

It Goes On The Shelf



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*'And departing, leave behind us
Toothprints in the hands of time.'*

Cover by Brad Foster, back cover by Max Fish, other art credited (if possible) in adjacent text

The New Death and Others by James Hutchings, e-book, \$0.99

I have not attempted to mention cyber-books before, but this one looked interesting. As a PDF file it is 94 pages, and the "cover" art appears only where it is offered for sale:

<http://www.amazon.com/New-Death-others-ebook/dp/B005Q8Q8DY>

and

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/92126>

The stories remind me a lot of the work of Lord Dunsany or Ambrose Bierce, excellent fantasy fables. Some of the references are quite topical - as they would have been in Bierce, though seldom in Dunsany. Others are a bit more modern - there is a hilarious segment channeling Woody Allen. The poems are both short and long - I cannot complain that they lack rhyme and rhythm and content, but they do nothing for me. So it goes, I am not surprised. Although I am in favor of poetry in general, in actual practice there is only a small handful of poems I really like. I found only one typo, and two word usages that seemed to make no sense.



Gate of Ivory, Gate of Horn by Philip Craig, Doubleday Crime Club 1969, 191pp, \$4.50

I don't usually buy old crime novels, but I liked the wrap-around dust-jacket art (by Ted Andresakes) on this book. It does not seem to be a serious crime novel (whatever that means) - the four protagonists are treasure hunters searching for the grave of Beowulf and the narrator is a smart-ass. When I looked this book up at the website Addall, I was surprised to find that it seems to be relatively rare and valuable - only two copies were on offer, at \$35 each. I will have to see how far I get reading it. It has taken them until Ch.4 to get to the boat won in a poker game, which was described in excessive detail to my taste.

Mystery & Adventure Review 45 from Fred Woodworth, 2011, 48pp

In the same lithoed format as his *The Match*, and with the same availability - you have to write him and

there is no fixed price but only cash is accepted. Fred eschews not only the Net but the phone as well. But somehow his zines always get a page or more of comment from me. Where *The Match* is about ethical anarchy, this one is about the "series books" published for children in the first half of the 20th century (more or less) - not just data for collectors, but commentary on the content and the reaction of readers. There is a list of words that appeared in such books before WWII - and would not be found in books aimed at the TV generation. Well, maybe in a book by Joan Aiken or Daniel Pinkwater. Even I did not know what "when" means, though I guessed it was Scots - and it is. Originally *quheyn* (our "wh..." words are spelled that way in the verse of the 13th-century knight Sir David Lindsay) it can be either a noun or an adjective and has the sense (depending on context) or "small" or "few". Address Box 3012, Tucson AZ 85702.

Bushman Lives! by Daniel Pinkwater has been running as a chapter a week e-mail subscription - great fun and very educational: "Spoons come from the forge perfectly straight," Mr. Hugebee explained. "But a fine spoon has to have a subtle curve to it, and this can be done only by a skilled craftsman. We are the ones who do this." (www.bushmanlives.com)

The Opera Glass (divers issues, 2006-2011), edited by Iris J. Arnesen
In the same convenient format his other magazines, and printed by Fred Woodworth with excellent period covers in color. As with all the other Woodworth publications, no computers are involved. Iris however is active in actual staging, and explains how she produced the sound effects for a production of *Treasure Island* with Adobe Soundboard. I didn't know there was an opera based on the Stevenson novel - but what I do know about opera would fit in a thimble. Iris Arnesen will accept checks as donations - no actual subscription rate is given - 219 N. Euclid, Tucson AZ 85719.

Vixen by Hoa Pham, Sceptre Books 2000, 255pp, wraps

This was sent me from the Antipodes by John and Diane Fox. It's a first novel, a fantasy based on the legend of "fox fairies" - the protagonist is a Vietnamese refugee in Australia and can take the form of a woman or a fox at will. Not a translation, and in perfectly good English with British spelling - though I see that at one point she is said to "prickle her ears". Perhaps she has a poetic license!

Hercólubus or Red Planet by V. M. Rabolú, Fundación V. M. Rabolú 2010, 3rd edition, 52pp, wraps

This slim booklet was offered to me over the Net as a review copy by the Alcione Cultural Association in Burgos, Spain. The cover shows the Red Planet - twice the apparent size of Earth - headed on a collision course with our planet. I cannot make out whether this catastrophe is supposed to be real or metaphorical - the author, who died in 2000, also is quoted as saying "From the year 2000 the whole planet is a tragedy. It does not mean that life will end suddenly, but it will truly start to crumble down. This is a process that lasts years, but from the year 2000 we have entered the tragedy".

V. M. Rabolú was the pen-name of Joaquín Enrique Amórtégui Valbuena. The book was originally published in Spanish in 1998, and the translation is sometimes a little awkward. He repeats C S Lewis' idea that Earth will not be allowed to spread its evil to the other planets; and says that what the "gringo lords" (defined in a footnote as "Americans") call El Niño is actually the effect of atomic testing having cracked the mantle, so that seawater is reaching the magma below. We then learn details of life on the

civilized planets Venus and Mars, and their spaceships. The only hope for us here on Earth is apparently to flee on the astral plane - instructions for "astral unfolding" are given, and a test to see if you have succeeded: if you jump and don't succeed in floating, you have failed.

There is, of course, a website:

[HTTP://www.hercolubus.tv](http://www.hercolubus.tv)

I was just reading that the "tv" Net code is for the island nation of Tuvalu, which has no use for it and so rents it out! This same site allows you to listen to the mantras for astral unfolding.

Three of his chapbooks kindly sent by Neal Wilgus:

The Leakoids, Juxtapedia Press 2006, 64pp, ills. Filomeno Martinez, wraps, \$10.00

This is a collection of unbelievable - but not necessarily untrue - news reports from the LEAK News Service. I had not previously encountered the word *smezmetic* - I see that it lies in that semantic hinterland with *fosnoric* and *vombic*. These entries are all reprinted and the sources are given on an Acknowledgments page. The only one I know is true is that the Pledge of Allegiance was in fact invented as political theater in 1777 by George Washington, Adam Weishaupt, and Casanova.

Rhymed and Dangerous, Kindred Spirits Press 2005, 40pp, ills. Filomeno Martinez, wraps, \$6.00

Not surprisingly, these are all in verse, reprinted from many magazines 1960-2004 - Mr. Wilgus is just a year older than I am. I rather like the "Orwellian Limericks".

The March of Politics, Limited Editions Press 2004, 24pp, ills. Filomeno Martinez and Mike Bloemer, wraps, \$3.00

More verse, and a Dubya/Osama cartoon. As to form the verse is a bit too modern for me, but the content is good!

