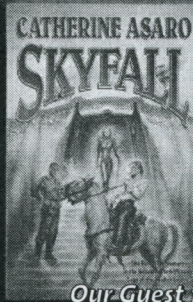
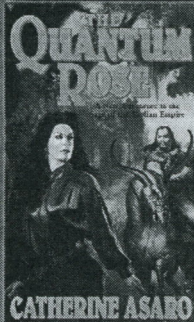




PSFS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

SCIENCE FICTION ■ FANTASY ■ HORROR



Our Guest for November 14th, 2003:

CATHERINE ASARO

Science Fiction Author

CATHERINE ASARO, SFWA PRESIDENT

Catherine Asaro was born in Oakland, California and grew up in El Cerrito, just north of Berkeley. She received her Phd in Chemical Physics and MA in Physics, both from Harvard, and a BS with Highest Honors in Chemistry from UCLA. Among the places she has done research are the University of Toronto in Canada, the Max Planck Institut für Astrophysik in Germany, and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Her research involves using quantum theory to describe the behavior of atoms and molecules. Catherine was a physics professor until 1990, when she established Molecudyne Research, which she currently runs.

A former ballerina, Catherine has performed with ballets and in musicals on both coasts and in Ohio. In the 1980's she was a principal dancer and artistic director of the Mainly Jazz Dancers and the Harvard University Ballet. After she graduated, her undergraduate students took over Mainly Jazz and made it into an organization at the college. Catherine still teaches ballet in Maryland.

Catherine's fiction is a successful blend of hard science fiction, romance, and exciting

space adventure. She has published nine novels, seven of which belong to her Saga of the Skolian Empire. Spherical Harmonic, the most recent novel in this series, came out in hardcover in December 2001 from Tor. Her previous novel, *The Quantum Rose*, won the Nebula Award for best novel of 2001 and is now available in paperback. For a complete list and chronology of Catherine's novels, [click here](#).

Catherine has also published short fiction in Analog magazine and in several anthologies, as well as reviews and nonfiction essays, and scientific papers in refereed academic journals. Her paper, "Complex Speeds and Special Relativity" in the April 1996 issue of *The American Journal of Physics* forms the basis for some of the science in her novels.

Catherine recently completed the next installment in the Skolian series, entitled "Moon's Shadow." It will arrive in bookstores in February 2003. Also appearing next February will be her first anthology as an editor: *Irresistible Forces* will feature new novellas by six top authors in the genres of science fiction, romance, and fantasy: Mary Jo Putney, Lois McMaster Bujold, Jo Beverley, Jennifer Roberson,

ABOUT PSFS NEWS

PSFS NEWS is the newsletter and corporate minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership.

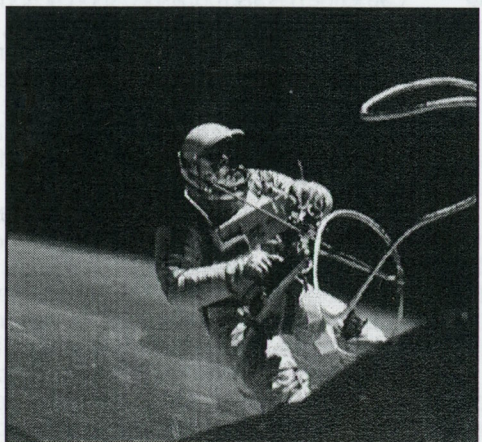
SUBMISSIONS to PSFS News are welcome, in our quest for world domination. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. Articles can be e-mailed (secretary@psfs.org) but they may be mailed, if necessary, to the PSFS PO Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting. E-mailed articles may be sent in nearly any format, but text or HTML formats are preferred. Artwork, Sketches, Comics, or Photos are also welcome in any graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us (originals will not be returned).

SCIFI-OGRAPHIES SUBMISSIONS are open to any member who would like to send us approximately 300 words about themselves, and their relationship with science fiction. Submissions will be published based on available space.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - PSFS News is available free to active and general members of PSFS, and to any Science Fiction Club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or inactive members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$15/year.

PSFS NEWS is published by the PSFS Secretary (Nathan E. Lilly) of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

CONTRIBUTORS (in order of submission received): Henry Leon Lazarus, Nathan Lilly, Darrell Schweitzer, Saul Snitkin, Lee Weinstein.



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY is a non-profit organization that meets to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts, and popular culture.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy. Attend your first meeting; we'll say "Hello." At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership or ask someone else to nominate you. At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$24 for a full year (\$40 for couples). Attendance of 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the 2nd Friday of each month and feature a guest speaker involved in some area of Science Fiction or Fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, etc. See *Meeting Notices* for more information.

SPONSORED EVENTS, such as *The Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference* (AKA *Philcon*), are held throughout the year.

OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST EVENTS, are also sponsored by the society, such as the *Book Discussion Group*, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy; and the *Special Events Group*, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events.

COPIES OF THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES can be made available to all Society Members by asking the Secretary.

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Contact boardmembers by phone (or send e-mail to board@psfs.org).

PRESIDENT Suzanne Rosin	(610)667-5248
VICE PRESIDENT Hugh Casey	(215)674-8047*
SECRETARY Nathan Lilly	(215)439-8690
TREASURER Jeff Linder	(856)983-3074
2 YEAR DIRECTOR Will Flynn	TBA
2 YEAR DIRECTOR Tim Binder	(610)352-9131
1 YEAR DIRECTOR Saul Snitkin	(215)745-3765

*no calls after 9p.m.

