

INTERMISSION #106

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com for EAPA, N'APA and some others. No more "history issues", but a smaller History Corner. Follow @SFJournalen's newstweets on Nordic sf/f/h&fandom! Beware of mutated typos! This zine isn't under CapsLock-down! Late Feb '21.

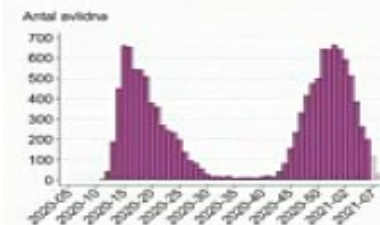
Editorially

Intermission has for the previous ten issues concentrated on presenting sf and fandom history finds from researching the digital newspaper archive of the Royal Library in Stockholm. It's now time to scale back a little on that and this industrious little zine will slowly turn back to normality. It'll have a little bit of this and that, often related to sf and fandom of course, things I've stumbled upon.

Hopefully, cultural events will begin to take place In Real Life again so I can report on that (I'll have some 2020 reports of the very few IRL events I went to last year). I'll keep a smaller "history corner" however, with more newspaper finds. There's a lot a lot of that material left!

As long as the C-virus from outer space or the Bat Cave, or wherever it came from, is on the loose,

Antal avlidna per vecka



The winter bump of Mr C victims continues down. From Nat'l Health Agency March 1.

I'll comment that too. Swedish politicians have now suggested new "tougher" legislation to lock down malls, shops and events...which is totally unnecessary! It's uncertain they'll use it, all curves have dropped a lot since Christmas and vaccinations are speeding up. 7% of the population has now gotten at least one shot, most importantly all the most vulnerable (its probably 8-10% by the time you read this) and since antibodies level was 38% in December it's probably +50% now. Our chief epidemiologist Dr Tegnell also notes it's "extremely unlikely" to become re-infected. The virus gets fewer and fewer targets with 60% immunity - and rising. The weather,

the best buddy off the virus, is also getting warmer. All this points to that pandemic must be on the last stretch here - without lockdowns or masks, but a lot of talk and fearmongering. The papers recently unveiled a 200 members secret lobby and propaganda group called "Mewas", which has campaigned to attack Sweden's scientific, softer corona strategy. Their members have spread negative news and opinion pieces in foreign media, to embassies, members of the EU parliament, etc. "Tough measure" critics and scientists have also received threats and hate mail. Deplorable!

There's a huge but very blind eye towards the wide range of serious damages from "tough measures: economy (bankruptcies, unemployment, budget deficits, rising taxes), psychological stress (domestic violence, depression, suicides, drugs), victims from other diseases (as people are scared away from hospitals, which also cuts down on operations and other treatment), lost education for children (which may affect their *whole lives!*) not to forget the disruption of civil rights! The politicians want to *seem* like they are "in charge" in a way that is pure, reckless opportunism. But for every notch curves drop, for every syringe of vaccine, for every degree of warmer weather the virus goes away. Wash your hands, keep distance, work from home if possible, don't crowd, stay home if feeling ill, the few few simple things making all the difference. Closing everything down is devastating, you ruin everybody's life, the effect is nil or has at best marginal, and the damage is extensive.

Don't play games to the gallery, politruks and bureaucrats! Every indication is that Normality is Nigh. Don't pretend you are knights in shining armour saving us from anything. Get our lives back to normal. Save sanity. Save our wallets. Save the children.

--Ahrvid Engholm

Ps. As noted I've begun to downsize the distribution, initially cutting the list by 30%. Send me a line if you want to be sure to get next fantastic issue! (Contents to be more "normal" but I'll keep a little History Corner.)

Don't ask what EAPA can do for you, but what you can do for EAPA!

(Join! Ask me for info. And why not nominate EAPA for the fritz Hugo?)

The 35 Year Sensation!

Early March last year we lost one of the Great Footsoldiers of our local science fiction scene, Michael Svensson. I'm uncertain if it was the Damn Virus, as the Blasted Pandemic had hardly begun then. Michael suffered from diabetes which by itself is bad enough. He edited the fanzine *Zimeria* in the early 1980s, together with the Bernander brothers, one of the best serious zines we've had. He has worked in the Scandinavian SF Association, even serving a period as chairman, and deservedly received the Alvar Award in 1986 (main Swedish fan award, once also given to Joe R Strully too!).

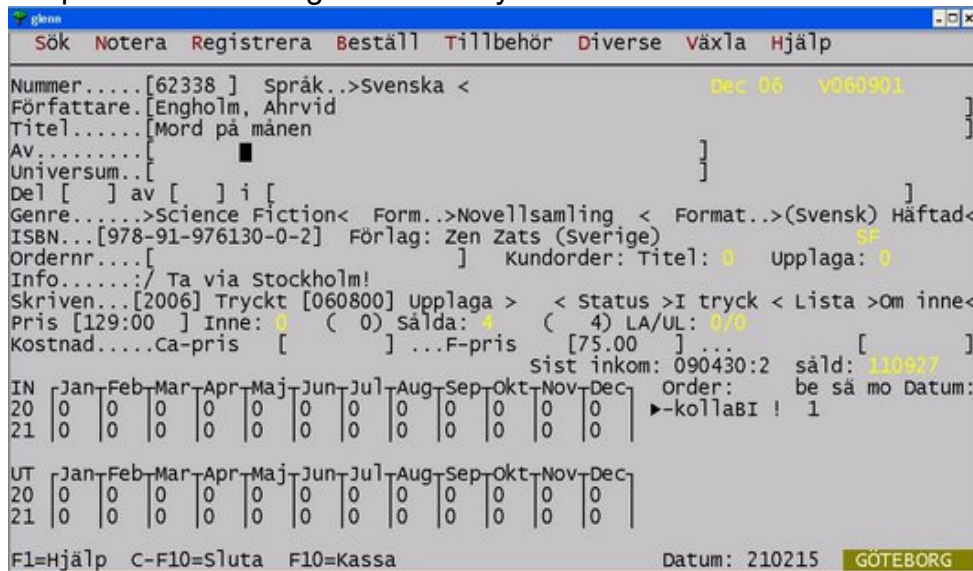
But Michael Svensson's perhaps biggest achievement was writing the business system that has been the backbone of the Swedish SF Bookstore for 3.5 decades! This bookstore, founded in late 1977 by the Scandinavian SF Association, helped by eg one Mr Stieg Larsson, is now a chain of three stores and has been quite important for raising the awareness of the sf genre in Sweden. One indication of its importance is that often when the TV news or some culture show covers sf, future, space or something similar...they take their cameras to the SF Bookstore and interview someone of

it's staff. I've seen it many times.

Glenn of their staff (and of a fannish parody novel fame, but it's another story) tells me Michael's system came about 1986 or '87, which means it worked for sensational 35 years or thereabout.

And it was on old MS-DOS system!

