

INTERMISSION #117

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and for tech'l reasons other victims may get this delayed. Follow @SFJournalen sf/f/h&fandom newstweets. You are ordered to subject your body to injectables against Twonk's disease! Hear the 1984 echo: Flu is Ebola! Your body is the Government's! Lockdowns are Freedom! Late Jan'22

Editorially: Short ish, Old Swe-Can Fan, Aurora Borealis

This will be a special issue and a bit shorter with a very special History Corner. I've had E-mail problems in January so I'll initially prioritise EAPA and N'APA, distribution to others will wait (I'll consider creating a special distribution address, but if so comments should still go to ahrvid@hotmail.com Nota Bene!) From Shangri-LA we get comments from Marty Cantor about LASFS from his perspective and the the LASFS clubhouse situation right now. In lastish I covered the adventures around the their legendary 1940's clubhouse as told in Rob Hansen's *Bixelstrasse* book. The TAFF E-books on <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?all> are really something you must look into. New, LASFS related titles *Ah! Sweet Laney!* and *The Incomplete Burbee* looks like glittering gems!

The main history piece is about the early Swedish-Canadian fan Nils Helmer Frome, a pioneer of the Canadian fanzine scene (doing the first Canadian fanzine which has survived!), illustrator, buddy with Sam Moskowitz, hovering around the Lovecraft circle and corresponding with HPL.

I hadn't heard of Mr Frome before so I dug up all I could find. After a short stay back in Sweden, which Frome had left as a toddler, it seems Nils Helmer's life ended far too early in tragedy in Wales.

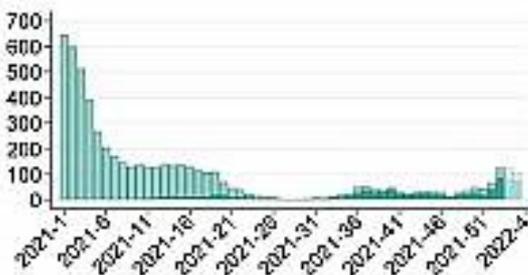
But as I don't have access some of the source material I hope readers can help me find out more about this interesting fan!

That will be enough history without this time digging into my Royal Library stuff (don't worry, I still have much left of that). After that some mailing comments that you may ignore - but it would be a good idea if you'd join an APA! Doing a PDFzine is very easy and we need more fanzines, so fandom won't decay

into beeping games, silly costumes and brainless adoration of CGI superhero flicks. (In my eyes such is just boring imitation stuff and has nothing to do with Fandom As We Have Known It.)

As for the blasted virus all credible sources (doesn't include opportunistic politicians and scare-mongering mainstream media) point to that Omicron is extremely mild, like a regular flu. It spreads easily, but it shouldn't matter since it's just a flu. Deaths are very low, comparable to a normal flu season. While hospitalisations are itty-bitty up most of the infected come in for *other* diseases, and found they had the bug once in hospital. The majority having Omicron didn't even know of any symptoms from it. From the official demographics of Sweden (by the Statistic Central Agency at <https://www.scb.se/>) we can calculate that our excess deaths 2020-21 was ca 3800, *only 25% of the official corona deaths* claimed to be 15000 these two years. *75% of claimed virus victims died with but not from the corona virus!* A UK FOIA request to their Office of National Statistics uncovered that the *number of British corona deaths without any pre-existing condition were 17*

000, just 11% of the claimed official figure of 150 000. A new study from Johns Hopkins University found all these lockdowns only reduced virus mortality by...0.2%! This has gone mostly unreported by mainstream, old media. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10474269/Mainstream-news-outlets-IGNORE-Johns-Hopkins-study-COVID-lockdowns-reduced-deaths-0-2.html> There are lies, damn lies



Virus dead very few, like regular flu. "Restrictions" a waste! (Nat Health Agency Jan 27)



Northern Lights over Stockholm in mid January.

and the corona statistics in newspapers.

This zine isn't against vaccines - it's a very good idea to take this flu shot! But as a matter of a very important principle, you must be the master of your own body. That's a principle more important than getting vaccines out, which BTW seem inefficient against Omicron. The questionable floundrings of Australia, Canada, Austria, Holland, Greece, France, New Zealand and elsewhere is alarming. Corona concentration camps, bureaucrats claiming ownership of the bodies of citizens, thousands in non-jab fines even for those who have the best (natural) immunity already and don't need a shot, making a degrading circus out of a formerly respected sports tournament, police walking around with sticks on the streets, kids losing two years of schooling, businesses going bust by the tens of thousands, inflation the highest in 20 years, millions of operations and treatments cancelled - likely to cause *more* deaths than from the virus! - all that is opportunistic stupidity. It's politicians drunk with power and prestige, playing for the gallery, pretending to be safe helmsmen, lacking common sense. They caused tremendous damage, achieving very little and they've had no respect for civil rights. (And on the Winter Olympics they treat Omicron like Ebola! I fear it'll be Roulette Games when having a cough or not decides who may even compete. Dreams of gold will be crushed. Also The American Song Contest I wrote about earlier has been postponed till March due to YKW. Anyway, Swedish SVT has bought the rights so I'll be able to follow it.)

