

חדשות האגודה – נובמבר 2019 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

החודש יתקיימו מפגשי מועדון הקריאה כמפורט להלן. לצורך היערכות למספר המשתתפים/ות וקבלת הודעות על שינויים, יש להירשם מראש דרך הדוא"ל של המנחה, המופיע בקישור הרלוונטי לכל מפגש. רצוי להביא למפגש עותק של הספר. הכניסה חופשית ואינה כרוכה בתשלום או בחברות באגודה, וכן אינה מותנית בהגעה למפגשים נוספים.

- **המועדון בגליל מערבי (כרמיאל-משגב)** יתקיים ב-25 לנובמבר ויעסוק בספר "נער, דרקון" מאת צ'רלס דה לינט (יניב, 2012). המועדון יתקיים בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת תמסר לנרשמות ולנרשמים במייל של המנחה, **ד"ר קרן פייט**.
- **המועדון בירושלים** יתקיים ב-28 לנובמבר ויעסוק בספר "חוט של כסף" מאת נעמי נוביק (תמיר סנדיק, 2019). התכנסות ומינגלינג ב-20:00, שעת התחלת המועדון 20:30. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, אצל **גלי אחיטוב**.
- **המועדון בתל אביב** יתקיים ב-28 לנובמבר ויעסוק בספר "לעולם אל תיתן לי ללכת" מאת קאזואו אישיגורו (הספריה החדשה, 2019), בשעה 19:30, בבית פרטי בתל אביב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של מרכזת המועדון **זפנה קירש**. מנחה: שרה גבאי
- לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן **להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה** או ל**דף האגודה בפייסבוק**. **נשמח לראותכן ולראותכן!**

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף ל**רשימת התפוצה** או **בדף האגודה בפייסבוק**. Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- In addition to Time-Space Part VII, a special look at 2 semi-related articles from our friends at MONSFFA in Montreal
- Part VII of the Zion's Fiction review: Short story #11 + commentary on the previous month's story #10
- A special announcement for "FANTASIA 2000" – the original Hebrew language SF magazine (1978 to 1984)
- As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Finally ... Flak ... [well, at least someone's been reading my reviews]

LB: Start here about my review of story #10 in Zion's Fiction:

- **Important disclaimer about Sheldon: He is one of the editors of "Zion's Fiction"**

Hi Leibel, thanks for the review. My first comment on your reviews. I don't get how you found Liebrecht's story light. IMHO, it is the most portentous and best piece in the book. **Many** a light, ahem, reread? Shabbat Shalom.

בברכה,
Sheli Teitelbaum, Agoura Hills, CA

My response:

Sorry, didn't understand your comment.

BTW did you suggest I reread the story? You wrote: "Many a light, ahem, reread?"

Did you mean "Maybe"?

I actually read it several times and (sorry to say) didn't find it too 'exciting' or 'awesome'. There was no 'wow' like [LB: the stories] with the mirror, or the mice or robot, or as in previous stories (e.g. instantly dissolving if you sin, or skies that are continuously dark, etc.).

The only outstanding thing here - as I mentioned - was the funnel, and I didn't really understand it.

LB: Ah... but it doesn't end there. He wrote more!

Sheldon:

Leibel, sorry. I didn't see the quotation marks around the word "light." thought you genuinely believed this. I mean, people are said to have slit their wrists after reading the thing. And yes, I meant "maybe". The author, BTW, is recognized as one of the leading mainstream writers in Israel, so I saw this effort especially interesting. Anyway, *chaque un a son gout*.

My response:

I calls 'em as I sees 'em ...

I've read many apocalypse/survivor stories and they are usually/much more bloody, suspenseful, shocking, etc.: ... people literally hanging by a thread, faced by impossible odds, barely surviving (e.g. wild animals, disease, scavengers, 'bad guys', freezing temperatures, extreme heat, no food, no water,...., zombies, etc.)

Although there (possibly) are deep thoughts embedded within the story, on the surface, these few survivors don't seem to be having any major threats (beyond what has already passed). Even the co-existence of different languages, cultures and religions seems rather Utopian/miraculous.

