

TYNDALLITE
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Mailing comments page 821

The New Port News #195 Jan 2001 -
Ned Brooks

p. 3 Regarding the Tasaday I've
read articles claiming that they're
genuine and articles claiming that
they're fakes, actors paid to imitate a
primitive tribe. Their language is
Austronesian but that's true from
Madagascar to Easter Island, Hawaii to
New Zealand as the Austronesians
spread from Taiwan.

p. 5 William F. Jenkins' "A
Logic Named Joe" wasn't in *Astounding
Stories* in 1934, but rather in *Astounding
Science-Fiction* Mar 1946. His
collection *Sidewise In Time's* title story
was in the Jun 1934 *Astounding Stories*
as by "Murray Leinster".

Forrest J. Ackerman allegedly
has been jamming Harlan Ellison's and
Eric L. Davin's fax machines with junk
faxes. Harlan says that when he asked
Ackerman to cease that Forry intensified
his efforts.

Thanks for confirming that the
1935 movie of *She* was in black &
white. You've really gotten to the Kor
of the matter.

Variations On A Theme #4 Dec 2000-
Jan 2001 – Rich Lynch

p. 2 A lot of challenges to Sam
Moskowitz' statements are by people
who are annoyed that he was correct.
However, there are some errors in his
published works, most made by his
editors and typesetters. Sam wasn't
infallible, but he was intellectually
honest.

The Four Just Fen was comprised
of Roy V. Hunt, Lewis B. Martin,
Robert C. Peterson and myself. We
wanted to be able to discuss science-
fiction without Charles F. Hansen
disrupting things. At a Colorado
Fantasy Society meeting at Pete's we
broke up about 1:30 in the morning
when Chuck began screaming
denunciations of science-fiction fandom.
Pete's neighbors complained about that
one. The Four Just Fen met pretty much
weekly for a long time, though we didn't
bother with record keeping. Then
someone mentioned it to Chuck, who
whined and moaned to be invited.
Chuck, Lew and Roy had known each
other since their school days. As usual
he diverted the discussions to himself.
He did the same thing at meetings of The
Council of Four, our Sherlockian
society. So The Four Just Fen changed
into video viewing, etc. weekday socials.

However, in later years Chuck
resumed acting like a decent human
being.

The Denver Area Science Fiction
Association was designed by Camille E.
Cazedessus, Jr. and myself to be Chuck-
proof. At a meeting of the Colorado
Fantasy Society in 1968 in Chuck's
basement Caz made the statement that
"Edgar Rice Burroughs is the world's
greatest author." Chuck said "Oh
yeah!". Caz said, "Name me a better
one!" Chuck said, "Well, for starters try
William Shakespeare!" Caz became
visibly annoyed so Chuck took a sword

off the wall and put the point under Caz' chin. I said "Chuck, put that away. One twitch, one sneeze and you'll injure Caz." Chuck said "I have it under control." He then put it away.

Afterwards Caz and I discussed what was to be done. We were both disgusted with Chuck. We wanted meetings out of the members' homes both so that the territorial imperative couldn't be triggered (Chuck had also pointed a pistol at Lew Martin) and so that there would be room for anyone that wished to attend. I had a shift change then so that I was working nights and weekends so Caz made arrangements to meet at Columbia Savings and Loan in Lakewood CO. He made up flyers, which he distributed in local bookstores. As I recall the first meeting was in December, 1968. Caz deliberately chose Saturday nights so that fans would have to choose between the CFS and DASFA. Unfortunately for DASFA some nonfannish members took over and diverted the club away from science-fiction. The meeting place was also changed to the basement of Southwest State Bank. The smoking members tried to Venusform the basement until the bank objected to the ventilation system being clogged. I haven't been to meetings for a long time (it's too far to drive and the meetings go past my bedtime). The last I knew there's been an effort to remake the club into a science-fiction fan organization.

Sourdough Jackson is still sending me the club magazine. I might even have a complete set, which might prove to be a useful research tool.

As for Robert C. Peterson's recent history of Denver fandom he wanted me to revise it for him. Hopefully I'll soon have some time to do so.

As for Caz' forming DASFA because of "differences of opinion" with other CFS members, that should be singular, i.e., Chuck.

p. 7 You are so right that John W. Campbell, Jr.'s onetime hobbyhorse of the month, the Dean Drive, violates basic laws of physics. I think that Campbell overdid it when he publicized it as much as he did. Some people took it too seriously. A physics professor I know used it in a lecture on fallacies of physics.