Finally. We saw the northern lights, Aurora Borealis, over Stockholm last month. I've seen it before. Usually it drown in city lights, but now it was extra strong and visible. It's because the Sun's protective magnetic field is slowly decreasing so more particles and radiation reach Earth, causing the Aurora and in the longer run (Greta, listen!) a colder climate! More particles means more clouds, lower albedo and more of the heat from the Sun bouncing off into space. --Ahrvid Engholm

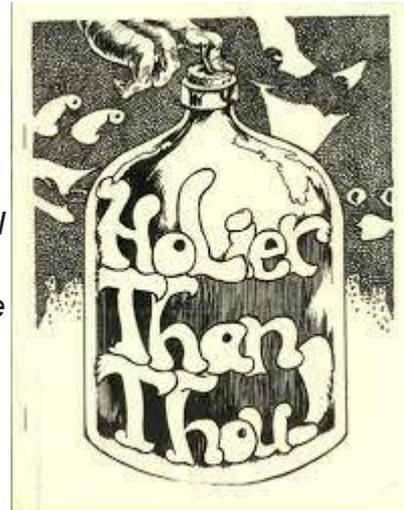
History Corner

First some notes from Marty Cantor, member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society - the worlds oldest continuously active sf club!-, Hugo nominee fanned, fan fund winner etc, reacting to my coverage of Rob Hansen's *Bixelstrasse* collection, which dealt with LASFS in the 1940s.

Marty Cantor writes: *Well, here is a loc of sorts on Intermission116. And I think it has been too many decades since I last communicated anything to you. My genzine HOLIER THAN THOU has been sleeping since the late 1980s and its successor, NO AWARD, is also sound asleep. /Ed: Yeah, we may have had some contacts in eg the 1980s./ I have read Rob Hansen's history of the 1940s LASFS and found it interesting. However, as I did not discover fandom (and LASFS) until 1975, the early days of LASFS are history to me. I am interested in LASFS' past, but I did not participate in it.*

My fanzining has been APAhacking. Currently, I only contribute zines to the weekly APA-L and the monthly LASFAPA, both of which I also run. If you mention joining APAs and I am always interested in getting new members for the two paper APAs I run. However, you mention two e-APAs and I find myself totally disinterested in that method of communication. I am in several mailing lists; but, in the slowdown of my old age - 86 and still doing a few things - I am in the process of shedding some activities. /Ed: It's understandable to take it easy with age. I'm afraid paper fanzines are on the way out. Skyrocketing postage alone is a hurdle! And Sweden's PO is preparing to deliver mail only 3 times/week.../

I have been on the LASFS Board of Directors for several terms (and have been the Board Secretary



for most of that time) but I did not run for re-election last month and I will be off the Board starting January 1. I pubbed the LASFS monthly newsletter, *DE PROFUNDIS*, for the past many years, but I gave it back to the board last month.

In 1975 I was active in what was LASFS' first clubhouse that they owned. Since then, in 1978, LASFS sold Clubhouse 1 and purchased Clubhouse 2 (which had twice the space as the first clubhouse). In 2011, LASFS sold Clubhouse 2 and purchased Clubhouse 3 (which was twice the size of Clubhouse 2). Clubhouse 3 was sold several years later for three reasons: maintenance of the property was costing too much money, the neighborhood was deteriorating, and we again needed more space.

Unfortunately, at the time of selling our third clubhouse, property had become so expensive that LASFS went into rented quarters and invested its money. We hope to purchase another clubhouse; but, because of the pandemic, we are now meeting via Zoom.

"The LASFS Board of Directors has decided on doing one of three things when we can afford to do them, with thing #1 renting some quarters which are not just one room in a building which lets us use it only one day a week as there are things LASFS likes to do other than its business meeting every Thursday evening. Thing #2 is to purchase a building and then remodel it as necessary to suite out needs. My personal choice is Thing #3 - find a vacant lot with the proper zoning and build to our specifications. In most instances, Thing #3 would probably be cheaper than Thing #2 as remodeling costs can be quite high (as we discovered when we purchased Clubhouse #2. Clubhouse #1 needed remodeling but the club members did it themselves. The remodeling of Clubhouse #3 had to be done professionally as too many of the members who did the remodeling of Clubhouse #2 were at least middle aged or a bit older were now 30+ years older when we purchased Clubhouse #3 and could no longer do remodeling work..

Therefore, purchasing a building and remodeling it for our purposes could be VERY expensive. As we discovered when we finally held LOSCON 47 at the end of last November after a long suspension do to the pandemic, it really was nice meeting our friends in person after too long a time just seeing them on our computers via Zoom.

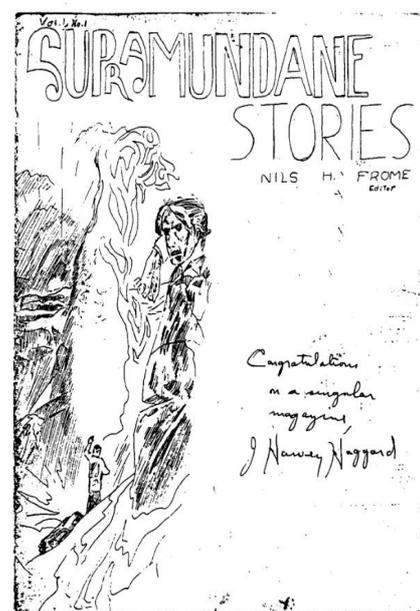
So we really want to get a clubhouse again. Fortunately, our investment is doing nicely but is still not quite enough for a clubhouse purchase, given the high cost of property in Los Angeles.