To tell the truth, I didn't quite understand the part with the funnel - is it supposed to symbolize the 'hand-of-God'? or just a coincidental freak of nature since Man has tried to play God and instead of 'creating a world' - has just about destroyed it (symbolism that is quite appropriate for this time of year: Rosh Hashana/YomKippur and the reading of Breysish [LB: Book of Genesis] in 2 weeks time :)). BTW there is no direct/solid indication that mankind was the cause of the 'Apocalypse' - we're just taking it for granted.

All the best.
gut shabes and khag sukot sameakh,
Leybl

[LB: Well, in "light" of Sheli's remarks – I'll give it one last go, maybe I really missed (out on) something – and try my 5th re-read of this story. See the ongoing review (Part II) below...]

Compliments will get you everywhere ...

And at least some people read and appreciated the sorry short story about my receiving an email from my future self:

Leybl:
(*snort of laughter*) Love the time-travel e-mail story!
I've never been able to write a decent short story.
Zay gezunt,
Devra

And another one:

Funny dialogue with yourself from the future! Most of my dialogues are with myself from the past, very one-sided conversations along the lines of: What were you thinking?!

Even my "other" future self had something to say:

I was just glancing through XXXI #10 and had to mention to you that I/we got a few chuckles out of your conversation with you/us. You see, I'm the future me sending/sent a LOC to you/me/us. This is starting to get complicated. Just be aware that I am me/us from your/my/our future, but fortunately I am now pretty old and my memory has gotten fairly bad, so I don't remember you/me/us as well as I would need to in order to report what you/I/us did and besides it's getting to be my nap time, having been up for a couple of hours already.

Maybe I/we will have breakfast now instead.
Thanks for the zine, even if it was late/a long time ago.
Gary L
PS. I hope you had a good breakfast, I/we had chicken soup that I/we made! It was delicious, I think.
Hoping you are the same,
Keep smiling,
Gary

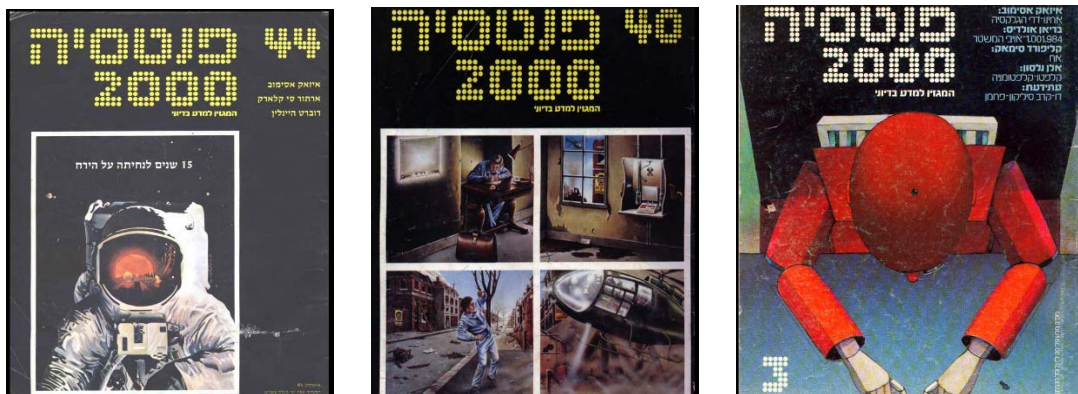
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Leybl,
Will the next issue of CC be published before the end of November?
If so, would it be possible to include an announcement of our new venture?
Here: <https://headstart.co.il/project/53909>

Thanks in advance
Happy Sukkot
Dr. Aharon Hauptman

כתב העת "פנטסיה 2000", שיצא לאור מ-1978 עד 1984, הגיש לאלפי קוראים את מיטב יצירות המד"ב בתרגום לעברית, עודד כתיבה מקורית בעברית, והטביע את חותמו על קהילת הקוראים והכותבים בארץ, בעידן שלפני האינטרנט.

רבים נחשפו באמצעותו למד"ב איכותי וגם למדע. כעת הגיע הזמן להנגיש את כל תכני "פנטסיה 2000" לקוראים ותיקים וחדשים, באמצעות האינטרנט. לשם כך אנחנו יזמנו פרויקט "מימון המונים" אשר בתמיכתכם, קוראים יקרים, יאפשר את מימוש הרעיון: <https://headstart.co.il/project/53909>



“Fantasia 2000”, published from 1978 to 1984, presented thousands of readers with the best of SF in Hebrew translation, encouraged original writing in Hebrew, and left its mark on readers and writers in Israel in the pre-Internet era.

