, and his electronics catalogues led him into magazines, as more and more facts and fiction sneaked into them. He became a real publishing tycoon founding ca 60 magazines, publishing electronics guides, books (himself writing three sf novels, of varying quality...) and for over 30 years small Xmas publications as little booklets (size ca 12.5X16cm, 26-36 pages) full of parody and wild technological speculations.

He did early TV experiments, claimed he "invented" radar already in 1911, was knighted back in Luxembourg and his rather silly novel *Ralph12ROTFL4+* (or whatever the title was) was full of wild technical gadgetry. He founded the Wireless Association of America in 1909, which attained, one source says, 23 400 members! (More here <https://www.rfcafe.com/references/radio-craft/wireless-radio-association-america-radio-craft-january-1947.htm>).

In https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the_man_who_invented_the_future we get a summary of his early life and how he came to America:

He wired the family home with telephone-intercoms and a 6 volt lighting system. He was soon installing door buzzers and intercoms in neighbours' homes and was commissioned to set up a complicated system of buzzers in a nearby convent. When he was 10, Gernsback experienced a bizarre event. After reading American astronomer Percival Lowell's book about Mars, he was so overwhelmed by the possibility of life on the Red Planet that he fell into a two-day delirium, babbling incessantly about Martians and their technology. This obsession shaped his life. Following his basic education, Gernsback was enrolled in a boarding school in Brussels. He mastered all he studied, including English. He read Western novels, including the works of Mark Twain, which fueled a desire to go to America. Gernsback next studied electrical engineering in Germany, where he perfected a portable radio-telegraph transmitter and a high amperage, dry-cell battery that he was convinced would make him rich. In 1904, he bought a first class ticket to Hoboken, NJ, taking with him two models of his battery and \$100.00 from his family. The young man made his way to New York, where he distributed business cards with the name "Huck Gernsbacher." (He borrowed the name from his favourite character, Huckleberry Finn). After receiving US patent #842,950 for his battery, he sold the rights to the Packard Motor Company.

While someone traced the first arbitrary use of the term "science-fiction" to a 19th century British writer - one William Wilson, 1850 - it was Hugo who really coined it so it stuck. He used the term in his *Electrical Experimenter* as early as 1916. Though he preferred "scientifiction" (those who knew him credit him for humour, wit and puns) when he founded *Amazing Stories* in 1926, he reverted to "science fiction" when he began with *Wonder Stories* in 1929. The new magazine came after he had been forced away from *Amazing* through bankruptcy proceedings. Hugo was reluctant to pay creditors - and authors. There are conflicting theories. Some suggest he orchestrated his own bankruptcy to get rid of debts, since his economy let him bounce back with a new magazine. But https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the_man_who_invented_the_future claims:

Just as Gernsback's publishing empire reached its peak, disaster struck. Like many publishers, Gernsback paid for printing the current issues of his magazines only after receiving the revenues from the preceding



Hugo Gernsback as a teenager.

issues. A larger competitor convinced printers and other creditors to demand immediate payment, which forced Gernsback into bankruptcy. Unwilling to give up, he sold the Electro Importing Company and WRNY to stake a new publishing company,

I found a perhaps additional piece of the puzzle. Just before Hugo lost *Amazing* in early 1929, he lost his young daughter in a tragic accident! NY Times wrote Nov 19 1928,

<https://www.nytimes.com/1928/11/19/archives/taxi-kills-a-child-retrieving-pennies-daughter-of-hugo-gernsback.html>



Gernsback's 1947 Xmas zine was a parody of Popular Mechanics.

"LAMPLIFIER"
The Lamp that has EVERYTHING

AT last—the lamp that amplifies good living and convenience—a super space saver. Why clutter your small parlor with a dozen space-consuming pieces of furniture and odds and ends? Lamplifier is the first and ONLY 12-in-1 Lamp ever designed. Here's what you get, lamping from North to South:

1. A stunning three bulb floor lamp.
2. A superb canary cage with LIVE bird.
3. Gorgeous lamp shade with six panels for transparent photos of your family. (Send snapshots of your rogues gallery—we'll treat 'em.)
4. One revolving F.M.-A.M.-P.M. radio.
5. One revolving candy tray tablette.
6. One revolving 3-foot table, with 2 hooch bottles (specify your own likker) and six glasses.
7. One revolving phone table (we provide phone).
8. One revolving umbrella stand, with two umbrellas, (ladies & gents).
9. One ash tray (sterling silver) attached to umbrella stand.
10. One revolving magazine rack. (It revolves with umbrella stand.)
11. One flower bowl—water for flowers comes automatically from umbrella drippings.
12. Six ball-bearing casters, to move LAMPLIFIER to location wanted.

Nothing gets in the way—the radio, all tables, magazine rack—umbrella stand—all revolve around central lamp shaft.

We deliver anywhere in the U.N. Order today and remember our slogan: "You will be a happy buyer, if you buy a LAMPLIFIER." **\$79** f.o.b. factory Lampe, Mo.

THE LAMPLIFIER CORPORATION, LAMPETER, PA.

Gernsback gives us this, shall we call it, Swiss Army Lamp doing a bit of everything. (From *Popular Neckanics*.)

TAXI KILLS A CHILD RETRIEVING PENNIES; Daughter of Hugo Gernsback Darts Away From Nurse for Coins She Had Dropped...Retracing her steps to pick up some pennies she had dropped while crossing

West End Avenue at Ninetieth Street Yesterday afternoon, while in the care of a nursemaid, Bennett Gernsback, three-year-old daughter of Hugo Gernsback, manager of radio station WRNY, was killed by a taxicab.

One can imagine that the father was devastated by this and wasn't in top shape to manoeuvre in complicated business dealings. Google reveals that he married three times, to Rose Harvey in 1906, Dorothy Kantrowitz in 1921, and Mary Hancher in 1951. Bennett would have been his child with the middle wife. (Beside this he had another daughter and one son but I find no info with which wives.)

But for us fans the most important is that Gernsback's magazines established sf as a separate genre, from which skiffy as we know it developed. Hugo Gernsback has thus been both called the Father of SF and given his name to the main genre award, the Hugos. (Unless someone steps up on the stage and shouts "Gernsback

was a bloody fascist" and historyless halfwits declare that the Hugo is renamed the Minorities Identity Award.)

It doesn't matter much that Hugo's own idea of the genre was that it should consist of fictionalised patent applications. He once said that the "ideal sf story should be 75% fiction interwoven with 25% science" – or was it the other way around? For us fans it's equally important that his activities helped founding fandom, through printing readers' mail with addresses, so fen could reach each other, and in 1934 by founding the Science Fiction League.

This zine has reproduced excerpts of his Xmas publication *Forecast* showing he had the most vivid imagination. The publication was sent to thousands of business contacts and acquaintances (5-6000 copies were printed) and came 1932-1966, originally under different titles each year, in the form of parodies of known magazines. It got the fixed name *Forecast* from 1952, which it kept until the end.