Expedition Beyond by Roger Bagg, Fiction Studio Books 2011, 405pp, #475/550 signed, \$26.95

This came to me as an unsolicited review copy from David Wilk, who says he got it from Lou Aronica. The name Lou Aronica rings a bell in the dim recesses of my aging brain-pan - I see that I have one 1989 anthology where he was one of the editors, and he was at MagiCon. The front of the of the dust-jacket shows a spelunker about to fall into the clutches of large tentacles; and the back is a photo of the author, a long-time veterinarian, dressed like Indiana Jones. He looks vaguely familiar, but I'm sure the only Bagg I ever knew was Eustace Bagg (who lives in the middle of nowhere).

The blurb reveals that this is a Hollow-Earth adventure on the old Symmes model - the inside of the Earth is illuminated by a "central sun", so that for the inhabitants it is always high noon. Very inventive, but the plot wanders and the characterization is lame. I made it to page 155.

Gil by Richard Polt, 35 pp, PDF

I printed the PDF out and put it in a binder. A surreal account of incidents in the life of the legendary King Gilgamesh of Uruk - I think *F&SF* or *Weird Tales* would have published it.

Into Your Tent by John L. Ingham, Plantech 2009, 362pp, photos, trade paper, \$18.00

This is bio-bibliography of the famous SF writer Eric Frank Russell, illustrated with period b&w photographs - dedicated to the late lamented Chester Cuthbert. I got it directly from the author by e-mail

(PlantecUK@aol.com) using PayPal. Well written and extremely detailed - Russell's ancestors are traced back to 1803. The bibliography is alphabetical by title and detailed but informal. The title is part of the title of a 1957 pulp tale, "Into Your Tent I'll Creep" - itself a quote from an old song about the "Sheik of Araby" that's quoted in **The Great Gatsby** - it was a 1921 Tin Pan Alley hit.

Mineshaft #27 (Fall 2011), ed. Everett Rand & Gioia Palmieri, 60pp, ill. divers, \$9

And very interesting pages too - a lot of Robert Crumb art and some of his Dream Diary. Also great stuff by Christoph Mueller and Peter Poplaski. See www.mineshaftmagazine.com.

Giraffe by J. M. Ledgard, Penguin 2006, 298pp, \$24.95

A novel based on a still unexplained historical event - in 1975 the Czech government sent troops in hazmat gear to slaughter the largest giraffe herd in captivity, some 49 animals including many pregnant females, at the zoo in the town of Dvur Kralove (Dvůr Králové nad Labem). No reason was ever given, and discussion of the affair was forbidden. One website speculates that the giraffes might have been carrying hoof-and-mouth disease - but that does not explain the secrecy.

An Inland Voyage by Robert Louis Stevenson, 178pp, illus. by Walter Crane, Chatto & Windus 1907

The manager at the local Last Chance Thrift Store offered me this, at \$4 - I'm easy to sell a book to. The frontispiece by Walter Crane is curious - I'm not sure what a picture of a satyr playing the pan-pipes has to do with a travelogue, but even odder is the caption included in the bottom of the frame. Did Walter Crane also do ads for "Arethusa Cigarette"?

Two pages in the rear of the book have been discolored by a transit ticket card of some sort used as a bookmark - on one side it advertises "Mackintosh's Toffee de Luxe / Delicious beyond description" and on the other there is a list of routes. One is to or from Piccadilly, so it must be from London.



Not Sinking But Cruising by Helen Buckingham, 32pp, illus. by Alan Hunter and Eddie Harriman, Krax 2000, 12p (30 cents)

A booklet of poetry, almost 3x4 inches. The Alan Hunter frontispiece is great, and the first poem features an incubus with bagpipes. There is a photo of the author in the back. Krax is the publishing house of Andy Robson (63 Dixon Lane, Leeds LS12 4RR U.K.)

Above Ker-Is and Other Stories by Evangeline Walton, Noden's Books 2012, 124pp, wraps

And with striking cover art by Victor Delhez, and a good Introduction and Notes by Douglas Anderson. Evangeline Walton is remembered mostly for her excellent novels, but these ten eldritch tales are well worth reading. One was unpublished until a recent appearance in *The Magazine of F&SF*, and four others are previously unpublished. Many are based on the folklore of Brittany. I see from the website <http://evangelinewalton.com> that Anderson is also the agent for her estate.

It is puzzling to me how a text that must have been through a computer typesetter could include the typographical error "astonomer" (as referring to Camille Flammarion).

A History of π by Petr Beckmann, St.Martin's (reprinted from The Golem Press, 1971) no date, wraps, 202pp, \$5.95

The Joy of π by David Blatner, Walker 1997, wraps, 130pp, \$12.00

My father used to tell of a bumpkin taking a math course at Georgia Tech in the 1920s, who, on being told to learn that the area of a circle is πr^2 (pi r squared), complained that "pie are round, cake are square".... Both of these books are excellent reading if you have any interest in the history of mathematics. The Blatner book is much shorter, because so much of each page is taken up with exotic typesetting tricks.

The ancients knew the value of π quite accurately enough for their engineering applications, but it took centuries to prove that it is not only irrational (not the ratio of any two integers) but transcendental (not the solution to any polynomial with a finite number of terms). The symbol is relatively recent - medieval books wrote out "ratio of circumference to diameter" in Latin every time they had to refer to it! Modern computers have calculated a million digits of the number - useful only as a check on the computer itself. For practical purposes ten digits are quite enough - $\pi = 3.1415926535...$

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle translated by G. N. Garmonsway, Everyman's Library No.624, Dent/Dutton 1960, 295pp.

An ex-library copy in pasted-up dust-jacket that someone failed to return to the Atlanta Public Library. It's the oldest history of what came to be called England, written in what was to become "English". The oldest text starts in the 5th century and runs through the 12th century. Tolkien must have read the originals, as he specialized in it.

Ne wearð wæl mare
on þis eiglande æfre gieta
folces gefyllð beforum þissum
sweordes ecgum þæs þe us secgað bec,
ealde uðwitan sibban easten hider
Engle and Seaxe up becoman
ofer brad brimu Britene sohtan,
wlance wigsmiþas Wealas ofercoman
eorlas arhwate eard begeatan

The "þ" is the "thorn-letter", equivalent to "th". I'm not sure what the sound value of "ð" is. But the translation is easy enough to read. Of course only the doings of the captains and the kings are recorded - and for the most part they seem to have been vicious thugs who died violently and young. The names of bishops and archbishops are also recorded - they tended to last longer.

A Short History of the Future by R. C. Churchill, Werner Laurie 1955, 192pp, maps, chronology, bibliography, index, 12s. 6d.