Confessions of a Consistent Liar #72
- Arthur D. Hlavaty

p. [1] One agoraphobic story in Horace L. Gold's *Galaxy Science Fiction* was Isaac Asimov's "The Caves of Steel". As I recall there were other examples. Gold was so agoraphobic that he had difficulty leaving his apartment for a medical appointment.

p. [2] I like your comment:

"Heinlein's superwomen associate with his males because, being Heinlein women, they are desperate to breed as soon and as much as possible."

Challenger #13 Fal 2000 – Guy H. Lillian III

pp. 11-12 Greg Benford's essay "Waiting For Shakespeare" makes an interesting nomination of Stanley Kubrick as science-fiction's answer to William Shakespeare, rather than some practitioner of prose. Not having seen any of Kubrick's movies I can't offer my opinion as to the validity of the idea, except to note that movies aren't science-fiction, they can only adapt science-fictional ideas.

pp. 13-15 Russell Blackford's "Shakespeare, Science Fiction and all that Jazz" is an excellent corollary to Benford's essay. Blackford makes three excellent main points: 1) what about Kubrick's collaborators such as scriptwriters, actors and special-effects personnel, 2) that science-fictional movies emphasize special effects aimed at children, that they don't have the broad, in-depth appeal of Shakespeare's plays and 3) the most successful science-fiction books are media tie-ins.

I think that points 1 and 2 are valid, however I wonder about 3. I don't have all-time sales figures handy but I suspect that Robert A. Heinlein, for example, has outsold Star Trek™ novelizations. Has the movie of *Starship Troopers* boosted sales of the novel? A rare-book dealer told me that the price of the first edition has been boosted by the movie.

pp. 17-20 Gene Stewart's "Anti-Android Therapy – reading Philip K. Dick's letters" is an interesting summation and commentary upon three of Dick's letters.

p. 18 Anne wasn't Dick's first wife, but rather his third. Calling Anne "dreadful" is in line with the dedication to Anne of *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*. After Anne vamped him away from Kleo it didn't take him long to realize that he'd made a mistake.

p. 19 Dick did get help from family and friends. He, his second wife Kleo and I used to sit around discussing ideas for stories. One tongue-in-cheek novel that he considered for Horace L. Gold was "The Revolt of the Garbage Men" where in typical *Galaxy* fashion garbage men take over the world.

p. 62 Arthur D. Hlavaty wonders what Howard P. Lovecraft's reaction to Nazism would have been if he'd lived to see it. HPL died in 1937 so there may be some references to Nazism in his letters. Adolf Hitler is a horrible example of taking science-fiction too seriously.

p. 63 Hlavaty asks about agricultural science-fiction. George R. Stewart's *Earth Abides* is concerned about raising crops. Christopher S. Youd, Jr.'s multi-titled novel about the death of grass hinges upon agriculture. There are probably numerous others.

p. 68 Milt Stevens wonders about Philip K. Dick and his wives. I never met #1, that marriage was shortly annulled. He seemed happily married to Kleo, I was a guest in their homes a number of times. I was present when Anne knocked on the door, introduced herself and told Phil "I hear you're a famous science-fiction writer." and went on vamping him while Kleo sat there glowering. Phil divorced Kleo to marry Anne and then realized that he'd made a mistake and divorced Anne. Phil introduced me to Nancy, who seemed to be a very nice lady. I never met any of the others.

Frequent Flyer 19 Jan 2001 – Tom Feller

p. 5 My reason for saying that *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* isn't science-fiction is because the *Nautilus* was built using off-the-shelf technology, there's no extrapolation. Jules Verne wrote very little science-fiction. *Off On A Comet* is nonsense plus being rationalized at the end. Most of his works that have been termed

science-fiction that I've read are travelogues. *From the Earth To the Moon* and its sequel *All Around the Moon* are science-fiction but *The Mysterious Island*, while nonsensical with its oceanic island having continental flora and fauna, isn't science-fiction. Some of the travel stories that I haven't read are supposed to be science-fiction and possibly have odd elements in them. *A Journey To the Center Of the Earth* has been claimed to be science-fiction because they meet subterranean animals (including a human) but it's more of a geological phantasmagoria. An underground traverse from Iceland to Italy is extremely unlikely.

As for Herbert G. Wells' *The Invisible Man*, it's not science-fiction because the basic premise of injecting one's self with chemicals until you become totally transparent (including your eyes) ignores the fact that the protagonist couldn't see what he was doing and yet does so. That's not a scientific approach.

Your suggestion for renaming the Official Editor as the Official Collator is a good suggestion.

I see that Roy Rogers being a guest star on *Wonder Woman* caused a response in you to be triggered.

