

# ALEXIAD

(ΑΛΕΞΙΑΣ)

\$2.00

A month ago my father fell and broke his hip. He went to the hospital, then to rehab, then back to the hospital. He did not leave the hospital alive again. While he was in the hospital my stepmother's heart went bad. She died on January 31. When she died my father lost his will to live. He followed her on February 3. He was the last of his destroyer crew from World War II. It was strange to see this strong vigorous man so still and cold. It is very cold comfort that I got to keep him so long.

—Lisa

### Table of Contents

Editorial . . . . . 1  
 Reviewer's Notes . . . . . 1

Commentaries on Chengdu . . . . . 2  
 Eclipse News . . . . . 2  
 The Joy of High Tech . . . . . 4  
 Worldcon News . . . . .

Book Reviews  
 JTM Watt-Evans, *Tom Derringer and the Aluminum Airship* . . . . 3  
 JTM Watt-Evans, *Tom Derringer and the Electrical Empire* . . . . 3  
 JTM Watt-Evans, *Tom Derringer and the Steam-Powered Saurians* . . . . 3  
 JTM Watt-Evans, *Tom Derringer in the Tunnels of Terror* . . . . 3  
 JTM "Campbell", *Rendezvous with Corsair* . . . . . 3  
 JTM Johnson/Cooper, *Your Guide to Not Getting Murdered In a Quaint English Village* . . . . . 2  
 JTM Peet, *Openings* . . . . . 2

Random Jottings . . . . . 2

Letters . . . . . 6  
 Richard Dengrove, Steve Green, Leigh Kimmel, Pat McCray, Lloyd Penney, George W. Price, Darrell Schweitzer, Taras Wolansky

Comments are by JTM or LTM

Trivia: . . . . . 9

Art:

Sheryl Birkhead . . . . . 6  
 Alexis Gilliland . . . . . 4, 7, 8, 9  
 Trinlay Khadro . . . . . 2  
 Marc Schirmeister . . . . . 3, 4, 5

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### Reviewer's Notes

Once upon a time, when I sent out printed copies, I went to Office Depot to drop off the latest *Alexiad*. One of the clerks said that there was someone else who also had such a big copy job.

Actually, it was me, getting my family newsletter copied. This went on for a while.

When I was retired, I realized I was spending \$\$\$ which I needed to do things like eat with. Which is why almost all of you are getting this over email. And it's the same with my family newsletter.

I think people who supported JeddiCon (Riyadh) and Kampton (Kampala) feel that fans in other communities should have the opportunity to show their unique fannish culture. At least they put (are putting) up their bids to the Business Meeting.

There are a lot of people not acquainted with fannish ways who have ideas. For example, the fan who wanted to have the Worldcon be chosen by bids from a national convention. He didn't put it up before the Business Meeting. (Would he have done as well as Robert Sacks, he of the Permanent NASFiC Proposal?)

And then there was the Open Letter to the Worldcon Control Board requesting that the Jeddicon bid be disqualified. It was sent out only two days before the mail-in balloting deadline. And of course, there is no Worldcon Control Board. (WSFS, Inc., anyone?)

Faneds are getting past their sell-by date. I mean, I used to think that Chris Garcia was young — but his father was younger than I was! Darrell Schweitzer once said that the fanzine culture was short-lived. I imagine it consisting of two fans in their nineties, living in nursing homes at opposite ends of the country, not talking to each other because of something one said to the other, but neither can remember when or what.

— Joe

## RANDOM JOTTINGS

by Joe



Buy my books. (All available on Amazon.com for quite reasonable prices, except the Hugo-nominated *Heinlein's Children*, which can be bought from Advent Publishers, or from ReAnimus Press in electronic format.)

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Joseph-T-Major/author/B01BMC4MU>

<https://www.AdventPub.com/1531>

Advent Publishers  
P.O. Box 16143  
Golden, CO 80402-6003

<https://reanimus.com/store>

— Advt.

Iran has claimed Antarctica. Iran is not a signer of the Antarctic Treaty. Iran does not have icebreakers. If they have any polar experience it is minimal.

Nevertheless, Antarctica is now part of the Dar al-Islam. Presumably, all the scientists and explorers there must now obey sharia law. The Iranians plan to build a naval base there and conduct military operations at the South Pole.

Meanwhile, a memorial plaque was unveiled in Westminster Abbey commemorating Sir Ernest Shackleton on the occasion of his 150th birthday. His granddaughter the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton was present. The Princess Royal unveiled the memorial.

## OBITS

We have learned that Thomas D. "Tom" Sadler, fanned of *The Reluctant Famulus*, died on **February 1, 2023**:

OWENTON, KY – Thomas "Tom" David Sadler, age 76, of Owenton, KY, passed away on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at his home. Tom was born on March 3, 1946, in Piedmont, AL, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Tanner) Sadler. On October 8, 1966, he married Ruth Underhill, and she survives. He had been employed with the City of Adrian before moving to Kentucky. Tom was a pub-

lished author, and enjoyed reading, writing, and gardening.

In addition to his wife, Ruth, Tom is survived by four children, George Sadler of Adrian, William (Teresa) Sadler of Adrian, Jennifer (Chris) Charlton of Batesville, IN, and Julia (Rob) Blohm of Adrian; nine grandchildren, Elizabeth and Andrew Sadler, Payton and Nolan Charlton, Rob, Haylie, Tanner, Aidan, and Maddy Blohm; three brothers, Phillip, Bradley, and Garry Sadler; and one sister, Sue Marsh. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Mike Sadler.

Visitation for Tom will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Anderson-Marry Funeral Home, Adrian. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at Anderson-Marry Funeral Home, Adrian with officiating. Cremation will follow.

## YOU'RE SO VAIN

by Joe

2024 will have two solar eclipses. The first will be a total eclipse on **April 8, 2024**, beginning in the south Pacific Ocean and passing through Sinaloa, Durango, Coahuila, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland before ending off the coast of Norway. The longest period of totality will be 4 minutes 28 seconds at Nazas, Durango. The eclipse is part of Saros 139, which began May 17, 1501 and will end July 3, 2763.

The second solar eclipse will be an annular eclipse on **October 2, 2024** beginning in the South Pacific and passing over Easter Island (Rapa Nui; Isla de Pascua) and Aysan, Chile and Santa Cruz Province, Argentina. The longest period of annularity will be seven minutes 45 seconds, at 22 degrees South 114 degrees 30 minutes West. The eclipse is part of Saros 144, which began April 11, 1736 and will end May 5, 2980.

NASA Eclipse website:  
<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>

Other useful eclipse websites:  
<http://www.hermit.org/Eclipse>  
<http://www.eclipse.org.uk/>

## CHENGDU

The Chengdu Worldcon seems to have spawned a new scandal.