Many people have been exposed to high quality SF and science through it. Now it's time to make all the magazine's contents accessible to old and new readers, via the Internet. To do this, we launched a crowdsourcing project that, with your support, dear readers, will turn the idea into reality: <https://headstart.co.il/project/53909>

Some fun from the Websites:

Mars, here we come... soon

Starship and Super Heavy: SpaceX's Mars-Colonizing Transportation System

By Mike Wall October 2019

Reference Article: Facts about SpaceX's Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket.



An aerial view of SpaceX's Starship Mk1 prototype, seen during Elon Musk's Starship update in South Texas on Sept. 28, 2019.

(Image: © SpaceX)

Starship and **Super Heavy** are the biggest, most important pieces of Elon Musk's grand plan for [SpaceX](#), his private spaceflight company. Musk has repeatedly stressed that he founded SpaceX back in 2002 primarily to [help humanity colonize Mars](#).

It's vital that we become a multiplanet species, the billionaire entrepreneur has said, citing both a much-reduced probability of extinction and the thrill that meaningful space exploration will deliver to billions of people around the world.

SpaceX is now actively trying to turn this sci-fi dream into reality. The company is developing a 100-passenger spaceship called Starship and a giant rocket known as Super Heavy, which together constitute the transportation system that Musk thinks will bring [Mars](#) settlement within reach at long last.

"This is the fastest path to a [self-sustaining city on Mars](#)," Musk said in September 2019, during a webcast update about the Starship-Super Heavy architecture.

Continue reading + see the video:

<https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-super-heavy.html>

Related:

SpaceX's Starship and Super Heavy Rocket in Pictures
<https://www.space.com/38315-spacex-mars-colonization-architecture-bfr-images.html>

But at what cost ...?

Could Elon Musk's Starship Threaten Alien Life?

By Samantha Rolfe - Lecturer in Astrobiology and Principal Technical Officer at Bayfordbury Observatory, University of Hertfordshire October 2019

Elon Musk, founder of private space-faring company SpaceX, recently unveiled his new Starship craft. Amazingly, it is designed to carry up to 100 crew members on interplanetary journeys throughout the solar system, starting with Mars in 2024.

The announcement is exciting, invoking deep emotions of hope and adventure. But I can't help having a number of moral reservations about it.

Musk has declared a fascinatingly short time line to achieve orbit with this rocket. He wants to build four or five versions of the vehicle in the next six months. The first rocket will do a test launch to 20km within a month, and the final version will orbit the Earth. Whether this is possible remains to be seen. Bear in mind that in the early 1960s when the then US president, John F Kennedy, announced the race to the moon, it took nearly a decade to achieve and several crew members died during the testing phases.

Despite this, it has been an important goal since the beginning of the space age for people to travel between planets — helping us to explore, mine, and colonize the solar system.

There are many reasons to believe SpaceX will succeed. The company has been extremely impressive in its contribution to space, filling a gap when government agencies such as NASA could not justify the spending. It's not the rocket technology that I doubt, my concern is mainly astrobiological.

If life exists elsewhere in our universe, the solar system is a good place to start looking — enabling us to touch, collect and analyse samples in a reasonably short time. Along with some of Jupiter's and Saturn's moons, Mars is one of the top contenders for hosting some sort of microbial life, or for having done so in the past.

However, there is a risk that microbe-ridden humans walking on the red planet could contaminate it ...

Continue reading + see the video:

<https://www.space.com/elon-musk-starship-threatens-alien-life.html>

Video: [Look Inside SpaceX's Starship Mk 1 Rocket!](#)

And now... the REAL thing ...

Mars Attacks!

BBC Unveils 'War of the Worlds' Trailer

By Scott Snowden October 2019

New mini-series to closely follow the original work of H.G. Wells

The BBC is producing a brand new, three-part sci-fi mini-series, entitled "The War of the Worlds" based on the classic novel by H.G. Wells.