Thanks for your letter! I don't usually run LoCs, but I wrote a lot about LASFS and you had some info about the club and the present clubhouse situation - so I made an exception. Fancyclopedia says LASFS now meet at Friendship Hall of the American Lutheran Church, 747 N Whitnall Hwy, Burbank, but not during the pandemic when they meet in Zoom - I guess must be called the Freehafer Screen!

And now we'll turn to the Swedish-Canadian fan who knew Lovecraft and was involved in the start of Canada fandom. BTW, I've always though they should call the country *Fanada*...

In a 2015 fanzine titled *The Art of Garthness* (#1 even! - find it at <https://efanzines.com/>) one Mr Garth Spencer wrote: *One of the earliest (and most isolated) fans in BC was Nils Helmer Frome...a fanzine publisher... lof/ two editions of Supramundane Stories out of Fraser Mills, in 1937. In the 1940s he did fillos for Les Crutch's Ontario fanzine Light and both covers and fillos for issues of Joseph 'Beak' Taylor's Canadian Fandom. He also contributed fiction to both zines. Frome published two editions of Supramundane Stories out of Fraser Mills, in 1937 and 1938, with an impressive roster of contributors; and he did an issue of Fantasy Pictorial for the May 1938 First National SF Convention in Newark, NJ.*

Frome was born in 1918, Fancyclopedia (https://fancyclopedia.org/Nils_Helmer_Frome) tells us, and notes that the fanzine he edited was *...the first Canadian genzine, and possibly the country's first fanzine, in the late 1930s and /Frome/ contributed illos to*



Supramundane Stories #1

many American fanzines...Nils was born in Sweden. He was given to a foster family when his mother died and emigrated with another adoptive family to Canada in 1924...He was a correspondent of H. P. Lovecraft's.

Now it got my attention! While only aged six when emigrating, that a Swedish-Canadian was a fandom pioneer and Lovecraft correspondent was news to me! I did what I could to find out more, through any documentation I could google up. Moskowitz for instance writes in *SF Studies* (Vol 17, 1990) on "Canada's Pioneer Science-Fantasy Magazine" - I could unfortunately only access the first page through Jstor (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4239976>) - that he began corresponding with Frome in early 1937 and *Supramundane Stories* was produced on a multigraph, a piece of equipment that acted exactly like a mimeograph except that the typewriter style letters were set a slug at a time (as is letter press); so after the page was printed the type had to be disbursed. Frome was a would-be artist as well as publisher, as he would leave white spaces throughout his publications for illustrations. These he would draw in by hand, ten or twenty to a copy! ... Anyone inclined to patronize his efforts should be aware that the second (and last) issue of his publication (1938) ran a short story by HP Lovecraft (with whom he corresponded), a poem by Clark Ashton Smith, and material by Duane W Rimel and Emil Petaja (who were a part of the Lovecraft circle)...Frome did illustrations and wrote fantasy fiction for my own fan magazine *Helios*.

The West Coast Science Fiction Association *WCSFzine* #5 (see <https://efanzines.com/>) has a Frome bio, researched by Michael Dann and Brenda Yvonne of the zine *New Canadian Fandom*, May 1983, in the article "Nils Helmer Frome - Found and Lost". They located a /Frome/ half-brother (Louie) and his wife (Alice), whom they personally interviewed and who permitted them to examine what personal papers of his remained. A longer excerpt:

Canada's second SF fanned, first leading fan, and quite possibly, earliest fan whose name is known... "the first Canadian to publish a general circulation fanzine to make himself prominent /Harry Warner jr says/..."the leading Canadian fan of the day" /Sam Moskowitz says/ Frome was born in Ratansbyn, Jamtland, Sweden on July 10th, 1918. After his mother died, he was given by his father to another family to raise. At the age of 4, he refused to go back to living with his father! Eventually he was adopted by a foster family, which moved to Canada, ultimately settling in Fraser Mills, B.C., on the North side of the Fraser River just East of New Westminster...a lone child/ spending most of his time collecting science fiction, reading history, drawing and writing. After high school he attended Vocational Art School in Vancouver. His first issue of *SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES* came out in Oct 1936. He would have been 18 years old, a relatively mature age for a fan of that era. The point is, he was already an established fan well known North America-wide and considered Canada's leading fan. He had, for instance, been in touch with C Hamilton Bloomer, a prominent San Francisco fan, and purchased a multigraph mimeo from him. He established regular correspondence with James Blish and HP Lovecraft, among others. Sam Moskowitz began corresponding with him in 1937 and acted as an unpaid agent, distributing Frome's articles, art & fiction to numerous fanzines. After graduating school Frome found work in various lumber camps and mills, which may explain why he stopped publishing *SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES*. He did, however, maintain a high level of fanac, as Moskowitz's activity on his behalf attests. This may have been in compensation for being continually trapped in a working environment where his interests in art & SF were not held in high esteem. He seems to have been unhappy with his life.... had emotional problems dealing with people... seems to have resulted from his being a loner and from a creative mind that quickly became bored.... due to his above average intelligence and his inability to communicate on the more mundane level. The war must have been particularly frustrating. Being a skilled lumberjack, considered a strategically important job, he was not allowed to change jobs or enlist. So he spent most of the war, and some years after, in lumber camps. For a long time his address was 'Camp 5, Bloedel, B C Still, he found time to send out a stream of art, commentary, fiction & articles. One example of his fiction is 'THE MIRROR', published in *CANFAN* #10 in May 1946. The first paragraph reads: "As the car gasped its last and finally expired, John Sloan cursed the fate which had stranded him there on that lonely road,

with night coming on, and an uncertain storm muttering to itself in the distance. The curious mirror cast back the reflection of the figure of an old man, his ruthless countenance painted by the fire, now slack in death. He was sitting crumbled there in the midst of the house he had stolen....Alone.