CALL THE PSFS HOTLINE: (877) 656-3914 for PSFS Meeting Information, to leave messages, and to receive last minute meeting cancellations.

TO JOIN THE PSFS LISTSERVES and receive PSFS related news via e-mail, send an e-mail to 'announce-on@psfs.org'. To subscribe to PSFS-Talk (general PSFS discussions), the address is 'psfs-talk-on@psfs.org'.

MEETING NOTICES

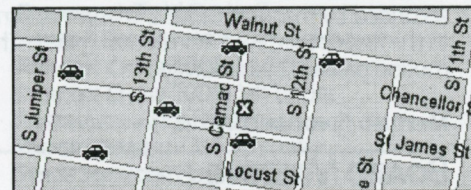
November 14th, 2003
Catherine Asaro
Hard SF/Romance Author & President of SFWA.

November 16th, 2003
Philcon '03 Meeting
To discuss the convention. Contact chair@philcon.org for more information.

November 19th, 2003
Board Meeting
To discuss society topics. Contact board@psfs.org for time & location

December 12th, 2003
Peter David
Philcon special guest, and SF Author

December 12th-14th, 2003
Philcon 2003
The Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference at the Marriott Hotel



Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at The Franklin Inn Club, located at 205 South Camac Street - the northeast corner of the intersection of Camac and St. James Streets, which is just north and east of the intersection of Locust and 13th Streets, in Center City Philadelphia. Business meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Program starts at 9 pm. Meeting dates may be changed by the Society when necessary.

NEWS

For current information and announcements about PSFS visit www.psfs.org

COPIES OF ALL OFFICIAL PSFS CORRESPONDENCE should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS can be e-mailed to secretary@psfs.org, mailed to the Society's P.O. Box, or given to the Secretary in writing at the meetings. To have your announcements, events, articles, etc. published accurately you must give the secretary the information in writing (or e-mail).

THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA GAMING SOCIETY is sponsoring Game Club Saturday at the Oxford Valley Mall-Community Room (upper level behind Zales), for anyone interested in playing board games, strategy games, military simulations, railroad games, economic games, or family games. For additional information visit www.epgs.org

PAGE (PHILADELPHIA AREA GAMING ENTHUSIASTS) meet every Sunday night at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. Meetings start at 6 pm and run till 10-10:30. They do role-playing, board gaming, historical (a bit of everything). Everyone's welcome. For more information visit www.philagamers.org

PRYDONIANS OF PRINCETON meet once a month at the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville, NJ. Contact: Prydonians@aol.com or visit www.prydonians.org.

BARNES & NOBLE IN BRYN MAWR has a Science Fiction Discussion group that meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:30pm.

THE FRANKLIN INN CLUB offers dinner to interested members before the regularly scheduled PSFS meetings at about 6:30, \$15 for appetizer to dessert \$8-\$10 if you just want dinner and dessert. Contact Jenna Lynn (dinner@psfs.org) for details.

PHILADELPHIA FANTASTIC will be having a reading of Holly Black's *Tithe* at the Center City Barnes and Nobles (18th & Walnut). If you'd like to be added to the Philadelphia Fantastic Announcement list contact Oz Fontecchio at ozf@netaxs.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM AND SARA PURDUM, who will be celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary on November 19.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF AND PAM LINDER who will celebrate their 1st month anniversary.

THE WORLD OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN EXPLORED at The Free Library of Philadelphia Central Library on Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 pm. Tolkien experts convene at the Free Library to discuss J. R. R. Tolkien's life and the immense project of bringing Middle Earth to the big screen.

PHILCON 2003

PHILADELPHIA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
 December 12-14, 2003 Marriott Center City Hotel, Philadelphia

Principal Speaker: JACK McDEVITT
 Artist Guests of Honor: GREG & TIM HILDEBRANDT
 Special Guests: PETER DAVID & HARRY HARRISON

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

for September 12th, 2003

First Timers: 3 Nominees: 1

New Members: 1

Members: 32 (31 active, 1 general, 0 inactive)

**Status changes are effective after meeting adjourns.*

GENERAL MEETING

These are the minutes of the General Meeting held on September 12th, 2003 at The Franklin Inn Club. The meeting was called to order at 8:05PM-ish.

PROXIES: none.

**Proxies may be delivered directly to the Secretary either in person, by mail (must arrive before the meeting), at the meeting by another member of the society.*

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES: Will Flynn is not Deb Ruh.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT (SUZANNE): no report.

VICE PRESIDENT (HUGH): All-in-all everyone had a good time at Jeff's wedding. That's pretty much the VP's report, because the VP doesn't do much.

SECRETARY (NATHAN): If you have proxies then it's too late to give them to me. According to Roberts' Rules of Order, it's too late to correct the minutes. I moved. I no longer reside in Philadelphia. I am now living in Limerick, PA. My phone number hasn't changed, my e-mail address has not changed.

“...but does it rhyme?”

TREASURER (JEFF): We have money. It is in accounts. Checks have been written for people who need them.

2 YEAR DIRECTOR (TIM): none.

2 YEAR DIRECTOR (WILL): none.

1 YEAR DIRECTOR (SAUL): none.

“...is there a Philcon meeting tomorrow?”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PHILCON 2003 (HUGH): Our next committee meeting (the Hotel Walk-through) will be the 21st of this month. We know that it was

originally scheduled for the 14th, but the Hotel wasn't available for that day. The meeting after that will be held on October 18th, place TBD.