Whether it was hypnotic voice sound of Richard Burton's voice in Jeff Wayne's 1978 musical version, or that of Orson Welles in the famous radio broadcast in 1938, or Gene Barry and Ann Robinson fleeing from the Martian invaders in the 1953 film or even Tom Cruise in the 2005 movie adaptation, "The War of the Worlds" represents one of the most popular and most adapted works of contemporary science fiction.

Continue reading + see the video:

<https://www.space.com/war-of-the-worlds-bbc-tv-series.html>

Related: [Listen to the 'War of the Worlds' Radio Broadcast](#)

For Star Wars Fans

SYFY WIRE'S BREAKDOWN OF THE FINAL TRAILER FOR STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

Contributed by SYFY WIRE Staff Oct 24, 2019

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the ***Star Wars*** saga captured our collective imaginations. 42 years and nine movies later, the story of the Skywalkers will come to a close with ***Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker***.

In an unusual show of restraint, Disney and Lucasfilm have limited the footage from *The Rise of Skywalker*. The final trailer hit this week, and it naturally left us with a lot of unanswered questions. Director J.J. Abrams has said that he intends this film to be the proper conclusion for all nine of the primary *Star Wars* movies. And we can believe it, based on this trailer. "Roger, roger," and welcome back the battle droids!

Continue reading + see the video:

<https://www.svfy.com/svfywire/svfy-wires-breakdown-of-the-final-trailer-for-star-wars-the-rise-of-skywalker>

Time and Space (VII) – from the "LiveScience" website:

Where Does the Concept of Time Travel Come From?

By Adam Mann - Live Science Contributor November, 2019

Time; he's waiting in the wings.



The dream of [traveling through time](#) is both ancient and universal.

But where did humanity's fascination with time travel begin, and why is the idea so appealing?

The concept of time travel — moving through time the way we move through three-dimensional space — may in fact be hardwired into [our perception of time](#). Linguists have recognized that we are essentially

incapable of talking about temporal matters without referencing spatial ones. "In language — any language — no two domains are more intimately linked than space and time," wrote Israeli linguist Guy Deutscher in his 2005 book "The Unfolding of Language."

"Even if we are not always aware of it, we invariably speak of time in terms of space, and this reflects the fact that we *think* of time in terms of space."

Deutscher reminds us that when we plan to meet a friend "around" lunchtime, we are using a metaphor, since lunchtime doesn't have any physical sides. He similarly points out that time cannot literally be "long" or "short" like a stick, nor "pass" like a train, or even go "forward" or "backward" any more than it goes sideways, diagonal, or down.

The dream of [traveling through time](#) is both ancient and universal. But where did humanity's fascination with time travel begin, and why is the idea so appealing?

Continue reading + see the video:

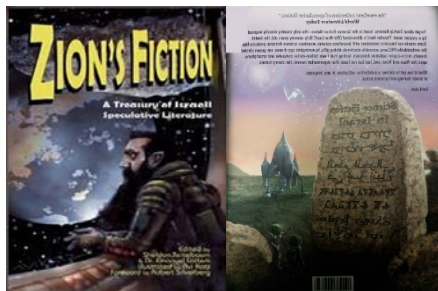
<https://www.livescience.com/time-travel-origins.html>

**Feel free to send comments / reviews of related books & movies
(or tell us about your own experiences with time-travel
or alternate realities – Déjà vu is also fun to read about...).**

Review: "Zion's Fiction" ed. Teitelbaum & Lottem

– Now Coming to You, From the Prime SF Nation of the World

ORIGINAL REVIEW by Leybl Botwinik – FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:



Story #10 – A Good Place for the night by Savyon Liebrecht

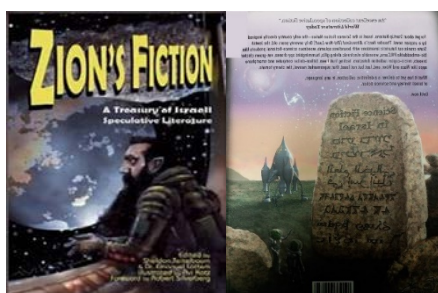
At 29 pages, this is the third longest of the short stories in the collection... The story is about an Israeli woman, Gila, and several other lone survivors of some great calamity – probably a nuclear war (possibly on a global scale): an American, a young Italian nun and her old sick ward, and a baby.