What we are talking about is the SF Bookstore System For Everything. The inventory, for ordering books, for creating invoices, to set prices, to check anything... I remember that Michael - must have been in the late 80's -



This is what Michael Svensson's SF Bookstore system looked like, seen from a DOS box within Windows. (It actually shows yours truly's book Murder on the Moon, which looks like having been sold out here.)

proudly made a demo of the system for me, and I believe it was written in the MS-DOS database system dBase. The system was never full of bells and whistles, but it worked and was very robust. They even considered to commercialise it, sell it to other bookstores, but canned it since the market of other Swedish bookstores not yet having a business system was small and it would take focus from the basic operations of a bookstore.

However good Michael's system was, the it lacked some modern features, and they finally had to upgrade to a new system after more than three decades. That was done in late January. But what a good run Michael's system had! It's as if a courier service today would use T-Fords or an airline was relying on old DC3s...

MS-DOS was a pretty good operating system, in my opinion. It was sleek, stable, easy to work with, fast. Its only drawback was limited memory and that it didn't multitask. (Novell actually released their own compatible DOS 7 that could multitask, but it had little market penetration. DOS could however have several programs open simultaneously as TSRs.) I actually myself relied primarily on DOS until the early 00's. As long as you used Win 3.x, 95 or 98, it was DOS in the background and I always went to DOS mode for the word processor I then preferred, which was Word 5.x for DOS.



Michael Svensson, Grey Eminence of Swedish sf!

That DOS was command-line based was no problem. I once reckoned that about 10 commands was all you needed to do about 99% of all you needed. A so called Graphical User Interface gives an *illusion* of "user friendliness", but it's deceiving. It's easy to go astray among all those icons and folders. And if you look under the surface of Windows, it's a nightmare maze of thousands of files and folders, virtually impossible to track errors in. Most error "fixing" in Windows just consists of re-installing stuff, but you get no idea of what the fault was or what "re-installing" has done in the background. It's like the only way to repair a car is to change the motor every time something goes awry. In comparison, DOS relies on only *five* files (io.sys, msdos.sys command.com, config.sys autoexec.bat) plus one or two start-up files of your program. That makes error tracking, fixing and system maintenance very easy. You can meddle around and experiment find what the glitch is. That's impossible in Windows! And the complexity of Windows also slows it down. My old DOS



Rare picture of Stieg Larsson in the original SF Bookstore in the late 1970s I recognise the bookshelf design. It was then on 45 Pontonjär Street, run by the Scandinavian SF Association, where Stieg also served a term as chairman.

word processor was just as fast or *even faster* than today's Word for Windows, despite being on that computer back then had only 1/50th the processing power. I have by now used PCs for more than 3.5 decades, have studied and read a lot computer history and have followed the development of software and OSes. I'm not totally enthusiastic over some directions it is taking.

This new thing Mr Gates & Co introduced with Windows 10, this auto-instalment of "updates" - *which you can't turn off!* - annoys the hell out of me. A user must be be supreme commander of his own computer and *actively decide* if he wants an "update" or not. To *force* new program code on users is dictatorship. Can it, Billy!

However, that Michael Svensson could write a business system in good ole' DOS, from the days when software was called programs and not "apps" (which APPLE introduced), lasting into the 2020's shows how important he was.

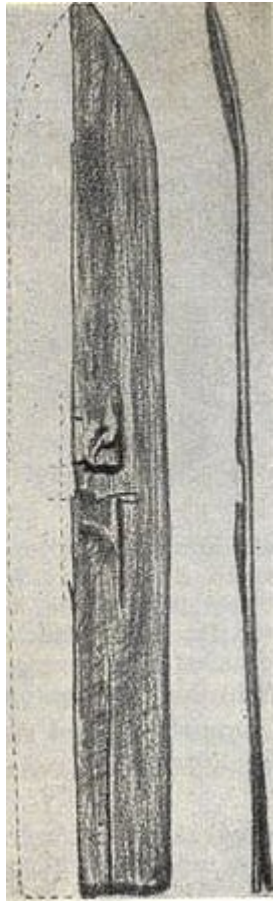


Winter Sports

Much of the Northern hemisphere is as this is written covered by solid state H₂O. In Sweden it doesn't matter much - we're used to it. But it seems the people of the British Isles and parts of North America (Canada, Alaska, Minnesota, Vermont etc may be excused) are less familiar with it. It even hit way down south! I remember old Westerns set in Texas, cowboys riding in semi-deserts under an eternal blazing sun, in clouds of dry dust rising from the hooves off the sweaty horses...and now it's all covered in snow!

It's time for winter sports. They have always been popular in the Nordic region: hockey, skiing - across, downhill, while shooting target, flying down a slope - , winter rallies with car or bike, skating, dog or reindeer dog sledding, and what have you - have you heard of bandy?

My favourite winter sport - *not* doing it, just watching it on the telly! - is cross-country skiing, which I understand some abbreviate to XCS (clever!). Some damn virus from outer space however more or less ruined the latest season. The XCS federation had to cancel some of the World Cup weekends, ie the ongoing competition series during the season, the virus shite made some countries abstain some, and quarantine rules canned others. The other day the Norwegian government decided to not ease



The world's oldest ski found in a bog near Hoting, Sweden.

rules for competitors meaning the two last World Cups there were cancelled (Switzerland jumped in and took one of them). Sweden stayed home from three World Cups, which eg meant that our brilliant sprint queen Linn lacked events to defend the 2020 sprint cup win. She won all she could, otherwise.

The only thing going almost normal was the so called Tour de Ski, a tight series of eight races during ten days arranged in the Alps. Norway stayed home, but the Swedes won 5 out of the 16 races, especially notable a maiden win for a new male sprinter named Oskar Svensson. Not to forget sprint specialist Linn Svahn *taking home a distance race*, 10 km! Unfortunately our great distance star Frida Karlsson injured herself after three races and had to quit. Otherwise she was in an excellent position, only 10 seconds behind the leader of the total.

That leader finally also won in the totals, Jessica Diggins of the US, with Sweden's Ebba Andersson third in the totals, winning last race, a murdering stretch up a slalom slope! That was the first time an American won Tour de Ski, and one may hope it creates some attention for cross-country skiing in the US...why not in Texas! It would mean a lot for a sport that internationally is rather small, compared to many other sports. But cross-country skiing is still the king of winter sports, in my opinion!

It must be one of the earliest sports ever. The oldest ski artefacts are fragments from 6000 BC in Siberia and the oldest complete ski found is more than 4000 years old discovered in a bog near Hoting, Sweden (incidentally just some 20 km from my grandmother's and mother's village Bellvik!). There are cave paintings in China and stone carvings in Norway and Sweden of about the same age, showing skiers. XCS competitions in a modern sense began in Norway in the 1800s, though the Swedes weren't too far behind and in 1922 founded the world's *biggest* skiing race, the 90 km Vasa Race, with tens of thousands of participants.