SPACE SCIENCES (HANK SMITH): Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please contact him for details.

PROGRAMMING (OZ): Oz introduced Greg Frost. See *Meeting Notices* for future guests and dates.

SPECIAL EVENTS (OZ): Contact Oz for future features, locations, and dates.

BOOK DISCUSSION (OZ): Contact Oz for future features, locations, and dates.

MOVIE GROUP (OZ): Contact Oz for future features, locations, and dates.

BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

APRIL MEETING MOTION: Hank motioned, seconded by many, to move the April meeting to the first or third weekend of that month. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:28-ish

BOARD MEETING

These are the minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 22nd, 2003 at Suite 1312. The meeting was called to order at 8:00PM-ish.

PROXIES: none.

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES: none.

ATTENDING: Tim Binder, Nathan Lilly, Suzanne Rosin, Saul Snitkin, Will Flynn. Others Present: Oz Fontecchio, Hank Smith, Jennifer Madden.

“...I gotta get a geiger counter...”

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT (SUZANNE): If anyone needs help with anything, please ask.

VICE PRESIDENT (HUGH): no report.

SECRETARY (NATHAN): My term as Secretary is ending soon, and I'm looking for someone to pass the torch to. Anyone who's interested in the position can contact me (secretary@psfs.org).

TREASURER (JEFF): no report.

2 YEAR DIRECTOR (TIM): no report.

2 YEAR DIRECTOR (WILL): I'm feeling much better now.

“...turn the damned thing off...”

1 YEAR DIRECTOR (SAUL): no report.

BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS:

PSFS DOOMSDAY (COMMITTEE LIST): Here is the list of PSFS committees.

ARCHIVIST: Carol Kabakjian

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP LEADER: Oz Fontecchio

CORPORATE ATTORNEY: Gary Feldbaum

DINNER AT INN: Jenna Lynn Binder

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Lew Wolkoff

HOTLINE: Nathan Lilly

MILTON ROTHMAN: Jeff Linder

NO FUND: John Desmond

OVERSIGHT: Todd Dashoff

PHILIP K DICK AWARD: Gary Feldbaum

PHILCON CHAIR 2003: Hugh Casey

PHILCON CHAIR 2004: Jeff Linder

POSTMASTER: Tim Binder

PROGRAMMING: Oz Fontecchio

SPACE SCIENCES: Hank Smith

SPECIAL EVENTS: Oz Fontecchio

STUDENT'S WRITING CONTEST: Lew Wolkoff

SUNSHINE: Mattie Brahen

WEBMASTER: Nathan Lilly

NEW BUSINESS: none.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:02-ish

“...no... I just got out of the hospital...”

PHILCON 2003 MEETING

These are the minutes of the Philcon 2003 Meeting held on October 18th, 2003 at the Marriott Hotel. The meeting was called to order at 1:44PM.

PROXIES: none.

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES: none.

ATTENDING: Hugh Casey, Jeff Linder, Nathan Lilly, Gary Feldbaum, Oz Fontecchio, Hank Smith, Bob Schweir, Winona Whyte-Schweir, Will Flynn, Tony Finan, Suzanne Rosin, Rosemarie Freeman,

Rebecca Marcus, and others.

NOTE: Nathan was only at the meeting briefly at the beginning to answer some specific questions. These are the notes as reported by Gary Feldbaum.

Thursday Move In
Franklin Hall A - Art Show
Meeting Room 309 - Miscellaneous Departments
Meeting Room 310 - Logistics
Masquerade/Tech
Meeting Room 405 - Registration Storage
Registration Coordination
Lock Down
Attendance
Preferred times
Moderators
Get list of programs and invitation letter to other program area heads
Methods of getting information to coordinator
Roman agrees that Main Programming will look at lists of suggested panel participants provided by other area heads and use some of them
Get names and addresses of program participants to Joe Neff, along with the software to read the database
Guests will continue to get their badges in the green room, including children and guests
Increase budgets to account for duplicate mailings
Main programming database will be e-mailed to specialty program areas
Use postcards to notify other potential program participants of potentially available programs. Ask them to check the website at a special URL
Use program participant email addresses when available

NATHAN LILLY NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

215-439-8690 Cell Phone

610-495-9475 Home

726 North Lewis Road

Limerick, PA 19468

nelilly@greententacles.com

Secretary@psfs.com

USE OF LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE

We will do the masquerade in the Liberty Ballroom. The stage will be on the west end of the room. There is a door behind where the

stage will be where the contestants will enter directly behind the middle of the stage The first door into Liberty A will have to be sealed and maybe the second door The line should enter the middle of the room on the east west corridor

Green room and photo setup will be in Independence That room can be divided into three sections

Friday night, Liberty will be used for PSFS meeting and quiz show as well as other program items Meet the pros will be on fourth floor in open area, circulating into the art show No food at the Art show reception

CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Ask in postcard that people indicate what special knowledge or experience people would bring to a subject and to visit special URL to see if they wish to be considered for additional panels. Have bios sent/mailed to both Darrell and Christina. Joe Neff needs names, addresses of program participants from art show, dealers and progra. Assemble list of roll over and free memberships. Joni has art show, move in and move out Contact Laura for other info.