As compared to the previous murky look back into our past, this looks the other way - who was it said that it's a poor memory that doesn't work in both directions? This one looks at what will happen from 1955 to 7000, based on a specific list of 20 science-fiction books that are set in the future. The future looks quite as dire as the Anglo-Saxon past, but as we are now over 55 years into it (from 1955) we can see that Churchill did not do very well on this particular thread of the space-time continuum. He has the Third World War in 1957-58, and the Papacy moved to San Francisco (or Quebec). He has the Bevan government of the UK replaced by Anthony Eden as Prime Minister in 1958 - odd, as Bevan was never Prime Minister, and Eden was, 1955-57. In the 60s the UK has a revolution and purges liquidating all the original leaders. In the 1970s the Firemen burn all the books in the US. In the late 1990s the US has a Second Industrial Revolution (the cyber-revolution?) and by 2026 we have reached Mars and Venus - and there is a woman Pope on Saturn....

Mahlon Blaine - *The illustrations for the Canaveral Press books of Edgar Rice Burroughs*, ed. by Jerry L Schneider, ERBville Press, 2012, 74pp, \$12.95

There were seven such books, in a uniform format, all published in 1962 -

A Fighting Man of Mars, At the Earth's Core, The Land that Time Forgot, The Monster Men, The Moon Men, Pellucidar, and Tanar of Pellucidar. Schneider reproduces the seven duct-jackets in color on his cover (obviously quite reduced), and gives all the b&w interiors (Brian J Hunt's enormous **Outlandish Art of Mahlon Blaine**, GB Graphics 1990 has only some of them), with their captions, a page each, so that they are about the same size here as in the books.

There is also a confusing "Gallery" of five b&w illustrations said to be from the "original paintings" - none are paintings. The interiors in these books are pen&ink drawings. Schneider says that the first is from **At the Earth's Core** and the rest from **The Land that Time Forgot** - but he gets it wrong, as the first and fourth are from **At the Earth's Core**. These four look identical to their appearance with caption elsewhere in this same book. The fifth plate (p.30) however does not seem to be in any of the books (I have the set) and so may have appeared here for the first time - it shows two people riding a "brontosaurus" dinosaur that is under attack by tiger-like predators.



In a brief note on the last page, Schneider says that the only copyright on these books was that registered in 1962 by Canaveral Press and never renewed, so that the artwork is now all public domain. Brian Hunt however had a note on his copyright page that the 1962 Canaveral Press copyright on the images was renewed by Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc. in 1990. I would not argue with anyone about it - Mahlon Blaine is dead, and there does not seem to be an "estate" in any useful sense.

Jimmy Stu Lives! by Kent McDaniel, Penumbra Publishing 2011, 169pp, illustrated by Joe Staton, wraps,

POD

Kent McDaniel and the artist Joe Staton were both members of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance (SFPA, now past its Golden Anniversary) before I was, and Kent has recently rejoined. Kent is a musician, and Joe, who was an excellent cartoonist, has apparently turned into a painter and supplies only the color cover here. This cover shows two people in T-shirts riding a sort of rocket sled without windshield or even goggles. Maybe there is a force-field.... The title character is a sort of skiffy Elmer Gantry, who gets himself cryonized and wakes up more than a century later.

There is no price given on the book, but it can no doubt be ordered (there is also an e-book) at <http://penumbrapublishing.com>

Detour on Cloud Nine by Victor Belmor, Electra 1966, 268pp, illustrated by Cartwright

As far as I can tell, Belmor wrote no other book, and Electra published nothing else. The dust-jacket is intact but bears no price. I think it was published here in the Atlanta area – I bought it here, and there is an introduction by a Louie C Pilcher, said to be a professor at Georgia State University.

This is a theological time-travel fantasy. The hero, Victor Robbel, is expelled from Heaven on a technicality and becomes a ghost loose in time. The language is odd – one angel refers to the demon Belzeban as “a miserable goose face”. Even though his name appears as a fancy signature-logo, S. J. Cartwright is about as good an artist as Belmor is a writer – his best effort is the portrait of Belmor on the back of the dust-jacket, probably from a photograph.

I was not sure just what interest there could be in this book, other than as a bad example, until I received an e-mail from a man in London who wanted to buy it. When I tried to appraise it, I discovered that the Net finds only one on offer – at eBay for \$625! And Google finds no reference to Victor Belmor other than from people who believe that the name is a pseudonym of the famous violinist Jascha Heifetz (1901-1987). The man who wanted to buy the book said that indeed he was researching Heifetz. Is there a clue in the fact that the character Victor Robbel plays the violin? Or that some websites offer an obscure “Medinor” LP of pop tunes on the violin by “Victor Belmor”? If the book is so scarce, why do I have three copies of it in two different editions? Why does the Library of Congress not find the “Library of Congress C.C.N. 66-887819”? Who were Frances and Giselle Hague Belmor, just the right ages to be Heifetz' wife and daughter? The copyright notice in the book is 1966 – but the registration of it by “Joseph Hague” with “Victor Belmor” as a pseudonym did not take place until 1967. And then there is the clipping from a 1971 issue of the student newspaper of Georgia Southern College, *The George-Anne* – the music professor there, Victor Belmor, had been honored by Dr. Randolph (apparently Leonard Randolph) of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Georgia congressman Fletcher Thompson with the announcement that two of Belmor's books had been selected for the “permanent collection of outstanding literature” - I have asked the NEA for the titles of these books, in vain!

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson, Little Brown 2004, 310 pp, \$23.95

A curious novel about a collection of well-drawn and mostly unhappy British characters whose tragedies intersect in unlikely ways. Not the sort of thing I usually read, but it did hold my interest.

Misreadings by Umberto Eco (trans. William Weaver), Jonathan Cape 1993, 180pp, £9.99

A very funny little collection of 15 spoofs and parodies written 1959-1972 – he takes on Nabokov's

Lolita, imagines what archeologists of the far future might make of the fragments of Earth culture, analyzes a reverse strip-tease, describes what readers for a publisher might say about famous works if they were submitted today, explains why he will give his son all the available toy weapons as soon as he is a little older, reviews currency as numbered-edition literature, and gives the news coverage like that of the Moon landing that Columbus might have received if he had discovered America in the 1960s.

Miscellaneous unsorted books found in a neglected corner



Weird Islands by Jean de Bosschère, Chapman & Hall 1921, illustrated by the author, 210pp

There is a list of 13 previous books written and illustrated by de Bosschère – all but one of the titles in French. I have other books he illustrated, but none that he wrote, and there is no credit to a translator. His color illos are flat and colorful, but there is only the frontispiece in color here, and lots of b&w art. In format this looks like childrens book of the era, but was it meant for children? I don't suppose it's any more surreal than Sandburg's **Rootabaga** Stories. An endpaper map shows the weird islands. I may scan some of the illos to decorate my apazines.