The Swedish men's national team is presently not exactly flocking on the prize podiums (better times will surely come, as Spint-Oskar hints) but our ladies' national team is right now probably the world's best. And while Norway has at least one extremely good distance runner, Therese Johaug, I think Frida Karlsson, Ebba Andersson, Linn Svahn and perhaps even Charlotte Kalla (if he finds her 22-international-medals-shape!) can give her a good fight on a good day. Three of them have BTW already beaten Therese at difference races. And behind those names are half a dozen younger, talented Swedish ladies ready to conquer the tracks. It would have been interesting to see all of them in an ordinary, full world cup season - but that we couldn't, alas.

Our last hope is the Nordic Ski World Championships, coming shortly as I write, in Obersdorf, Germany. XCS is often called "Nordic skiing" but it's not only the Nordic countries that ski. Central Europeans with those Alps and cold mountains also have good XCS skiing traditions. For the championships the Swedes are favourites in the sprints and relays, the Norwegians in the distance races. The first races will take place before the deadline of thish, and I will give you some exciting reports.

Cross country skiing has basically 2 disiplines (distance and sprint)



From the Vasa Race. New York Marathon should perhaps be envious...

and 2 formats (interval or mass start) and 2 styles (skate and classic) . Distance is 5 to 50 km, with women usually doing shorter distances, as some elderly gentlemen organising stuff think they'd otherwise over-exhaust themselves... Sprint is about 1.5 km in highest speed. Interval start, also called race against the clock, means that each skier starts individually in 30 seconds intervals. Mass start means just that. Styles need some explanation:

The classic skiing style (also called diagonal style) is to push with your legs 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 with parallel skis, and diagonal to the legs with your arms and ski poles. Preparing the right ski wax is here very important. You want grip when you push off but at the same time also glide. Waxing skis is a science, and you have to analyse the snow for the day. Leading nations have a waxing buses full of equipment and professional waxers.

But sometime in the late 1970's someone - actually an American, one Bill Koch - found out that you go faster by taking skating strides instead of the diagonal 1-2s, 1-2s. He won the World Cup and competitors began to copy him, so he won no more. Skating on skis - also called "free style" - became so popular that the head honchos of skiing feared that the beauty of classic skiing was about to die. The solution was to alternate the styles, so some races are in free and some in classic style.

And free style or skating takes some skill to master. Just like when driving a car you have several "gears". You skate in gear 1 to 4 depending on your frequency and pattern of pole pushes, in relation to skating strides, and a gear 5 is used in the final push before the finish, as you skip poling and just use the legs in highest possible frequency.



Skating on the skis, with Charlotte Kalla of Sweden.

The championships will have both styles, divided between distances. Most skiers master both, though they may be slightly better in one or the other. Eg Linn Svahn prefers classic, while Charlotte Kalla is a super skater and famous for being able to go on gear 3 uphill. BTW, ski waxing is easier in free style, as you don't need to consider the grip.

So I hope you see why this sport is interesting. Technical skill, different distances, different styles and gears, the science of waxing, a clock ticking in the screen corner...and to chase those damn Norwegians!

The sport reporters of the tabloids always try to make the most out of the skiing battles across the Scandinavian mountain chain with

war-like headlines... I think they are great fun!

But speaking of skating - real skating on ice, not snow - there has happened an exceptional thing, the revival of the old speed skating traditions de la Suede! Last century we had a whole series of speed skating kings, world and Olympic champions and record holders: Seyffarth, Ericsson, Nilsson, Höglén, Claesson, and finally the brilliant Tomas Gustafsson, thrice Olympic champ, last in 1988. But then skating died here, and was dead as a dodo for 33 years...

Until February 2021. A 24-year old maverick by the name Nils Van der Poel came to the World Championship in Heerenveen, Netherlands. He first won the 5000 metre gold medal, and three



Sweden's Frida Karlsson skiing in the beautiful classic style.



Nils Van der Poel setting new 10 000m world record, at 12:32.95



Hunter soldier Nils in the dress uniform of the Swedish army.

days later the 10 000 metre gold - setting a *new world record!* It was as if this guy stepped out of a flying saucer and just did it. Few had heard of him, though he had earlier won a junior world championship at age 18.

What happened was that some time after this he grew bored of skating, and decided to do military service! It was voluntary to sign up (limited national service has since been re-instituted) and Nils decided to sign up for the toughest job, becoming a hunter soldier, equivalent to US marines or something, in a regiment up in the mountainous, cold north for 15 months. And he loved it! He has talked about how it strengthened him to survive in the woods or doing parachute jumps. And he came back as a top skater just a few months ago, doing incredible results. First he did the 6th best ever 10 000 metre run and now, as said, the best ever. Maybe it's the right medicine to run around in the northern woods with a gun for a year and a half to become a good skater?

Speaking of guns, there is also a sport called biathlon, where you ski for a bit and then stop at shooting stations to hit a series of black dots with a rifle. There has recently been a World Championship in that too, where the Swedish did quite alright, grabbing six medals. But I leave that since I'm not such a huge fan of biathlon. Target shooting adds randomness and I like pure skiing better.

(Note: The above was written before the championships I'll cover that below.)

XCS Report...

As I'm finishing this the XrossCountrySkiing (=XCS) World Championship has begun, in Obersdorf in the German Alps. So I should report...

There are good and bad news from the first discipline, the sprint. Big Norwegian favourite Johannes Kläbo won the men's sprint, but the bad news is that the big women's sprint favourite Linn Svahn *didn't win* or even make it to the final. (An shoulder injury from a couple of weeks before might have played a part.) But the good news is that *another* of the Swedish lasses grabbed the gold!

Last year, 26-year old *Jonna Sundling* finished second in the sprint World Cup, but as 2020 year's winner Svahn was eliminated in the semis, she took the top of the podium in the final with great authority. That Jonna could grab that lump of AU (gold) was in no way a sensation. She's has hovered around the top in sprint skiing for years. She won with a comfortable 25 metres, ca 30 yards, a huge margin in sprint!

Ms Falla of Norway was second (always a top performer, previous sprint world champ) and Lampic of Slovenia third (sprint cup winner 2021, though competitors abstained from several races, always a top performer too). Congrats to all medalists!



Jonna - what a donna!

Saturday was another fine day for the Swedish skiing girls, silver (Frida Karlsson) and bronze (Ebba Andersson) behind gold winner Therese "The Locomotive" Johaug, with about half a minute. The discipline is called skiathlon, which is 7.5 km classic style, then changing skis for 7.5 km skating.

But it was dramatic! Frida and Therese crashed and fell in the middle of the race, Ebba barely missing to be involved. Johaug's ski came out across Karlsson's and both fell. Andersson could take the lead for a time. Karlsson broke her ski pole and lost extra time getting a new one, but despite being the one losing most from the incident she came back and it was strong to grab the silver!



Gold medalist Jonna Sundling crushed competitors! The margin of 25m (30y) is light years in ski sprint...