... and later a Pole who is on a bike on a five hundred mile quest to find his family (Gila and the American were on a train near the Polish-Austrian border when the world stopped).

According to him, everyone in the surrounding villages is dead. Later he returns and tells them that there is almost no one alive. Gila and the American discover that they have some mutated growths in their bellies – and in a desperate plan to preserve the 'future' decide to try to convince the young nun to be impregnated – and hopefully a girl child will come of it – for the baby boy to procreate with, at some future time.

In general, this is a 'light' story of survival after an apocalyptic apparently world-spanning catastrophe. There are some elements of mutual assistance – everyone of different religions, languages, and cultures thrown together in one 'boat' (so to speak) – needing to help one another to survive both physically, but mostly emotionally.

ONCE MORE (AFTER 5th RE-READ – see Sheldon Teitelbaum's letter above)



Story #10 – A Good Place for the night by Savyon Liebrecht

PART II: After having been scolded for the "temerity" of writing that this story presents a 'light' view of an apparent apocalypse – and out of respect for the co-editor, Sheldon – let me explain:

I didn't mean that the story itself was 'light', but that

the “survival” part in the story was ‘light’ – and not what I would have expected from an ‘end-of-the world’ survivors’ tale.

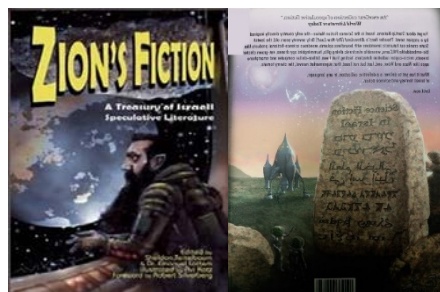
Most “post-Apocalypse” stories deal with gut-wrenching situations like incessant zombie attacks, sub-zero / ultra-high temperatures, wandering gangs of mutants/crazies, barely finding food or water, etc. with dangers around every corner (I could list a gamut of stories/films like: I am Legend, Mad Max, A Boy and His Dog, almost all the zombie films, Terminator future, etc. – even Planet of the Apes.). I would say, that on the ‘survival’ level, even Robinson Crusoe probably had it worse than the characters in this story...

That having been said, I reread the story and ... got more insight into the overall situation: There are very few survivors; It’s not clear if it’s worldwide or only in Europe – but after 4 years, it doesn’t look like there is much left of civilization; There is no indication of the source of the calamity either.

As well, after this 5th re-read, I got a better understanding of and some sympathy for the feelings and thoughts passing through some of the main antagonists ... but not much more.

Mind you, the story is well written. I just didn’t find it more heart-tugging or “wow” than any of the other stories in this collection (or of SF stories in general).

One more thing: Although the main character is an Israeli woman and she mentions some Israeli things in passing – there isn’t much in the story that marks it as being ‘Israeli SF’.



Story #11 – *Death in Jerusalem* by Elana Gomel

A not too short 19-pager, but worth the read. This one is a theological fantasy that is in some ways, maybe even satiric. A 35 year old Israeli girl falls for a MAN who isn’t really. He is DEATH impersonated. Actually, one of many types of DEATH (his family consists of WAR, HUNGER, OLD AGE, etc.). She marries him – he is a gun-

toting DEATH (maybe even symbolizing terrorists) – in full knowledge of his state and of his ‘brothers and sisters’, but is nevertheless uncomfortable with the result. One day a ‘retired’ DEATH approaches her (there are some hints that he is a resurrected evil person from recent tragic Jewish history) and suggests a way of getting out of the marriage contract – and there are some rather surprising and even world-shaking – consequences.

This story does reflect many Israeli/Jewish background issues (and mostly takes place – as the title suggests – in Jerusalem). For example, one Friday evening she lights Shabbat candles. At the same time, because she can’t sleep that night, she turns on the TV. The only late night programming on Fridays – unless you have Cable-TV – is Arabic.

[*NOTE: since I am religiously observant, and do not watch TV on the Sabbath – I’m assuming that is correct today as well. I know, that in the past, Israeli TV programming in Hebrew was suspended after a certain hour Friday evening/nights, and the Arabic language programming continued – and even that would suspend, so that the only other programs on TV would be to switch to an Egyptian or other middle-eastern station – But I can’t tell you for sure what happens now]

MORE ZION’S FICTION QUICK STORY REVIEWS – NEXT TIME !