(I've only seen the 1954-57 issues of it, from <https://archive.org/> but would love to see more if someone has more!) Hugo made fun of other magazines, eg *Popular Mechanics* as *Popular Neckanics* "dedicated to love and solving its great mystery" (sex again). From <https://invention.si.edu/hugo-gernsbacks-unconventional-inventions>

In *Popular Neckanics* Magazine, he wrote, "it was a sad state of affairs that the great mechanical and electronic engineering minds have been so remiss in tracing down love and solving its riddle." Chastising scientists, he said, "instead they chase of all things, the atom and dissect and split that, when Love radiation is a far greater devastator than a million Atom bombs." Gernsback lamented that he had become disgusted with science, even though he, too, was a scientist.

On the lighter side, however, *Popular Neckanics* Magazine, which was "requestered in the U.N. Potent Office and Canards" and cited Houg Sengbrack as the "exitor and publisher," highlighted how much Gernsback enjoyed a good play on words. The issue is filled with inventions and gadgets from robot-steered cars to squirrel sharpeners and is written "so you can't understand it." The *Plaslastic Expanso Bag*, *TinCan-Can*, *Lamplifier*, and *Stovepipe Hair Dryer* illustrate the ridiculous and yet practical. Who doesn't need a bag that can carry groceries and a child? And reusing tin cans is a "green" approach.



Other Gernsback Xmas parodies include *Saturday Evening Host* (1938), *Radiocracy* (1943), *Harpy's Bizarre* (1944), *Tame - the weakly newsmagazine* (1945), *Digest of Digest* (1946), *Jolliers* (1948), *the Notional Weakly* (1948), *Quip* (1949 - a "Martian issue"), *Newspeek* (1950). *Quip* showed the balloon-chested Martians of Frank R Paul once created:



A spread of Hugo's Xmas booklets, from Felicia Kreuzer. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abHvoAqktp4> It gave a 48-page account of the exploration of the planet Mars by "Grego Banshuck" and his crew, and of the life of the Martians, as depicted by Gernsback's long-service artist once beloved of s-f fans. One of the peculiar features of life on Mars: "There is, of course, no money, no such vicious, cancerous outgrowth as interest on money, no taxes. Consequently there is no such thing as business, as we know the term, because on Mars no one can make a profit . . . Whatever is produced belongs to the race."

Science Fantasy Review <https://efanzines.com/FR/sfr18.htm> wrote about Hugo's Xmas booklets that "Over 5,000 copies have been printed for the publisher's friends in and out of the radio, electronic and television industry. Please do not send money for extra copies - the booklet is NOT for sale. Requests for single copies...will be filled as long as the supply lasts."

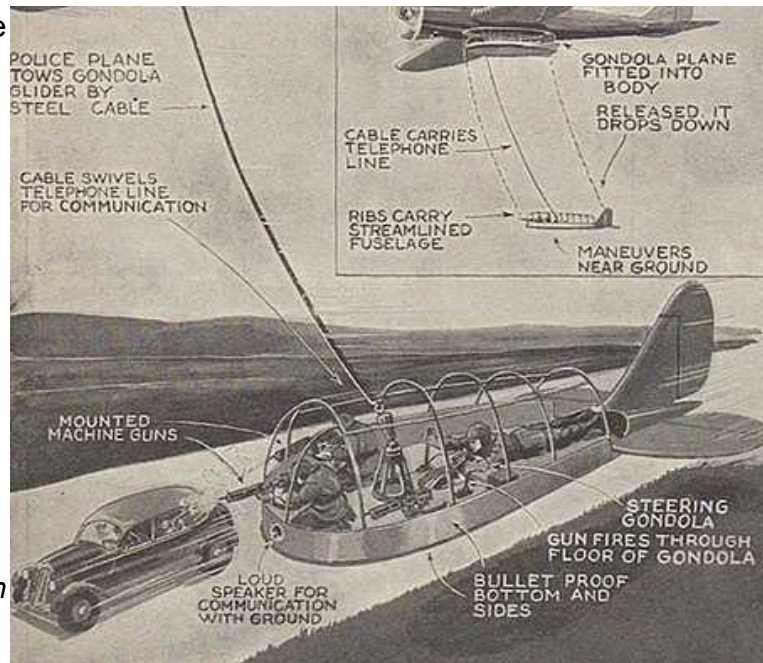
His Xmas booklets are also covered here: <https://www.erbzine.com/mag14/1464a.html>

1930s was the gangster decade. The gangsters had Thompson sub-machine guns and the fastest cars. But Hugo knew how to get to them, as we discover in one Xmas booklet: a machine gun pod lowered from an aeroplane! Imagine the pod rocking wildly with seasick officers happily spraying

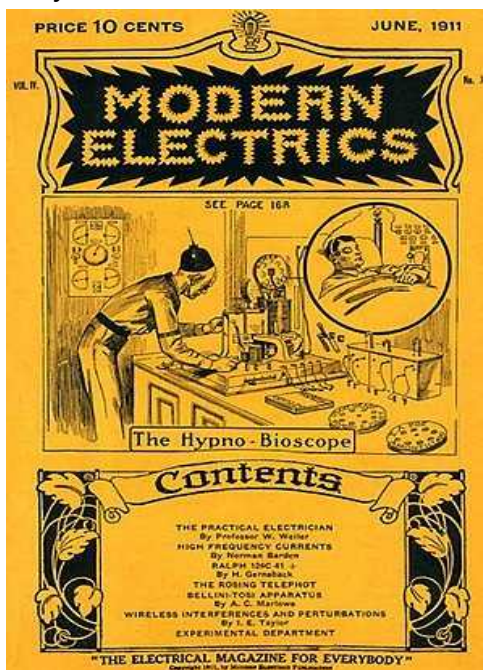
bullets around! Maybe they should have it in Ukraine now, to deal with the gangsters on the rampage there! Hugo's imagination had few limits! In his first magazine *Modern Electrics* we meet the "hypnobioscope" that will teach you things during sleep.

https://www.cracked.com/article_29067_5-modern-historys-dumbest-inventions-came-from-one-guy.html! reports:

This invention would transmit words straight into the waiting brains of the sleeping subjects. The learners would wear a headband full of metal plates while they slept. Thin wires would run out of it and into a machine, where an operator would insert black film covered in mysterious wavy white lines, containing all the information you'd want to know.



A Forecast: Gangster-fighting pod, but it looks rather wobbly. Wouldn't it be easier to get the police faster cars?



To create all these benefits to mankind, Hugo needed peace and quiet so he could think. So what is more natural than to put on something similar to a heavy diving helmet to lock out all irritating sounds (like authors demanding their pay). So Hugo created the "Isolator". Extra oxygen will make your brain cells run in turbo mode:

The product boasts a perfectly airtight and soundproof container for your head, so not a single obnoxious whisper, car horn, or fire alarm can penetrate your concentration. While you might think that impending suffocation is actually a far better choice than being forced to finish your paperwork -- Hugo doesn't let you off that easily. The helmet itself is equipped with an oxygen tank to fuel

your body with the necessary atmospheric components that this chamber so professionally blocks out.



