

TYNDALLITE

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from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 1368,  
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**The New Port News #203 May 2002 -  
Ned Brooks**

p. 3 You're probably right that  
fictional "alternate universes" had a  
number of independent inventors.  
People have suggested William S.  
Porter's "Roads of Destiny" from circa  
1910 as the first example. I'd have to  
read it to see if it qualifies. Gertrude  
Barrows' "The Heads of Cerberus",  
*Thrill Book* 15 Aug-15 Oct 1919 has an  
alternate universe. William F. Jenkins'  
"Sidewise In Time", *Astounding Stories*,  
Jun 1934, has multitudes of alternate  
universes. Since Jenkins contributed to  
*Thrill Book* he may have gotten the idea  
from Barrows. Years later Jenkins said  
that he didn't remember reading  
"THOC" but that proves nothing.

By the way, in *Terminal Eyes*  
Timothy C. Marion has written about  
accompanying you on a visit to Jenkins.

p. 6 John W. Campbell, Jr.'s  
"Who Goes There?" *Astounding  
Science-Fiction* Aug 1938 appeared  
there as "Who Goes There?", not *The  
Thing From Another World*. The latter  
title was the 1951 movie title.

**Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette**  
#76 Apr 2002 – Richard  
Dengrove

p. 4 This story that you're trying  
to recall must have been a science-  
fictional satire. It's a western  
transplanted to Mars wherein horses  
have been transmogrified into  
spaceships. It also has a new Civil War  
occasioned by desegregation in which  
America has been laid waste. I wonder  
if I read it and mercifully forgot it or if I  
never read it and missed a great satire.

p. 5 As for Cyril M. Kornbluth  
not idolizing the U.S. military versus  
Russia – that's not hard to understand.  
Besides having a satirical mind and  
being a contrarian Kornbluth was also a  
Stalinist.

**PETER, PAN & MERRY #43 – David  
Schlosser**

p. [1] You're so right about peer  
pressure causing people to applaud crud.  
And like you I like to know what other  
people think about stories, perhaps it  
will cause me to change my mind or else  
to feel that I'm properly appreciating a  
story.

Thanks for your considered  
opinion that "werewolfism" is more  
likely transmitted via saliva than blood  
so flea-infested werewolves don't pose  
much of a danger. But in any case I  
think using flea powder on a werewolf is  
a sensible precaution.

p. 2 I think that you've  
pinpointed the major problem with the  
Retro Hugos – that they're based on  
current perceptions and knowledge  
rather than then-contemporary

perceptions and knowledge. Of course, it's hard to project your mindset back into the past with great accuracy, even for those of us who were around then.

**OFFLINE READER V1#28 Apr-May**  
2002 – Irv Koch

p. 2 Thanks for referencing a book on Austronesians on Madagascar as Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

**All the Stars in the Sky** 31 May 2002  
- Jeffrey Copeland

pp. 7-8 Thanks for recommending Kristine K. Rusch's private-detective novel *A Dangerous Road* (as by "Kris Nelscott").

p. 14 I applaud your statement that we need ongoing multiple reviews of the current science-fiction output if we're going to have meaningful Hugo awards.

#### LETTERS

from: Chester D. Cuthbert, 1104  
Mulvey Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3M  
1J5 dated 29 May 2000 (my apologies to Chester for the delay)

Dear Norm,

Your telephone call yesterday was a pleasant surprise and today I received the package of fanzines listed:  
*Resin* V2 #'s 51 & 52  
*Sulph* V2 #'s 44 & 45  
*Tyndallite* V2 #'s 80 & 83

Reading these impressed me again with your encyclopedic knowledge, not only of the fantasy field

but mundane affairs. My own lack of education and specialized reading has left me in ignorance, which has been magnified by my refusal to obtain a computer.

As I told you, Dale Speirs, publisher of his fanzine *Opuntia* in Calgary, Alberta, paid me \$10.00 for an article about my life in fandom. This was published in September 1994; I sent a copy to Everett Bleiler for his information, warning him of Dale's rights.

I think this article will provide all the information which may be of interest to anyone, and I will send you two copies of it when I have an opportunity to have it photocopied.

Of course I am willing to supply any other information which may be lacking.

Kevin Cook and Darrell Richardson are corresponding with me but others of your amateur press members are strangers. Although my collection is entirely in my home, some is as inaccessible as yours is in storage; that's how crowded I am.

Many thanks for all your generous courtesies.

All good wishes,  
Chester

[Chester, you're being too modest. I enjoyed reading your stories in *Wonder Stories*: "The Sublime Vigil" Feb 1934 and "The Last Shrine" Jul 1934. It's too bad that you didn't continue your science-fictional career.]

from: Chester D. Cuthbert, same  
address  
4 Jun 2000

Dear Norm,

After writing you on May 29, I  
received another envelope from you  
containing the following:

*The Devil's Work* V2 #'s 53 & 54  
*Resin* V2 #53  
*Tyndallite* V2 #85

From these I gather that you are now  
receiving Canadian fanzines so that you  
have the address for Dale Speirs, in  
whose *Opuntia* #21 appeared the two  
pages, photocopies of which are  
enclosed.

Your respect for fact naturally  
forces you to dislike the fantasy westerns  
of Frederick Faust; their fantasy is what  
makes the strong appeal of his work to  
others like me. Like Abraham Merritt,  
Faust tried to create an alternative  
reality, and since both were excellent  
storytellers with unique styles, they  
could make illusion seem real.

Merritt being still my favorite  
author, I can enjoy reading everything  
over again. And I have read several of  
Faust's novels and shorter stories several  
times. These writers were magical.

Algernon Blackwood is a chore  
to read, but I have read a huge carton of  
his books, being disappointed in only a  
few. Blackwood had no respect for  
action; his material depended entirely on  
mood.

Some writer such as Thomas  
Burke I read mostly for their charming  
prose styles. Burke's nonfiction deals

with subjects of no interest to me, but I  
enjoy reading them because he conveys  
his love.

I am currently reading books on  
hypnotism, a sadly neglected subject.

It just occurred to me that you  
may not know that Donald A. Wollheim  
in *Fantasy-News* for 1 Jan 1941 had a  
six-page article "My Experiences With  
*Wonder Stories*" reprinted from *The  
Bulletin of the Terrestrial Fantascience  
Guild* of April, 1935. This gives  
probably enough of my involvement  
with Hugo Gernsback, since I was not  
directly in touch with him, but rather  
with Charles D. Hornig, Managing  
Editor of *Wonder Stories*. If this is  
useful to you, I think that it can be  
photocopied; though colored paper was  
used.

Thanks, and all good wishes,  
Chester

[Chester, thanks again for writing. I'd  
appreciate your recommending the best  
of Faust since I haven't yet read all of  
his hundreds of stories. I appreciate  
your offer to photocopy Wollheim's  
article and I would like a copy.]