

TYNDALLITE  
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mailing comments page 906

**The New Port News** #210 Jul 2003 –  
Ned Brooks

p. 2 You've got a good question  
when you wonder if Jules Verne was  
aware of the toxicity of mercury. Verne  
certainly knew about the problems of  
sodium fumes from sodium-mercury  
batteries. Professor Aronnax asked  
Captain Nemo how he dealt with them.  
Nemo's response was that he could deal  
with them chemically but that it was  
simpler to surface and air out the  
*Nautilus*. Of course, when they were  
trapped under the ice in the Maud  
Subglacial Basin on the return from the  
South Pole they couldn't surface. So  
Verne plotted another peril.

**Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette**  
#83 Jul 2003 – Richard  
Dengrove

pp. 7-8 To quote you: "*If  
Cavourite just blocked gravity, it  
wouldn't repel items, either above or  
below it, unless they were big enough to  
have a gravitational field. Like the  
Earth does.*"

All matter exerts a gravitational  
force. However, at the atomic and  
subatomic levels the electrostatic

charges and other forces are more  
powerful than the gravitational forces.

p. 9 To quote you:

"*ct. Norm Metcalf. What Norm  
won't admit is that lots of hard science  
fiction is in good part fantasy. Even the  
master himself, Jules Verne. ...*"

Rich, what is the basis for this erroneous  
statement? I have a decades-long record  
of detailing non-scientific aspects of  
ostensible science-fiction.

**Nice Distinctions** #2 [year] 2003 -  
Arthur D. Hlavaty

pp. 2-4 Thanks for your  
interesting report on the 2003 IFCA.

p. 4 You say that Joe Sanders  
presented a paper on how Rudyard  
Kipling influenced Robert A. Heinlein's  
*Citizen of the Galaxy*. The first thing  
that comes to my mind is *Kim*.

This also reminds me of John W.  
Campbell's "Rudyard Kipling: Science-  
Fictioneer" in the May 1952 *Astounding  
Science-Fiction*. Therein Campbell said  
that Kipling was the only pre-1937  
author whose works would have been at  
home in *ASF*. John K. H. Brunner told  
me that he'd read the complete works of  
Kipling and that 14% are science-fiction.

So I'm missing something by  
having read little of Kipling other than  
*Kim*, *Captains Courageous*, the  
complete Stalky stories and having given  
up on *The Light That Failed*.

The SFPA edition of **CHALLENGER**  
#18 Spr-Sum 2003 – Guy H.  
Lillian III [minus pp. 37-62 of  
the complete version]

pp. 27-35 “Mike Resnick’s  
ConJose Diary” is an interesting account  
of having a fannish experience at a  
convention.

Variations on a Theme #21 May-Jun-Jul  
2003 – Rich Lynch

p. 7 You’re quite right that coal  
is formed in sedimentary beds while  
volcanoes are the result of magma  
erupting from inside the earth.  
However, this doesn’t mean that they’re  
mutually exclusive. As I previously  
pointed out there are volcanoes in the  
coalfields in southern Colorado and  
northern New Mexico (and probably  
elsewhere). The vulcanism ruins the  
coal in the immediate vicinity of the  
volcano. And getting back to Captain  
Nemo’s coal mine inside a volcano in  
the Canary Islands I previously pointed  
out that, as far as I know, there is no coal  
in the Canaries and that the islands are  
solely the result of igneous processes. **If**  
there were any coal in the Canaries it  
would be ruined. Thus Jules Verne was  
off-base on Nemo’s coalmine.

**REVENANT** #19 Jul 2003 – Sheila J.  
Strickland

pp. 3-4 Thanks for reviewing  
Joanne K. Rowlings’ *Harry Potter and  
the Order of the Phoenix*. I see that it  
seems to be all that it has been cracked  
up to be. I also notice that you didn’t  
tell us what the phoenix ordered.

p. 4 You give a good review to  
John Varley’s *Red Thunder* and say:

“It reads a lot like a 50’s  
*Heinlein juvenile*; and I mean that in a  
good way.”

You say that one of the main  
characters is a ‘get-things-done’ person  
by the name of Jubal. Is he any relation  
to Jubal Harshaw?

p. 5 As to the publishing order  
of Edward E. Smith’s Lensman stories it  
was “Galactic Patrol” *Astounding Stories*  
Sep 1937-Feb 1938, “Gray/Grey  
Lensman” *Astounding Science-Fiction*  
Oct 1939-Jan 1940, “Second Stage  
Lensman” *ASF* Nov 1941-Feb 1942,  
“Children of the Lens” *ASF* Nov 1947-  
Feb 1948 and either *Triplanetary* or  
*First Lensman*. (The non-Lens  
magazine version of “Triplanetary” was  
in *Amazing Stories* Jan-Apr 1934.)  
Fantasy Press published both of them in  
1950 and I don’t recall which came out  
first. But the book reading order is  
*Triplanetary*, *First Lensman*, *Galactic  
Patrol*, *Gray/Grey Lensman*, *Second  
Stage Lensman* then *Children of the  
Lens*.

**SPIRITUS MUNDI** #196 Jul 2003 –  
Guy H. Lillian III

p. [12?] I think that you’re  
basically right that Herbert G. Wells’  
was a better author than was Jules  
Verne. However, our estimation of  
Verne’s writing is handicapped by all of  
these abridged mistranslations. Walter J.  
Miller’s translation of *20,000 Leagues  
Under the Sea* shows a far better Verne.

**AVATAR PRESS** v2#28 31 Jul 2003 –  
Randy B. Cleary

p. [1] Thanks for the book  
reviews, particularly William M.

Simmons' *One Foot In the Grave* and *Dead On My Feet* about a semi-vampire being pursued by 100% vampires.

**TENNESSEE TRASH** #54 Jun-Jul  
2003 – Gary R. Robe

pp. 7-8 Thanks for your excellently detailed review of Joanne K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

p. 7 To quote you:

*"Another reason for Harry to be confused is that he discovers that his father had his own dirk side..."*  
I'll take a stab that "dirk" is a typo for "dark".

p. 8 You say that Rowling takes a stand against pseudo-education and in favor of actual learning. Good for her.

**Frequent Flyer** 23 Jul 2003 – Tom Feller

pp. [5-7] Thanks for your in-depth reviews of the Hugo nominees.

**Cats on Ritalin** 29 Jul 2003 – Jeffrey Copeland

p. 3 Thanks for your review of Dan Simmons' "On K2 with Kanakaredes". Is this title name derived from Austronesian or this a coincidence?

pp. 3-4 Thanks for reviewing Nancy Kress' "Computer Virus". You say it is about an Artificial Intelligence holding a household hostage. How does it compare with "Theodore Sturgeon"'s "Completely Automatic"?

**Trivial Pursuits** #108 – Janice Gelb

p. 4 Thanks for your detailed analysis of glitches in Joanne K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

**THE SPHERE** v205#1 – Don Markstein

p. 3. Fortunately *The New York Times* did run your correction on page A2 of the 28 May 2003 issue (reprinted in *Tyndallite* Jun 2003, page 904).

You're lucky, as far as I can recall none of the corrections I've submitted to *The New York Times* have been published. They botched their obituary of Hugo Gernsback, and a couple of non-science-fictional topics.

p. 6 As far as I know you're correct about Harlan Ellison suing AOL Time Warner for hosting copyrighted material even though they removed it as soon as they became aware that the material was under copyright. I agree with you that Harlan has gone too far and that if he wins it will result in prior censorship.