Hugo was also a prophet of warfare. *Science Fantasy Review* Vol4 #18 (see above) had an article by a Thomas Sheridan:

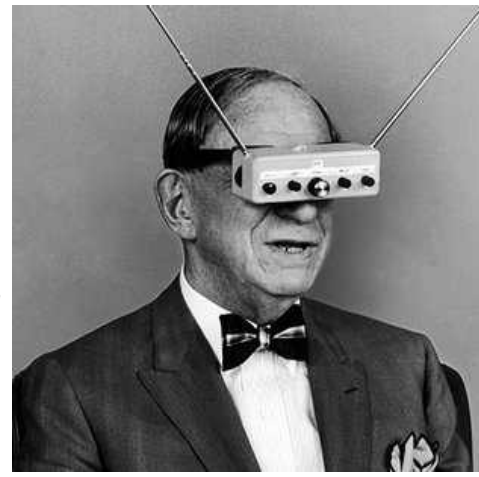
The use of rockets in warfare, and their development for extra-terrestrial flight, were other Gernsback visions which have come true. The A-bomb? During the second year of World War I he wrote a piece in The Electrical Experimenter in which he visualised what might happen "when the scientists of 100 years hence begin making war on each other. Suppose that by that time our scientists have solved the puzzle of the atom and have succeeded in liberating its prodigious forces ... The results will be overwhelmingly astounding . . ." And he painted a gruesome picture of an "Atom Gun" in the hands of a would-be Emperor of the World, of a fleet of "Radium Destroyers" which, by "setting off spontaneously the dormant energy of the atom," might dissipate a city of 300,000 souls (population of Hiroshima when the Bomb fell: 320,000) in "a titanic vapour cloud, (leaving) only a vast crater in the ground ... After this demonstration the enemy sues for peace; resistance would be folly." In '15, he agreed that all this might seem "very fantastical," but thought it "not only very possible but highly probable." Thirty years later the world was duly astounded - and overwhelmed...the first atomicentury." Dated 2045, it put the first atom-powered rocket to the Moon in 1972, World War III in '75, to be followed by world government. (The war, waged by Asia against the Western world, was won in six weeks by the Americans turning their giant Lunar mirrors on Hyderabad and vaporising the city.) By 2040, man had reached Venus.



The same article tells about a Gernsbackian invention in publishing:

In '37 he produced New Ideas as "the first scented magazine": as they riffled through it, a pleasant odour wafted into readers' nostrils from the perfumed printer's ink of its pages. The smell didn't last longer than four issues—but the idea was taken up, years later, in newspaper adverts. for scent. He had pioneered again.

You have probably seen Hugo's VR glasses, presented in *Life* in 1963. But they were only a mock-up, even if Gernsback thought they could be constructed for real. Real Soon Now: <https://spectrum.ieee.org/the-man-who-invented-vr-goggles-50-years-too-soon>



Hugo's Newsweek parody 1950 also talked about war.

feeling that the electronics industry was catching up with his New Deal-era concepts, he orders some of his employees to build a mock-up. The teleyeglasses weighed about 140 grams and were built around small cathode-ray tubes that ran on low-voltage current from tiny batteries. (The user faced no danger of being electrocuted, Gernsback promised.) Because there was a separate screen for each eye, it could display stereoscopic images



H. Gernsback, Editor of RADIO NEWS, receiving the television broadcasts from WRNY home in New York City, with the simple apparatus described in this article. For purity test, the neon tube and loud speaker were connected in series temporarily, with operation simultaneously.

The WRNY radio station Hugo started in 1925 went on the air on June 12 the same year (on 1120 KHz), with Lee De Forest among the inaugural speakers. It used a studio in New York's Roosevelt Hotel. The 500W transmitter was placed in New Jersey. De Forest was the inventor of the first radio tube amplifier.

Hugo was also a broadcast TV pioneer. As a technology publisher Gernsback became acquainted with many of the world's leading scientists, like Marconi, Goddard, Tesla, Oberth and even Edison. Especially Tesla: "He was in literal awe



32 line Baird disk TV. Hugo's 48 lines was slightly better.

of Tesla whose ideas he viewed as mankind's salvation". When he died Hugo ordered a "death mask" of Tesla which he would keep in his office. (With space theoreticians Oberth. He may have discussed the American Interplanetary Society (later American Rocket Society) with space pioneer Oberth. ERBzine (see above) writes.

Gernsback fostered formation in 1930 of the earliest interplanetary society (later the American Rocket Society), and published the first journal devoted to space conquest (now entitled Jet Propulsion). He conceived of orbiting man-carrying space stations in 1929.

Hugo's experimented with TV by his WRNY station was perhaps first in the US attempting a regular daily sort of schedule? (OK, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WRGB> may have been a few months earlier, but digging around we find their programming was just 3x30 min/week with only 24 scan lines. WRNY was daily AFIAM.) Hugo used the Baird rotating disk system, in a design by John Geloso of the Pilot Electric Company. The superior electronic TV tubes weren't available for several years. The system used 24 inch, 48 line scanning

disks that rotated at 450 rpm. An article in NY Times implies the first test was made Aug 11, while regular daily program would begin Aug 18 (but Gernsback's own *Radio News* says Aug 21). It's unknown how long WRNY continued with it. The premiere transmission showed the face of Mrs John Geloso and was seen by 500 people at NY University. The picture above shows Hugo watching - screen probably ca 1.5 inch - also made into the *Radio News* cover. ERBzine:

Gernsback published plans for a receiver in Science and Invention and invited radio amateurs to tune in to daily five minute broadcasts. His newest magazine, Television, estimated that there were some 2,000 viewers that summer.

Hugo estimated that there were 2000 TV receivers (Baird disk system) in the area reachable by WRNY. (If it was based on how many TV assembling sets or plans he had sold, the real figure is much lower - the majority won't finish building!). "The "five minutes" were more like five minute slots per show.

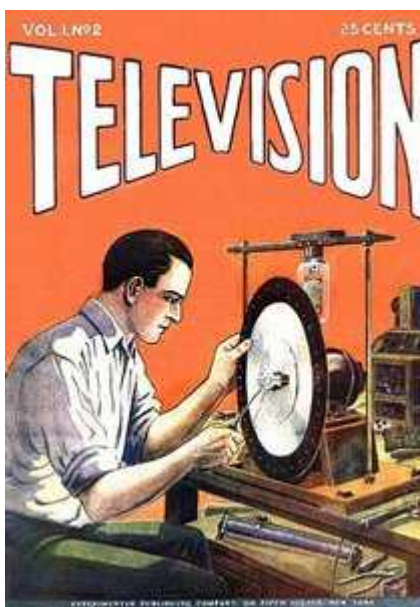
The Nov 1928 issue of Gernsback's own *Radio News* (<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Radio-News/20s/Radio-News-1928-11.pdf>) wrote:

Television images are broadcast...the first five minutes of every hour the station is on the air...WRNY now televises the following: faces of living people, the WRNY placard previously mentioned, a moving toy monkey, and a moving "rolypoly man"...The person to be televised sits in a cloth-covered booth facing the photoelectric cells, which are arranged in a triangle in a wooden frame, through the centre is an opening about six inches square...on the other side of the frame is a flat aluminum scanning disc, 24 inches in diameter pierced by a spiral of 48 holes. Those rotates at the rate of 450 revolutions per minute in front of a powerful electric arc, the light of which fall on the fact of the subject...these rays of light are reflected into the photoelectric cells

It's difficult to make out exactly what those programs were. But hearing of "images", of time slots of 5 minutes, that it all comes from a small booth and knowing the technology was very limited, makes it probable that a "show" would be 5 minutes of silent still pictures or with limited movement from the



First "regular" TV schedule from WRNY of 21 aug. TV mixed with radio programs.