Joe Neff needs to be provided the names of committee people, even if not changed Joe will forward this information to other departments including information, volunteers, program book and operations

RIBBONS

We need to place an order low on several categories, including staff and gopher Get special ribbon orders in by November 8. Game master ribbons.

Film and anime - make specific room assignment. Film was in 307 last year. Films (two) for masquerade Will be on videotape Evelyn and Shuggot.

Scheduling - programs with av go in room with av equipment set permanently, to the extent possible.

Panels can't run full 60 minutes - need changeover time. Brian has a television and VCR he is willing to bring to convention Also specify eq needed, including microphones. Request for eq should go out to staff list. Tony Finan's video staff may available upon advance notice to help others. Tony will coordinate all video needs, in consultation with Lisa Get your requests in now Late requests cost money and time. Just because a program needs a piece of equipment doesn't mean it will be provided

LOGISTICS:

LABEL ITEMS. LABEL IF RESTRICTED USE (Get tape and sharpies). Remind hotel not to unlock secure rooms Remind them that secure doors were opened last year, exposing expensive equipment to theft. Game runners are program participant. RPGA requesting table inside gaming roo. Larper's requested table, by registration

Email Lisa (hotel@philconorg) with av requests

SIGNS

Op request Green Room through that door
Get copy of signed contract to ops
Request of every department head and assistant's cell phone numbers
Ask people to provide cell phone numbers to Jeff
Sign requests to signs@philconorg
Request of every department head and assistant's cell phone numbers
Meet and greet for anime Saturday evening possibly in anime room
Art show - needs two sleepers Neil will be one
Create way to communicate with truck driver
Develop in hotel logistic procedures
Recruit for move in - move out helpers
Floor maps in pocket program and blow ups in halls?

Get party board - contact Pierre
Contact BSFS to get on floor party boards
Status Reports

Main Flyer - Tim is finishing flyer, will go out very shortly Artwork has arrived from the Hildebrandts

The person who was administering the den has left the committee Alternative possibilities are being contacted

Masquerade director's employer insists she work Friday and Saturday She will not be at con until at least 6pm Saturday We solicited assistance and have received volunteers for on site Deputy We do not yet have a tech director
Next Philcon meeting Sunday November 16, 2003. Starting time 1pm

Flyer was not available for Exhumed shows
Approved to make two Philcon memberships available at raffle at next Exhumed show if it occurs before Philcon
Consider advertisement in Monster Mania program book next year

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:56pm

MEMBERSHIP DETERMINATION:

Here is the Membership Status list for the 2002-2003 determination period. All members in the current database are listed, along with the number of meetings that they have attended, as determined by their signatures in the sign-in book. Inactive members for whom we have no current address information are not included in this list, and are not in the mailing list database. Suspended members are marked with an asterisk and may not vote until their dues have been paid. Status appeals should be made in writing to the Board of Directors before the January Annual Meeting.

ACTIVE (48)

Binder, Timothy (4)
Bloom, Bruce (11)
Brahen, Mattie (8)
Breakstone, Alan (5)
Brill, David (5)
Casey, Hugh (6)
Couture, Bill (6)
Couture, Caroline (6)
Dashoff, Jared (8)
Dashoff, Todd (9)
Dashoff, Joni Brill (10)
Desmond, John (7)
Dietz, Eric (11)
Feldbaum, Gary K. (10)
Ferre, Richard (5)
Field, Don (7)
Fisher, Stephen C. (5)
Flynn, Will (4)
Fontecchio, Oz (11)
Hamell, Eric (4)
Handen, Shelley (10)
Hottenrott, Peter (5)
Lilly, Nathan (11)
Linder, Jeff (7)
Madden, Jennifer (4)
Marcus, Rebecca (11)
McGinnis, Mimi (6)
Neff, Joe (4)
Olmsted, Gene (7)
Paul, Sara (6)
Peterson, Jenna Lynn (4)
Rosin, Suzanne (9)
Ruh, Debra (5)
Satz, Ron (7)
Schwarzl, Marie (6)
Schweitzer, Darrell (10)
Schwier, Bob (6)
Siano, Brian (6)
Smith, Hank (11)
Snitkin, Saul (11)
Tansky, Arthur (9)
Tigar, Jim (4)
Torpey, Robert (7)

ACTIVE (CONT'D)

Weinstein, Diane (8)
Weinstein, Lee (8)
Whyte-Schwier, Winona (5)
Wolkoff, Lew (8)

GENERAL (63)

Alpert, Leslie Ann (1)
Ashmead, John (0)
Beck, Tom (0)
Blanco, Lisa I. (2)
Blanco-Finan, Kristina (0)
Brannon, James J. (3)
Brown, Dennis (1)
Casey, Denise (0)
Cipolone, Mark S. (0)
Crosson, Jerry (2)
Dashoff, Alan (2)
Daverso, Pam (0)
Davis, Neil (3)
Donewitz, Ira (0)
Dyson, Andy (0)
Fernsler, Pamela J. (2)
Fisher, Michael (0)
Graybill, Terry S.S. (3)
Hoeffling, Janet (0)
Holland, Lora C. (0)
Houseknecht, Wayne (0)
Kabakjian, Rich (0)
Kabakjian, Carol (2)
Kalb, Linda M. (0)
Kaplowitz, Ira (3)
Kaplowitz, Rebecca (3)
Koehler, Lynn E. Cohen (1)
Leger, Matt G. (2)
Lurie, Perianne (3)
Lurovist, Peter (0)
Lynch, Hal (3)
Madle, Robert A. (0)
Mintz, Catherine (1)
Mulholland, Mary (0)
Neff, Amy (1)
Nightengale, Felice (0)
Nightengale, Tim (0)

