

TYNDALLITE  
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Mailing comments                      page 828

Challenger sub-micron GHIII Press  
Publication #906 – Guy H.  
Lillian III

Guy, it warms my heart to see  
you campaigning for more worthwhile  
Hugo nominations.

A correction: Julius Schwartz  
founded neither fanzines, nor even  
science-fiction fanzines. He only  
became involved with science-fiction  
fanzines in the early 1930's. Sam  
Moskowitz had an article in *Fantasy  
Commentator* describing science-fiction  
fanzines dating back to 1888.

**Variations on a Theme #5 Feb-Mar**  
2001 – Rich Lynch

p. 4 I like your line:

*“True invisibility would seem to  
involve some kind of fantasy theme such  
as a hypnotic mind control field, where  
you would be induced to temporarily  
forget all the high school science you  
ever learned.”*

You're right that someone truly  
invisible would have a refractive index  
of 1.00, thus making them a genuine  
airhead.

p. 9 You ask me if I know exactly  
what Horace L. Gold did to stories. No,  
I don't know. In some cases we should  
be able to find out by reading both  
versions. Paul Williams probably has an  
idea of what Gold did to Philip K.  
Dick's stories since Paul apparently had  
access to Phil's manuscripts. Asimov is  
another author who objected to Gold,  
comparing "Tyrann" to *The Stars, Like  
Dust* or the two versions of "The Caves  
Of Steel" might reveal what happened.  
Damon F. Knight had some acidic  
comments on Gold published in *In  
Search Of Wonder*.

Gold also submitted "None But  
Lucifer" to Campbell. Campbell asked  
for revisions, which Gold had problems  
with. So Lyon S. de Camp polished it to  
Campbell's satisfaction and it was  
published in the Sep 1939 *Unknown*.  
After WWII Shasta wanted to publish it  
in hardcover but Gold refused unless his  
original version was used. Shasta  
refused to use it. I've not read Gold's  
version but I sort of enjoyed the  
collaboration. It's about Lucifer wanting  
to retire and having to con someone into  
taking his place.

By comparison a lot of authors  
preferred John W. Campbell, Jr. as an  
editor. Campbell didn't rewrite stories,  
if he wanted revisions he had the author  
do so. Some chose to submit their  
stories elsewhere rather than revise  
which I consider not to have been in the  
long-term interests of either themselves  
or science-fiction.

SPIRITUS MUNDI #182 Feb-Mar 2001  
- Guy H. Lillian III

p. [6?] You know that "d/w"

means dust jacket but wonder what the letters stand for. The answer is dust wrapper. Similarly, if a book is described as being in “wraps” it means that it is a paperback edition.

p. [7?] About Sam Moskowitz you say:

*“I enjoyed my one conversation with SaM, who was always kind to Challenger.”*

Bravo for you. Sam was one of the nicest people in science-fiction fandom. He had a great sense of humor, he was highly intelligent and extremely knowledgeable about science-fiction (despite his critics). He was also criticized for believing that truth trumps the fuggocracy.

You mention Fred Chappell’s satire of Sam’s *The Immortal Storm*. You might find it instructive to read them consecutively.

Sam has been criticized for being too truthful about the Futurians. While he told the truth and nothing but the truth about them he didn’t tell all of the truth about them. (Damon F. Knight was far less kind in *The Futurians*.) Sam told me that he whitewashed them both to protect them from the Cold War anti-Communist fervor and to partially salvage their reputations. For example, he referred to the Stalinists as Michelists, after John B. Michel, one of the Futurians’ leading Stalinists. He didn’t hold grudges. After Robert A. W. Lowndes lost his job with Health Knowledge Sam ignored the vituperation that Lowndes (and some of the other Futurians) had sent his way, went to

Marcellus H. Gernsback and secured a job for Lowndes.

**Frequent Flyer** 11 Mar 2001 – Tom Feller

p. 5 Thanks for your comments on Richard Slotkin’s *Regeneration Through Violence, The Fatal Environment* and *Gunfighter Nation* as dealing with The Myth of the Western Frontier and in *GN* extending the frontier to Edgar R. Burroughs’ Barsoom.

**Comments #10** 16 Mar 2001 – Steve Hughes

p. [8?] Thanks for clarifying that the clip art on *The Southerner* #218 that Toni attributed to “The Skylark of Space” the CD attributes to “The Door Into Summer”. I don’t recall the artwork as being from any version of “TDIS” that I have and they’re all in my storage locker so that I can’t readily check. You say that the CD misattributes some of its artwork.