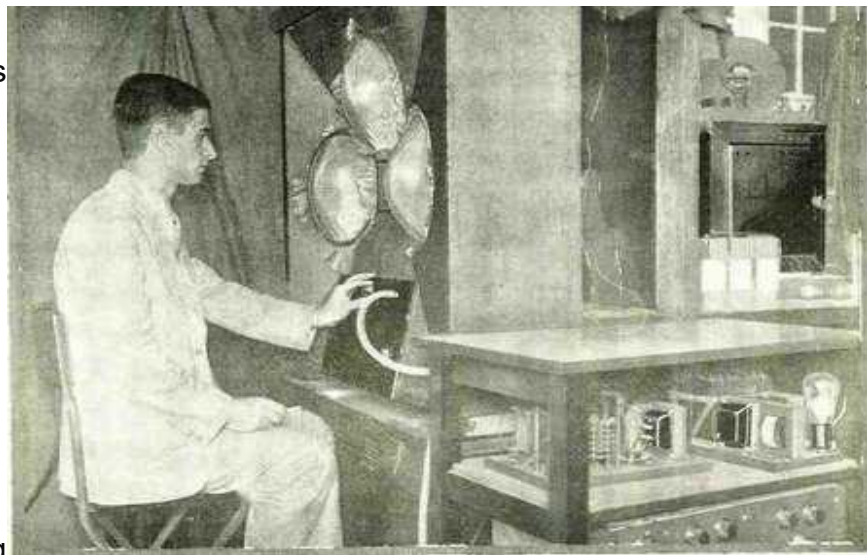


Hugo's first TV mag. Hobbyist broadcasts. His newest magazine, tinker with a scanning disk. Television, estimated that there were some 2,000 viewers that summer.

radio program, followed by 25 or 55 minutes of an ordinary radio program, sound only. It must be so as they only transmitted on one frequency and sound to TV pictures would need two. So seeing the schedule we find:

11.30 stills of or silent close ups of the "Volga Instrumental Trio", 11.35-12.p.m a radio show with said trio, 12.30 One Tommy Sparks silent in that booth, probably moving a little, 12.35 Tommy Sparks singing as a radio show. And so on.

That's how it should work, logically. Gernsback's TV was still quite experimental, but it must have been exciting for the few dozen who had actually built the rotating disk-TV sets!



WRNY's TV studio. John Geloso who built it is adjusting controls. Thing or person to be shown must be right in front of the optics.

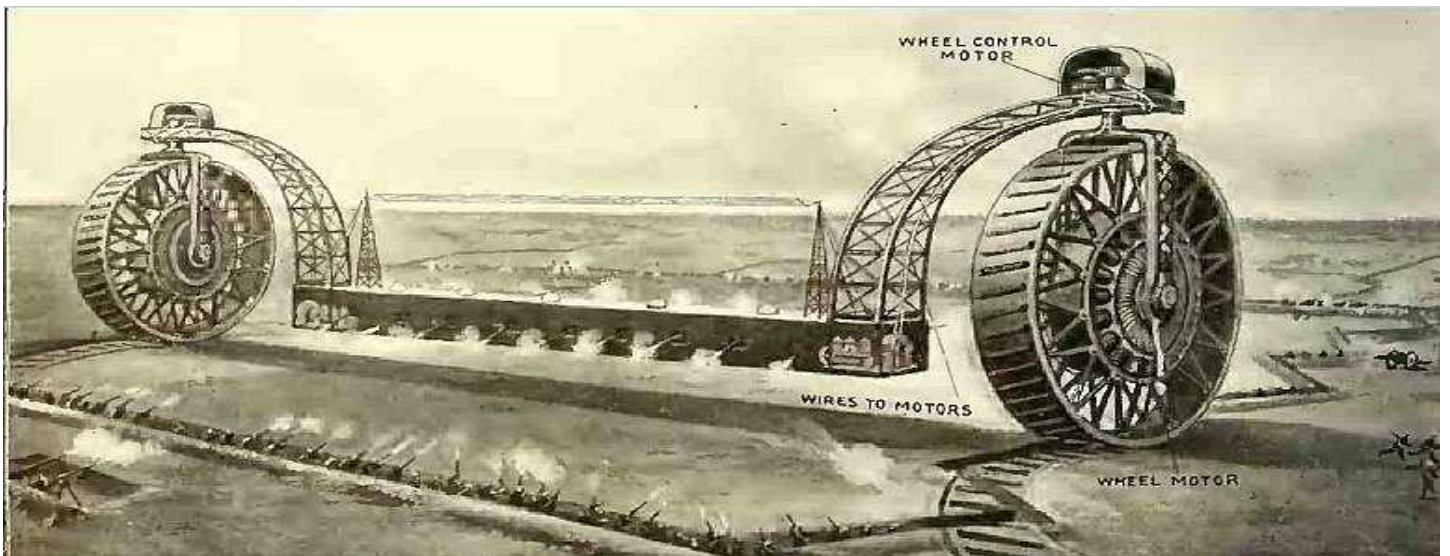
Back to wacky inventions...

Hugo had great visions! Really huge! As the trench warfare began in Europe, Hugo had the solution (the article is signed "H Gernsback"): a truly huge "trench tractor" full of guns. It looks like 300 metres wide, and the text estimates it to weigh 10 000 tons! It's difficult to see how on Earth it could ever work. From *Science and Inventions*, Feb 1916.

In *The Electrical Experimenter* one year later, Feb 1917, Hugo had come to his senses and devised a slightly smaller machine. But it would probably have it's problems too... The Russian Tsar Army tried something similar early in WWI, but the project was abandoned.

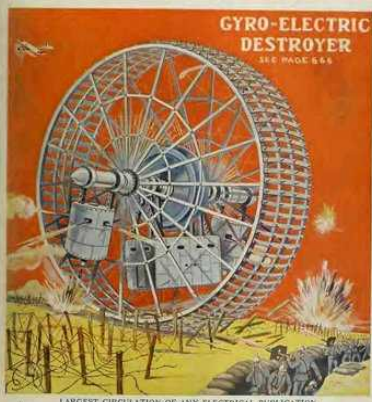
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsar_Tank This construction was simply too clumsy and heavy. Take out a few of the wheel struts and the vehicle might collapse.