Now the organization of the con was . . . different. Those of us who remember the days when it was a get-together for fans would note this. The last few Worldcons have had the issue

that the facilities are more expensive, so membership fees go up; there was a furious contention when MidAmeriCon I charged \$50 at the door, with people imagining that some kid wanting to go to the Big Con would have to get the money from his parents, then lose his con badge, and have to get another \$50. But now prices are over \$200 (The hypothetical kid going to his First Big Con in Glasgow would have to pony up £150 and if he's a returner it would be £250; but inflation has made that less).

Chengdu had a building built for the Worldcon. There were art and dance exhibitions (but no Masquerade).

Now, after far too long, Chengdu released the Hugo Awards figures. Which seemed to be incomprehensible. Except for the works which were disqualified, without evidence of prior publication.

The American Hugo Committee members seem to have been thoroughly used. They were given lists of works to not consider.

Since this has come out, Hugo winners have reacted, not particularly positively, with disavowal of these Awards and other such measures. And the members of the Committee have resigned from other similar groups in disgrace.

While Chinese science fiction publishers made over \$1.2 billion in deals at the con. Was that what it was really for?

## MIDSOMER LIVES

Review by Joseph T Major of  
*YOUR GUIDE TO NOT GETTING  
MURDERED IN A QUIANT ENGLISH  
VILLAGE*

(2021; Ten Speed Press;  
ISBN 978-1984859624; \$13.85;  
Ten Speed Press (Kindle); \$4.49)  
by Maureen Johnson and Jay Cooper

As anyone who has watched *The Avengers* knows, quaint English villages are among the most dangerous places in the world. Watching Mrs Peel being tied to a beam and ducked in the pond for example.

Johnson and Cooper have provided a properly Gorey guide to the hazards and threats of such charming places, with admirably creepy illustrations. The lists of people to avoid are thorough, the recounting of places to avoid are eerie.

They are going to get you in the end, and that the gruff constable and his eccentric assistant will solve the case (or John, holding the laptop so Sherlock can view the scene through the camera) is reassuring but not very helpful. The visitor should stick to London.

## TUNNEL TO OTHERWORLDS

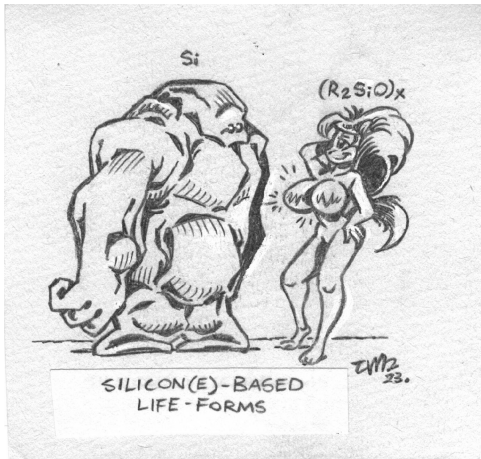
Review by Joseph T Major of  
*OPENINGS:*  
*Book 1 of the Hayek Chronicles*  
(2022; James S. Peet;  
ISBN 978-0999609361; \$15.99;  
James S. Peet (Kindle); \$5.909)

by James S. Peet

Dr. Jesse Evelyn Ramsbotham had not been trying to solve the baby problem; he had been trying to build a time machine. . . . When he threw on power, the space between the curving magnetodes of his rig no longer showed the wall beyond, but a steaming jungle. He jumped to the conclusion that this must be a forest of the Carboniferous Period. . . . He hurriedly got a pistol and with much bravery and no sense crawled between the magnetodes.

Ten minutes later he was arrested for waving firearms around in Rio de Janiero's civic botanical gardens.

— *Tunnel Through the Sky*



This is the origin of the paratime organization in Peet's other books.

The main part is the exploration of the humanless world that they first encounter. There is detailed and intricate discussion of the equipment needed to carry out the exploration program. It's more than just a handgun.

They know where there are gold deposits, which will enable them to finance the exploration. When one surveyor is killed by a dangerous animal, the rest get the idea to be careful.

Once the explorers have recruited enough people and obtained enough money, they began to establish a government. The use of "Hayek" and "Milton" indicates the sort of government and economy they establish. (This is the more mentally stable sort; having a debate over whether or not bears are people is what the system has degraded to in our timeline.)

While things go well in Hayek, in the home time-line there is a certain interest. (I'm thinking of Peck in *Ghostbusters* and *The Real Ghostbusters*.) At least the Corps of Exploration can cite some needs for physical and mental qualities.

## EIGHT BELLS

Review by Joseph T Major of  
**RENDEZVOUS WITH CORSAIR:**  
*A Lost Fleet Collection*  
(2024; JAB Books ;  
ISBN 978-1625676559; \$18.99;  
2024; JABberwocky Literary Agency;  
\$7.49)

by "Jack Campbell" (John C. Henry)

Every story has stories, of those who were not the chief actor, or what the protagonist did before the story began. So we have stories of incidents in the history of Geary's Lost Fleet, including those where he was involved.

"**Corsair**" The grand-nephew of the legendary Black Jack Geary is of two minds on the relationship. While he esteems the history of his progenitor, he feels oppressed by having to live up to the reality.

But he has to live up to the legend. His ship, the *Repulse* ("Who touches me is broken.") is broken, and has to be sacrificial rear guard for the fleet. He survives, and has to deal with the history. (Which explains his return later on.)

One way he lives up to the legend is that he has to sacrifice. Then he works at reconciling himself to being what he appears to be. Which is how he survived and was returned to the Alliance fleet.

"**Shore Patrol**" Being assigned to the Shore Patrol can be a form of revenge. Lieutenant Geary is stuck with the assignment. The port is full of port bars, which are rowdy, and full of spacemen, marines, and flyers who live up to the location. Somehow he manages to survive, acquiring a nickname he doesn't care for.

"**Grendel**" The grim story of how Commander John Geary became a hero, acquiring a reputation he would have to live down, War breaks out with the Alliance, and Geary has to fight to the end and sacrifice. . . . or, as we find, be put in storage for some people who would need him.

"**Ishigaki**" But there were more active survivors, and this is the tale of one who has to do the impossible, so the fleet can live. It combines tragedy and heroism, and describes the beginning of the "Black Jack" Geary mythos. They prefer dead heroes, who can't upset the authorities.

"**Fleche**" Tanya Desjani is a survivor. She has to endure the battles against the Alliance, and thrive. She does . . . and as she lies there recovering, she has a prophetic dream.