The moment when Therese Johaug and Frida Karlsson crashed. But both came back, to gold and silver. Ebba in the back grabbed bronze.

Johaug was the favourite and took back the lead, but the Swedes showed to be in great shape and that's promising for the rest of the championship. Our Greatest One Ever, Charlotte Kalla (22 international medals!) made a strong race, finishing 5th despite having the season ruined by a corona infection and back problems. She raced herself into the relay team, for sure.

Sunday then became a great day for the lady squad, and to be honest - the Swedish team sprinters *were* also big favourites. In team sprint two skiers alternate to do every second round of six sprint laps. New world champ Jonna Sundling and 2019 team sprint world champ Maja Dahlqvist formed the Swedish team (Maja then teamed with Stina Nilsson, who last spring changed sport to biathlon, it's another story). This became a bit extra spicy because it was Jonna and Maja who crashed into each other in the 2019 individual final, which made them lose one or two medals.

This time they made no mistake. The Swedes lead through practically the whole race. Nadine Fähndrich of Switzerland tried to challenge on the final stretch, but fresh world champ Jonna would have none of it, and sailed through the finish line on the frozen water. Jonna and Maja got justice after the 2019 debacle, and both looked as happy as two-tailed dogs. Norway had a miserable day and finished sixth. On the other hand, their men's team won their race!

And the Swedes finished sixth there. I won't have reasons to cover the male Swedish skiers much. The men's squad is in a tough generation shift, after some very good ones retired a couple of years ago. It'll take some time to bounce back. One candidate is William Poromaa, promising ninth in skiathlon despite ski problems and only 20 years. BTW he's also the fiancé of already successful Frida Karlsson. Finland, usually a good skiing nation but also having problems, won the silver in the men's team sprint, which was excellent for them. Onnittelen!



Maja Dahlqvist and Jonna Sundling celebrate their team sprint gold medal!



Frida Karlsson before start. Silver was the result.

And just before deadline, we had the ladies' 10 km free style race. Norwegian "Locomotive" Johaug was impossible to shake, but two more medals for the Swedes, silver for Frida Karlsson and bronze for Ebba Andersson - the same procedure as in skiathlon. The Great One Charlotte Kalla finished a fine sixth despite, as noted, a miserable season with illnesses and few races. She'll do fine in the relay on Thursday. And the Swedish girls will be favourites! The three top Swedes today beat all Norwegians except Johaug and the fourth spot will be filled with (probably) sprint champ Jonna Sundling, with comet Linn Svahn as backup if her shoulder is fine. The Swedish lady squad is our best ever and a joy to follow, while we have to admit Norway's Johaug is the best distance runner...for some time still. It's all Ms Kalla's doing, often voted Sweden's most popular athlete all categories and she has inspired many young girls to get their boots into those long snow things. The medal catch is now six, better than in previous world championships, and more to come... (Relay and 30 km.)

But that's perhaps for next issue.

EAPA - Explicitly Allowing People Advantages - so join NOW!

HISTORY CORNER

I have written a lot about the legendary space journalist, artist and author Eugen Semitjov https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugen_Semitjov in the 10-issue history run. Skiffy has always been tightly connected to space exploration, with its speculative, futuristic scope. You only need to think of "2001 - A Space Odyssey" to see why. Approximately 123 456 sf novels covers spaceships and alien planets...

I was contacted by a film maker who plans to do a documentary about Eugen! (I won't spill more about the project yet. It's a guy I way back know from the Short Film Festival this zine often has reported from.) I gave him all the newspaper clips about Eugen and his father Vladimir Semitjov I had collected, some personal memories and all the tips I could come up with, and I wish the project comes through.

Here is BTW Eugen's official homepage (run by his son Jesper, I believe), with some stuff in English and lots of his exquisite art <https://semitjov.se/comics/?lang=en>

This gives me a reason to return to Semitjov material. Eugen is here proudly presented in the big newspaper Aftonbladet, April 12 1962, "Aftonbladet's Space Expert (you saw him in TV's news program) FIRST WITH SPUTNIK":



Eugen Semitjov (right), here with one of Swedish fandom's Founding Fathers, Dénis Lindbohm.

Aftonbladets rymdexpert (ni såg honom i TV:s Aktuellt) FÖRST MED SPUTNIK

Ni som såg TV i går kväll blev informerade om ryssarnas rymdförsök av Aftonbladets rymdexpert Eugen Semitjov. Sveriges radio har uppmärksammat att han är en av våra främsta populärskildrare av rymdforskningen. I förrgår kväll medverkade han också i radions Journalen.

TV I GÅR

I Aftonbladet har Eugen Semitjov sedan år tillbaka medarbetat med teckningar och text om rymden. Redan fyra månader innan ryssarna lyckades sända upp sin första satellit hade Eugen Semitjov döpt den till Sputnik.

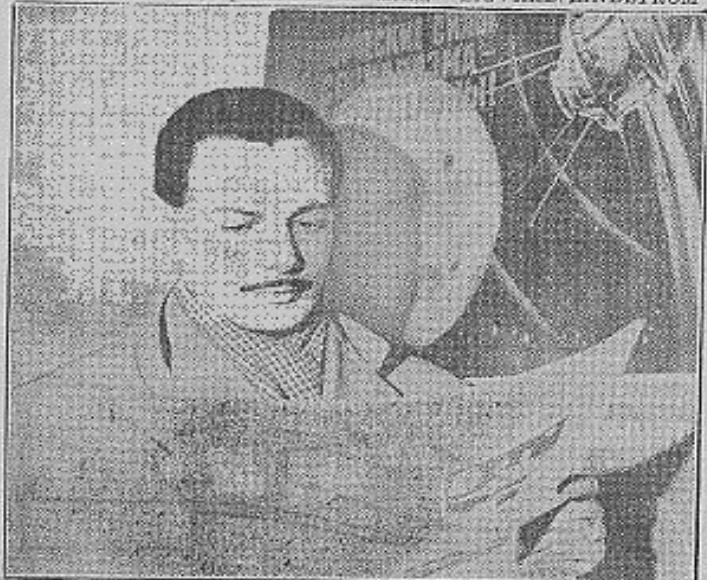
Eugen Semitjov har producerat sig i rymdfrågor också i Danmark, Norge, Finland, Tyskland och Argentina.

Han är en av de få västerländska experter som fått följa de ryska rymdexperimentera på plats. För en

tid sedan återkom han från en tusenmilafärd genom de europeiska och asiatiska Sovjet.

I två månader fick han besöka de ryska raketexperternas laboratorier och experimentverkstäder. Han besökte bl. a. Moskva, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Tiflis, Tasjkent och Samarkand.

Hans kunnande och hans förmåga att på lätt sätt förklara rymdfrågor och rymdförsök är välkänd för Aftonbladets läsare. Inför de förestående experimenten på "högsta nivå" kommer han som vanligt att ingående orientera Aftonbladets läsare — och TV-tittarna. SIGVARD LINDSTROM



Eugen Semitjov är en av de få västerlänningar som fått se de ryska rymdverkstäderna från insidan. Här under besöket i Moskva.