Tales in Prose & Verse, and Dramas by Thomas Edward Heath, King, Sell & Olding 1906, illustrated by the author, his son (of the same name), and T. Hasted Heath (his grandson), 259pp

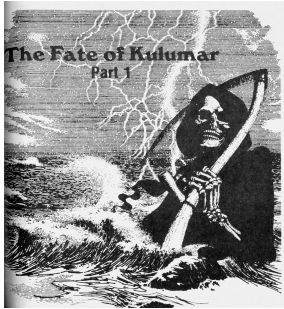
The son (who was an astronomer) edited his father's unpublished tales, written between 1863 and 1881, and they were published by a firm that seems to have specialized in astronomy books. A preface explains that the family had been members of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) since the days of George Fox, but then had switched to Church of England. Some of the tales involve the Quaker culture. Some are supernatural, and the best illustrations to my mind are the four line drawings by T Hasted Heath. The preface also mentions that the author's watercolors are reproduced by “process”, as they would have to be because of the tone variations – 1906 was relatively early in the era of publishing high-resolution images on coated paper by screening the original so that variations in tone were controlled by the size of the grid dots. This was also done in color at this time, but all the artwork here is monochrome.



The Red Fairy Book, edited by Andrew Lang, David McKay 1924, 319pp, illustrated by Gustaf Tenggren. With 4 color plates – I see that I must have gotten this book in the 1960s, for \$1 at Cantrell's book store in the West End. Cantrell used a rubber stamp with a space to write in the price. Excellent illos, rather in the style of Rackham or Parrish, rather than the simpler style that the artist used later.

The Swiss Family Robinson, DeWolfe, Fiske & Co 1898, 192pp, ill.s.anon

Here the binding is illustrated in color and the color plates are lithograph rather than process color. The publisher omits the author's name (Johann David Wyss) and claims copyright! The color litho plates are not very good, and the b&w artwork is a bit murky. The novel was first published in German in 1812, Wikipedia says that the best-known English translation was by William H. G. Kingston and published in 1879.



The Challenge of Ideas, edited by Brian L. Bex, The American Record 1984

This seems to be bound vols.16-19 of a magazine called “The American Record”, but not all of those issues, as the last page number is 912 and the book is only a half-inch thick and on heavy coated stock. An address in Hagerstown Indiana appears several times. For Bex (who inscribed it on the front fly) no text or art could be printed too large or in too bright a color! The tone seems to be right-wing political. There is a fantasy titled “The Fate of Kulumar” with a full-page illustration that might have been lifted from *Weird Tales* – none of the art is credited.

What We Have Here Is a Failure to Communicate, Column Type Co., 10pp, ill. anon

A stapled promotional booklet in the form of a very short silly history of printing. Good cartoons take up most of each page but the artist is uncredited – nor do they credit the title, the famous quote by the Strother Martin character in the movie *Cool Hand Luke*. The Column Type Company was in Salt Lake City – late in the 20th century I would guess – there is no date either. The printing however is excellent, on good book paper.



For one thing, mankind soon discovered that stone writing tablets were a lot of bother. It took a week just to chisel out a postcard, and then the postage was prohibitive.



The Wolf Boy of China by William Dalton, Lippincott 1884, 339pp, ill. anon
Said in the dedication to be a “Book for Boys”, and in a preface an “American edition”, but no previous edition is credited, nor are the engravings, which are quite good. Apparently printed from worn stereotype plates, so this copy may not be as old as the date on the title page. The illustrations are probably steel engravings and seem unworn. There is no indication that this is in any way a true story, but the author seems to know quite a lot about Chinese society – and tells the reader about it in great detail – thus the wordy length of the book. The Contents runs to three pages with the long titles of the 35 chapters, and for further edification of the reader, every page has a header hinting at the content there. P.15 is headed “The Wolf-People” and there is an explanation that the mountain people of the province Kwei-chou call themselves the Miao-tse, but are called the Wolf-People by the rest of the Chinese, and that they are the only ones after the conquest by the Tartars who were not forced to shave their heads. So the Wolf Boy is not a Chinese were-wolf...

Balzac's Droll Stories, Privately Printed, 468pp, illustrated by A. Robida

This admits to having been printed in London, but not when or by whom. The translator provides a Note dated 1874 – but not his name. The author's full name, Honoré de Balzac, appears nowhere. The artist, Albert Robida (1848-1926) was French and wrote and illustrated many other books. Apparently all but Robida (who was in France) had to fear the hand of the Royal censor. Or was it all just part of the promotion, to make the reader think he was buying something really “hot”? The translator's note claims that his is the first English translation. The first tale includes a randy cardinal – maybe the publishers were afraid of the Church. The tales are all set in the province of Touraine (said in the subtitle to have been collected from the “Abbeys of Touraine”) – and appropriately Rabelaisian.

The Robida art is excellent, and printed on coated paper. At least one story, “The Succubus” is fantasy and has the title character clinging to the side of a cathedral while soldiers shoot at her with crossbows.



Asmodeus by Alain René Le Sage, Worthington 1890, 332pp, illustrated by R. de Los Rios

Translated from the French, but they don't credit the translator. The four plates are excellent steel engravings, one showing the title character as advertised in the subtitle, *The Devil Upon Two Sticks*. For some reason the demon is about 3 feet tall and wearing a turban. For some other reason, the main text is preceded by three Dialogues between two chimneys in Madrid. Not the same two in each dialogue – they are conveniently distinguished by the first six letters of the alphabet: A & B, C & D, and E & F. This system seems to me pure sloth on the part of the author – he could have given them suitable names like Smoky and Sooty.



As would be expected for this era, the author (or at least the translator – perhaps the French original was a mere novella) never uses one word if five will do. The first sentence takes up 13 lines. But the action gets underway without delay – the hero, who glories in the name Don Cleofas Leandro Perez Zambullo, escaping over the rooftops from a romantic interlude gone sour, immediately finds himself in the room of a sorcerer where the demon has been trapped in a glass vial. He enters into dialogue with the demon (who admits to being “the most active and indefatigable devil in hell”) and after a page of guessing games as to which devil that is, the demon admits to being Asmodeus. If the hero had read any stories of such commerce with the minions of Satan, he would leave and there would be no story....