## EARTH: 1889

Review by Joseph T Major of  
**TOM DERRINGER AND THE ALUMINUM AIRSHIP**  
(2014; Misenchanted Press;  
ISBN 978-1619910096; \$12.95  
Misenchanted Press (Kindle) \$3.99)  
**TOM DERRINGER IN THE TUNNELS OF TERROR**  
(2017; Misenchanted Press;  
ISBN 978-1619910249; \$14.95

Misenchanted Press (Kindle) \$3.99)  
**TOM DERRINGER AND THE STEAM-POWERED SAURIANS**  
(2020; Misenchanted Press;  
ISBN 978-1619910348; \$12.95  
Misenchanted Press (Kindle) \$2.99) and  
**TOM DERRINGER AND THE ELECTRICAL EMPIRE**  
(2022; Misenchanted Press;  
ISBN 978-1619910423; \$12.95  
Misenchanted Press (Kindle) \$3.99)  
by Lawrence Watt-Evans

The opportunity for adventures seems less extensive these days. The lost cities Tarzan kept on running into, for example, have all been absorbed by the new nations and suffered shortages and retribution.

In the waning days of the nineteenth century there was opportunity and equipment. Add to it experience, indeed a profession, and adventuring can be quite interesting.

John Thomas Derringer, Jr. is the son of the late and famous adventurer John Thomas Derringer (a running gag is his having to point out that the developer of the pistol spelled his name with one "r"). His loving mother, who was a bit of an adventurer herself, was quite helpful when little Tom showed a desire to become an adventurer, and saw to it that he was properly educated. Her late husband had invested his booty, understand, so she can afford it.

So, on his first Adventure, he sets out to investigate strange stories of a metal lighter-than-air device in Mexico. One dirigible deserves another, and he goes to see the builder of one. Who provides a pilot — his daughter Elspeth! (She prefers to be called "Betsy".)

And so Tom and Betsy set out for Yucatan. There, they encounter the aluminum airship, run by a man with grandiose dreams. They are taken captive, break out, and end the dreams, then have to trek to Belize, while the Caste Wars encompass them.

Which is why they end up in California, looking for a man who may have been an accomplice, as well as an agent of Emperor Norton. There are rumors of lizard people in tunnels below the land, and Betsy insists on going along. They find the accomplice, but one of their servants wonders why anyone would risk their lives for anything but money, though his acquisitive instincts fail. Getting out of the tunnels is somewhat of a bother.

Going back east, Tom and Betsy hear of some strange things seen in the mountains of Utah. They investigate. At first, the creatures look like dinosaurs, but there are signs of their being artificial (and run by people afraid of Danites). Getting away from the steam dino people requires a boiler tender (now that's steampunk) and Betsy is most put out.

Back in New York and there is a little problem. Betsy's father has disappeared in New Jersey (how can you disappear in New Jersey?). The adventure involves a mysterious closed-off island off the Atlantic coast, run as

a project for preparing to defend the world against aliens, by a man secretive and paranoid. Yet the conclusion is strikingly simple.

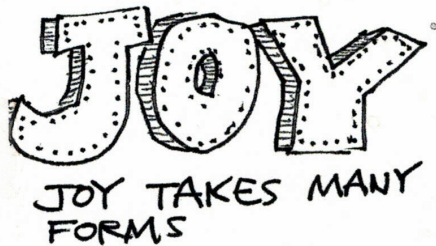
These are amusing tales. An Adventurer can't set off with a song in his heart and a crust in his pocket; some may find the description of preparations boring, but this is how it is to be done.

A more relevant background item is the references to real and notorious people and groups. The Caste War of Mexico, Emperor Norton, the Danites, all feature in the stories, and should lead the reader to further Adventures — in a library, though.

There may be more adventures of Tom Derringer. It is to be devoutly wished.

### The Joy of High Tech

by Rodford Edmiston



Being the occasionally interesting ramblings of a major-league technophile.

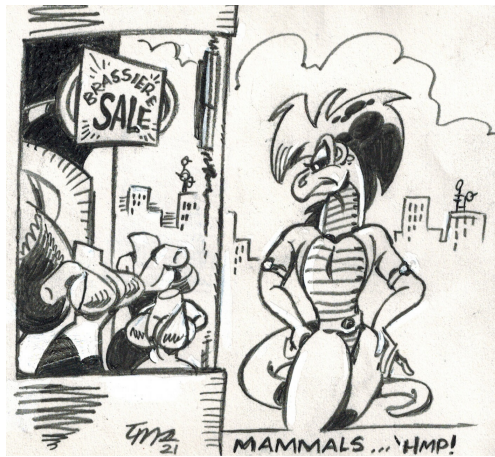
Please note that while I am an engineer (BSCE) and do my research, I am not a professional in this field. Do not take anything here as gospel; check the facts I give. If you find a mistake, please let me know about it.

### Uncanny Valley

How real is too real? The concept of the Uncanny Valley — something which is close to real but just different enough to make a person uneasy — has been largely debunked. Though some claim that the absence of examples of this effect is due to most instances of simulated reality not being real *enough*. Most of us will agree that there are still problems with many of the attempts to simulate reality in created images (though some do a surprisingly good job). This is particularly true of moving images. Make something - especially a moving image - very real and you raise expectations. This usually results in the product being deemed "not real enough." Yet people are comfortable with and even praise the appearance of stylized characters — including caricatures of real people — and backgrounds, which can be very unreal. There does, indeed, seem to be a problem with animation — from hand-drawn to CGI — which tries too hard to be "real."

Many people complain about how "unreal"

modern CGI looks. A large part of this comes from the movement of what is being simulated. It's true that without special attention to detail Computer Generated Images simply do not move as we expect real objects to. This despite a huge amount of effort being expended on making images and their movements in movies, TV shows and games look real. In fact, there is an entire subgroup of programmers working in computer games to try and get "breast physics" right. There is considerable criticism of the results, regardless of how "realistic" the game designers think they are. (Note that some wits say this result is due to the limited real-world experience of gamers.) Of course, there are similar problems with traditional, hand-drawn animation.



The quest for realistic animation goes back a long way. Winsor McCay (an editorial and comic strip artist also famous for such early animations as *Gertie the Dinosaur*) was acclaimed for his ability to accurately portray architecture and vehicles in drawings. *Gertie* and most of his other animated work was deliberately simplified and cartoonish, with limited backgrounds, for very good reasons. Even a workaholic like McCay didn't want to expend the effort to make his dinosaurs, mosquitos and so forth move realistically, and simplifying or omitting the background saved even more work. However, what little survives of his centaur animated feature shows startling realism in the motion, at least for the main characters. Of course, aside from artistic preferences, nearly everyone of that time knew how both humans and horses moved. Nobody knew how dinosaurs moved. So perhaps McCay expended extra effort on his centaurs because of this knowledge. However, the backgrounds in this animated feature were also highly detailed and realistic.

There are several types of realism in animated media. As implied above, one of the most difficult to achieve is realistic movement, especially for creatures with which most members of the audience are familiar. (One hopes humans are among these.) One method of achieving

realistic simulated movement is to base it directly on real movement. Today this is usually done with digital motion capture, but before that was the purely analog method of rotoscoping. The Fleischer Brothers rotoscoped much of their work. This involved filming a live actor or an actual set or scene, the latter often involving the camera panning across or even moving through the set. That film was then used as reference for the motion in the drawn animation, frame by frame. There was an actual Rotoscope device (similar to the much older *camera obscura* which was used to create realistic still drawings) which could be used for this, and from which comes the name for the technique. For the Fleischers' early work with Koko the clown in the *Out of the Inkwell* shorts, the younger brother — who was apparently quite athletic — would act out Koko's part and be recorded on film. These frames would then be rotoscoped into the animated short in hand-drawn animation. Some reports had him wearing a clown outfit during this work, to make the animating easier.