GENERAL (CONT'D)

O'Keefe, Moira (0)
Penn, Eric Hilton (1)
Polney, Rick (0)
Prentis, John (1)
Purdom, Sara (3)
Purdom, Tom (3)
Rector, Wayne (1)
Robertson II, CA. (1)
Rosignoli, David (1)
Rutkowski, Marguerite (0)
Rutkowski, Ed (1)
Shirley, Sabina Sudrow (0)
Silverman, Hildy (3)
Stokes, Tawn (0)
Syms, John (2)
Syms, Laura Paskman (2)
Tansky, Ronald (0)
Tansky, Sandra (0)
Thompson, Helen (0)
Thorne, Phillip (2)
Townsend, Marilyn (0)
Trebing, Margaret (0)
Trebing, Mark (1)
Wills, Jim (0)
Winter, Arnold (0)
Zimmerman, Wayne (0)

INACTIVE (110)

Agnew, Jack (0)
Allen, Neal (0)
Andersen, Maja (0)
Andersen, Marian (0)
Andrzejewski, Denis (0)
Banash, Mark (0)
Berends, Jan B. (0)
Betz, Pat (0)
Boyle, Bridget Joyce (0)
Bridges, Mike (0)
Bruhin, Bob (0)
Carpenter, Ben (0)
Carroll-Ventura, Sharon (0)
Cole, Sarah (0)
Coran, Robert (0)

INACTIVE (CONT'D)

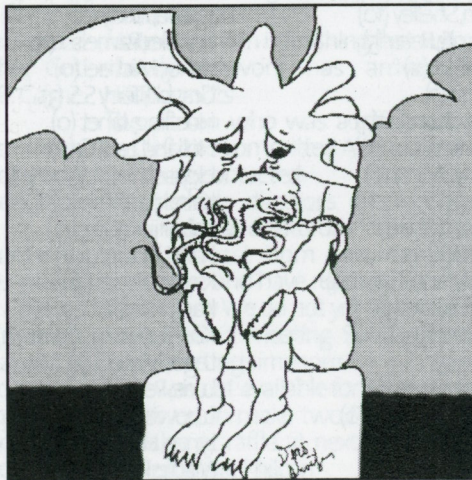
Corprew, Charles E. (o)
 Danneberger, Leslie (o)
 DeWeese, John (o)
 DiCanio, Judy (o)
 Dyke, Sue (o)
 Fairman, Gail (o)
 Finan, Tony (o)
 Fisher, Michael L. (o)
 Flanigan, John (o)
 Foco, Roger (o)
 Foglio, Phil (o)
 Foley, Megan (o)
 Fontecchio, Janis (o)
 Fox, Steve (o)
 Freedman, Avi (o)
 Freedman, Gail (o)
 Freeman, Rosemarie R. (o)
 Gelfand, Larry (o)
 Goldfeder, Dave (o)
 Goldman, Elisa (o)
 Grace, Joyce L. Carroll (o)
 Guidotti, Jan (o)
 Haag, Hal (o)
 Hamill, Gene (o)
 Harris, Mark Jeffrey (o)
 Harris, Neil (o)
 Herkart, Janet (o)
 Higgins, Barbara (o)
 Himes, Gregory (o)
 Hoffing, Eddie (o)
 Holland, John (o)
 Honebrink, Anthony J. (o)
 Houseknecht, Kirsten (o)
 Ivey, Rik (o)
 James, Susan (o)
 Jollensten, Marcia (o)
 Jollensten, Rebecca (o)
 Kahler, Timothy (o)
 Kamel, Al (o)
 Katz, Howard (o)
 Kelly, Tasha (o)
 Kessler, Louis (o)
 Knott, David (o)
 Kuhn, Heather (o)
 Latzko, Alex (o)
 Lazarus, Henry (o)
 Lebowitz, Nancy (o)
 Levin, Mark (o)
 Lewis, Erwin (o)
 Lloyd, Paul M. (o)
 Lopez, Ray (o)
 Madison, Eileen (o)
 Mann, Stephen (o)

Mansfield, Bernard (o)
 Mariella, Dr. R. (o)
 Marmel, Mitch (o)
 Mayer, Tristan (o)
 McKenna, Vivian (o)
 McKnight, Ann (o)
 Megerman, Joshua (o)
 Menichelli, Luke (o)
 Meschkow, Sanford (o)
 Mininger, Tom (o)
 Mitchell, Fred (o)
 Mitchell, Rochelle (o)
 Moreno, Cynthia (o)
 Morris, Robin C. (o)
 Morrow, Jim (o)
 Mulcahy, Jack (o)
 Murphy, Venus (o)
 Newswanger, Rick (o)
 Norton, Anne (o)
 Ollinger, Fred (o)
 Ore, Rebecca (o)
 Paul, Crystal (o)
 Perkins, Richard (o)
 Poliner, Mark (o)
 Pomerantz, Sandy (o)
 Post, J.B. (o)