You who watched TV last night were informed about the Russian space experiments by Aftonbladet's space expert Eugen Semitjov. The national broadcaster has discovered that he is one of our foremost popular describers of space research. Last night he was also in the radio program Journalen. Eugen Semitjov has since several years contributed to Aftonbladet in illustrations and text about space. Four months before the Russians managed to launch their first satellite Eugen Semitjov had already named it Sputnik. Eugen Semitjov has produced material about space in Denmark, Norway, Finland, Germany and Argentina. He is one of few westerners experts that may follow the Russian space experiments on site. Some time ago he returned from a 10 000 km trip through European and Asian USSR. During two months he was able to visit the Russian rocket experts laboratories and experiment shops. He visited eg Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Tiflis, Taskent and Samarkand. /Swedish transcription of place names. English one may differ./ His knowledge and his ability to in an easy way explain space questions and space experiments is well known for the Aftonbladet readers. Now with coming experiments on the "highest level" he will as usual thoroughly orientate the readers of Aftonbladet - and the TV viewers. (Caption: Eugen Semitjov is one of few westerners who has been able to see the Russian space workshops from the inside. Here from the visit to Moscow.)

This was in time for Yuri Gagarin's first space trip, April 12 1961. But the same newspaper's TV review column "TV Yesterday" wasn't too happy with the TV news (titled "Aktuellt" = "Going on" or "Right now"), "Aktuellt Lost the Grip of the Space Trip", April 13:

Anyone expecting a clear overview on TV of the historic day in world history when the first human was sent into space became disappointed. When the *Aktuellt* extra broadcast came on rather late the highly interesting material was pushed out in one big mess, where all attempts of a clear line or composition disappeared. A long row of experts had been called up. Most of them never got the chance to elaborate upon their probably interesting views before time was up. A single interviewer, and a noticeably inexperienced one at that, made brave attempts to manage his enormous task. The somewhat knowledgeable could perhaps manage to get some interesting details out of this jumble. Eg Eugen Semitjov - well known for *Aftonbladet's* readers - managed to explain the very difficult landing of the spaceship with a couple of drawings.. Laborator Åke Hjertstrand and his colleague Rolf Moore - leading experts on rockets and satellites - gave a concentrated view of the space drama. The medical aspects of the curious voyage was also illustrated by aviation doctor Lars Laurell. But it was worse with the arrangement itself. You can understand the difficulties for TV to hunt for pictures and experts - but the question is if they shouldn't from the start have limited the experts and instead used their own experienced staff to map out the material.

The complaint was more about the TV program's editing and set up. Our friend Eugen did fine. He was also a frequent guest in the TV studios during the American space projects, including the Moon landings. He received the Grand Prize of Journalism ("Stora Journalistpriset") for his space reporting in 1972, well deserved!

Let's move to real skiffy speculations, on something we haven't seen yet - the manned trip to Mars. (Even if we could note a robotic success recently. Good luck to Percy!) Wernher von Braun had in the early 1950s described manned Mars missions in *Colliers Magazine* and would later do a series of similar TV shows for Walt Disney. This was certainly stuff Eugen had studied as he described his own ideas in *Aftonbladet*, January 14, 1955, in "*The Mars Rocket*" (next page):

Aktuellt tappade greppet om rymdfärden

TV I GÅR

Av SVEN HAMMERIN

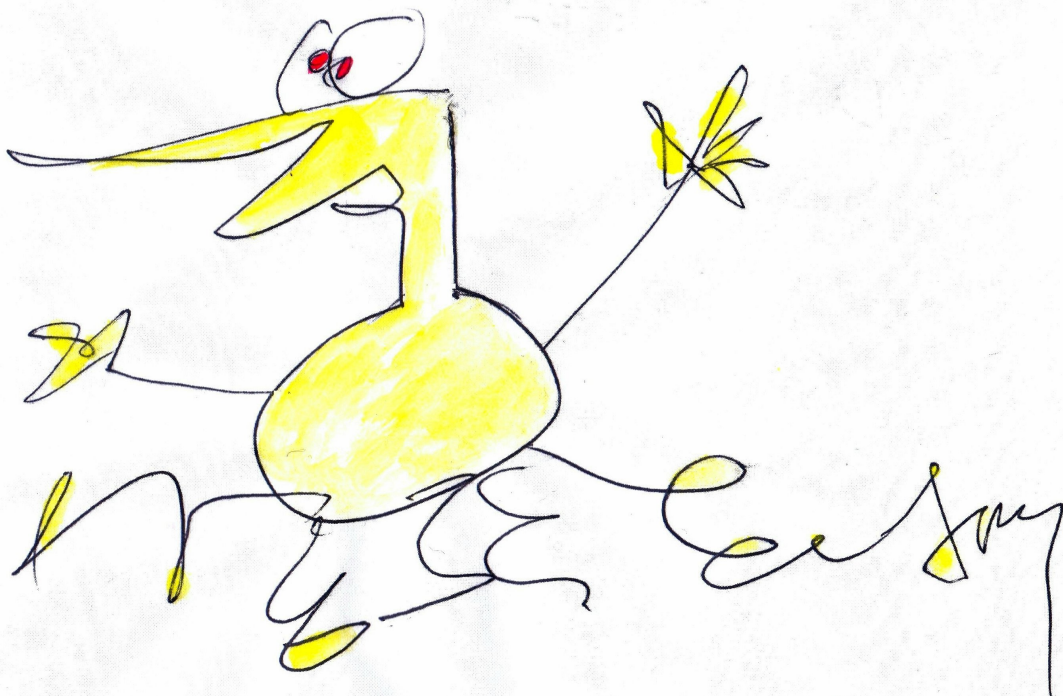
Den som väntade sig en över-
skådlig sammanfattning i TV av
den världshistoriska dagen när den
första människan sändes ut i rym-
den blev besviken. När *Aktuellt*-
extran kom ut sent omsider portio-
nerades det högtintressanta mate-
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sök till linjer och uppläggning för-
svann.

En hel rad experter hade inkal-
lats. De flesta av dem fick aldrig
chans att utveckla sina säkerligen
intressanta synpunkter förrän ve-
derbrändes tid var ute. En enda
intervjuare, och därill en märk-
bart orutinerad och nervös sådan,
gjorde tappra försök att klara av
sin enorma uppgift.

Ur virrvarret lyckades väl den
något initierade att få ut vissa in-
tressanta detaljer. Bl. a. lyckades
Eugen Semitjov — välkänd för
Aftonbladets läsare — att med ett
par teckningar förklara den utom-
ordentligt svåra nedtagningen av
rymdskeppet. Laborator Åke Hjert-
strand och hans kollega Rolf
Moore — framstående raket- och
satellitexperter — gav en koncis
bild av hela rymddramat. De me-
dicinska aspekterna på den märk-
liga färden tecknades också upp
av flygläkaren Lars Laurell.