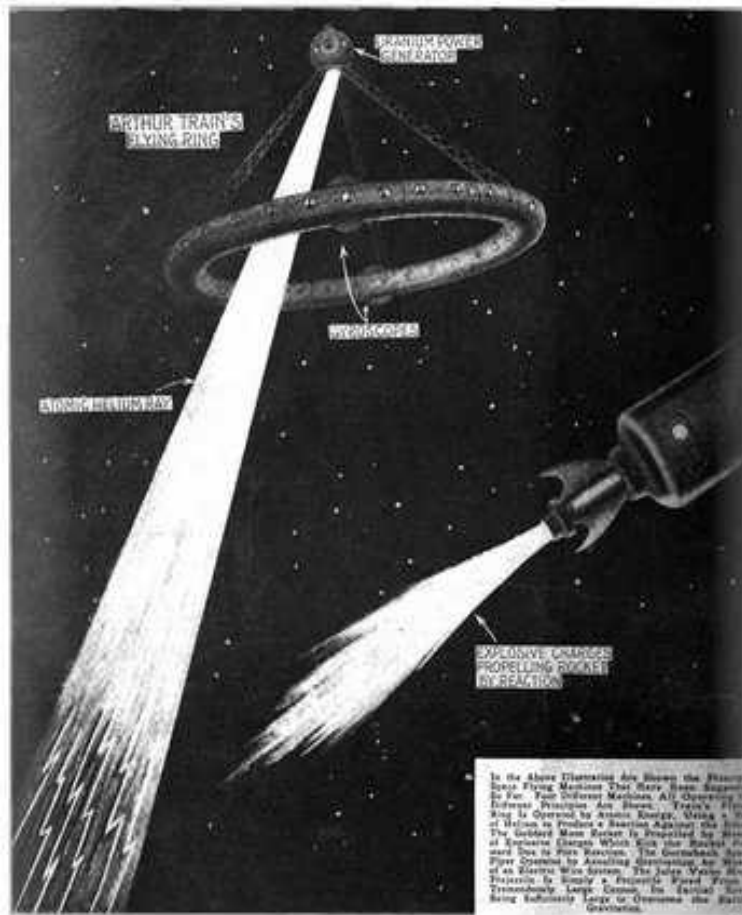
But Hugo didn't give up. Exactly one year later, Feb 1918, *Electrical Experimenter* presented the



"gyro-electric destroyer". Hugo must have been obsessed with trench warfare. In *Electrical Experimenter* Oct 1918 he wanted to fill trenches with remotely controlled "automatic soldiers": a series of remote controller machine gun pods. There's perhaps nothing wrong with the idea, except that it seems very expensive and if the trench still is taken the huge investment is wasted.

Hugo was early into space flight. *Electrical Experimenter* Apr 1921 he summarises different suggested space propulsion systems. Note that "Arthur Train's Flying Ring" uses a "Uranium Power Reactor". Space (in this zine, not the universe)





Flying In Space

By H. GERNSBACH

TWENTY-FIVE years ago mechanical flight was discussed seriously by scientists all over the world. Many scientists of great authority demonstrated mathematically that it was absolutely impossible for a man to fly a machine heavier than air. Eminent men of science sustained this view. Notwithstanding all this, we are flying today

at will and we are building airplanes that can rise thousands of feet and transport one hundred people over great distances. As usual our scientists were not correct as to what can or cannot be done. The next step will be flying not only in the atmosphere, but flying in space where there is nothing to sustain a machine and where propellers and planes are no longer

of use, because where there is no air there can be no mechanical flight as we know it today. The full thickness of the earth's atmosphere sphere is roughly speaking about 500 miles. This makes the densest layer from the earth's surface to the outer space where there is an absolute vacuum, but our atmosphere proper is probably not thicker than

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won't allow to go through every propulsion system. Verne's cannon and Goddard's rocket are mentioned, but Hugo's own suggestion is a giant sphere "annulling gravitation by means of an electrical wire system" - as if that would work!

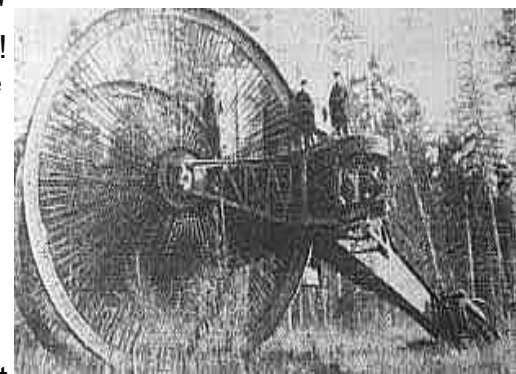
Hugo knew the future for road traffic too. In 1973 (unknown month) *Science & Invention* presented "The Automobile of 1973". It could fly through a set of ridiculous propellers, it balanced on two wheels and its headlights shone in all directions. Somehow, the motor shows must have missed this revolutionary car in 1973...

The presentation of the "Submarine Land-Cruiser" in *Science & Invention*, Feb 1924, has no byline, but the size of this monster makes us

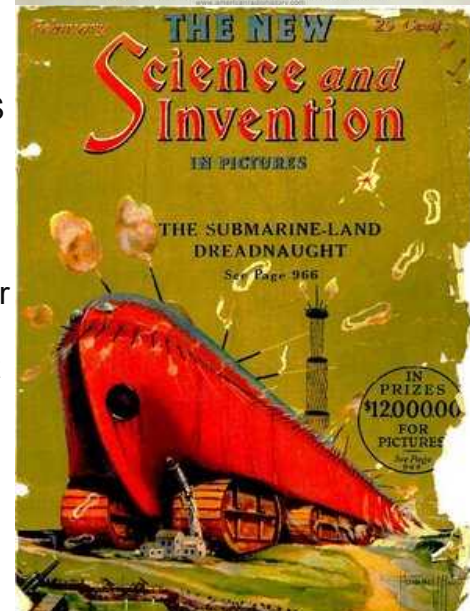
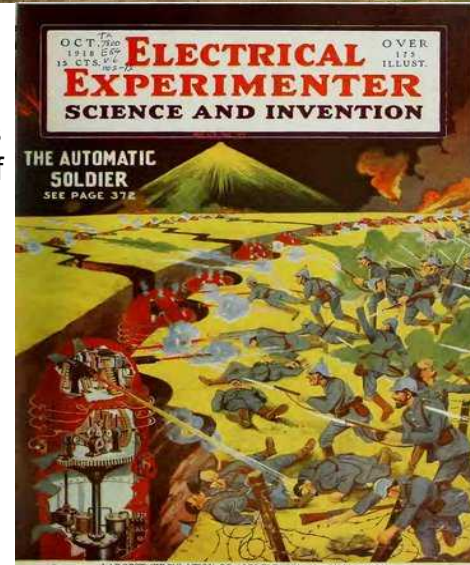
suspect that the giant mind of Hugo is behind it. This beast would weigh down the soil so it couldn't move. The clumsy, slow machine would soon be taken out and the enormous investment would be lost. But it's typical of 1920's visions of future machines: they must be huge. Next, Hugo wants to speak to Mars. His idea is to transfer sound via a modulated light beam. The thing is that this idea could actually work...except there's no one to talk to on Mars. But many at the time believed in Martians, e.g. Hugo's hero Tesla.

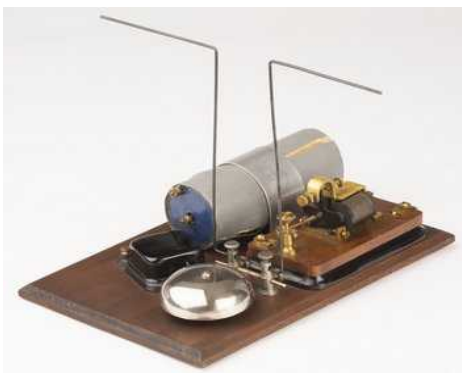
Suppose you had double parked, or forgot to pay for that package of sausages. The Radio Police Automaton, courtesy of H Gernsbach, will arrive. If you resist you'll be shredded to pieces by spinning lead (probably) balls. A 1920s Robocop!