Presley, David (o)
 Radatti, Marie D. (o)
 Radatti, Peter V. (o)
 Richards, Frank (o)
 Richards, Lisa (o)
 Rooney, Ray (o)
 Ross, Bradley (o)
 Scott, Diane (o)
 Smith, Deborah A. (o)
 Spino, Margaret (o)
 Ventura, Greg (o)
 Wells, Bill (o)
 Wells, Terri (o)
 White, Susan (o)
 Wolkoff, Rose Anne (o)
 Zappini, Lynn J. (o)

SCIENCE FICTION COMIC

by Darrell Schweitzer



It's not much fun being a nameless horror.... Think of the identity problems I've had.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEWS FOR
NOVEMBER 2003

by Henry Leon Lazarus

At one time there were at least fifteen major SF publishers. In the last decade, with the major Publishers being bought out, there have been fewer books available. At the same time it became easier to reissue a book that had sold well its first time out than to print a new author. Because of this electronic books and the small press have grown, filled with authors unable to get their novels into the major publishing houses – books that would have sold easily a decade before. I'm unwilling to put my dollars into the unknown, but I started this column to introduce people to new and exciting writers that they wouldn't ordinarily try. One of these small press publishers, Twilight Times Books was kind enough to send me copies of three of their books and they are battling three for three right now. It's very encouraging and exciting to be able to report on these. One I mentioned last month.

Patrick Walsh's *The Casebook of Doakes and Haig* (trade from Twilight Times Books) is a true giggle. Doakes family captured a Leprechaun a century or so before and with Mr. Haig magical help have been making and selling a magical sweetener ever since. In the current generation sales have fallen a bit low and the current Doakes and Mr. Haig have drifted into crime, as consultants, or course. In this alternate present where the Indians still own most of America and where England is still a colonial power the two find puzzles in both the human and leprechaun community getting better at their detective abilities as they solve their cases. The longest tale takes the two to a hidden Aztec community murdering travelers that pass their way in the Southwest. America. With help of a blarney stone and a dash of magic, the two manage to survive a river-boat explosion and the Aztec's golden god. I hope this sells well so that I can get more adventures.

Linda Suzanne takes us to a fantasy version of an Oriental civilization that is ruled by those with the special Eyes of Truth (trade from Twilight Times Books), the ability to tell when someone is lying, though not if they believe their lie. Dar, one of the ruling clan, is sent to a far province with his retired-assassin, widow, assistant Waulo who has the unique ability to lie to those with the special talent. A dead gardener was found with all his blood drained. At the heart of the problem is the corruption of the high magistrate – who has become infected with the disease of the dolzi, a sexually transmitted disease that has vampiric effects on the few who survive the disease. Dar and Waulo have to discover what is going on, difficult because the disease was limited to a small, hidden community. But the numerous deaths from the disease have put the city on edge at a season when ghosts are supposed to walk. This was a neat tale with a surprising ending and I hope that there will be more puzzles for Dar and Waulo to solve.

Jack McDevitt returns with a new tale of the civilization destroying Omega (hard from Tor) clouds. Only a few centuries from now, when most people haven't left Earth, but superluminal ships are slowly mapping out the galaxy, one of these clouds are posing a problem to a human-like, pre-industrial civilization. Saving these people, that the explorers name the Goompahs is a problem of time, money and resources. In the end it also comes down to technology (like light benders, and storm generators, and a huge Kite), heroism, and faith. It doesn't help that humans look like Goompah demons. As usual Mr. McDevitt's tale is less of magical wonder and more of the human ability to adapt to strange circumstances and rise to true heroism when called on.

Bill Balwin wrote *The Helmsman* (hard) a while back, but

Timberwolf books got him to re-edit and remove the awkwardness of the earlier version. The result is a fun tale of a space navy, a new navigator with a penchant for not only getting into trouble, but also getting himself out with courage and a bit of felon. There's a nice, understated romance that Rafael Sabatini would have been proud of. Fun.

If you like your noir, noir then return to *Nightside* where it is always 3 a.m. and you can find anything evil. John Taylor is on the trail of the unholy grail, the cup that Judas drank from and which spews forth true evil. With only his friend Suzie Shooter to help, he is hunted by Agents of Light and Darkness (paper from Ace by Simon R. Green) including angels from above and below. Along the way there are people turned into salt, a living gun, and political problems. John Taylor may have solved this problem, but the questions about his mother remain, so I wait eagerly for a new adventure.

Diana Pharaoh Francis tells of a new healer for her village, Reisel, who rejects the Path of Fate (paper from Roc) offered by her goddess when she refused to bond to the goshawk sent to her. In her culture, those who bond to an animal partner sent by the goddess are ahalad-kasalane, and travel throughout her land as wandering judges and protectors. Reisel feels she owes the village who raised her, her services as a healer. However a peace treaty in danger and a kidnapping designed to start a new war force her to bond with the bird and save the peace. Fun and, best of all, the first of a series about this likable, plucky character who wins through in the end.

Elaine Bergstrom tells of family with inherited vampirism. There's only twenty-eight of them and some half-breeds can be converted to the real thing. They're careful about how they take their blood. In *Nocturne* (paper from Ace), a half-breed opera singer is kidnapped by her relatives to have children with a relative to so create real vampires, not knowing that she can be turned and that her lover, one of the current generation of vampires, is coming to rescue her. This was so much fun that I started looking for other books in the series (presumably about earlier generations.) Ace should reprint them.