Throughout his drawings the eyes were somber, dark, brooding, and somehow frightening. Perhaps his inability to understand people expressed itself in the eyes of his portraits. The only portraits which did not suffer from the 'strange' eyes were those of a few relatives & close friends.

Here's Moskowitz's list of publications he agented Frome's work to in the 1930/40's:

HELIOS & FANTASY ARTISTS, ed Sa Moskowitz
THE SCIENCE FICTION SCOUT, ed Alex Osherhoff
FANTASCIENCE DIGEST, ed Robert Madle
SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, ed John V Baltadonis
GOLDEN ATOM, ed Litterio Frasci
SCIENTITALES, ed John Giunta
COSMIC TALES, ed Louis Kuslan
8-BALL/CANADIAN FANDOM, ed Beak Taylor
FANFARE, ed Francis Paro
SCIENTAL, ed Bob Studley
SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES, ed Oswald Train
STUNNING SCIENTIFAN, ed JJ Fortier
SCIENTI-SNAPS, ed Walter Marconette
SCIENCE FICTION FAN, ed Olon F Wiggin
VADJONG, ed James V Taursi
SPACEWAYS, ed Harry Warner jr
LIGHT, ed Les Crouth "#115 April 1942 for example, its cover a line drawing of four nymphs or triad".

(The last two were not through SaM.) Frome sometimes used the pen name Herkanos, also in his LoCs.

And here's Taral in the M Dann/B Yvonne bio in the WCSFzine:

Frome himself continued as an active fan into the 40s, drawing and writing for CANADIAN FANDOM. He was one of Two artists" (Al Betts the other) "who alternated covers for CANFAN for all the copies I've seen of the first dozen issues. Of the two, Frome was the better, in my opinion, having a better grasp of anatomy and exhibiting better draughtsman ship... Like most fan art of the 40s, it was derivative of the pulp illustrators, and particularly of the fantasy illustrators. The style was dramatic and brooding, effects achieved by crosshatching, and the art showed good understanding of light. Of the three covers in my possession, two are dominated by huge, moody faces that have some real power as art. Generally less claustrophobic than most fantasy art of the time, and more surreal than illustrations for most adventure of SF stories, too, Frome had a real talent and may well have gone on to some professional career. Somewhere, but not in science fiction.

Moskowitz added: *Frome was head and shoulders above most fan (graphic) artists, and with a little training his work would have been of professional quality. His style was patterned after J. Clement Coll & Austin Briggs -- entirely line work with some cross-hatching in the background.*

And further: *In the summer of 1953 a nearly fatal bowel obstruction dictated a hospital stay lasting 76 days. Frome spent much of the time drawing, expanding his artistic skills. Afterwards, among other jobs all over B.C. working for various companies, he did design work for the Dept of Recreation & Conservation. Then he came back to the Lower Mainland and tried to survive as a commercial artist. Despite selling illustrations of B.C. "buildings, ships, trains & places" to newspapers, success eluded him. A drinking habit begun in his early twenties was now a major problem. As if desiring to*



Supramundane Stories #2

begin anew and find his roots, he left for Sweden to visit his relatives circa 1960/1961. He never came back. Nils Helmer Frome was found dead in the Hydro Hotel in Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, Wales. He had been working as an odd jobber and as a part-time boilerman for the hotel. His diary reveals he had considered suicide for some time. The date was the 27th of March, 1962. He was less than 44 years old. He had one three-penny piece in his possession.

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Contents of Supramundane Stories #2

Frome's mother's sewing machine, which is a rather cool way to bind it. A wonder more people didn't think of that method. /Moskowitz says:/ Frome illustrated it by hand, and although he possessed no little artistic ability, he showed a disquieting dislike for uniformity by illustrating every copy of the magazine differently. For the particular fan collector it would have been necessary to obtain every copy of the periodical in existence in order to own all the variations... I kept two copies of the first and at one time I had six in the files at the same time. Why? Because every copy was different. Different illustrations, different textual arrangements, even different text...

RD Swisher who did a fanzine checklist says: *Probably one of the most unusual fanzines ever issued was the first issue of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES... No two copies were identical. Each and every one contained different illustrations, articles, ads, set up of stories. Cover and illustrations done by hand. No two copies of this issue are identical. Some pages dated Oct, some Dec-Jan*

Frome himself wrote: *The explanation to why the variety of illustrations is I got bored doing the same drawing over many, many times, almost line for line. Try it yourself. I bet it will get under your skin, too. The contents of SUPRAMUNDANE #1 is mentioned:*

The Cosmic Vampire' by Lionel Dilbeck, a Lovecraftian story about an airplane expedition to the North Magnetic pole which crashes in a storm. Everyone survives only to be picked off one by one by a gaseous being resembling "a huge mass of what looked to be snow-flakes... Glittering whitely and pulsating rhythmically..." which, once it envelopes a hapless human, sucks out his life force. The cover, by Frome himself, depicts an agonized man disintegrating within the embrace of 'The Cosmic Vampire' while another man flees down the snowy slope toward the wrecked aircraft." ... Frome contributed two stories. The first, 'The Thought God Calls' is under the pen name Vacton Wells. It's about the first expedition to the outer planets. Here's a sample paragraph:

"Although acerbic climes sent the hull barometer down to an abnormal extreme on the dark side, and horrentious heat on that side facing Titan, mighty machines murmuring in the Planeteer's pentraillia, rapidly reined and used them; so whereas Man with his huge shortcomings should swiftly have expired, but for the miracle of the advent of Brain, the two who stood looking into the drusy distance,

A very sad end! One could make a guess that his 1953 illness and long hospitalisation left a mark on him resulting in boozing and a generally bad outlook on life, as he finally ended himself (which is more than hinted). He had probably gaffiated at the time of his early 1960's trip to Sweden, and I'm pretty sure there were no contacts with local fandom. I've never seen his name mentioned WCSFzine also tells us about *Supramundane Stories #1*:

70 copies of 32 pages printed on a multigraph mimeo Frome had earlier purchased from San Francisco fan C. Hamilton Bloomer (who had used it to print the first American multigraphed zine TESSERACT). A multigraph has moveable type which has to be set by hand, which is very time consuming. Any illustrations have to be hand drawn for each copy, which in the case of SUPRAMUNDANE led to an unusual situation...

SUPRAMUNDANE's pages were stitched together on



An illo by Frome.

mentated not too much on the possibility of anything going wrong in the three weeks old king of space, but trying to envisage the things to come."

His second story, under his own name, titled 'The Flaming Sword of Yucatan', is even less accessible to the reader. You might say he attempts to out-Lovecraft Lovecraft, as per this quote: "Dawson understood. He came into reality, if the strange being and the effulgent object he held, vaguely like a sword but with an elusive, distant look that it might have been a star, was real."

Frome also contributes a poem under the pen name Lionel N. Dwight. It has what I think is a great title: 'All Cold', and is about the heat death of the Moon. Here is the complete poem:

Lonely little Luna's settled to

**soulful wait
Until when her fate will one day slate
Some cosmic chaos a chance to brim her
atmosphere thin
And give her energy to energize her fires dim,
But she cringes lest fate connive, pales lest it
contrive
To take her life.
Her struggles strong for ages long
Has inured her to strife,
But the fire cooler grows in her inner great grotto
And she does not know.**

The standout item in the issue is the poem 'Written On A Bleak Asteroid' by J. Harvey Haggard, a professional author & poet "whose stories had appeared periodically in WONDER STORIES & ASTOUNDING STORIES... had several poems appear under the pen name 'The Planet Prince' in WONDER STORIES" according to Moskowitz...

At this stage in his life, Frome's grasp of English was good, but he tended towards an awkward syntax and a lust for run-on sentences. (He later wrote far more clearly.)

This hints he may have been brought up with Swedish as first language, as his adoption family was Swedish. And here's an excerpt from his editorial, titled 'The Editor's Word' in which he sets forth the purpose of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES (see illo also):

If you really and truly are for prophetic, noetic literature and see something in short anecdotes, etc, to enhance the regular sciencefiction fare and occupy atween times, and short thought-provokers boiled down so as to insure against any tedium, articles about science, writing, illustrating, and reading fantastic stories and multifarious other features - then this is your mag. For SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES will have more than any amateur magazine, including crossword puzzles... and model spaceship plans... Scientifiction is a world apart; ordinary rules do not apply here; competition, certainly! If it can be yeleft so the fostering of a noetic lure that is amaranthine and may not be confined, extends infinitely as thought; no, SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES elbows no "rival" --she makes the field more lively.

Frome had a second poem in #1, "All Cold", using the pseudonym Lionel N Dwight:

**THE EDITOR'S WORD
By HILSH: FROME**

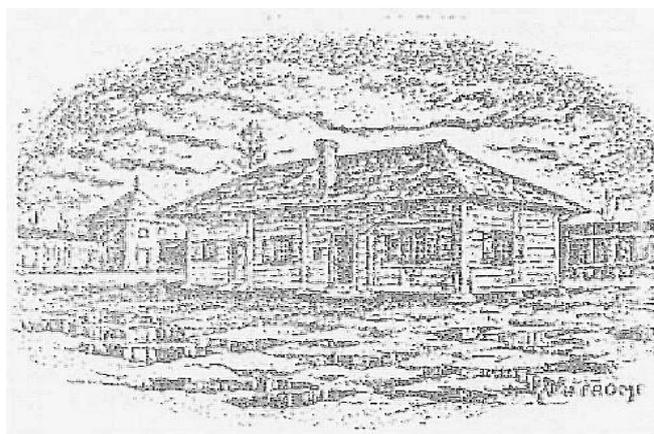
PRIOR to all else I want to vindicate my self of the onus a certain columnist (it is of no purpose to mention him specifically, as it is not with him my mind is concerned, but with those the inimical impression found lodging) who said— out of an unreasonable, antagonistic, pointless, uncalled-for—but we will leave that undoubted excess out—"I was being (pretty wording, I admit) blown about". Maybe if he does his heavy typesetting himself so his sense of reality, by the habit of putting words wrong so they'll appear right when on paper, has become warped, in print or further, to such a degree that would account for this otherwise inexplicable lack of truth, for it is sans an atom of truth— nor have I ever implied I was an "athouritive author", as he invents so easily. My friend and editor, I want to point out as our only mutual friend who might have had the provocation for doing so and upon my query, he has not done so, he says. The utmost justification this columnist has lies in a conversation between the two aforementioned well-known fans wherein my combative fellow fan asked about me, my friend answered, saying I was a partner in The Planetear (I was for awhile but I regretfully resigned for several reasons), an aspiring author, and a good drawer— and that is all.