The Electro Importing company Hugo founded when he came to the US introduced the Telmico (pic below) wireless telegraph, first advertised in November 1905 in *Scientific American*. This was probably the first transmitter for the consumer market and became a bestseller for a while at \$7.50 apiece. But it was more of a toy with a maximum range of only 500 feet and better equipment would later arrive. Hugo was always eager to present and discuss new gadgets in his many publications. Here's a list of some Gernsbach "inventions", ie ideas he expressed - I select just a few: <http://technovelgy.com/ct/AuthorTotalAlphaList.asp?AuNum=64>



A prototype of the big-wheeled "Tsar tank" was actually built.





Hugo's Telmico wireless telegraph.

importing business, a variable condenser (which also gave some money), a new kind of loudspeaker (1922), a combined electric hair brush and comb (1912), a human ear-shaped cushion speaker (1927), a hydraulic fishery (1955) and the "osophone" which would help the hearing impaired to hear



Hugo himself in the 5th floor lab in the HQ of Electro Importing company, 1908. It was on 233 Fulton St, NYC.

through vibrations in the teeth.
Nobody should be surprised that Hugo of course became a stamp too, issued by Luxembourg, worth 70 eurocents.

In this piece, "Hugo Gernsback - Father of SF?" <http://mast360.com/index.php/en/virtual-reality-item/hugo-gernsback-father-of-science-fiction/> we learn:

His salary as President of Gernsback Publishing in the 30's was near 60K a year (\$1045 a week on average) ... while paying writers 1 cent per word (at some point, half a cent! even down to 1/4! /), photographs \$3 per image. There are a lot of tales of writers being not paid at all by Gernsback, some even sued him. Famously HP Lovecraft got only paid \$25 for "The colour out of space", prompting him to nickname Gernsback "Hugo the Rat". Hugo Gernsback usually paid authors "on or after publication", meaning he could delay payment for months. He thought being published was enough of a payment, especially once the Great Depression kicked in. It's been mentioned to me that when Gernsback had the cash, he could give "bonuses".

Sometimes he paid as little as 1/4 cent/word. Of course he couldn't afford to pay authors, otherwise the company wouldn't be able to pay him a thousand bucks per week! An ordinary worker could at the time earn that...in a year!

But maybe he was worth it? He seemed to work hard. Wikipedia lists his magazines, around 60! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Gernsback There are some surprising titles, like *Pirate Stories*, *French Humor* (retitled *Tidbits*), *Milady*, *Your Body*, *Motor Camper & Tourist*, *Sexologia*, *Your Dreams*, *Know Yourself*, *Woman's Digest*, *Technocracy Review*, *Fotocraft*, *Superworld Comics* (his only comics mag). A mag titled *Luz* seems to have been a fashion magazine, but we're not sure. *Pirate Stories* was one of these ordinary pulps about entrepreneurs robbing people - like what Hugo did to his authors, and others did to fan funds. *Milady* was into fashion, other titles were psychology or medicine and *Technocracy Review* was his perhaps only "political" magazine. Let engineers rule, "technocracy", was popular at the time. Genre historian Gary Westfahl summarises it, <https://www.sfsite.com/gary/ww-eaton02.htm>

...one would expect that Gernsback's rare 1933 magazine, Technocracy Review, would vigorously argue in favour of technocracy....I found that the magazine announced and maintained a strictly neutral stance: "Technocracy Review voices no opinion of its own. It aims to publish all opinions whether for or against technocracy." And, in the original and reprinted articles that it presented, the magazine actually followed this policy, and Gernsback's own contributions tot the magazine display at best ambivalence, and at times genuine hostility, towards technocracy. Well, if Gernsback loved science and scientists, and if technocracy advocated a society dedicated to science and ruled by scientists, why would Gernsback object to it?...he voiced an objection that paralleled his objection to much of the science fiction published by others in his day: the advocates of technocracy were making serious scientific errors. He claimed that "Most of the statements issued by spokesmen of Technocracy are untrue. /Gernsback wrote:/ Indeed, it would not be a bad idea to start immediately a new cult which I would term SCIENTOCRACY, and the men who head this particular cult would, of course, be SCIENTOCRATS—offering Scientocracy, in opposition to Technocracy, as the direction of the country and its resources by Scientists and not by Technicians. There is ... a huge difference between the two. The Technician, as a rule, takes the output of the Scientists. The Scientist comes first, the Technician, second the scientist is more careful and knows his subject from the ground up, whereas the technologist is not so well versed in the theory.

But what "scientocracy" really meant remained a bit unclear. You can download many of Hugo Gernsbacks science/tech mags here: https://worldradiohistory.com/Electrical_Experimenter.htm (get eg *Science & Invention* Aug 1923, which was the special "scientifiction issue", a precursor to later



Radio Corporation, Westinghouse Photo

The author delivering his lecture, "The Future of Radio," from WJZ, Newark, N. J. An ordinary telephone transmitter was used in this case, but new models are now being used with which it is not necessary to speak close to the transmitter at all. This lecture was heard by over a hundred thousand people.

Gernsback holding radio lecture, as early as 1922! It's claimed it reached 100 000 listeners! He lectured on his radio station every Monday.

Amazing). Scientocracy was perhaps the revolutionary idea that maximising income and minimising unnecessary expenses (eg giving writers the means to eat) would increase the surplus. But don't think Hugo was insensitive. He thought of deaf people, for instance to let them enjoy music he invented the *physiophone*! It consisted of a device that caught the vibrations from a record player and transformed them to rhythms. These were then sent as electrical pulses attached to the deaf via wires, so they could feel the vibes. You could even dance, with wires hanging from the ceiling in a scaled-down version of the electric chair.

The physiophone was an accidental invention, according to Gernsback,

which occurred to him as early as 1900, when he was unexpectedly given an electric shock while tinkering with a telephone. Gernsback didn't emigrate to the United States until 1904, so this experiment was presumably being conducted in his native Luxembourg.

<https://paleofuture.com/blog/2023/6/7/this-invention-from-the-grandfather-of-science-fiction-was-promoted-as-music-for-the-deaf>

Some of Hugo's magazines and other publications on previous pages and below. Radio, electronics and inventions was the bulk of it. But he also did a lot of handbooks and manuals. Science fiction was only a tiny part of it.

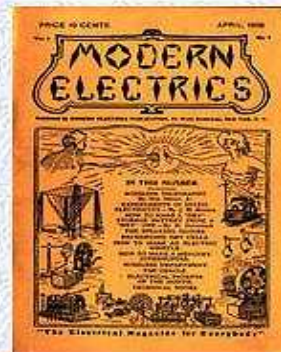
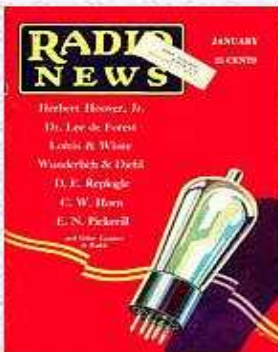
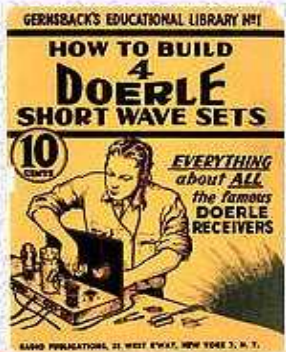
Even if Hugo was early with TV, there are few moving pictures of him (at least that I found). But here's an interview with first Sam

Moskowitz (who helped Hugo as editor of *Science Fiction Plus*) and then Hugo Himself. He talks about his prediction of radar and telemedicine and an idea to power a spaceship going to Mars by an energy beam from the Moon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=yNvAuTSGAzk>

Finally, something for my Swedish readers. Hugo was the source of the famous cover for #1 of the Swedish sf mag *Häpna!* In 1954 It came from Hugo Gernsback's last sf magazine, *Science Fiction Plus*, used as a cover in May 1953,. *SF Plus* was published for seven issues during that single year, One wonders if it was Ralph who provided the "plus" in the title? Anyway, it's available as PDFs for



Thanks to Hugo's "physiophone" the deaf can dance. But how do you whisper sweet words into your partner's ears?