Värre var det som sagt när det
gällde själva uppläggnigen. Man
förstår så innerligt gärna TV:s
svårigheter att jaga fram bildmate-
rial och experter — men frågan
är om man inte från början bor-
de ha valt att begränsa experter
och i stället avdelat flera egna ru-
tinerade medarbetare till utform-
ningen av materialet.

Well, that's a great start.



What came first, the hen or the egg? Artist Lars "LON" Olsson speculates.

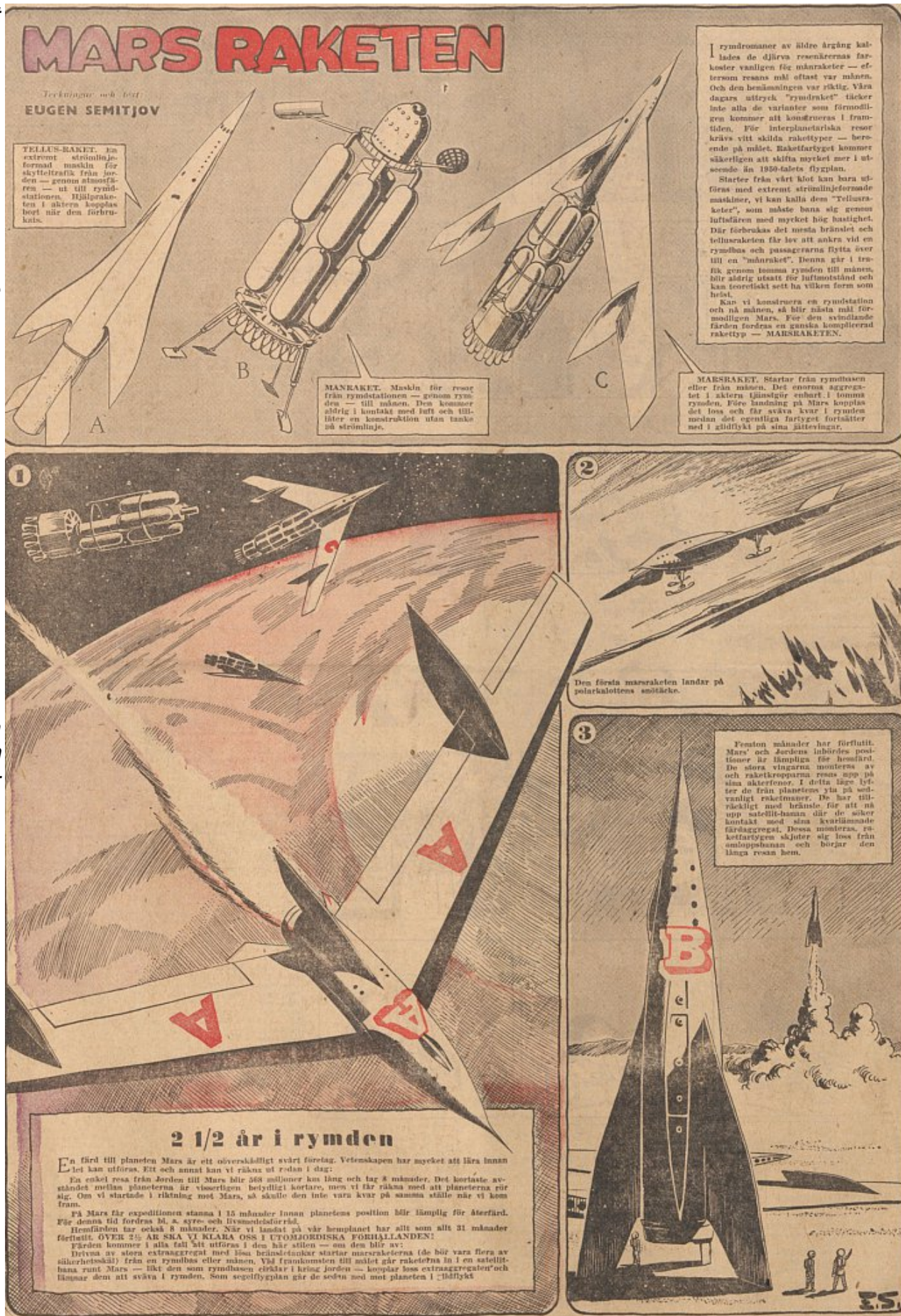
Big box: In older space novels the vehicles of the bold space travellers were usually called moon rockets - since the goal of the trip usually was the Moon. And that designation was correct. In our days the term "space rocket" won't cover all variations that probably will be constructed in the future. For interplanetary trips very different rocket types are needed - depending on the target. The rocket ship will certainly vary as much in look than the aircraft of the 1950s. Launches from our globe can only happen with very streamlined machines we call Tellus rockets, and must push through the atmosphere in very high speed. Most of the fuel will be used up there and the Tellus rocket must anchor at a space base and the passengers move to a "moon rocket". It will travel through empty space to the Moon, will never face air resistance and may in theory be of any shape. If we can construct

a space station and reach the Moon, next goal will probably be Mars. That breathtaking journey requires a rather complicated rocket type - The Mars Rocket.

Box 1: The Tellus rocket. An extremely streamlined machine for shuttle traffic to Earth - through the atmosphere-out to the space station. Auxiliary rockets in the back are dropped when used up.

Box 2: Moon rocket. Machine for journeys from the space station - through space - to the Moon. It never gets in contact with air which allows for a design without thought of streamlining.

Box 3: Mars rocket. Starts from the space station or from the Moon. The huge engine in the back only works in space. Before landing on Mars it is uncoupled and the ship itself continues in a



glide on its giant wings.

Big illlo 1: 2 1/2 years in space. A trip to the planet Mars is an incredibly difficult enterprise. Science has much to learn before it can be done. But we can anticipate one or two things already today: a single trip from Earth to Mars will be 568 km long /Ed: Hm, that will vary!!/ and takes 8 months. While the shortest distance between the planets is far less we must count on that they move. If we started pointing to Mars it wouldn't be in the same place when we reached there. The expedition may stay on Mars for 15 months before the position of the planet will be suitable for the trip back. The return trip also takes 8 months. When we land on our home planet 31 months have all in all passed. FOR OVER 2 1/2 MONTHS WE MUST BE ABLE TO COPE WITH UNEARTHLY CIRCUMSTANCES. The trip will go this way - if it will happen: Powered by big extra engines with external fuel tanks the Mars rockets (there should be several for safety reasons) from a space base or the Moon. Arriving at the target the rockets enter a satellite orbit around Mars - like the one the space base has around Earth - drops extra engines and leave them to float in space. Like a glider they then move towards the planet surface.

Illlo 2: The first Mars rocket lands on the snow of the polar cap.