For more on the book, see the official website at: <http://www.zionsfiction.com/>

Also: https://www.amazon.com/Zions-Fiction-Treasury-Speculative-Literature/dp/1942134525/ref=sr_1_1

The next and final material for this issue is from our friends in Montreal, who recently published their periodic SF magazine – Warp 105 – (Thanks Cathy, for pointing out the good stuff) that has some really great content and is recommended reading.

For example, “**Space Law - The first in a series by Sylvain St-Pierre**”

Covering various types of SF law systems and how they are portrayed/defined in books and films of the genre:

- **I: Earth Law**

- **II: Shadow Law**

- **III: Future Law**

Here’s a quote: “In Larry Niven’s **Known Space** series, for instance, pickpocketing is not illegal on Earth, simply because the population is so large that enforcing it would be physically impossible. Running a red light multiple times may however get you condemned to be taken apart, as there is an acute shortage of organs to transplant.

In Robert Silverberg’s **Caught In the Organ Draft** (1972) high ranking people, like judges and senators, have managed to secure the mandatory donation of things like lungs and kidneys for their own benefit; something that sounds frighteningly plausible.”

- **IV: Law in Space**

- **V: Time Law**

- **VI: Alien Law**

Here’s a quote: “Facing alien justice is often tricky. As in **Star Trek: The Next Generation** “*Justice*” episode (Season 1, Episode 7, 1987). Planet Rubicun III has a **single penalty** for any transgression, no matter how slight: death, applied swiftly and without appeal.

In the same universe, the Cardassians also have a quick judicial system. Whenever a crime is committed, you can be certain that somebody will rapidly be found guilty and punished. If that person is the actual perpetrator, well, that’s a bonus (**Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**, Season 2, Episode 45, “*Tribunal*”, 1994). It has been pointed out that we have jurisdictions on Earth that operate much in the same way today.”

- **To be continued in WARP 106**

Here is another fascinating article, celebrating this year’s 50th anniversary of the 1969 moon landing. MONSFFA’s very talented Keith Braithwaite created the cover for issue 105, containing 9 moonships from various SF tales (stories & films) – We’re presenting the first (#1). Can you guess the source of the others?

For a list of the 9, you can wait until next issue (just the title/source) or for a definitive answer, with a descriptive study you should read the rest of Keith’s fascinating article – see at:

“http://www.monsffa.ca/?page_id=6915” – to download this and other WARP issues.