**Twydrasil And Treehouse Gazette**  
#69 Mar 2001 – Richard Dengrove

Your cover reproduces the cover of the Avon edition of “Jack” Williamson’s *The Green Girl*. You say that “*I hear the story isn’t as ridiculous as it looks.*”. Right on, another case of not judging the book by its cover. I read it in the Avon edition over fifty years ago and recall it being okay, but nothing great. It was originally serialized in the Mar-Apr 1930 *Amazing Stories* when Williamson was still learning to write good stories.

pp. 10-11 You comment on pure heroes and flawed villains. For more realistic characterization you might try the works of Eugene Manlove Rhodes. Many of his heroes and his villains have both flaws and virtues – in other words they're realistic. (And most of them are based upon real and recognizable people.) It's too bad more of this isn't done in science-fiction, though apparently many of the recent stories I haven't read have come a long ways in bettering characterization.

p. 15 Your "quote" is from a fan fiction parody of Richard S. Shaver's works "*I remember Lemuria. I wish I could forget it.*" is, as I recall, a paraphrase of Lynn Hickman and Nan Gerding's Shaver parody from the early 1950's in one of Lynn's zines (*JD-Argassy?*) which I recall ended "I Remember Lemuria, but I sure wish I didn't."

Stanley B. Mullen did some Shaver parodies in the late 1940's. One of them, as I recall, had something like "Shaver shivers, Shaver shakes" and went on from there.

PETER, PAN & MERRY #36 – David Schloser [formerly David Schlosser]

p. 6 To quote you:

*"I think the concept of Radiation Sickness is a post-WWII idea."*

It is specifically mentioned in Arthur Train and Robert W. Wood's "The Man Who Rocked the Earth", *Saturday Evening Post*, 1914 (my copies are in a box so I can't give you the issue and page number.) Wood was a professor of

physics so I'm sure he acquired the idea from his job. The villain's nuclear-powered spaceship was making people sick from his radioactive exhaust.

**Aristotle Meets Gernsback** 25 Mar  
2001 – Jeffrey Copeland

p. 21 I agree with you that *The Syndic* is probably Cyril M. Kornbluth's best novel. I have some pseudonymous novels of his which I haven't read but I suspect that they're not up to *The Syndic*.

p. 27 I had five, not four, *Tyndallite*'s in the Nov 2000 mailing. Their pagination was correct. They were mailed in linear order but arrived in non-linear order. I mailed 92 to Toni before noticing that the printer had goofed it. I phoned her that I was sending replacement copies (which I thought were all correct) and to either throw away the bad copies or mail them back. You got a defective copy.

As for computers in science-fiction as I recall Robert A. Heinlein's "Methuselah's Children" *Astounding Science-Fiction* Jul-Sep 1941 they had no navigation computers. Instead they relied upon Andrew Jackson "Slipstick" Libby. However, in "Theodore Sturgeon"'s "Completely Automatic" *ASF* Feb 1941 the crew of a computerized spaceship have to figure out to how to outwit the malfunctioning computer so as to save their lives.

p. 32 Michael Shaara was fairly active in science-fiction for a short period. He was even Associate Editor of the Nov 1952 *Science Fiction Adventures*. I didn't read all of his stories then but thought that he did some

excellent work. Since you say you wish to look for them here's a list.

Orphans Of the Void Galaxy SF Jun 1952  
All the Way Back ASF Jul 1952  
Grenville's Planet F&SF Oct 1952  
Be Fruitful and Multiply Space SF Nov 1952  
Soldier Boy GSF Jul 1953  
The Book, GSF Nov 1953  
The Sling And the Stone Imagination Mar 1954  
Wainer GSF Apr 1954  
The Holes Fantastic Jun 1954  
Time Payment F&SF Jun 1954  
Beast In the House Orbit #4 Sep-Oct 1954  
The Vanisher Planet Stories Win 1954-1955  
Man Of Distinction GSF Oct 1956  
Conquest Over Time Fantastic Universe Nov 1956  
2066: Election Day ASF Dec 1956  
Four-Billion Dollar Door Satellite Dec 1956  
Death For A Hunter FU Oct 1957  
The Lovely House FU Jul 1958  
Citizen Jell GSF Aug 1959

Dewachen Beltaine 2001 – Trinlay Khadro

Welcome to *SFPA*.

I wonder if you're familiar with "Talbot Mundy"'s *The Thunder Dragon Gate* and its sequel *Old Ugly Face*. They concern the search for the current Dalai Lama. I was going to ask His Holiness if he'd read them and if so what he thought of them but there were so many people there that I felt that it would be inappropriate. *OUF* is borderline science-fiction heavily larded with philosophy while *TTDG* is better

fiction but doesn't try to achieve as much.