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*"I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it." --Mark Twain*

*"And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who*

could not hear the music." -- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche



**Out of the Hurly-Burly** by Max Adeler, "Today" Publishing Co. 1874, 398pp, four illustrators

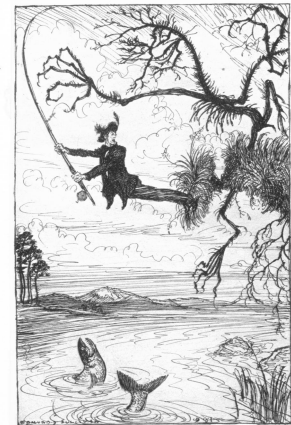
There are said to be "almost 400" illustrations - there are in fact 379. I did not count them - there is a 12-page list in the front of the book! Of the artists the only name I recognize is A. B. Frost.

Max Adeler seems to have been something like the Dave Barry of his day - he dedicates the book to a "creative" compositor who mangled his prose. But it was a vicious age - two chapters are devoted to public floggings. One is of a 13-year-old boy who stole a piece of scrap iron, and the other of a black woman whose offense is not specified - just as the lead-in to that of a white woman who is saved at the last moment.

**Legal & Other Lyrics** by George Outram, T. N. Foulis 1916, 204pp, illustrated by Edmund J. Sullivan

Unlike the previous tome, which is disintegrating, this one is in good shape, some of the pages still uncut. It is all verse, with Notes and a glossary - for the legal jargon and the Scots dialect. The author was long gone when this was published - he lived from 1805 to 1856.

The introduction includes a satire on the author's obesity, and four pages of Scots recipes, including the haggis and even less likely dishes. The verses are meant to be sung, and a traditional melody is suggested for some. Alas, none are among the few Scots tunes that I know except "Auld Ange Syne" and that doesn't seem to fit.



"With a single movement of his jaws he would devour a mighty forest."

**Nomad** by Paul Jordan-Smith, Minton, Balch & Co. 1925, 253pp, illustrated by J. D. Lauder milk

There is a dedication to James Branch Cabell, and the art is a bit like what Wallace Smith had done a couple of years before.

This is a fantasy that seems to be very stream-of-consciousness. The framing story, "The Sad Adventure of a Literary Moonshiner", is clearly told - the narrator's college friend has become a revenue man in the Appalachians, and after destroying a still but before burning the missing moonshiner's cabin, he finds a pillow stuffed with corn shucks, and sends them to the narrator because they appear to be a manuscript written in pale red ink - just what sort of ink you could write on corn shucks with is not explained. The rest of the book is the corn-shuck manuscript. I see that I have two copies of this, just alike!

**Peter and Prue** by Mary Dickerson Donahey, Rand McNally 1924, 258pp, illustrated in color and line by Harold Gaze

Pure fantasy about the adventures of two run-away children among character from assorted myths. The line art is excellent, but the color plates are ruined by poor reproduction. This book, which I bought somewhere long ago for a quarter, seems to have never been reprinted and has gotten scarce and expensive. Some of the humor is topical – when the children meet the goddess Diana on the Moon, Peter remembers that his father said that the Greeks were taking over the country “by opening restaurants”. The problem with the story is that it is all event and spectacle – but lacking in conflict, drama, danger, or villains, as compared to the *Alice* books or the *Oz* books. **The Ship that Sailed to Mars** came out the same year and has the same problem as fantasy fiction and was only reprinted many decades later because of the artwork.



**Tales of Bong Tree Island** by E. J. Lefavour, Khan Studios 2012, 122pp., illustrated in color by the author, \$19.95

This inscribed copy was given to me by my sister, who met the author in Gloucester MA. It's an attempt to describe what happened to the Owl and the Pussycat of the famous nonsense poem by Edward Lear (1812-1888) after they sailed away “to the land where the Bong-tree grows”. As with the **Peter and Prue** described above, the fantasy suffers from lack of conflict – perhaps some will emerge in the sequel that is hinted at. Or she could write a happier ending to another Edward Lear poem, “The Dong with a Luminous Nose”, where the Dong finds his lost Jumbly Girl.

**The Forrest J Ackerman Oeuvre** by Christopher M. O'Brien, McFarland & Co. 2012, 234pp., photos, index, bibliography, softcover.

The author inscribed this exhaustive book on the famous fan to me, as I sent him quite a few scans from fanzines and magazines. I corresponded with Forry a little, but most of what I scanned for O'Brien were things I didn't know I had! There are about three dozen well-printed b&w photos. There is a memoir by archivist Dennis Billows – and an essay by Stephen King. The Bibliography runs 120 pages!

The price is not given, but no doubt copies can be found through the Net.

**Marvel Tales** by Lance Thingmaker, 2012, 294pp., illustrations by divers hands, dust-wrapper and box.

As with last year's **The Fantasy Fan**, this is a beautiful facsimile reprint (#16/100) of a rare magazine of the 1930s. But where *The Fantasy Fan* was a fanzine, *Marvel Tales of Science and Fantasy* aspired to prozine status. There were five issues in 1934 and 1935, priced on the cover at 15¢. Thingmaker has had to adjust them all to the same size for convenient binding as a book.

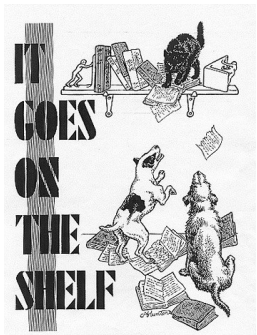
The editor of *Marvel Tales* was William L Crawford, and it published many contributors who would become famous in the field – H. P. Lovecraft, August Derleth, David Keller, Robert E. Howard, Robert Bloch, P. Schuyler Miller, Clifford Simak, John Beynon Harris, Carl Jacobi, Manly Wade Wellman are the best known. There were also some contributors that I have never heard of at all! The illustrations are of little interest except as examples of what passed for SF art at the time.



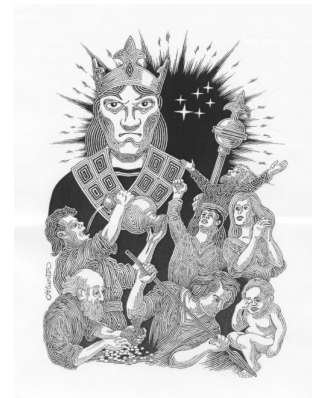
*Forerunner* #2, edited by R. D. Nicholson, Autumn 1953, 46pp, 5 shillings.

This was given me by Jad Smith. It was published in Sydney Australia – all typescript (and retyped to get a justified right-hand margin but without a proportional font), but printed by some form of lithograph, and very well printed too, on high-quality paper, with a card cover. Oddly enough, considering the printing technology in use, there is no artwork. The subtitle is “Science Fiction and Fantasy” and the contents are in the Miller.Contento prozine index.