OUR COVER: The Moonships

By Keith Braithwaite

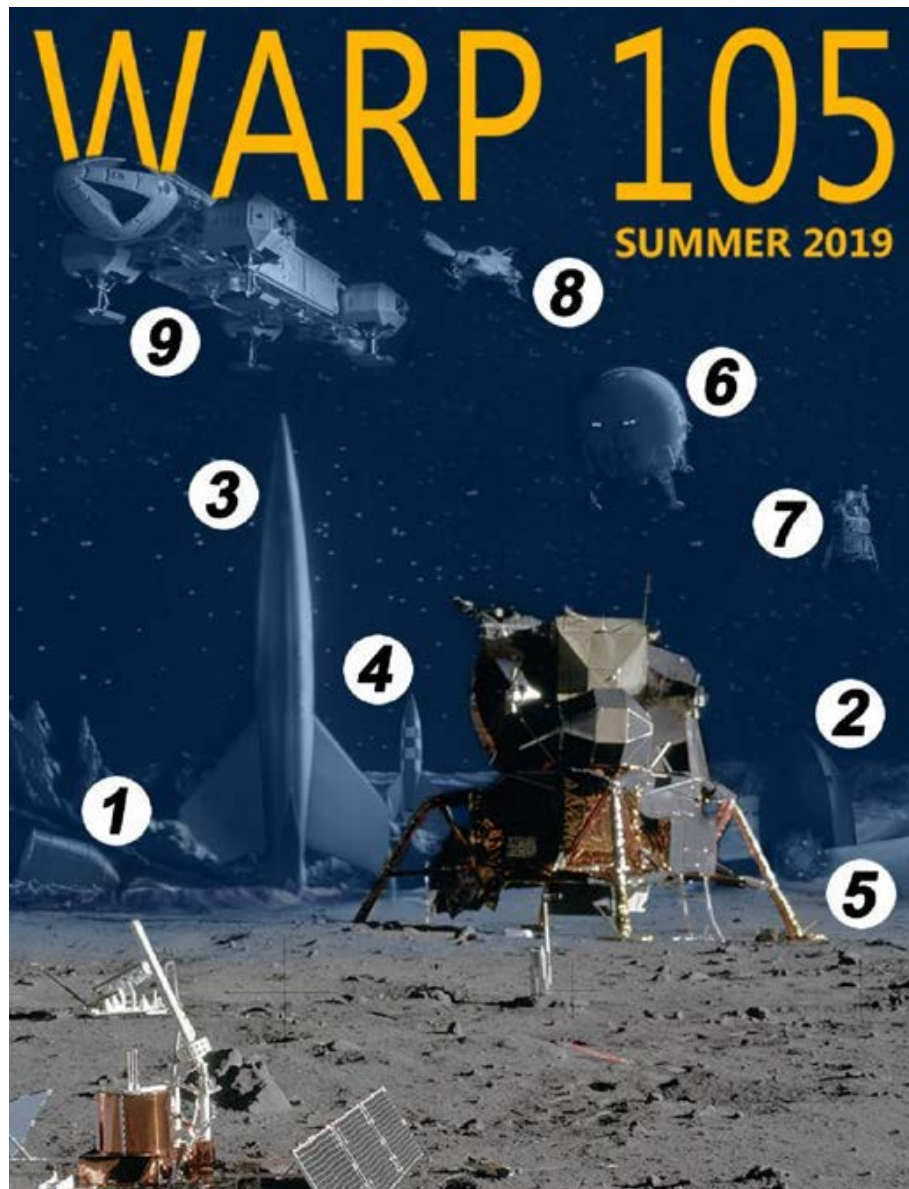
This issue’s cover [**LB: WARP 105**] is a photo-montage I put together inspired by the Apollo 11 moon landing of 50 years ago, which I remember keenly watching live on TV as an 11-year-old as excited by the real space program as by Star Trek. I call it “**July 20, 1969: The Day Science Fiction Became Science Fact!**”

Science fiction fans old enough to remember following the historic Apollo 11 moonshot on television, and especially the climactic lunar landing and EVA, were already familiar with the idea of flying to the moon in a spaceship and touching down upon the rock-strewn surface of Earth’s only natural satellite, having read countless science fiction stories, and watched the many imaginative movies and TV shows that had been made about such an undertaking.

But Apollo 11’s mission wasn’t fiction; it was the real thing. To our delight, the dreams of science

fiction became real on that momentous day, and the rocket-fueled fantasies of our youth were suddenly seen as not so far-fetched, after all!

I chose to symbolize those fantasies with a decades-spanning selection of fictional moonships, forming a phantasmagorical dream-tinted backdrop behind the image of the LEM *Eagle* standing on Canadian-made spider-like legs amid the “magnificent desolation” of the Sea of Tranquility.



Here are the imaginary moonships featured on this issue's cover [LB: WARP 105]:

1) *L'obus spatial*, or the "Rocket Shell," from *Le Voyage dans la Lune (A Trip to the Moon)*; B&W, silent, 1902. Based on Jules Verne's 1865 classic *De la terre à la lune (From the Earth to the Moon)* and its 1870 sequel *Autour de la lune (Around the Moon)*, as well as H. G. Wells' 1901 novel *The First Men in the Moon*, this earliest science fiction film was produced by French magician and cinematic innovator Georges Méliès.

The craft, shot from a huge cannon in both book and film, bears more than a passing resemblance to Apollo's CSM (Command/Service Module). Verne's account of a lunar excursion was remarkably prescient in many other particulars, too, such as his expedition's Florida launch site, and the returning capsule's ocean splashdown and recovery by a U.S. naval vessel. Méliès' film is a rather more fanciful, satirical yarn than were the Verne books. Inserting Wells' "Selenites" into proceedings, Méliès has our explorers come upon these insectoid moon people, dispatch their leader, and return to Earth with one of them as a captive.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the above topics and with your OK, we may publish them!

For Comments: E-mail: levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729

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Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>

And <http://efanzines.com/CyberCozen/index.htm>

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