Even when the main characters are very unrealistic — such as with *Popeye* and the gang — the animation can look better if they move realistically. Later on, Fleischer animators used a camera attachment which was much like a reverse periscope. This would be maneuvered around miniature sets built to look like some of the settings in the animated work. The results would then be rotoscoped, resulting in a 3D effect, producing a semi-realistic world for the characters to move in. I was showing the Fleischers' *Popeye Meets Sinbad the Sailor* (there is some wonderful animation in this) in the MarCon movie room several years ago and people marveled at how the scenery shifted realistically with the movement of the camera's point of view as it followed the main characters passing through the scenery. However, one man walked into the room, watched for a moment, declared "That's a three-level shot! Only Disney could do a three-level shot!" and stomped out. Disney used their multiplane camera (developed for the 1937 feature film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) to produce similar 3D effects. Despite that one opinion, many animators of the era did produce simulated 3D in their work. The Fleischers were using their method before Disney developed theirs.

Even today, the realism of animation depends largely on how much money is spent, as well as the concurrent attention to detail. This was also definitely true in the past. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was seen by Uncle Walt as a way to promote his studio. He poured money into the project, caring little whether the theatrical release made this back. He even had live animals brought in for his animators to study as references. The results of all this work are beautiful. However, as with much of the Fleischer work, the characters who move through this deep world are very stylized and unrealistic. Even *Snow White*, herself.

The Fleischers' Superman cartoons are

marvelous works of animation. People only familiar with older dubs from worn and dirty film (the works went into public domain years ago, resulting in multiple poor-quality copies being produced and shown) already knew they were good. A recent set of transfers were made which cleaned and digitized the best available copies of the films, including the sound strip. The colors are brighter, the images clearer and the sound quality is crisp and excellent. These remastered copies are well worth seeking out. Keep in mind that there are two, sequential series of these cartoons, with the second made after the Fleischers were bought out and their studio renamed Famous Studios. The first nine shorts have some of the finest — and most expensive, in terms of money amount per minute of screen time — animation ever done. The wrinkles and shadows on clothing change as the characters move! While the Famous Studios episodes aren't quite as good, many of the same people worked on the second series and they are also very much worth watching, though they are more political in their plots.

*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* had essentially the opposite problem. They had to make people believe that animated characters were interacting with live performers. Now, this had been done before. Jerry Mouse dancing with Gene Kelly springs to mind. However, people today tend to forget just how big a revolution *Roger Rabbit* was. Using hand-drawn animation (and lots of hard work, much of it involving rotoscoping animated characters as replacements for “practical” props used by the live actors) they succeeded in making us believe a hard-boiled detective could work with an animated bunny.

The year *Roger Rabbit* was up for a Hugo (Spoiler: It won.) it was shown in the theater set up for the WorldCon to show the nominations. I saw a fannish acquaintance standing outside this theater just as they were about to begin the movie. He said he hadn't seen it and was trying to decide whether it was worth his time. I made a deal with him; we'd watch the first five minutes together, and then he could decide.

So, the movie opened, with the frantic Tom and Jerry style action. The refrigerator fell, the door opened and Roger blew his line. The director yelled “Cut!” and *walked onto the animated set!* My friend's mouth dropped open and he hurried to find a seat, swearing under his breath.

Yeah. I'd say they succeeded.

Speaking of stylized characters being more easily accepted, people familiar with the work of Gerry Anderson have noted the progression of increasingly realistic puppets in the multiple series he produced. Proportions and faces of the puppets became more lifelike, as did motions (though walking remained a problem). However, some people attribute the failure of his later puppet series at least in part to the puppets becoming *too* realistic. Which may be why he switched to live-action series

which included a great deal of model work.

Even if that is true, any lack of acceptance of Anderson's later Supermarianation projects by audiences is most likely due less to the uncanny valley effect than to a combination of the increasing sophistication of the audience and being able to get away with less using the more realistic characters.

As the technology improves computer generated images and animation will become more lifelike. We're already seeing deceased and retired performers resurrected for movies and “holographic” live shows. There is also the problem of deepfakes. These use the likenesses and reconstructed voices of people — many still alive — for purposes which they have not approved. Often these purposes are political.



None of this is new. Long before *Forest Gump* people who didn't belong were inserted into old photos and newsreels. Tribute bands have been around for many years. Faked photographs and even drawings have been used to promote or discredit causes, individuals and groups for centuries. People with a bit of judgement, skepticism and discernment have usually been able to easily tell that these are constructs.

However, many people are, indeed, taken in by such deceptions. One of the less harmful such frauds was a prank about the computer-generated music video *Pipe Dream*. Soon after it was released, someone planted the meme that this was film of a real device, constructed from farm equipment. Despite the work obviously being computer animation there are some

folks who insist the video is of an actual device, built by students at an agricultural college. Perhaps this self-deception is because they can more easily grasp the concept of someone spending endless hours on the “real work” to make farm equipment perform this unreal activity, rather than to think that “it was just programmed on a computer.” Regardless, some people still believe the lie. Stealing credit from those who actually did all the hard work to produce the video. Just as some people back in the Thirties (and perhaps still, confusing the original with a remake) thought that King Kong was a guy in a gorilla suit, rather than a miniature brought to life by stop-motion animation.

So, as always, be careful, and don't accept things at face value.

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### WORLDCON BIDS

2026

Los Angeles  
August 27-31, 2026  
<https://lain2026.org/>

2027

Tel Aviv  
August 2027

Montréal  
<https://bid.montreal2027.ca/>

2028

Brisbane, Australia  
Mid-August 2028  
<https://australia2025.com/>

Kampala, Uganda  
Kampcon: The 86th World Science Fiction Convention  
August 23-27, 2028  
<https://kampcon.org/>

2029

Dublin  
<http://dublin2029.ie>

2031

Texas  
<https://alamo-sf.org/>

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### WORLDCON

2024

Glasgow  
August 8-12, 2024  
<http://glasgow2024.org/>

2025

Seattle  
Worldcon Seattle 2025  
August 13-17, 2025  
<https://www.seattlein2025.org/>

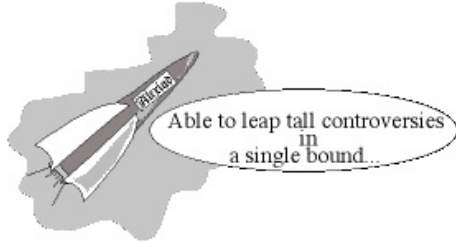
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### NASFiC

2024

Buffalo, NY  
July 18-21, 2024  
<https://buffalonasfic2024.org/>

## Letters, we get letters



From: **Lloyd Penney** November 27, 2023  
1706-24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, ON  
M9C 2B2 CANADA  
[penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)  
<http://lloydpenney.livejournal.com/>

Thank you for *Alexiad* WN 131, and with the cold outside, it's easy to stay inside and get caught up with things. Of course, there is always the social media distractions, and games, but eventually, I get with it. Here's a loc!