Hugo Gernsback Library

Select Gernsback in Technical Search



Books & Publications by Hugo Gernsback (and links to his magazines)

Hugo Gernsback publications including the Gernsback Educational Library, Gernsback Radio Service Manual, Gernsback Library, Radio Craft Technical Series and the Radio Craft Electronics Reference Annual as well as other pamphlets and books.

Gernsback Collection



Hugo Gernsback

Hugo Gernsback (1884 – 1967), was a Luxembourgish-American inventor, writer, editor, and magazine publisher, best known for publications including the first science

Gernsback's Educational Library

#1 Build 4 Doerle Short Wave Sets	#2 The Most Popular All Wave Receivers	#3 Alternating Current	#4 All About Aerials	#5 Beginners' Radio Dictionary
#6 Fun With Radio	#7 How to Read Radio Diagrams	#8 Radio For Beginners	#9 Simple Radio Experiments	#10 Television

free here: <https://www.luminist.org/archives/SF/> *SF Plus* is rather interesting, so have a look. In one article we learn that the space suit mentioned was a design by astronomer dr Donald Menzel. The "fins" are for cooling.

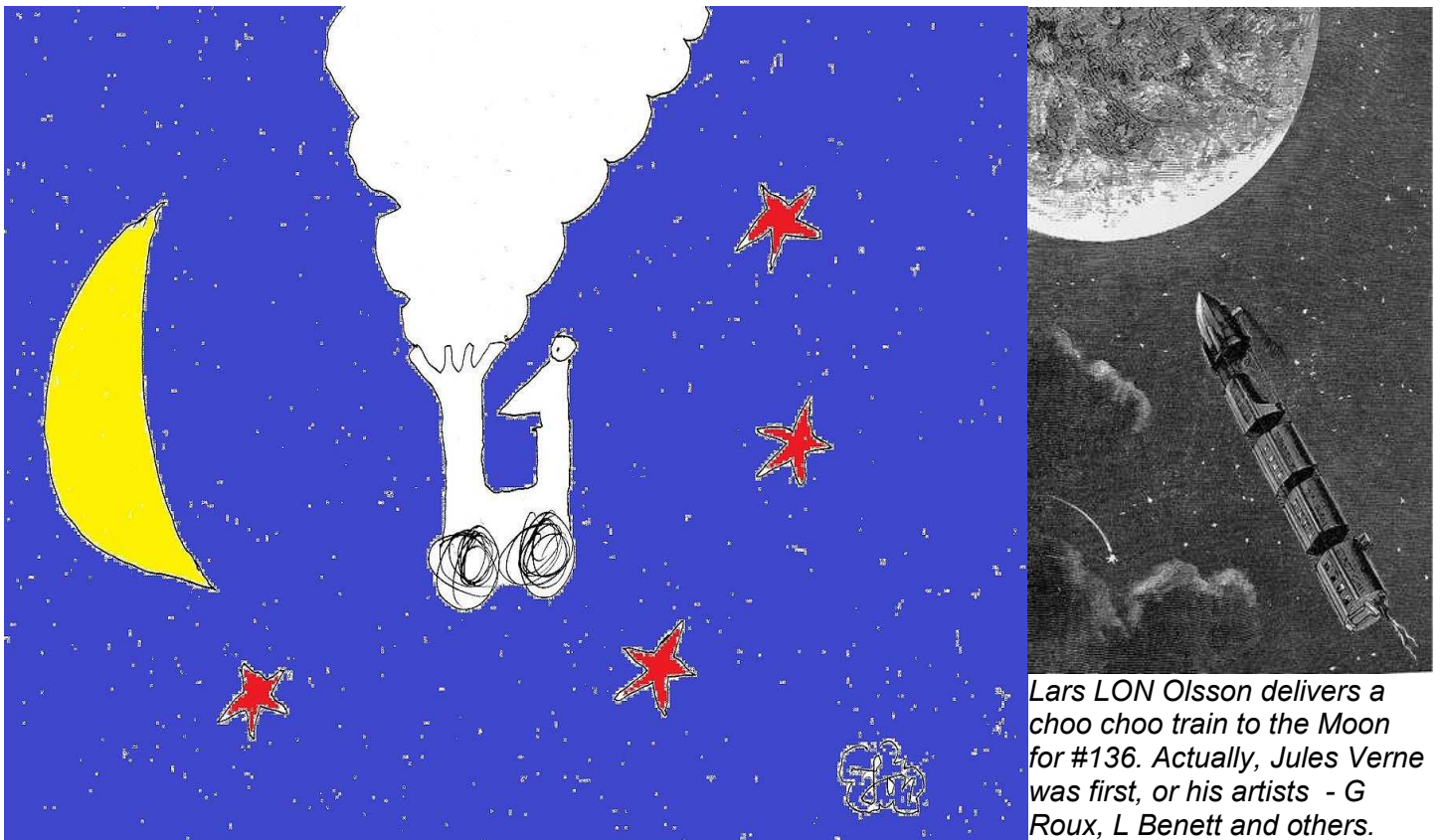


Ungle Hugos "publishing empire" actually lingered on *into the 21st century* (says <https://www.magazineart.org/publishers/germsback.html>) referring to one "Larry Steckler, who worked for Gernsback and his publishing company for nearly fifty years.../he/ was the last owner of Gernsback Publications, Inc. /until/ the publishing company finally closed in 2002, "

Mailing Comments

Here comments to latest EAPA (there's no new NAPA yet). Intermission started in APAs (that's why MCs) but other lucky bastards also get it... BTW, do a fanzine yourself! Fandom as we know it is sinking under silly superhero costumes, brainless games and pointless plastic. We need more of the traditional sf fanzines! Do a zine and you'll be rich, healthy, sexy and ...trufannish!