If you really and truly are for prophetic, noetic literature and see something in short anecdotes, etc, to enhance the regular sciencefiction fare and occupy atween times, and short thought-provokers boiled down so as to insure against any tedium, articles about science, writing, illustrating, and reading fantastic stories and multifarious other features—then this is your mag. For SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES will have more than any amateur magazine, including crossword puzzles on science and science fiction probably by Roy Test, and model spaceship plans. You will of course be delighted with the material by Mr. Haggard in this issue; we will strive to have an equally talented, well-know author contribute something ever issue.

Some of the amateur magazines may be rather blue by this time. But why? Scientifiction is a field apart; ordinary rules do not apply here; competition, certainly! If it can be yeleft so the fostering of a noetic lure that is amaranthine and may not be confined, extends infinitely as thought; no, SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES elbows no "rival"— she makes the field more lively.

Stf. Radiations, a reader's department-battlefield for scientifictionbibliomaniacs begins next issue, which will be out in less than two months.

***Lonely little Luna's settled to soulful wait
Until when her fate will one day slate
Some cosmic chaos a chance to brim her atmosphere
thin
And give her energy to energize her fires dim,
But she cringes lest fate connive, pales lest it contrive
To take her life.
Her struggles strong for ages long
Has inured her to strife,
But the fire cooler grows in her inner great grotto
And she does not know.***



House drawn by Frome, maybe resembling the logging cabins from when he worked in the forest.

Luckily, *Supramundane* has been digitised and is available

here if you want to study it: <http://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org/sf-fanzines/downloadable-canadian-fanzines/macabre/supramundane-stories-1-2-1937-1938-nils-helmer-frome/>

Walter Marconett's *Scienti-Snaps*, Feb 1939, has a short story by Frome, "The Mother", and you can find it too here: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Scienti-Snaps/>

Sam Moskowitz has written about Frome and his correspondence with HPL in *Lovecraft in Howard Phillips Lovecraft and Nils Helmer Frome: a recollection of one of Canada's earliest science fiction fan* (Moshassuck Monograph Series No 5, 1989, 167 pages) which I unfortunately don't have access to. But there's a long letter by Moskowitz in the journal *Science Fiction Studies*, November 1985, <https://www.depauw.edu/sfs/notes/notes37/notes37.html>, commenting on James Blish using "Nilsson Frome" as a pseudonym, and then stating:

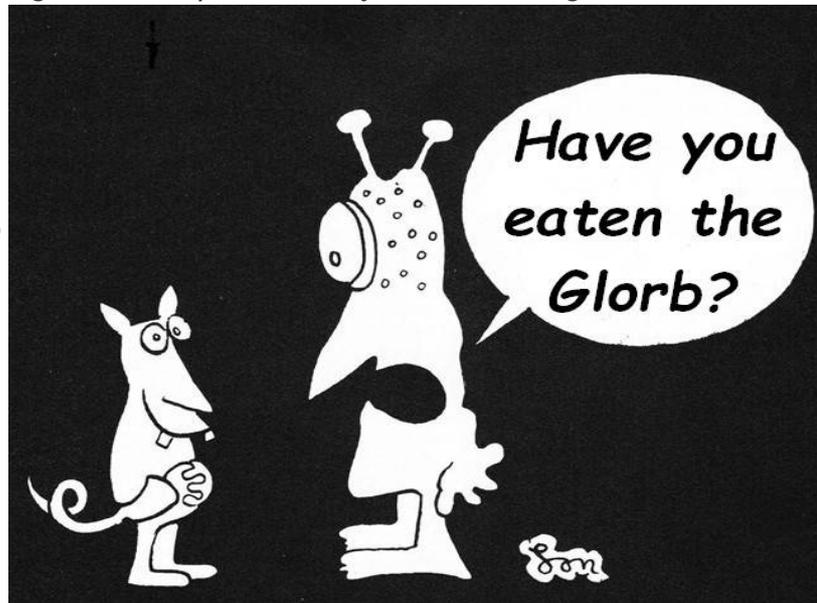
While in the hospital Frome began to draw again, and when released made his major bid to earn a living from his drawing. This took the form of salaried work, which included design work on the restoration of the Cariboo Goldrush town of Barkerville, while working for the Department of Recreation and Conservation in British Columbia. His work was used on the cover and interiors of various regional Canadian magazines, including the Quesnel Advertiser and The North West Digest. Poor health, drinking, and failing interest resulted in his leaving his position and trying to make a living as a freelance commercial artist in southern British Columbia. He secured a motorcycle and toured the province, taking photos which he would later use as models for some illustrations. He was not entirely unsuccessful doing a regular series of drawings for The British Columbian in New Westminster as well as other newspapers. He made an attempt to have some of his illustrations appear on tourist postcards. Dann and Yvonne report that the quality of the drawings they viewed was good, and his line work-outstanding. His animals were drawn with considerable appeal. Forced to finally give up his attempts to make a living as a graphic artist in British Columbia, he returned to Sweden to visit his family. (We assume this is the family of his father.) One year later, his adopted family in British Columbia was notified that Nils Helmer Frome, who had been engaged as an oddjob man and part-time boiler operator for the Hydro Hotel in Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, Wales, was found dead there on March 27, 1962. /The suicide diary note mentioned, and SaM ends:/ Had he been able to take up residence in a publishing center like New York City, he might - between magazine illustrating and the rise of the comic magazines in the '40s - have had a better chance of making a living as an illustrator. While as a fan he was an eccentric, in his widespread correspondence he was unquestionably reaching out for comradeship; and his "loner" attitude to people around him seemed more a failure to find people with similar interests than a psychological fault.