Snow and Shmoozing – Janice Gelb

Thanks for the Boskone and ConCave report (though my copy is flat).

p. 4 You mention a discussion panel on Nevil Shute Norway's books.

You say: "I was also happy to hear that I wasn't the only one who wasn't all that impressed with Shute's most famous book, and the one closest to the genre, *On the Beach*."

I've been told that both *An Old Captivity* and *No Highway* are science-fiction. Do you have any opinions of any of the others besides *On the Beach*?

On page 5 you say that the Shute panel was fun. I presume that no one wanted to shoot the Shute.

p. 7 Your comments about not wanting autographs from people you don't know reminds me of Roy V. Hunt and Edward E. Smith's *The History of Civilization*, the limited edition of Doc's Lensman series. Roy requested Doc not to sign his set because he already had Doc's signature. Thus Roy probably received the only unsigned copy.

**TENNESSEE TRASH #40** Feb-Mar 2001 – Gary R. Robe

Your cover reprint of the ConCave report from the 6 Mar 2001 *The Hart County News-Heraia* [sic] is a refreshing change from the often con-bashing reports in newspapers. (Apparently the reproduced title is a

copy-machine error for the *The Hart County News-Herald*.)

pp. 3-8 Thanks for the detailed account of how you and Naomi Fisher solved the vexing problems of putting on ConCave in a new venue.

**Avatar Press** V2#14 29 Mar 2001 -  
Randy B. Cleary

pp. 2-6 Thanks for your book reviews.

p. 4 You're receptive to fun stories by Gordon R. Dickson. Try his Hoka collaborations with Poul W. Anderson.

pp. 8-10 Thanks for your ChattaCon report.

p. 14 Your comment about the Galactic Council ordering takeout from Pizza Hut makes me wonder if Domino's would be able to deliver in thirty minutes or less.

Confessions of a Consistent Liar #73  
- Arthur D. Hlavaty

p. [3?] Among Fredric Brown's works you recommend *Martians, Go Home, What Mad Universe, Night of the Jabberwock, The Far Cry* and *His Name Was Death*.

**Oblivion** #133 Feb-Mar 2001

Your cover is signed "Virgil '37" and inside you credit it to "*Voyage of the Neutralia* by B. Wallis 1937". Bruce Wallis' "The Voyage Of the Neutralia" was in *Weird Tales* Nov 1937-Jan 1938.

**Me and My Monkey** [on cover, inside titled] **Ev'rybody's Got Something to Hide** [no #, nd]  
- mike weber

pp. [3-5] Thanks for reviewing *Changer of Worlds* by your brother David Weber and Eric Flint, four stories in the Honor Harrington series.

p. [9] To quote you:

"Again, I never got the feeling that Cambell [sic] was particularly trying to get people to think in order to get them to agree with him; he was trying to get people to think so that they'd think."

Correct. Parroting John W. Campbell, Jr. annoyed him in conversations. It was also cause for rejection. Several authors have told me that they tried to fictionalize one of his editorials only to have it returned for revisions, such as challenging one of his editorial points. James Blish has written about the Okie series being in response to a long letter of rejection from Campbell. Each story was written to overcome one of Campbell's rejection reasons. One thing I noticed years ago were the stories in other magazines that parroted Campbell's editorials. Reading all of the science-fiction magazines in publication order would probably reveal a number of interesting points.

p. 11 Your comment about the Dean Drive playing games with inertia and damping coefficients seems accurate to my memory. The characteristic of the Dean Drive that I most recall was that it pretended that steel is absolutely rigid whereas it has varying degrees of compressibility (depending upon its

exact composition). Dean was trying to use the difference to extract useful energy.

**The Sphere** Vol. 191 no. 1 – Don Markstein

p. 4 Your “#S%^#! Sci-Fi Fans” about some science-fiction fans not being interested in anything other than science-fiction is probably valid for some. There’s also the group of ostensible science-fiction fans that proclaims interest in everything but science-fiction and sneers at discussion of science-fiction.

My feeling is that if I’m interested in something I’d rather consult the experts rather than someone claiming that their mental horizons encompass all human (and maybe even, alien) knowledge. I’m interested in a number of subjects other than science-fiction but I don’t expect to enhance my knowledge, enjoyment, etc. from people who aren’t interested in these other topics.

If I wish to find out something about comic books I’d consult the two greatest experts I know – you (with your [www.toonopedia.com](http://www.toonopedia.com)) and Gary F. Brown.

This also reminds of the old (and possibly apocryphal) story about the *Encyclopedia Britannica* readying themselves for a new edition. They sent a copy of an article to a well-known professor for his comments and updating. He wrote back wanting to know which dunderhead wrote it. Out of curiosity they looked it up from about forty years previously. It was the same professor.