Henry Grynsten: Interesting comparing actors to kings. There are indeed striking similarities. But I'd like to widen the thoughts. Instead of actors, I'd say **any** celebrity. Anyone in this media, gossip, entertainment merry-go-round counts - and in a way any celebrity is a sort of actor. They act their role as a celebrity all the time. And rather than "kings" I'd call them a sort of nobility. Kings are "unique", since there's usually only one per country - but there may be hundreds of noblemen. And this is a position that's inherited between generations. Children of artists often becomes artists themselves. The Swedish Kardashians is a family named Wahlgren - every kid in that family has become an artist or famous for something! It's the same with the Skarsgård family. And many others. Children of actors often become actors. The same with film makers. The children of Ingmar Bergman, Hans Alfredson, Carl Johan De Geer and others are now filming. And the kids of journalists and authors usually become journos and scribblers themselves. And with this follows privileges, as for all nobility. More money coming in, of course, and modern celeb nobility also get invited to the Binfeldt parties with free drinks, from which you see them smile in spreads from a film premiere, art opening or whatever...which solidifies their celebrity status. If they submit an article or write a book the risk of getting rejected is near zero. Celeb status sells! (I happen to know a ghost writer who sometimes do "their" books.) And celeb nobility opinions counts for more. A celebrity can get projects financed and free PR for it, and if they do something wrong - drunk driving is common, or sniffing cocaine - just make a confession in the papers mixing tears with ink and are be forgiven, while celeb status is further boosted. Not that I find this sort of nobility unfair - if people acquire followers, what's wrong with that? And the new nobility at least work for their status. The celebrity nobility also give people hope and something to aspire for. Anyone can become this nobility if you develop your talent and find



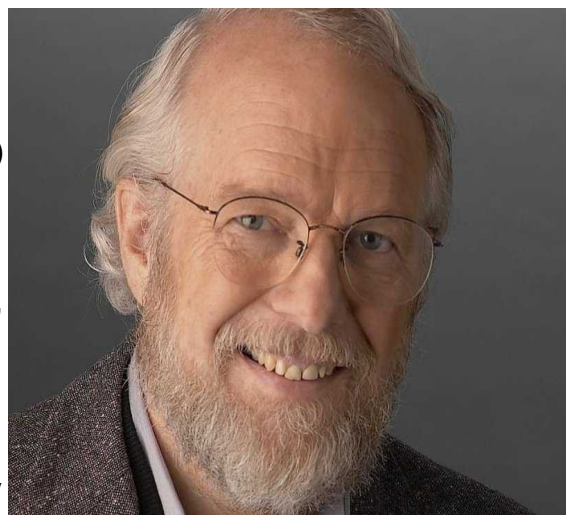
Lars LON Olsson delivers a choo choo train to the Moon for #136. Actually, Jules Verne was first, or his artists - G Roux, L Benett and others.

something interesting to show off. I note that in the UK you may be both a celebrity nobility AND become knighted (though that isn't inherited by the kids). In Sweden most of the privileges of the old nobility ceased in 1866 when a constitutional changes scrapped our House of Lords and made the parliament bicameral. Our king had the formal right to knight people until 1974, when the constitution once again changed but it wasn't used. (The last person to be knighted in Sweden was explorer Sven Hedin in 1902). The only thing with out new nobility is that I find celebrity admiration a bit silly, or rather: A LOT silly and meaningless. It'd be good if people stopped worshipping celebrities, but there's not a lot we can do about it. □□Asimov's marriage - I've read all three of his memoirs - became rather loveless after a few years. In one autobio he admits to infidelity before he and first wife Gertrude had a formal divorce. Asimov was emotionally and sexually awkward (he had no sex before marriage for instance, says his memoirs). His psychological profile clearly points to a typical inhibited person who tries to compensate for it with extrovert behaviour towards women.

William McCabe: We know Earth suffered a "little ice age" that ended about 200 years ago. Since then temperature as of course slowly bounced back. So a temp that rises a little after a period being colder is what we could expect. The climate goes up and down in long trends. The variation is rather modest in the short perspective. People claiming it'll turn into a sauna make "projections", but there's no way to know in advance if those are correct. Computers typically just tell you what you want. They depend on the presumptions you build into the models and the data. (And remember that we have a huge data deficit! Wide meteorological data began maybe 150 years back but *only* for 30% of Earth. Earlier data than that are more *uncertain estimates* from *indirect* sources. But data for the 70% of the planet surface that is ocean is only from the last 40 years (when the first IR satellites came). □□It's of course correct that the Hugo and Nebula isn't a "world" award. Many countries have their own sf awards which eg Locus usually reports about. Oddly enough, there's no main Swedish genre award. (Our most prestigious prize is the fandom activity Alvar award.) But remember, the sf genre in it's modern form was born in the US, and to a degree also the UK, so it's isn't strange that a US award carry some weight. (I come to think of the Nobel prize. It *is* strange it carries such weight. It's not the award with most money, though it gives you a few bucks. Its literature part is decided by an odd group of 18 people. Maybe the status comes from that it has been around very long and it was constructed to be international. Alfred Nobel forbad any "regard to nationality".)

Heath Row: To rename Twitter X is *stupid!* Sorry, no more to add.

Garth Spencer: Artificial Stupidity is an interesting idea! I didn't know that there was an English word "sloyd" (handicrafts) derived from Swedish "slöjd"... It joins *smorgasbord, ombudsman, moped, gravlax, Celsius, Angstrom*. TV here has recently aired the World Cup of running in the woods with a map, a sport known as *orienteering* (from Swedish "orientering" - I guess the word "orientation" would be confusing), another Swedish language derivative. The first TV system did indeed use a rotating disk, launched by Scotsman John Logie Baird in the late 1920s (the system was first theoretically suggested by Paul Nipkow of Germany). I happen to cover what Hugo did in this issue! When BBC began TV experiments half of the broadcasts used the Baird system. It of course proved inferior - low



Sad: Adobe co-founder, PDF inventor John Warnock died Aug 19, aged 82. He made intermission possible, so we owe him a lot!

resolution, humming from the disk - to electronic scanning which had been invented by one Philo Farnsworth, further developed by one Philo Farnsworth. BBC skipped the mechanical system. But first with regular TV was... Nazi-Germany. They began in 1935 and of course covered the 1936 Berlin Olympics. BBC began in 1936. Here's an interesting documentary about Nazi TV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3exBWIwrvsE> There were only a few hundred TV sets in Germany at the time, but also TV "viewing rooms" in major cities, which you would use like going to the cinema. In the US TV was "officially" begun during the 1939 World's Fair in New York, but there had been several experimental "stations" before that including Hugo's. Sweden was late, with experimental transmissions beginning in 1954, and the official start in 1956. Only Albania was slower, it is said... The slow start partly came from the fear that people would turn into vegetables watching TV. Watching some programs I'm not sure they were wrong...

Time to round off. There's a lot more to find about Hugo Gernsback. (Check his magazines. They are often very interesting. I gave some links, but Google will help too.) There's so much gernsbackiana around that this became a little long... If you have anything interesting to add about Hugo let me know. Contents of next issue is of course not set, but I hope it will be thinner. I've lately found myself a bit occupied with both this and that. I continue with an undisclosed project and now comes story awards to handle, so thinner intermissions would be welcome.

NEWSFLASH! Karin Lundwall (right), daughter of Sam J, now editor with Bonniers Publishing House, becomes new CEO of the SF-Bokhandeln (SF Bookstore) chain, after Maths Claesson (RIP May 7th). Karin's been in skiffy since, sort of, her first diapers, so she should be able to handle this. The SF-Bokhandeln chain with stores in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö is among the most profitable bookstores in the country. (Unfortunately, they seem to sell more games, comics, movie paraphernalia and such than books.)



Cringe! A Spanish football moment! And Karin, beware! Should you happen to shake hands with that figure, you'd better count your fingers afterwards...

Слава Україні!