Exotic Worldcons...I understand, the rest of the world should not be denied a convention with the word World in its name. I guess the further away it is, the less likely I'd be able to get to it. In 2024, we plan to go to the NASFiC in Buffalo, and the World Fantasy Convention in Niagara Falls, New York. For us, they are really a single highway away, so they are more affordable. We are also planning to go to Loscon 50 in Los Angeles. After that, I'm pretty sure that it's goodbye to big cons, possibly cons of any kind. I have read that there is an effort to have NASFiC every year, or an American natcon, or ASFiC. I'd rather NASFiC, especially seeing that the CanVent, or Canadian natcon, is basically kaput. We have so few literary/fannish conventions left.

There is a proposal to have only national cons bid to have Worldcon. What do you think of that?

—JTM

We have some friends who are making or have made the transition from male to female. It truly is a journey they make, one of self-discovery and self-realization, and what they need from us is understanding, and treatment as human beings. Don is now Dawn, and John is starting to become Jean. I wish them luck, it is a momentous decision to do something like this. Dawn comes to our Third Monday pubnights every month.

The definition of fascism...it's a word that used so much to describe personal enemies, it's starting to lose its meaning.

February 6, 2024

Thank you for the 132nd *Alexiad*, and as always, an enjoyable read, which causes some good ideas for comments. I'll list some of them below. Happy New Year, by the way!

As you've seen from the fannish news, the Chengdu Worldcon has caused a lot of controversy, especially with the Hugos. I will not judge, I wasn't there, and there's been lots of critics throwing their two cents' in. It does look like the Chinese may take the Worldcon model, and create something bigger and better financed. Let's see what they do before we criticize further.

Charles Windsor has been King of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for about a year and a half, and there are now reports that he has cancer. I am sure he will receive the best of care, but this is a shock that must have the Royal Family moving forward quickly. I have no doubt that should the worst happen, Prince William will be ready to move forward and assume the throne. After 70 years of Queen Elizabeth, I expect there will be a number of monarchs over the next 20 years or so.

We have been finalizing our schedule for conventions this year...we still intend to go to the World Fantasy Convention in Niagara Falls, New York in October. We've only been to one other WFC, and that was in Montréal in 2001.

Time to go, there's so much more to do. Thank you for this issue, and see you with the next.

From: **Leigh Kimmel** January 18, 2024  
[leighkimmel@yahoo.com](mailto:leighkimmel@yahoo.com)

Not a problem. I'm late on all of last year's con reports, was intending to get them done during the winter break, and instead work on my Kickstarter is eating my time alive.

If you'd like to promote it on social media, here's the link:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/leighkimmel/shards-of-broken-light>

Seconded on being glad that the Jeddah Worldcon bid is dead in the water. With the current situation in the Middle East, nothing good would've come out of it.

They seemed to be people who wanted to run a con, but there was no culture of con organization.

—JTM

From: **Richard Dengrove** Jan. 30, 2024  
[richd22426@aol.com](mailto:richd22426@aol.com)

This letter gives my comments on *Alexiad* Dec. 2023.

I am going to start with "Reviewer's Notes." About the Chinese Worldcon.. a lot of American fans were worrying that the Chinese Communists would try to censor science fiction, jail American writers or make propaganda during the Chinese Worldcon. I gather, in reality, what they did was use it as a way that rich

Chinese in good with the Communist Party could make money. That was the reason the date for the con was moved and there was a change of management.

About car phones, you had only one person to talk to. Cell phones have same problem. Or is it a problem? It's how I keep in touch with people I really like.

About characters and plots being copyrighted, for how long does the law permit that? Especially, now when Walt Disney lost the rights to "Steamboat Willie." I guess *The Lord of the Rings* is still copyrighted somehow if the court would rule against Polychron.

*Surveyor: A Corps of Discovery*. About time travelers meeting action and adventure, could they go into the future and see what would work best? Just a thought.

They aren't time travelers, they're paratime travelers. They don't go to the past, but to alternate time lines.

Letters We Get Letters. Dale Speirs. Concerning Smokey the Bear, he set the policy to fight forest fires Which means the policy has some age to it. I remember him from '50s TV. Thus, the policy of fighting every forest fire can't be blamed on the younger generation..

Taras Wolansky. Concerning plane flights, I agree that it is best to fly nonstop. Otherwise, you can loose your baggage.

Concerning Frederic Wertham, Taras, I can understand why you said those things about him. It's understandable: *Seduction of the Innocent* is a call for censorship of all comics. That was in the '50s. However, I happened to come upon a shorter book he wrote about fandom in 1973, *The World of Fanzines*. There he praised science fiction fans for writing about sex and violence. He was even nice to the kid who wrote "Quoth the Wertham, abolish gore."

Now there could have been a change of heart but I don't believe that. I suspect that he was an adherent to the Frankfurt School of Sociology, which was Marxist and socialist. That school believed anything mass produced had to rot your brain while anything written by individuals would be good thing.. On the other hand, while Frederic seems to be in sync with this, apparently, there is no smoking gun.

Darrell Schweitzer. I have used many all gender bathrooms. Those could only hold one person at a time.

Garth Spencer. Thanks for complimenting the weird derivation of my name.

In addition, everyone who has thanked me in this issue, I thank.

On the last page is a short tale "I Am What You Are." I guess this pastiche wasn't written by Milton Berle either.

That's all folks!!.

From: **George W. Price** February 2, 2024  
4418 N. Monitor Avenue, Chicago, IL  
60630-3333

price4418@comcast.net

December *Alexiad* (#132) [even though the running heads say August 2023]

I hope Joe has fully recovered from his fall and regained his energy.

Lisa opens the issue with an expression of incredulity and horror at the antisemitic chants at American universities. *Right on!*

I suspect that it is not so much that the students are specifically anti-Jewish as it is that they have been indoctrinated by the Left against Western civilization in general. That is, against liberal democracy and republican government – though the “progressive” indoctrinators hardly ever express it that way.

The Jews, through the Old Testament, are the progenitors of Christianity and modern European-American society. Israel is an outpost of Western society in an otherwise Muslim region – hence the rage against “colonization.” (Never mind that the Jews were there first, several millennia ago.)