Illlo 3: 15 months have passed. The positions of Mars and Earth are suitable for travelling home. De big wings are removed and the rocket body is raised on the aft fins. In this position it lifts from the planet's surface in the usual rocket manner. They have enough fuel to reach the satellite orbit where they will reach contact with the engines left behind. These are attached, the rocketship shots itself free from the orbit and begins the long trip home.

This scenario is clearly inspired by but not identical to the one von Braun presented, and its obvious that Eugen knew his stuff. And it's a quite possible and realistic Mars expedition, given that the vessels are given a more modern design.

Beside being a fine artist (for many years drawing the space comic "Allan Kämpe" which sold internationally) Eugen Semitjov was also journalist and author. Writing a long row of popular science and space books he also wrote a number of adventure novels for young readers, with an sf slant of course. Thoughh being a staff artist for the old *Jules Verne Magasinet* (1940-47) he never had any short stories in any of the - not too many - Swedish sf mags. However, I found a short story by him in his regular newspaper *Aftonbladet*. It is formally an article, but is phrased like a piece of fiction, "We Broke the Time Barrier" was the title, published September 8 1959:

I bumped into Peter in the astronauts' mess on my first free evening after the extensive debriefing. I had hoped to find him there. We had followed each other in high school, being of the same age and class in the astronaut school and finally the new photon training. It was the photon rocket that made out ways part. I had applied to and been accepted for the first deep space journey, while Peter had preferred to stay with the atomic fleet.

It took some time before any of us said something. We just stood and looked at each other. Tried to discover any changes. You see, we were not longer of the same age. Peter was now one year older than me. It may sound like science fiction, but is the real truth. We were both at age 27 when I started, but now after the return to Earth I am 30 year and Peter 31.

But that isn't so strange - I and the entire crew of the photon rocket have been subjects of the time dilation that happens near light speed. The mathematician Albert Einstein predicted it in his theory of relativity already half a century ago. We in the photon rocket FR-F 18 are the first to experience it. I and Peter now sit and chat over a drink. The evening rests dark and warm over the rocket field and the heat flows in through the open windows of the mess. Far away in the darkness a few rocket fuselages shines white in the searchlights. It's the streamlines ferries that go to the space stations.

We never came to any conclusions in our discussions. Peter says I have lost a year of my life while I claim the opposite - that I have been given an extra year. Who is right? Perhaps we both are. I'd better tell the whole thing from the beginning.



Photon rockets - driven by light energy and the fastest vessels to travel through space - had already been in practical use for a couple of years when our operation began to be planned. We called it "Operation Einstein" and its purpose was to explore the effects of time dilation during a three year journey. The photon drive was at the time far advanced, and the problem was rather to make the rocket self-sufficient so that the crew's need of nourishment and oxygen could be met during the long journey.

A huge staff of space physicians, chemists, atomic physicists and other specialists in many different areas managed to solve the task and two years

later the spaceship lay readily assembled and anchored to the satellite station B2 in its 24-hour orbit. We bid farewell to loved ones and friends who had gathered by the ferry rocket that would take us to the space station. Peter was there and joked about that they would have to come and get us with an old, trusty atomic rocket when we ran out of photons.

We didn't exchange any words, when we the ten selected embarked the photon rocket through the air tunnel from the space station eight hours later. All went on routine and like other interplanetary expeditions, and yet this was something different from before. A spaceship would for the first time leave the solar system and rush

VI SPRÄNGDE TIDVALLEN!

Text och teckning av EUGEN SEMITJOV

Jag stötte ihop med Peter i astronautmässen på min första frikväll efter den omfattande rapportgivningen. Jag hade hoppats att finna honom där. Vi hade följts åt som jämnåriga klasskamrater i gymnasiet, astronautskolan och slutligen den nyutvecklade foton-kursen. Det var fotonraketen som skilde våra vägar. Jag hade anmält mig och antagits till den första färresan, medan Peter föredragit att stanna vid atomflotten.

Fem steg mot FRAMTIDEN

Det tog en stund innan vi kom oss för att säga något. Vi stod bara och granskade varandra. Fästskåpet upptäckte förändringar. Vi var nämligen inte jämnåriga längre. Nu var Peter ett år äldre än jag. Det låter kanske som science-fiction, men det är ren verklighet. Vi var båda 27-åringar när jag startade, men nu efter återkomsten till jorden är jag 28 år och Peter 29. Det där är inte så konstigt - jag och hela den övriga besättningen på fotonraketen har nämnt ut för den tidsfördröjning som uppstår vid hastigheter nära ljusets. Matematikern Albert Einsteins förutspådde det i sin relativitetsteori redan för snart ett halvsäkt sedan. Vi i fotonraketen FR-F18 är de första som har upplevt det.

Äldre eller yngre?

Nu sätter Peter och jag och pratar vid en drink. Kvällen villar mörk och varm över raketfältet och värmen flyter in genom de öppna fönstren i mäsken. Långt borta i dunklet lyser några raketkroppar via i strålkastarljus. Det är de strömlinjeskärarna som går i trafik till rymdstationerna. Vi kommer inte till någon slut-sats i vår diskussion. Peter säger att jag har förlorat ett år av mitt liv, medan jag påstår motsatsen - att jag har ett år tillgodo. Vem har rätt? Kanske har vi det båda två. Det är bäst att berätta allt från början.

"Operation Einstein"

Fotonraketer - som drivas med ljusenergi och är de snabbaste farkoster som trafikerar rymden - hade redan använts praktiskt i ett par års tid när vår uppgift började planeras. Vi kallade den "Operation Einstein" - och den gick ut på att under en treårig rymdfärd utforska tidsfördröjningen. Lagar. Fotonraketen var vid det laget långt avancerad, problemen var närmast att göra raketen självförsörjande så att besättningens behov av näring och syre kunde tillgodoses under den långa resan.

En ståtstab av rymdmedicinare, kemiker, atomfysiker och övriga specialister på de mest skilda områden lyckades genomföra uppgiften och två år senare låg det enorma rymdskeppet färdigmonterat och färdigmonterat vid satellitstation B2 i 24-timmarsbanan. Vi tog farväl av anhöriga och vännar som samlats vid raketfärjan, som skulle föra oss till rymdstationen. Peter var där och vittnade något om att man skulle få hämta hem oss med en gammal bekräftad atomraketen när fotonerna släckades.

Tio utvalda

När vi tio utvalda embarkerade fotonraketen genom lufttunneln från rymdstationen föra timmar senare, växlades inte ett ord. Allt gick rutinmässigt och likt tidigare interplanetary expeditioner och ändå var detta något helt annat än förr. Ett rymdskepp skulle för första gången lämna solsystemet och rusar ut i det avsnittande tomrummet mellan stjärnorna.