We learn that Frome was a letterhack to the pulps of the day too. See eg his letter in *Weird Tales* in 1936 (Aug-Sep), https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Weird_Tales/Volume_28/Issue_2/The_Eyrie#Frome

Nils Helmer Frome, of East Orange, New Jersey, writes: "I halted as I sped past a magazine stand - I always do that - magazines have a fascination for me. Weird Tales wasn't the only one I looked at,

but it held my gaze the longest. I lingered and languished - my purse wasn't exactly blooded. I bought it. That is the synopsis on the repeating incident that is among the most important in my years. *Weird Tales* has become weird again - or else my appreciation has risen. The covers of the last two issues were wonderfully weird. Great credit due to Brundage - she's really quite competent when she gets started - if she would only quit those nothing-on dames - she has no idea what a female figure looks like, even if she is a woman herself. Although I am far from an authority in that line myself, I know that a figure true to life is far from what can be effected by even a skilled guesser. And that external sadness in those eyebrows lifted in between the temples gets me with its monotony; why not a pointed pair of eyelashes, such meaning a mischievous nature; an arching pair - or a pair that swing in a curve from the temples and drop back; anything but those poor, fluttery lines Brundage favors always. Brundage must have such eyebrows - and the general contour of the faces of her bright-eyed heroines - for almost invariably an artist favours his or her type to depict. And why not put more life and horror into the faces - a shrinking type - a staring type - a fascinated type - a shadowed full-face type - a fainting type with half-closed eyes. The hands might be bettered, too. Advise her, Editor, to watch people's hands and catch their personality - their grace.

This is the info I've been able to gather on the pioneer fan Nils Helmer Frome, but tell me if you know more! Does anyone eg have the Moskowitz book *Lovecraft in Howard Phillips Lovecraft and Nils Helmer Frome...*? Do you have pics of Frome? More of his his pulp magazine letters?



Wisdom from Lars LON Olsson! Originally in *SF-Forum* #88, 1984, our only fanzine that in 2022 still dares to pub on paper!

Mailing Comments

First EAPA, then N'APA and John Thiel in between (he's in both!). Join an APA! Do a fanzine!

Henry Grynsten: LOTR has a very slow start the 100 first pages. Skip those and give John Ronald Ruel another try. Then you don't have to read ANY more fantasy, as everything afterwards is just copied from Tolkien. ☞ Interesting about the dark side of John Lennon. I'm of course a Beatle fan. (More so than ABBA fan, although they are a good #2, but what music I like changes with phases of the Moon...). A side note: I think the Fab Four would have re-united in the 1980s, if John Lennon hadn't been murdered. ☞ As for English tenses, the claimed "16" aren't tenses in the sense they direct different word forms, as some of the 16 are more variations in phrasing. Se eg #16 of <https://examplanning.com/16-tenses-in-english-grammar-formula-and-examples/> "He said that I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING here FOR two hours by that time" Caps said to be the grammatical tense, however for me it's a matter of phrasing, pointing to a time and position through a stream of words - not a single of the words is grammatically modified for that "tense". By using a sequence of words you can always point to anything - that's phrasing, not grammar. Let me construct a "17th" tense which we call Alternate World Simple Present Tense (compare with #1 from the link): "She copenhagenly reads a book in the library" (re: Copenhagen many worlds interpretation of quantum physics). I just add "copenhagenly" to indicate she reads in an alternate world - now, is this grammar or phrasing? If you understand what I mean... ☞ "You don't think complexity takes time, quote: "now we invent a word for mammoths, the next millennium we invent a word for baby mammoths, and it will take another thousand years to gradually develop the past tense...which sounds incredibly weird, or it was invented suddenly by someone". Elsewhere you say you think languages began suddenly. There's a paradox: How on Earth could a certain language spread over a wide area in pre-historic times? <https://www.holidify.com/pages/oldest-languages-of-world-365.html> lists some of the oldest languages: versions of Chinese, Lithuanian, Sanskrit, Egyptian (they mean Coptic) and Tamil, which have been around for 5-6000 years and over considerable areas. That's impossible for a language that just "pops up" - it needs to pop up over a big area at the same time. What's most likely happened is that a word for mammoth popped up in a small group and then died off. The mammoth word popped up again and died off. And finally a mammoth word that popped up randomly managed to become more popular and spread - and this process may very well have taken thousands or tens or thousands of years. All elements of a language have evolved this way, by trial and error, and have slowly spread the same way until a certain language dominated an area. Pre-historic tribes migrating have spread a certain language. Language elements may pop up suddenly, but most of them also die off as fast, until certain bits survive and spread, which is a slow process. ☞ I have drunk plenty of coffee in my days, and never become "high" - not in the sense of narcotics. Coffee has never twisted how I see the world, never caused

extreme feelings of joy or dullness, never given me hallucinations, etc. Coffee just makes me slightly more awake and alert. ☞ You Beatles essay was rejected by their fan magazine: In last Intermission I did a tongue-in-cheek piece on ABBA. I mailed it to ca 10 E-ddresses to ABBA fan clubs etc - no response at all! I guess they didn't like it. I didn't really bash ABBA. I was a friendly parody - and parody is the highest praise!