Twydrasil And Treehouse Gazette
#68 Jan 2001 – Richard
Dengrove

p. 6 Yes, Fitz-James O'Brien died during the Civil War – on 6 Apr 1862. His story "The Diamond Lens" was first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* Jan 1858. Hugo Gernsback published very little original science-

fiction in *Amazing Stories*. He hired Carl A. Brandt and Wilbur C. Whitehead to furnish him stories from their collections plus he accepted recommendations from readers. So the Gernsback *Amazing* was a sort of best-all-time-science-fiction reading experience. Alpheus H. Verrill who peddled him a reprint as an original (I suspect this happened several times) fooled him.

p 6 I agree with you that *Analog Science Fact Science Fiction* in the early 1960's was a less-than-optimal science-fiction magazine. John W. Campbell, Jr. said that he was trying to lead science-fiction into new paths but that a lot of authors and readers didn't want to go along. I think you're largely correct when you say that Campbell's "...*taste was for science fiction that was rock hard. And the public['s taste] over the years became squishy soft.*"

p. 7 I think that you're also correct that Campbell went too far in taking the paranormal seriously.

You're right that mystery writers usually write the last chapter first in order to avoid writing themselves into a corner. Failure to follow this rule was painfully obvious with some of Erle S. Gardner's later novels. Then I found out that he was walking around a room dictating three novels in rotation. It's surprising that he kept anything straight. I remember saving all the installments from the *Saturday Evening Post* of "The Case of the Fugitive Nurse" and then taking notes as I read it. One person had no alibi so I figured they were innocent. Perry Mason nailed someone with an ironclad alibi, which hadn't been disproved.

I have the citations for the legal points I mentioned. However, they're carefully filed under "Miscellaneous", i.e., in a box awaiting time and filing cabinet space.

p. 8 As for there being mainframe computers in the 1930's when Nathaniel Schachner was writing about them, I don't think so. Apparently the first mainframes were built during WWII to decipher German and Japanese codes. Eniac is often credited as the first electronic computer and it was after WWII, so that ultra-secret computers, whose later versions were electronic, instead of electro-mechanical, preceded it.

Yes, the same William H. Hudson wrote both *A Crystal Age* and *Green Mansions*.

pp. 8-9 I've read Pierre Benoit's *L'Atlantide* and both Henry R. Haggard's *She* and *The Yellow God*. In *L'Atlantide* (aka *The Queen of Atlantis*) the hero finds a lost city of Atlantis in the Sahara and has a romance with the Queen. In *She* the hero finds the lost city of Kor in East Africa and has a romance with the ruler of the degenerate savages who've moved in since the builders left themselves behind as mummies. In *The Yellow God* the hero has a god's mask from West Africa and tries to make amends with the tribe. It has nothing to do with Atlantis or Polynesia, nor do I recall him having a romance with some ruler. The Haggard novel taking place in Polynesia is *When the World Shook* about this gigantic rock rolling in grooves deep underground and how its course is diverted into another groove causing the world to shake.

To the best of my recollections your summaries of these books are erroneous. Of course, it's been over forty years since I read them so I may have forgotten some essential details.

p. 9 Marie Curie discovered radium in the 1890's. Some time around then Wilhelm K. Roentgen discovered X-rays. However, the connection between these and radiation sickness wasn't established for a number of years and was then subjected to denial (ala the tobacco industry).

No, Roland Huntford cites the actual diets, diary entries, etc. for Robert F. Scott. He refused to eat fresh meat but instead Royal naval rations from tins. The Royal Navy had retrograded since James Cook's insistence on eating limes and William Bligh's insistence on fresh fruits and vegetables. On the other hand Roald Amundsen insisted that his men eat fresh seal and penguin, whortleberries, etc. while both in winter quarters and on their round trip to the South Pole.

Yes, Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmer Johansen did spend a winter in a dugout in Franz Joseph Land eating walrus. Nansen well-publicized his experiences and Amundsen was always careful to learn from whatever source. So your speculation that Amundsen may have learned from Nansen is highly probable. However, Nansen admitted that he was highly overweight due to overeating and lack of exercise.

p. 9 The Royal Navy gave up on lime juice during the early part of the 19th Century, thus losing hundreds, possibly thousands, of personnel between the 1830's and WWI.

As for what Sam Moskowitz said about Robert Bloch's anti-Conan letter in *Weird Tales* it's discussed on page 340 of *Seekers Of Tomorrow*. There's no mention of Bloch being forced to write under a pseudonym, just that he'd annoyed a bunch of Conan fans and learned to be more tactful.

I'm with you in disliking these stories in which anything can happen. It leads to sloppy writing and plotting and thus poor stories.