The Vol Molesworth story “Arkaroo” is said to be one of three Lovecraft imitations that he did, and I see that it must have started in *Forerunner* #1 in 1952, as what appears here is a synopsis of the first part, and the conclusion. Very Lovecraftian, with Australian folklore added – the Cthulhoid monster is a bunyip – and well done. The “arkaroo” of the title is a giant serpent – mentioned once but not in on the action.



**Alan Hunter** has passed away, alas. An e-mail from his son: HUNTER ALAN JOSEPH Passed away at home after a long illness, on 1st August 2012, aged 89 years. A lovely man and a wonderful father. He will be greatly missed. Funeral service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday 10th August at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, please. Donations if desired, for ‘Cancer Research U.K.’, may be sent to George Scott Funeral Services, 15 Somerset Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6JH. Tel: 01202 395827. One of the great fan artists, and a nice guy. We corresponded for years, and he sent me a lot of excellent art, both for this zine and for my book about the filk song “Green Hills of Earth”.



*Weird Tales* (No.360, Fall 2012) is the latest issue of the ancient title (Vol.66, #4!) now edited by Marvin Kaye and published by Nth Dimension Media – their first issue. It has two front covers in the *tete-beche* style – 94 pages of an Elder Gods issue, and 18 pages of tribute to the late lamented Ray Bradbury. Saddle-stapled 8x10.5 inches, cover price \$6.99 – for subscriptions, see [www.weirdtalesmagazine.com](http://www.weirdtalesmagazine.com).

The horrendous (but I don't mean that in a bad way) tentaclely cover is credited as a photograph.... The Bradbury section cover is Halloween cartoony and by David Hartman. Most of the interior art consists of photographs credited to the cover artist – there is one small Fabian.

**Hannes Bok – A Life in Illustration**, edited by Joe Wrzos, Centipede Press 2012, 464 pages

A spectacular tome, covering his all-too-short (he died at 50) career in fanzines, pulps, and book illustrations. What I have is the limited boxed edition, #159/200, that George Beahm gave me, but there is a paperbound edition as well, at Amazon for *only* \$102. It was printed in China, and they did a beautiful job.

Much of the art I had seen of course, but much I had not. Odd that after the showing the *F&SF* cover as a cover, they showed the original for it in the same mirror-image - I saw that original at a Florida worldcon, the dancer is on the left and the woman with the rose on the right. No hint as to how they are

sure that the **A Fish for Murder** dust-jacket is by Bok. I have one, but there is no signature or attribution and not all Bok fans agree. I was disappointed that they could not find the dust-jacket for **The Adventures of Dwinkle** either! Someone had asked me about the Madonna with a lily - I see that they have that. The dust-jacket art is a hilarious take on the Rubiayat quatrain about the fellow in the wilderness with his girlfriend, loaf of bread, and jug of wine beneath the bough!

*It Comes in the Mail* from -

**Janet Alvarez**, who says she wants to read all the books mentioned here. Even I haven't read them all - but most of them could be gotten through Addall, or read online. Janet also explains the peculiar "live-to-film" concerts, where a movie is shown with the music soundtrack replaced by a live orchestra. She had seen it done with *Fellowship of the Ring*.

**Phyrne Bacon**, who spotted me through Bill Burns' efanine website - we corresponded years ago, and she sent me an enormous assemblage of xeroxes of 3x5 cards showing what prozines reviewed a given skiffy tome. She also has 200 pages typed of a book about a geometry she invented - shades of Lovecraftian impossible angles!

**Susannah Bates**, who sends a Christmas card.

**Doris Beetem** of Slanapa, who sends a Christmas card.

**Sheryl Birkhead**, who sends a Christmas card and says she will loc the 2010 issue Real Soon Now!

**Larry Bryant**, who sent a photocopy of the issue of *INFO Journal* I was missing.

**John Cochrane**, who joined SFPA just long enough to read my idle question as to whether marbles were ever made of marble - and sent me three bags of glass marbles. Perhaps he meant to suggest that I had lost mine....

**Melissa Conway**, at the Pelz Archive, who sends a Christmas card.

**Kevin Cook**, who sends his *Sons of the Blue Wolf* for the 100<sup>th</sup> mailing of the Pulp Era Amateur Press Society (PEAPS) - with facsimiles of signed letters, including three with the Hannes Bok signature mouse.

**Lee Carson**, a fan from the Age of Phisterus who now e-mails from Ireland, not a long way from Tipperary, who locs in stream-of-consciousness. He has retired from being a Public Defender in Chicago.

**Margaret Cubberly**, one of the Sagacious Seven, who sends a Christmas card.

**Alistair Durie**, who notes that IGOTS 33 reached him even though he has moved - hurrah for the Royal

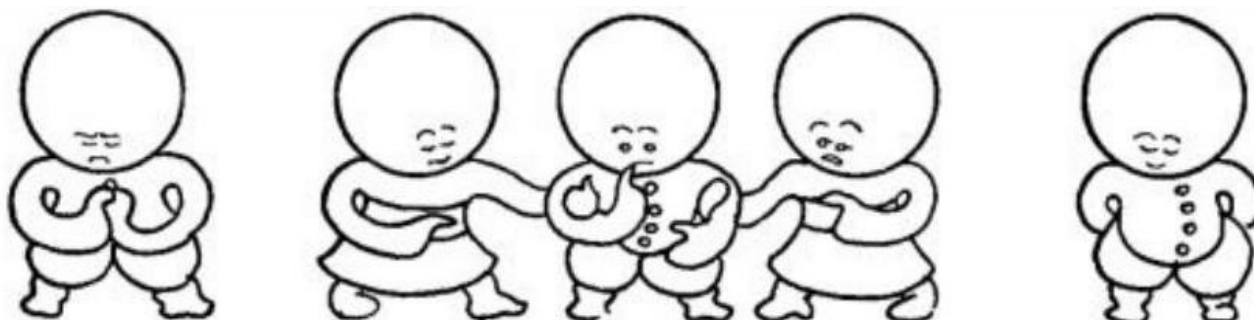
Mail. I sometimes wonder what was lost when my forwarding request in Virginia in 1998 ran out. Alistair is now at: 5 Hall Farm Barns, Hill Road, Middleton, Norfolk PE32 1RW, UK.

**Ken Faig**, who says he has only two copies left of the first printing of his excellent story collection **Lovecraft's Pillow**. Ken also says that although he has a set of Hornig's *The Fantasy Fan*, it is very fragile. He asked Thingmaker about getting the facsimile book, but says that Thingmaker said he was moving and sales are on hold as of November 2011 - of course by the time this appears a year will have passed!

**Jan Howard Finder**, who sends his annual Christmas-zine, *Il Vombato*.

**Al Fitzgerald**, who sent me the 10-DVD can of *Toxie's Top Ten* schlock horror movies!

**Brad Foster**, who very kindly sends an excellent cover, showing the library of Gelett Burgess' "Goops" after they had grown up to be civilized adults and gotten silly hats.