By the way, I repeat my objection to saying “antisemitic” when we really mean “anti-Jewish.” Since Arabs also are Semites, there are a helluva lot of “antisemitic” Semites. (To be sure, there are also a fair number of Christian Arabs.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hey! There’s no “Joy of High Tech” in this issue! Oh, I hope this is a one-time exception. Edmiston’s pieces are always edifying and sometimes provocative. Keep them coming.

\*\*\*\*\*

Taras Wolansky has quite a bit to say about transgender women (that is, biological males) invading women’s sports, where their superior size and strength gives them an obviously unfair advantage. This should certainly not be allowed.

That this self-evident nonsense is ever tolerated is a spectacular demonstration of how ideology can blind us to obvious physical facts. Here the obvious physical fact is that when a male athlete declares that he is a woman, he is really still a man. So that’s how he should be treated.

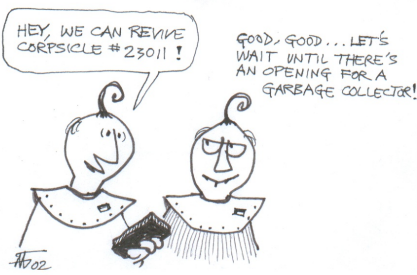
At a bare minimum, sports records should mark transgender women’s names and performance statistics with asterisks leading to footnotes saying “biological male.” The records should also note the actual female runner-up and her performance, so we would know who really won.

By the way, has any transgender man (that is, a biological female) ever competed in a man’s sport? How did she/he do?

\*\*\*\*\*

Darrell Schweitzer tells me that he does indeed know what Fascism is, and gives a five-part definition that looks pretty good. However, his last point runs up against my ignorance of Fascist terminology.

He says that Fascism embodies “The corporate state.” At first I thought he means the government is dominated by business corporations. But no, that’s not quite it, as I found when I looked it up on Google.



“Corporate statism” is described as the belief that “corporate groups should form the basis of society and the state . . . the state requires all citizens to belong to one of several officially designated interest groups (based generally on economic sector), which consequently have great control of their members. Such interest groups thus attain public status, and they or their representatives participate with national policy making, at least formally.”

This strikes me as the exact opposite of our individualism – the “corporate state” citizen has no voice of his own, but is only a part of whatever interest group he is in. It is for damned sure not free-market capitalism.

Perhaps a better summation of Fascism is the slogan I have seen attributed to them: “Everything for the State! Nothing against the State! Nothing without the State!”

Contrary to Mr. Schweitzer, Fascism did not mean “the tyranny of Old Money” as far as I’ve ever heard. In Germany (which I know more about than Mussolini’s Italy), Hitler did not confiscate the wealth of the rich; he merely required that they give absolute obedience to the Party. Economic inequality did not seem to bother him at all – he murdered poor Jews just as eagerly as rich Jews.

As Schweitzer says, many German business magnates supported the Nazis because they thought Hitler would protect them from the Communists. I have heard that Hitler planned to nationalize major industries after the Nazis won the war – but I can’t vouch for that.

In any case, being Fascist never meant being in the pocket of the rich. As I think I have said before, what I have read is that Fascism arose among Italian socialists who got tired of waiting for peaceful democracy to produce the collectivist utopia.

\*\*\*\*\*

My letter in last issue noted that Heinlein didn’t need to make the Mobile Infantry in *Starship Troopers* all-male, because the power armor would compensate for differences in physical strength between the sexes. The editor added a note that at MidAmerican he heard Heinlein say that the powered armor didn’t

matter, that women just weren’t supposed to be in combat infantry.

I can see Heinlein’s point. This may not be just a cultural prejudice, but a biological imperative imprinted in us by evolution. In every society I have ever heard of, no matter how primitive or advanced, women have not been expected to fight, while men are expected to risk their lives to protect women. And this has been true even where women are in all other respects treated as social inferiors, or even as property.

When enemy raiders attack, the men run to the battle line, and the women run to gather up and protect the children. Always.

This makes good sense, because women are far more valuable than men as breeding stock. (Pause for appalled gasps from feminists.)

As an exaggerated illustration, let’s imagine two tribes that have fought each other to the point of exhaustion. One tribe, which let only men fight, has ten men and ninety women left (counting only those of breeding age). The other tribe let women fight, and it has ninety men and ten women left (because the women, being smaller and weaker, mostly lost their fights). Which tribe will breed its numbers back up again the soonest?

The answer is obvious, but I’ll state it anyway. The ten men each take nine wives and keep them all constantly pregnant, producing ninety babies a year. The other tribe’s ninety men could provide each of their ten women with nine husbands, but they are still going to produce only ten babies a year. That tribe is kaput.

Sounds like Paraguay after the War of the Triple Alliance, even though they did have regiments of women. (A monstrous thing to do.)

—JTM

Now, maybe this logic will change with advances in biological science. We may become able to produce any desired number of babies of either sex using “uterine replicators,” as in Lois McMaster Bujold’s “Vorkosigan” series. Until then, Heinlein is right.

From: **Darrell Schweitzer** February 3, 2024  
darrells@comcast.net

This seems a rather insubstantial issue of *Alexiad*. Maybe I’ll have to write an article of some sort to beef it up in the future.

Please?

And in the news, the BBC has announced that 2023 was the hottest year on record. This, I suspect, will be an annual event until civilization collapses and there are no more records. Or, if World War III breaks out, the surviving humans probably will no longer have the capacity to damage the environment much, and the planet will begin to recover. Meanwhile, the Doomsday Glacier in Greenland is melting

faster than anticipated. Do not invest in shorefront property, unless it is in, maybe, Arkansas or in the Appalachians.

Of course fandom is abuzz with the aftermath of the Chengdu Worldcon and the voting “scandal” whereby various works possibly unacceptable to the Chinese Communist Party were mysteriously ruled “ineligible.” It is clear that the convention was a showpiece for Chinese SF and for the Chinese state generally. We are told that many millions of dollars of business was done among the Chinese there, bolstering the future of the “industry.” The convention was clearly Chinese, for their own purposes, and the presence of a handful of foreign devils was no more than window dressing.

**The figure I've seen is \$1.2 billion. It seems to have been more of a show, with art, music and dance, than what we would call a convention.**

Ever since China abandoned Marxism — which is why the country is so rich these days — its propaganda has become more subtle. Gleaming cities. Space program. A science fiction industry far more massive than anything in the West. No need for a Maoist sermon on every page. Censorship is achieved by omission, as unacceptable material is not published, or is rendered “ineligible” for awards. Time-travel and alternate histories are among the broad areas that are forbidden, as they could lead to thought-crime.

As for your comments on Worldcons, recall that there was a joke at the time, “What country will Zagreb be in by the time of their worldcon?” One of the Yugoslav fans was very candid with me about their bid, once. He said that they had no expectation of winning. They were scamming the government. As long as they put on the bid, to bring a prestigious cultural event to Yugoslavia, they got all-expenses-paid trips to foreign conventions. It was a great racket while it lasted.