Yes, Alfred E. van Vogt did revisions, even major revisions. For example, try the magazine serialization and the book of *The Weapon Makers*. They have considerable differences. In putting together *The Weapon Shops Of Isher* from "Seesaw", "The Weapon Shops" and "The Weapon Shops Of Isher" he scattered pieces of "Seesaw" throughout the book and did some revisions on the other two stories. F. M. Busby says that he made major revisions to *Slan*. van Vogt says that in response to Damon F. Knight's criticisms of "The World Of Null-A" that he made considerable changes. He also said that he made major changes and abridgements to "The Players of Null-A" for Ace's version (*Pawns of Null-A*). Some of the other stories seem to have been changed from magazine to book but I haven't re-read both sequentially to verify my recollections.

p. 16 In Fredric Brown and Dallas M. Reynolds' anthology *Science-Fiction Carnival* the story "The Martians and the Coys", *Imagination*, Jun 1951 wasn't written by Brown, but rather by Reynolds. It was published under his byline of "Mack" Reynolds.

SPIRITUS MUNDI #181 Jan 2001 –
Guy H. Lillian III

p. [3?] You say that you'd like to read George A. England's "The Thing From – Outside". It's still in print in *The Gernsback Awards 1926 Volume 1* edited by Forrest J. Ackerman. Since you're a devotee of Hugos here's an awards volume from 1926 that should warm your heart. Order a copy from Forry.

Oblio #132 Dec 2000-Jan 2001 – Gary
Brown

p. 34 You say that the spy satellites aren't perfect, so therefore there is a remote possibility that a "lost race" could exist on our Earth. Sure, there are occasional failures on a given satellite. But there is enough redundancy that the failure of one doesn't mean that the system fails. The total number of spy satellites is classified but the data still comes through. The infrared sensitivity is classified but it's enough to detect one Scud missile, so therefore sufficient to detect a "lost race". The optical resolution is classified, but it's sufficient to read license plates. The ground-penetrating radar is good enough to find lost cities under the sands or in a recent search a water trough under snow (when they were looking for the A-10).

You should arrange for an unclassified briefing at Patrick AFB FL so that you can count all the lost races waving at the satellites.

Trivial Pursuits #93 – Janice Gelb

p. [2] Thanks for recommending *The Grand Ellipse* by Paula Volsky.

GUILTY PLEASURES #17 Feb 2001 –
Eve Ackerman

p. 3 Thanks for recommending George R. R. Martin's *A Game of Thrones* and its sequel *A Storm of Swords* as "One of the best fantasy series I've read in years, maybe ever."

Thanks for reviewing *Partners In Necessity* by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller as an omnibus volume of *Agent of Change*, *Conflict of Honors* and *Carpe Diem* as "Very well crafted - - engaging heroes and heroines, good plotting, good world building."

The Sphere Vol. 190 no. 1 – Don Markstein

p. 6 Thanks for letting me know that Mort Walker's full name is Addison Morton Walker. So the letter I have from him signed Morton Addison Walker must have been signed in a whimsical mood.

Thanks for additional background on Louis Silberkleit's comics publishing. You say that he had Morris Coyne and John Goldwater for partners. I don't recall their names coming up as being involved with his science-fiction activities.

Sam Moskowitz told me a Silberkleit anecdote that might interest you. Pre-WWII Charles D. Hornig ran a contest in Silberkleit's magazines with a cash prize. It was announced that Sam had won but no check arrived. Sam sent several postcards but still no check. So Sam saved up ten cents for the round-trip ferry trip to Manhattan, walked to the ferry terminal from his home in Newark, walked to Silberkleit's office

and asked for his money. Silberkleit wouldn't give it to him. Instead he made him a counter-proposal. Silberkleit said he didn't like having Hornig moving to California and remote-editing *Science Fiction*, *Future* and *Science Fiction Quarterly* so instead of paying Sam his prize money he offered to make him editor in place of Hornig. Sam said that he told Silberkleit that he wouldn't backstab anyone out of a job. Sam says that he returned home without being paid and then shortly afterwards Robert W. Lowndes replaced Hornig.

CROUCHING TIGER, ITCHY
SWIMSUIT #1 Jan 2001 -
George Horace Wells

p. [1] You mention enjoying Joe L. Hensley's mystery stories. I don't think that I have any of them. Joe wrote a bunch of science-fiction stories in the 1950's, which ranged from passable to good.

We didn't feel that anyone should be price-gouging on *The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes*, so we maintained list price. I see the same thing with my fanzines, dealers asking many dollars for them when anyone who wants them can buy them from me at far lower prices. But a lot of fans seem to prefer being gouged by dealers rather than buying from the publishers.