**Ex Poste Facto**, who somehow sends Fluxus Bucks from the Fluxus Zone using only an odd commemorative 33¢ stamp in honor of Louise Nevelson.

**Al Fitzpatrick**, who sends a Christmas card and frequent e-mails

**John and Diane Fox**, who send a Christmas card from the Antipodes

**Alexis Gilliland**, who sends a Christmas letter

**Mary Gray**, one of the old HaRoSFA gang, sends a Christmas card

**Brandon Green**, who apparently got IGOTS off the Net, sends an interesting letter in rather obscure handrot. The poetry included eludes my ability to decipher!

**Colin Grubel**, who spotted my mention of his father Jack Grubel as having Hannes Bok bookplates for his books, but doesn't know how one of those books wound up in an antique store in Birmingham AL. He asks if I collect old books - alas, I do not restrict myself to "old" books.

**Thomas Hall**, who is looking into whether Arthur Machen's *The White People* has any basis in the folklore of Wales.

**John Hertz**, who sends bundles of his *Vanamonde* (I have 719 of them - good thing they are not very thick!) and, on the envelope, a handrot Ozian limerick - which I can't decipher.

**Binker Hughes**, erstwhile of SFPA, who sends a Christmas card and an occasional e-mail.

**Steve and Suzanne Hughes**, erstwhile of SFPA, send a Christmas card from their Fortress of Solitude in Ellijay.

**Herman Stowell King**, who says he will read IGOTS when he gets new reading glasses!

**Dennis Lien**, who notes, with reference to my comments on Herbert Read's **The Green Child**, that the reference to the legend of the "Green Children of Woolpit" is anachronistic, as that legend dates to the 12th century while Read sets his story in 1830. Denny also says that while the use of "strenuous" by Edwin J Webster in his **Strenuous Animals** is archaic, the word was used that way in Elizabethan times.

**Guy & Rosy Lillian**, who send a Grinch card from just north of Who-ville.

**Dave Locke**, who accuses me (in a friendly way) of lifting the IGOTS 33 cover from his cyber-zine *Time and Again* 12. The image does appear there in color - but I got the b&w JPG file directly from the artist, Brad Foster. As I prepare to publish this issue, Dave alas has passed away.

**Eric Mayer**, who notes that Brad Foster's brain-embiggened creature would have a hard time finding a hat to fit....

**Murray Moore**, who says that Dan Osterman doesn't draw like he used to - I noticed that! Murray also complains that the big-brain cover critter should be reading an e-book - it must be a future antiquarian. After the June Deep South Con 50 in Huntsville, Murray and his wife came by and brought me a copy of the 160-page slick-paper Program Book.

**Bill Plott** (remembered in the archives of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance as Billy Joe Plott), who says he doesn't like reading online. I might do it if I had the cyber-voodoo to project the page on the ceiling above the bed - but I would probably fall asleep.

**Richard Polt**, who collects typewriters and Harry Stephen Keeler, also writes fantasy - see **Gil** above!

**Chris O'Brien**, whose book about Forry Ackerman is mentioned above, sends a Christmas card.

**Lloyd Penney**, who sends an e-loc.

**Andy Robson**, who sends his poetry zine *Krax*, which also includes fanzine reviews, and a letter, and the poetry booklet mentioned above. Oddly enough, his name appears nowhere in the fanzine, and the reviews mention only my apazine!

**Tom Sadler**, a Publishing Giant with his *Reluctant Famulus*, who sends a Christmas card.

**Darrell Schweitzer**, who says he doesn't like my politics.... On the one hand it's said that everything is political but on the other hand I don't feel that I am political at all.... Darrell says that the Button Lady, Nancy Lebovitz, is still active and that he will get her to do an *Occupy R'tyeh* button at Philcon - just what political orientation that implies I'm not sure - the Surrealist Party perhaps.

I voted for Obama as a relative unknown who promised to do better with human rights than the Star-Spangled Dubya Torquemada, but has been a great disappointment, failing to jail the torturers and close Guantánamo and end the asinine mideast wars; and claiming the right to kill anyone anywhere with a drone missile. These issues have dropped out of the campaign, apparently because both parties agree that such atrocities are a Good Thing. So no matter who I vote for, I am made complicit in war crimes.

**David Shea**, who sends a loc in a Christmas card and two C J Cherryh books. He say the fleur-de-lis is a flower - indeed it is, a lily. But I was told that before it was adopted as a symbol by the king of France, the royal emblem there was a frog. Perhaps the change was required before they could eat the frog legs....

**Jad Smith**, who liked the Brad Foster cover promoting reading and says he is going to post a scan of it on his academic office door. He hadn't known about the Carol Emshwiller collection. No one knows everything - Jad is a John Brunner guru. Later, Jad very kindly sent me a rare fanzine - *Forerunner* #2 from 1953 Australia (see above).

**Steve Sneyd**, who says that the geography in Bram Stoker's **The Lair of the White Worm** is all invented. As to the cover about books making your brain bigger, Steve remembers a street preacher who claimed that watching TV made your eyes bigger - probably makes your brain smaller as well.

**Mark Sonnenfeld**, who sends a 4-page pamphlet titled "5 Poems". The second one is titled "Badly Written" - it's good to hear from an honest man.... Enclosed with this is an interview with photo by Susan Van Dongen - I wonder if she's related to the old *Astounding/Analog* cover artist.

**Milt Stevens**, who says the LASFAns tried to play a card game with a Tarot deck, but he doesn't know if it was Tarock.

**Graham Stone**, who writes from Down Under and says that his copy of **Up To Now**, the history of fandom by Jack Speer that Richard Newsome reprinted in 1994, is defective. I gave him Newsome's address (still the same as in 1994).

**Peter Sullivan**, who sent me his fanzine *Corflu Memories*.



**Dave Szurek**, who writes often, and sends a fancy Christmas card.

**Juan Carlos Verrecchia**, who sends a Christmas card and two 2012 calendar cards from Argentina. I reuse calendars - there are only 14 possible patterns. But the 2012 pattern, B1, last occurred in 1984.

**Victor Waldrop**, who is looking for a copy of his 1952 fanzine *Alien* #1. Victor inclosed color collages of his sensitive fannish face (in 1952) and the church mimeo he used. I checked the Pelz archive - they have #2 and #4 only. If he had sent a copy of *Alien* #1 to Frank Dietz, I might now have it. I myself was still in Chile in 1952.