Garth Spencer: I have never learned all those abbreviations, like REAIMTTTB (Read And It Made Me Take To The Bottle...) ☞ The original Foundation trilogy (which I like better than the later follow-ups) was a series of novelettes. Among his series you forget Asimov's Lucky Starr books! And outside skiffy, Asimov had his Black Widowers mysteries and he wrote a fantasy short story series about the demon Azazel. ☞ No, of course Covid isn't a fraud. But the measures by politicians have been unbalanced, far too oppressive and born out of attention-seeking opportunism. And mainstream media has been awful in it's scare-mongering! A theory of mine is that since OLD media (newspapers, linear TV etc) nowadays has older personnel, these selfishly try to scare readers for their own benefit. As MSM reporters are 50-60 year-olds, their parents are at the age of, say, 75-85. MSM reporters try to scare the general public to drastic measures (lockdowns, forced vaccinations, closed businesses, etc) in an attempt to "protect" their own elderly relatives. For personal reasons they produce endless negative "news" on the virus, even now with the insignificant Omicron flu. We hear "Oh! How fast it spreads!" not how mild Omicron is. ☞ You write: "Printed text is simply not the contemporary fans' medium of choice - and neither is reasoned, original speculation." Sad, but true! ☞ I think languages change more slowly with media technology. As languages are used and spread more they need a tighter standard to be more widely understood = slow change. Less spread and isolated groups promotes more rapid changes.

William McCabe: If you think energy prices are high now, you ain't seen nuttin' yet if Greta gets her way!

Nic Farey: I hope you intend to be a regular in the APA. We need more members! "Social" sf is for the soft minded... ☞ Intermission is listed as being a candidate for a FAAn Award perzine. I think it's more a genzine! I disagree with the definitions "GENZINE: A fanzine which typically has multiple contributors in addition to its editor" and "PERZINE: A fanzine which typically has few, if any, contributors other than its editor." I have always seen a genzine as a fanzine with "mixed and GENERAL contents", no matter the number of contributors, and Intermission has rather mixed and general contents. And a perzine is, as I see it, a fanzine "written in an informal, PERSONAL tone", talking about the editor's daily life, personal opinions and little tidbits. Am I wrong?

John Thiel: Great article about sf engineering! I'm myself like technology and science in sf. Gernsback wasn't so wrong. I compress my illos in Intermission through Open Office Writer. It does PDFs and when making them you chose compression ratio, trying to find a balance between size and quality. ☞ Yes, Garth for OE! ☞ There are episodes of Cpt Video and His Video Rangers on Youtube. I have seen some. Those late 1940's/1950's sf TV shows are quite cute! There's also "Tom Corbett Space Cadet" and "Space Patrol" on Youtube. And there is the 1960's German "Raumpatrouille Orion", which was also on Swedish TV (version with English subtitles if your German is a bit weak, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TMimV9reNs&list=PLEDIPudmkIBIAIR08ITCaH6U-DARsW_4n).

Jefferson P Swycaffer: I agree there's nothing wrong with "normal" porn. I further also think that people's relations to sexy stuff must be their own private business - it shouldn't affects others or be something you wave around with. ☞ You seem to know your orbital mechanics... ☞ Bertil Falk's Finnegan's translation has actually gotten some good reviews. I agree some things are difficult to translate...esp Joyce!

George Phillies: Many "new" UFO sightings I've seen seems to be instrument disturbance, dust on the lens and the like. ☞ N3F should be able to recruit many associate members, since that's free. (I have joined as associate member). Activities to add? I'm worried that the interest in fanzines is so low. N3F could try, say, an information campaign to recruit new fanzine editors and readers! Fanzines used to be fandoms backbone!

Will Mayo: Troubled times, yes. Beside the virus we have Putin and Ukraine. As Russian landing crafts were spotted in the Baltic Sea, Sweden sent extra forces to the island of Gotland in the middle of the Baltic...just in case!

Samuel Lubell: What you say on infections seems right, but though easily spread Omicron is very mild, almost never lethal, so we can ease "restrictions"! (Like over here by the time you read this.) Claimed "official" virus statistics seem to be heavily exaggerated, real death cause usually being something else. Excess deaths which lets you compare with normal years indicate this. We must follow the principle that it's your body, not the government's. iThe individual's choice and civil rights is more important. If we allow politicians to take charge of your body we're on a slippery slope leading to something frightening. Though I recommend all to take the vaccine, it must be voluntary! ☞ I'm afraid I still think books have become worse in later decades. Many writers just waste words. "Characterisation" is often overrated! ☞ I don't know of "many" female writers who used male pseudonyms and I definitely haven't heard of any cases of them being dismissed or rejected due to gender. To the opposite, there are examples of women writers being extra encouraged! The Hugos have obviously become political tumbleground! All 2021 writer awards went to women, no doubt from "feminist" voting (likelihood of that outcome being random is nil). I don't know the history of the famed "Puppies" but as things stand I suspect they to a degree just reacted to political polarisation already sipping in from the other side. ☞ I saw your Discon conrep. Over here we too managed to host our latest nat'l Swecon - just before new "restrictions"! See my Swecon report in Locus recently! --AE, ed