As for the Tel Aviv bid, the issue may be that not all the rockets are Huguos. Some could come crashing through the roof. I expect that the current war will be over by 2027, but the area will not be secure and the long-term issues will not be resolved. Do not vote for a worldcon in a war zone. I gather that the Uganda bid has folded, which is just as well. As long as that country has “kill the gays” laws, it is unsafe for many of our members.

**I expect a conflict between those observers and the ones who want to promote and experience Afrofuturism, thinking they deserve their chance.**

—JTM

As for Texas in 2031, what country will Texas be in by 2031?

From: **Steve Green** February 8, 2024  
[necronaut13@gmail.com](mailto:necronaut13@gmail.com)

Darrell Schweitzer admits, “I am less certain I would even be welcome at a worldcon anymore, or part of the community. Recent worldcons have done their best to alienate the older pros and the older fans.”

Whether that distancing is intentional or not, I confess to sharing Darrell’s feeling of dislocation from what I once considered my favourite habitat. Reports from the front line leave an impression (perhaps inaccurate, but I’ve no inclination to check) of the increasing politicisation of programme streams and a shift away from the more light-hearted social aspect. The ludicrous image of audiences wearing ineffectual and downright unhealthy facemasks doesn’t help, either. Far more comfortable — and cheaper — to sit at home and read a book, or a fanzine.

**It's too expensive. It seems that the old Worldcon, where you met old friends and writers you had read or wanted to read, is gone and replaced by a mostly media con with books and fandom pushed into a corner.**

—JTM

From: **Taras Wolansky** February 10, 2024  
[twolansky@yahoo.com](mailto:twolansky@yahoo.com)

Thanks for the December *Alexiad*.

Lisa: Those Jewish students trapped in the library a few months ago while a howling mob tried to get at them were at Cooper Union in New York City.

Antisemitism may often take the form of selective indignation against Israel. Note how nobody marches to protest worse atrocities in other countries in the Middle East.

Joe: King Frederik X? I can see the movie already: a black rapper inherits the throne of a kingdom somewhere in central Europe.

**Don't go giving them ideas.**

Review of “Japanese War Fantasy 1933”: “The USS *Oklahoma* blows up ... It turns out the cause was a bomb planted by a Black naval steward ...” The 1619 Project appears intended to bring about this kind of situation, except that a volunteer military will tend to exclude people who have been taught to hate America.

**So they teach them to hate America.**

Eight years after 1933, a black cook at Pearl Harbor named Dorie Miller won the Navy Cross for his heroic acts, no doubt confounding the expectations of Japanese war planners (as well as American racists).

Dale Speirs: “As a result of a century of Smoky the Bear fire suppression ... [Canada’s forests are now] old growth spruce forest that

burn and burn ...” The author of a book praising the founding of the US forestry service, too, had a hard time explaining away its idiotic policy toward forest fires.



Darrell Schweitzer: “The primary way that Fascism differs from Communism is that it is the tyranny of Old Money, and not of rebels who have dispossessed the old ruling class.”

I think this is inaccurate. Mussolini’s basic idea was socialism without bloody revolution. This is why he was admired and emulated by progressives like FDR, who wanted pretty much the same thing.

This was mostly years before Mussolini’s ill-fated alliance with Hitler, when Jews were still welcomed in Fascist councils. Mussolini was terrified that Hitler would simply take over Italy if it refused to cooperate with the Holocaust, but his efforts to get the Fascist government to ship Jews to the death camps were unsuccessful. The Fascists deposed Mussolini and tried to make a separate peace; but Hitler did exactly as Mussolini had feared, returning him to power as a puppet ruler. By that time, however, most Italian Jews were out of Hitler’s reach, and 81% survived the war.

If we count Nazis as a variety of fascism (which they would have considered an insult), there’s a great quote from one of their leaders (Goebbels, I think) that went something like this: “The communists are fools. They try to take over industry. We Nazis are smarter. We take over the industrialist.”

In other words, the Nazis did not dispossess the old ruling class, but forced it to share its wealth with them and to do their bidding. Easier on the industrialists but also easier on the country, which avoided the economic collapse and famine of a communist takeover.

Men don’t care if women use their rest-



room; but women care if men use theirs. Especially once they see the condition of the floor! (BTW, I take it, you've never encountered a urinal that is just a long, shared trough with water running through it.)

At Balticon, it has often occurred to me that they could simply put up signs saying "bathroom with urinals" and "bathroom without urinals". No need to specify sexes or genders.

"Such intimate and personal matters should be decided between the patient, medical professionals, and, if the subject is a minor, the parents." Darrell, that puts you on the same page as ... Ron DeSantis. In blue states, laws actually forbid informing the parents of a child's gender transition, if someone thinks they may not approve. In red states, laws requiring public schools to inform the parents are routinely flouted.

Just remembered, California is currently suing a school district for the crime of informing parents about their children.

The fact that you didn't know about this is another example of the way progressive media conceal or obfuscate "woke" activities that they know would be unpopular — if the public ever heard about them.

Garth Spencer: thesaurus.com says "politically correct" is a "strong" synonym for "woke", as the latter word is used in political and cultural contexts. This is also my understanding, and the way I've seen it used hundreds of times. The only difference, if any, is that "woke" is more extreme.

**One prominent fan argues that "woke" means empathic.**

George W. Price: "climate change is happening already, and rapidly." Well, that depends on your definition of "rapidly". For example, planting zones are indeed moving North — at a rate of only 13 miles per decade. So, yes, there is a potential problem, if we do absolutely nothing for several centuries!

Another good example is the enormous development of coastal areas that is occurring right now. People are investing as if sea level rise were a distant problem for future generations. Which it is:

"Averaged on a yearly basis, the annual upward trend [1993-2022] works out to 3.43 millimeters ... At that rate, total sea level increases over the next 100 years will equal 13 inches. To put that in perspective, NASA reports the ocean rose about 8 inches over the previous 122 years ..." Capital Research, January 2023.

Fred Allhoff's 1940 *Liberty* serial in which Axis+USSR conquers Europe and threatens the US seems to have beat Cleve Cartmill to the punch. Or are its nuclear weapons described more vaguely?

Speaking of the serial's Russian invasion

of Alaska, I hear that Putin has repudiated the sale of Alaska to the United States. Which seems funny now, but I can envision scenarios in which it might be less amusing.

WELL YES, I THINK ABOUT MECCA A LOT, BUT MECCA IS SHORT FOR MECCANO, THE LOST... CALL IT THE GARDEN OF EDEN!



In Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*, "The power armor would completely compensate for differences in male and female strength."

Until the tech is degraded by combat or enemy action. In Jake Tapper's *The Outpost* a remote base in Afghanistan is sorely beset, and a heavy gun has to be moved. An easy job for two men or women — until one of the men is killed. And, oops, the other guy has just one working arm ... I'm not sure I'm remembering the episode accurately, but the principle remains the same.