**Neal Wilgus**, who sends three of his chapbooks - see above. I had run across a "Wilgus" as a faned for the 1953 fanzine *Starlight*, and Neal says that's not him. He thought it might be William John Wilgus, who as Asa Wilgus did publish some books with odd titles about that time. There is also a Rex Wilgus who published two stories in the 1980s.

**Toni Weisskopf**, erstwhile of SFPA but still busy with Baen Books sends a Christmas card - and kindly offers me a ride to the 2012 DeepSouthCon.

**Henry Knarley Welch**, of *Knarley News* fame.

**George Wells**, who sent me some rare fanzines, including *Shangri L'Affairs* 46 from 1959.

**Walter Wentz**, who sends his annual holiday mumble, and says he finally got to read **The Weirwoods** by Thomas Burnett Swann. I may get to it yet - but I fear the pbs in the basement have not aged as well as I have, and would disintegrate if I tried to read them.

**Peter Winnington** (of *Peake Studies*), who has been typesetting medieval Latin for fun but found time to enjoy IGOTS 33.

**Fred Woodworth**, who sends his excellent anarchist zine *The Match*, the series book magazine *Mystery & Adventure Review*, and the *Opera Glass* that he prints for an opera guru. And a long loc - he didn't know about the Goops, but I didn't know that circular slide-rules are called *volvelles*.

**Martin Wooster**, who notes that I am quoted in Mark Rich's biography of Cyril Kornbluth (McFarland, 2009). And I didn't even get a T-shirt....



.....

[illegible][illegible]

Truthout.org

[illegible]

## Ralph Lopez, War Is a Crime

[illegible]

The cast of the TSA security theater probably exceeds in size and cost the entire membership of the

Actors Guild - and probably includes a lot of out-of-work members of the Actors Guild. Unfortunately, the extras in these productions are not only unpaid but ill-treated as well.

[illegible]

Perhaps the one true moment in the Denver debate was when Romney promised to stop funding Sesame Street. Of course a Republican would hate Sesame Street. Ernie and Bert live together in peace, a black guy owns the most successful business, and The Count doesn't skew the numbers to suit paranoid fantasies.

- Jason Stanford, *The Cagle Post*

[illegible]

*Sold for a \$5,000 bounty, Adnan Latif was among the first prisoners detained at Guantanamo. A federal judge and two presidential administrations said he didn't belong there. A decade later he left in a box - and no one will say why.*

Jason Leopold, TruthOut

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## Hubris Uber Alles

*Astride the known world,  
Filled with hubris  
They marched in their turn:  
Darius, Xerxes, Agamemnon, Alexander,  
Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler and more*

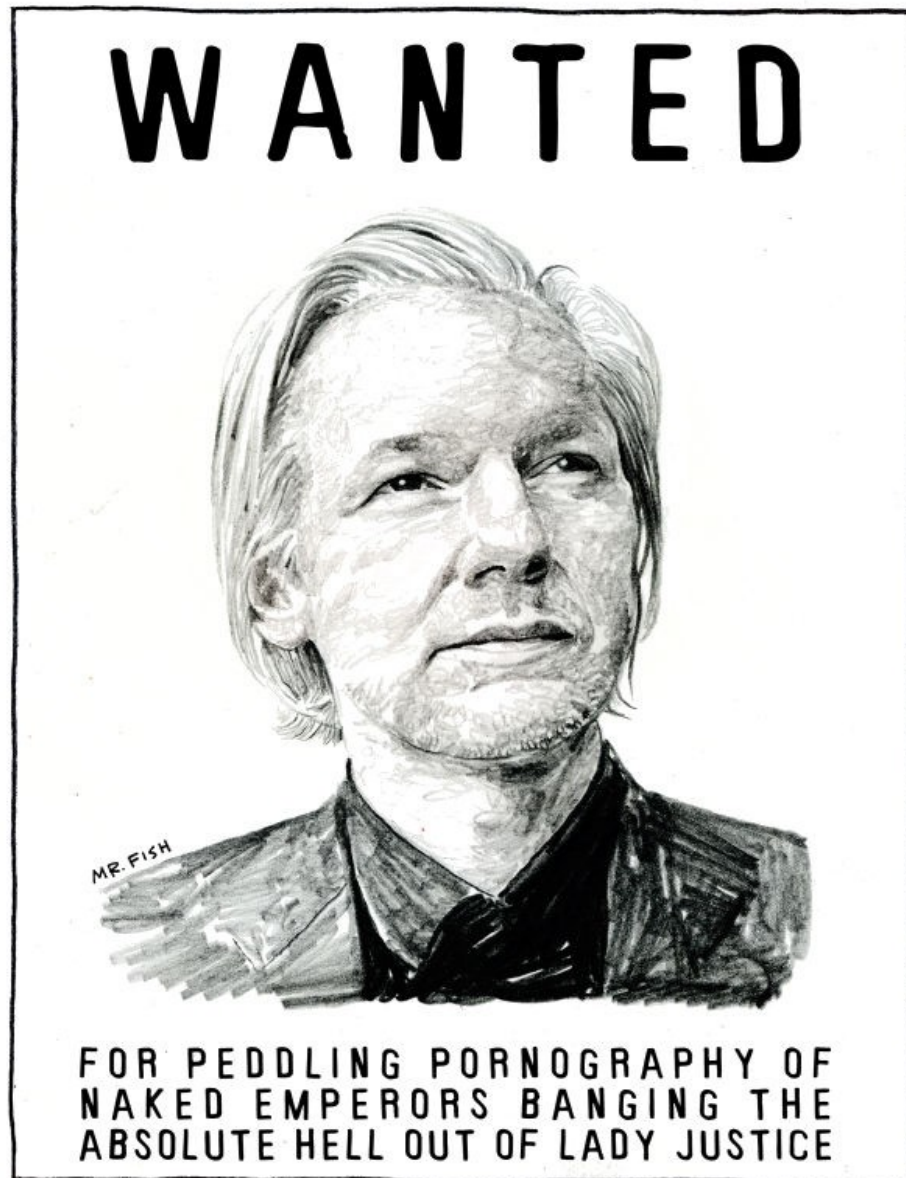
*All their empires rising, conquering,  
Their passing marked by mounds of skulls  
And Vainglorious boasts.  
Their places taken in turn by others  
as their empires rotted from within.*

*Now yet another warlord stands,  
His nation's proud banner, once a beacon  
Of freedom and hope to all mankind,  
Now a symbol to be feared  
By friend and foe alike.*

*This, too, shall pass away  
After adding its quota of skulls to the mountain,  
While the common man around the world  
Holds tight the dream of Brotherhood and Peace  
Close to his breaking heart.*

*Steve Osborn, 2003*

*Julian Assange*



**Merry Christmas to All  
and a Happy New Year!**