Hal Clement has the misfortune (or fortune) of writing one of SF's true classics – *Mission of Gravity*. It is impossible not to compare all of his other books to that high standard, and truthfully *Noise* (hard from Tor), while excellent, doesn't meet the standard. A deadly water world settled by Polynesians is visited by a historian interested in the adaptations made in their culture. The planet has no life of its own. The water is deadly and the atmosphere the same. Pseudo-life is used to mine the ocean deep and the ores are collected by wandering ships when the whale-like pods drift to the surface to collect energy from the sun. The tale is of an ocean voyage on a catamaran with the historian as observer and there is a young girl in training among the crew. Various emergencies keep them occupied and the world and adaptation to it is fascinating. This is easily the best tale Mr. Clement has produced in decades.

I had enough books this month so I didn't need a library book, but L.E. Modesitt, Jr.'s latest was sitting there call out to me. He is my favorite author and his latest kept me up late last night. I like Mr. Modesitt because of his strong heroes, always ethically trying to do the correct thing and worrying whether their decisions are correct. I guess I see myself like that, even though I lapse as much as anyone else. *The Ethos Effect* (hard from Tor) is what happens when greed overpowers ethics. The tale takes place in a future with numerous star kingdoms – many of whom have taken the easy path for individual advancement at the expense of their societies. Worst is the *Revenant* religious



empire that believes it can do no wrong. Van Albert is a Commander who first has to fight an unknown ship while coming out of jump. Then he is almost killed preventing a local politician's assassination when, assigned to his country's embassy as military advisor, he is the only one who recognizes the attack in progress. Promoted and retired, he is hired by a non-profit company, that earns its money selling information and works to restore ethics in society. Sometimes that involves space battles. This is a fun, impossible-to-put-down, tale of a future of emerging star-empires. It is easily one of his better efforts and I think was written with a sequel in mind.

I couldn't help humming the Mission Impossible theme while reading *Trickster* (paper from Roc) by Steven Harper. It's the third tale about a future in which faster-than-light information is sent via specially talented 'silents' who meet in a mutually generated psionic universe. In the last book, most of the silents lost the ability to enter the 'dream world' and those that can do so are very valuable, making Kendi's task of rescuing his family even more difficult. Here he faces a high security area in a Space Station in which collected silents are being brainwashed. Fun.

I'm not happy with utopian paradises as the Neanderthal universe introduced in Robert J. Sawyer's Hugo winning novel, *Humans* (paper from Tor). *Hybrids* (hard) completes the tale of the love story between the human geneticists and the Neanderthal scientist who first opened the gate between the worlds. Much is made of a magnetically induced religious sense that we humans have, the down sides to the Neanderthal utopia, and a magical gene writing device from the Neanderthal side that has very negative consequences. These don't work for me as well as for those fans who voted for the Hugos last year and gave the winning novel to *Humans*, but they are still fun.

Mercedes Lackey is still filling in the background of her *Valdemar* series. *Exile's Valor* (hard from DAW) is a fun look at Selenay's first year of rule, the birth of her daughter, Elseph and a rather nasty treasonous plot that weapon's master Alderich has to thwart. It's quite readable if you are new to the series, but fans of *Valdemar* will gobble the book up.

I bought Catherine Asaro's latest Skolian tale as an e-book. It is about the love affair that led to the birth of the major characters in her other books and starts with Ruby Princess Roca is marooned on Skyfall (hard from Tor) and meets up with a barbarian leader with the Ruby psionic talents (a very rare occurrence). Far more a romance than her previous tales, it is still fun. New readers will find it more exciting than old readers who remember how everything is supposed to come out. Ms. Asaro is the guest speaker at November meeting of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society on Friday the 14th at 8:00pm, at the Franklin Inn Club on 205 S. Camac Street, in Philadelphia (near 12th and Locust). As usual guests are welcome.

In the King's Service (hard from ACE) Katherine Kurtz fills in some of the past of her Deryni tale taking place two kings before Kelson and is more of a history of events during the reign of King Donal from the time he cuckolds one of his advisors in order to get a half-Deryni loyal to his house and of a near age to his son. It ends with the death of the boy six years later, concluding with the birth of one of the major characters in the major series. Ms. Kurtz practically invented alternate world fantasy with her tales of the magically-gifted Deryni in an alternate Medieval Europe. This tale is kept interesting in a quiet peaceful period by dint of Ms. Kurtz's writing talents, and it is far more for fans of this decades old series than for new readers.

Paladin of Souls is Lois McMaster Bujold's second tale of Chalion, a fantasy world where the Gods intervene in human affairs in mysterious ways. Ista, the queen's widowed mother decides to go on a pilgrimage to get her out of the castle where she had been cooped up since the lifting of the curse. A raider attack gets her to castle where the Lord has been kept magically

alive by his wife, by stealing energy from his half-brother. Ista, with help from the Bastard God, has to resolve the problems caused by this and save her country from invasion from its enemies. Fun, but not memorable.

The Penultimate volume of the Chaz Brenchley's *Outremer* series, takes the group to the hidden country of Surayon and the Hand of the King's Evil (paper from Ace) as the final battle looms. I have the final book, but didn't start it by the time I finished this review. Next month.

Tanith Lee has been writing tales of an alternate Venice. Now she goes to the future for a look at *Venus Preserved* (hard from Overlook) in which the city lies under a bubble—and because of a secret technology to raise the dead, has also blocked itself from connection to the real world. With a gladiatrix from Roman times, the process works correctly. Since this series is partially horror, it should be obvious that the other revival brings forth a soul of evil that has to be stopped by our hero, who is dying young, the gladiatrix and an angel. I found the mix of horror and science fiction to be disquieting. But for those who like horror, this is a must read.