What I do remember is that, as the base became more and more precarious, the military withdrew all the women soldiers who had been stationed there.

S. M. Stirling would tell you that women are fully as combat-capable as are men ("The Woman Warrior", *New Destinies Volume IV*, Summer 1988). Martin van Creveld would, on the basis of observation, disagree (*Men, Women, and War*, 2002).

—JTM

From: [Pat McCray](mailto:Pat McCray) February 15, 2024  
[Patrick.McCray@webbschool.org](mailto:Patrick.McCray@webbschool.org)

I always appreciate getting these. I'm not

sure you're aware of it, but I have written two books.

**WAHF:**  
**Nic Farey, Steve Fahnestalk, Tom Feller, Lacy Thomas, with thanks.**  
**Lloyd G. Daub, with various items of interest.**

**NOT FROM THE TELNARIAN HISTORIES**

When the barbarians, expanded, into the Empire, they did not, restrict themselves. In this venturing, a power was encountered, that was to burst, across the stars, and subjugate, the barbarians, and the Telnarian Empire. This is, the story, of how it, came to be.

Astubux, the Heruli chief, faced, the emissary, from the village. It was, on a planet, far from, the Telnarian Empire, which the barbarians, had been, accustomed to raid. It had seemed, possible to them, that a new field, of activity, would prove rewarding. The emissary, of the locals, was dressed, in plain brown, and carried only a stick. Astubux said, "I am Astubux, of the Heruli."

The other man said, "George Mainwaring, Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard."

Astubux said, "You will, of course, surrender. If you offer, armed resistance, those who fought, will be killed, and the other men, will be taken slave. If you do not, the fighting men, will be made slave. The women, of course, will be taken slaves."

"You stupid boy," Captain Mainwaring said. He turned and went back to where the platoon was dug in.

The Heruli, as were most, of the barbarians, were armed, with axes, and a few, with pistols. They wore, plates of armor, with furs beneath, and great, horned helmets. These accouterments, were sufficient, to terrify villagers, and bring about, their surrender, to the barbarians. These men, foolishly, must have imagined, they could defeat, the barbarians.

Astubux stood, before the ranks, of his men. He said, "These fools, have imagined, they could resist, the Heruli. There must be, many women, who will make, good slaves, and much plunder —"

Mainwaring said, "There is a brigade from

Home Forces on the way, so we only have to hold them off until then.” The Home Guard unit was dug in at the treeline.

Lance-Corporal Jones looked at the strange invaders. “The Jerries must be desperate. They don’t like it up ‘em!” Then he stood up and took a sight on the enemy commander. He was standing in front of his troops, giving an oration. Jones fired one shot, going immediately to ground. The man threw up his arms, dropped his axe, and fell in a heap.

“Hardly seems sporting,” Sergeant Wilson said.

The invaders seemed enraged by the shooting. They waved their axes at the Home Guard, then charged in disorderly masses, The Home Guardsmen fired quickly and accurately, taking down perhaps a hundred of the invaders before they halted under fire. They pulled back and began to make threatening signs,

“Running out of ammo there,” Wilson said.

“Took care of that.” Private Walker was pulling along a ammunition case full of .303 rounds. “Found a supply dump where they were willing to sell. Won’t cost you much.”

Wilson looked furious. “If we didn’t need it, I’d put you on report.”

“Walker, issue ammunition to the men,” was all Mainwaring said.

The barbarians charged three more times, taking heavy casualties. Some of them must have had pistols, for occasionally a shot would crack through the branches above their heads.

After the attacks had died away, Mainwaring was sitting under a tree taking a breather, while the sections were resting up in shifts. An officer made his way to him through the forest. “You’re in charge?”

“Captain George Mainwaring, Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard. Yes, I am.”

“Captain George Hendricks, 23rd Brigade. We’re here to relieve you.”

Mainwaring said, “I stand relieved. Wilson, show the regulars our positions.”

The regulars had to police up the bodies. Mainwaring was told that the police forensic examiner Dr. Spilsbury would come down to examine the dead. It seemed remarkably odd that they should look human.

A day later there was a visitor. “Major Harmsworth-Penney, 23rd Brigade. We need a guide to get to this vessel in the woods.”

Mainwaring sighed. “I’ll take you.”

So it was that a patrol of the Royal Sussex was escorting a captain in the Home Guard, and his orderly, a private. Walker didn’t seem to need a map. “Now take that there lane coming up on the right, and we should be about a mile from where that there thing is. Not particularly muddy there, so you should be able to drive.” They did not suspect, or at least say they suspected, why Private Walker should so much of the country there. He also knew every indentation in the coastline.

And there it was. The ship stood in a clearing. It looked empty. Lieutenant Scithers of the Royal Sussex shouted, “Come out and let’s talk!”

After a moment a man burst from the open hatch. He was dressed in plates of armour with furs beneath, and wore a horned helmet. He brandished a battleaxe and cursed

There was the crackle of rifle shots and the man fell over dead. Mainwaring took his pistol and went to the ship. There was a ramp and he went up it into the ship. The infantrymen realized what the old fool was doing and rushed in after him,

The inside of the ship was filthy and looked neglected. Most of the doors were open, if they were even there at all. They came to one that was locked. “Step back,” Mainwaring said, and shot at the lock. It took two more shots to break it open, and Mainwaring pulled the door open. “Dear heavens!” he said when he saw what was within.

Women crouched on the deck, They were wearing only flimsy strips of many-colored cloth. When they heard Mainwaring speak they looked up. A woman jumped up and threw her arms around his legs, kneeling before him. She cried, “Master, a slave begs to be used!”

The captain stood there, looking confused. After a moment he said, “No no no no. Whatever will Mrs Mainwaring say?”

When the Royal Marine Commandos and the SAS descended en masse upon the Berghof to take Hitler, Himmler, Bormann, Keitel, and Jodl prisoner, the Nazi state collapsed. The American Army Air Force demanded access to the strange vehicle, and after some discussion in the Prime Minister’s office, it was granted at a price.

Scientists descended on the ship. A hospital for women strove to make clear that there had not been slavery in Britain for over a hundred years.

Once the science had been determined, new construction began and a campaign of liberation and defence began. The fall of the Telnarian Empire to the British was epic.

Awards and honours were distributed. For example, a researcher named Clarke from the Royal Air Force was recognized. One significant participant could not receive a medal for his bravery, but they found a way. When the British held a celebration of British ways, the “I’m Backing Britain” fair was directed by a local banker: Sir George Mainwaring, K.B.E. (Military Division).

— Not by Jimmy Perry, David Croft, or John Frederick Lange

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This is issue **Whole Number One Hundred and Thirty-three (133)**.

**Art:** What we are mainly looking for is small fillos. Your fillo will probably be scanned in and may be reused, unless you object to its reuse.

**Contributions:** This is not a fictionzine. It is intended to be our fanzine, so be interesting.

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