I bought Tom Clancy's latest *The Teeth of the Tiger* (hard from Putnam) at a reduced price from BJ's but I was a bit sorry that I had done so. Frankly I don't like the morality of assassination that Mr. Clancey proposes as a solution to terrorism. If we become the enemy, they win. Ryan's son and nephews are the heroes. Readable, but I had a sick feeling in my stomach as the plot continued. I wanted to burn the book at the end.

Reprinting an unsold book by a master (like they did with Jules Verne a few years ago) is never a good idea, and truthfully I couldn't finish *For Us the Living* (trade from Scribner) in which a young Robert Heinlein wrote a tale about a man reborn in our near future after having died in his. It is readable, but relies on predictions that are too close and too far from actual events. It is a must for Heinlein fanatics and SF literature experts, but I think I'd rather reread any of his previously printed classics.

The DVD of the month is *The Tick* (COLUMBIA TRISTAR) which only lasted eight episodes because very few people found it. It is a true giggle about a small group of super-heroes who have very ordinary problems. *The Tick* is so dense that he not only can fall from a great height without damage, he also doesn't understand sex and doesn't understand why Arthur doesn't want him out of the apartment when a girl comes to visit. Another favorite episode has to do with a super hero, The Immortal dying while having sex with Captain Liberty (sort of a wonderwoman type) and the group has to get his body back to his hotel room without anyone suspecting. I wish the show had lasted eight-eight episodes instead of eight, but there's no telling taste.

Media books this month include *Underworld* (a novelization by Greg Cox, paper from Pocket); *Star Trek Deep Space Nine: Prophecy and Change* (trade from Pocket and edited by Marco Palmieri); and *Enterprise: The Expanse* (trade from Pocket Books, novelization J.M. Dillard).

The collection this month is *Men writing Science Fiction as Women* (paper from DAW and edited by Mike Resnick) with a bunch of new stories.

I haven't read the reprinted novels that showed up this month in hardcover. *The Annotated Legends* (*Wizards of the Coast*) has three novels by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman that have, as described in the title, annotations, maps, etc. for those who consider these books classics of their kind. Terry Pratchett's tales of wee people, nomes who live much faster than us, hidden in the corners of a big department store. A friend tells me that *The Bromeliad Trilogy* (Harper Collins) has long been available from the Science Fiction Book Club, and that he enjoyed it. If so this is its first general printing. I planned to get to it, but never had time.



(continued from page 1)

Deb Stover, and Catherine herself. Catherine was also recently elected vice president of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. (SFWA).

Her husband is John Kendall Cannizzo, an astrophysicist at NASA. They have one daughter, a young ballet dancer who loves math.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

ASTRONOMICON

Rochester, New York
November 14, 2003 - November 16, 2003
Science Fiction

UNY-Con

Rochester, New York
November 14, 2003 - November 16, 2003
Gaming

ELLIS-CON XV

Danielson, Connecticut
November 15, 2003
Gaming

FESTIVAL OF GAMES

Louisville, Kentucky
November 15, 2003
Magic Card & LAN Tournaments

GREAT BIRD OF THE GALAXY

El Paso, Texas
November 15, 2003 - November 16, 2003
Star Trek/Gene Roddenberry Tribute

ANIME USA

Arlington, Virginia
November 21, 2003 - November 23, 2003
Anime

CAPCLAVE 2003

Silver Spring, Maryland
November 21, 2003 - November 23, 2003
Science Fiction

FSF PRESENTS JOHN RHYSDAVIES

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
November 22, 2003
The Lord of the Rings

MARAUDING METROPOLI

Chantilly, Virginia
November 23, 2003
Historical Miniatures

5TH NATIONAL COMIC BOOK, ART, TOY & SCI-FI EXPO

New York City, New York
November 28, 2003 - November 30, 2003
Big Apple Comic Con National Show

DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVI

Timonium, Maryland
November 28, 2003 - November 30, 2003
Live Action Role Playing Event

CREATION SCI-FI SUPER-SALE

Brooklyn, New York
November 29, 2003 - November 30, 2003
TV/Media

ANONYCON 2003

Stamford, Connecticut
December 5, 2003 - December 7, 2003
Gaming

DARK X-MAS

Youngstown, Ohio
December 5, 2003 - December 7, 2003
Science Fiction

SVAHA: COSMIC ENCOUNTERS

Edison, New Jersey
December 5, 2003 - December 7, 2003
Live Action Role Playing Event

BOSTON COMIC BOOK SPECTACULAR

Amesbury, Massachusetts
December 7, 2003
Comics

CAPITAL ASSOCIATES

McLean, Virginia
December 7, 2003
Comics, Toys, CCG

GEN CON SO CAL

Anaheim, California
December 11, 2003 - December 14, 2003
Hobby & Computer Games

LAIRE - LIVE ACTION ROLEPLAYING EXPERIENCE

Sparta, New Jersey
December 12, 2003
Live Action Role Playing Event

UNY-Con

Rochester, New York
November 14, 2003 - November 16, 2003
Role-playing games

PHILCON 2003

December 12-14, 2003
Philadelphia, PA
Science Fiction



Philadelphia Science Fiction Society
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