Vi föll sakta bort från rymdstationen drivna av fotonstrålens mjuka rekyl. Accelerationen avspändes från början så att vi erhöi ungefär normal kroppsvikt. Rymdskeppet

♦ JU SNABBARE en farkost färdas, desto längre sammanrör tiden om bord. Så lyder tidsparadoxen i Einsteins relativitetsteori. Fenomenet blir märkbart först vid hastigheter som närmar sig ljusets - 300.000 km/sek. Det kan verka långt ifrån nutidens raketfarter vars topp är 40.000 km/tim. Men redan nu planeras framtida rymdskepp med fotonstrålmotorer - fotoner är ljusets energienheter - och med denna drivkraft ska man kunna nå nära ljushastigheten. Ljus kan bli drivkraft. T. o. m. en ficklampa ger en rekyl! - fast omåttligt liten - när den tänds.

♦ I DENNA ARTIKEL som utspelas några decennier fram i tiden, möter människor för första gången tidsfördröjningens fenomen. I den framtida rymddåren får vi vänja oss av med många jordiska begrepp - tiden är ett av dem.

hade formen av en gigantisk stav-lampa med "reflektion" i aktern.

Efter tre och en halv månads färd hade vi nått Einsteintal 0.5 - dvs farten var nu tre tiodelar av ljusets eller 90.000 km/sek. Den hastighetsmängden påminner om luftfartens Mach-tal som beskriver fartens förhållande till ljudhastigheten - Einsteintalet ger förhållande till ljusets hastighet. Solen bakom oss var inte längre någon sol, den var en glänsa bland Vintergatan mil-jarder. Vi höll kurs mot vår närmaste stjärngården, Proxima Centauri, som ligger på 4,2 ljusårs avstånd från solen. Vi hade resorser för att flyga ändå dit, men det insåg inte i "Operation Einstein". Vi skulle inte mycket mer än halvvägs.

Jag ska inte gå in på detaljer - värn arbetsuppgifter, vår frid - jag ska bara säga att trots att allt var ordnat för vår rymdärlning och fördröjelse, var dessa tre år en enda fruktansvärd tristess. Inte ens sensationen av att slutligen ha passerat det föreskrivna Einsteintal 0.5 och nått en fart på omkring 270.000 km/sek. Kunde få oss att glömma vår hemlingstan.

Och ändå var det en svindlande känsla att veta att vi nu nätt en hastighet vid vilken tiden gick halften så fort ombord som på jorden. Om vi kunnat seende-TV över detta avstånd skulle de vid mottagarna på jorden se oss som i ultra-rapid. De skulle se våra kläckor avverka bara 30 minuter under en jordisk timme, hela oss tala släpigt och dovt som ett spelband i för låg hastighet. Medan allt tode sig som vanligt ombord.

Ytterligare sekunder, minuter, timmar - inbromsning under månader. Och så tillbaka igen. Åter acceleration till Einsteintal 0.8 och tidsfördröjningsfaktor 2. Åter färd i månader genom interstellart tomrum, men nu åt rätt håll - mot vår sol som sak-

ta börjar växa till den kleraste stjärnan i Vintergatan's mäsken.

Tidsfördröjningen var svår att beräkna, den skiftade efter fotonraketen accelerationer och retardationer. Den förändrades ständigt, växte eller krympte. Elektronhjärnorna skötte om det - att se till att vi under våra skiftande farter uppnådde en sammanlagd tidsfördröjning av ett år.

En månad från jorden

Efter tre år i evighetens tomrum återkom vi till bekanta trakter, passerade Plutons bana och fortsatte med bromsad fart allt längre in i solsystemet. Solen lyfte oss vänligt till mötet, snuru mycket avlägsen. Vi hade en månad kvar till den efterlängade jorden och landningen vid rymdstationen. Under den sista veckan nådde vi radiokontakt och utbytte tidsuppgifter. Vi visste vad som var att vänta och ändå var upplevelsen sensationell. Så här 365 rapporten från oss.

FR-F18 anropar jorden efter tre års interstellär flykt och hastigheter upp till Einsteintal 0.834. Rakettid och datum - 22.01 den 18 augusti år 1987. Kort därefter kom jordens svar:

Jorden anropar FR-F18: Vid er-hållandet av ert anrop hade vi Greenwichid 22.15 den 15 augusti år 1988.

Tidsfördröjningen i Einsteins relativitetsteori var praktiskt bevisad. Tiden på jorden var på åtta minuter när dansarna som var - men ETT ÅR SENARE.

Resa i tiden

Flera kolleger har samlats runt bordet i mäsken där Peter och jag sitter, och diskussionen är livlig. Vad har det blivit av det felande året? Det är en medeltidens astronaut på mäsken som faller det avgörande ordet.

- Ni har två båda två, postrar. Ingen har varken förlorat eller vunnit ett år. Det har bara uppstått ett års förskjutning mellan era liv. Du som var med på fotonraketen - du har flyttats fram ett år, men din livslängd är oförändrad. Kalla det för en resa i tiden.

"...och ändå var det en svindlande känsla att veta att vi nu nätt en hastighet vid vilken tiden gick halften så fort ombord som på jorden..."



"Of course, the real charm of the place is that hole in the space-time continuum."

out into the dazzling emptiness between the stars.

We floated slowly away from the space station, driven by the soft recoil of the photon beam. The acceleration was in the beginning set up so that we obtained normal body weight. The spaceship had the shape of a giant flashlight with the reflector in the aft.

We had reached the Einstein number 0.3 after three and a half months' trip - it means the speed was now three tenths the speed of light or 90 000 km/sec. This way to measure speed resembles air travel's Mach numbers to measure the speed in relation to the speed of sound - the Einstein number does it relation to the speed of light. The sun behind us was no longer a sun, it was a star among the billions of these in the Milky Way. Our course was towards our closest neighbour, Proxima Centauri, at a distance of 4.21 light years. We had resources to fly all the way there, but it wasn't a part of "Operation Einstein". We wouldn't go much more than halfway.

I shan't go into details - our work tasks, our spare time - just say that despite that everything was arranged for our work and entertainment, these three years were terribly boring. Not even the sensation to finally have passed the planned Einstein number 0.8 and reaching a speed of 250 000 km/sec could make us forget our longing or home.

And still it was a dizzying feeling to know that we now had reached a speed at which times moves half as fast as on Earth. /This sentence is also pic caption./ If we had been able to broadcast TV over this distance, the receivers on Earth would see us moving in slow motion. They would see our clocks move only 30 minutes during an Earth hour, hear us talk sluggish and muffled like like a sound tape in a too slow speed. Meanwhile everything would seem normal onboard.

More seconds, minutes, hours - breaking for months. And going back again. More deacceleration to Einstein 0.3 from time dilation 2. More travel for months in empty interstellar space, but now in the right direction - towards our sun, that slowly grows to the shiniest star in the pattern of the Milky Way.

The time dilation was difficult to calculate, it shifted with the photon rocket's accelerations and deaccelerations. It shifted constantly, grew or shrank. The electronic brains took care of it - to make sure than we during our shifting speeds reached a total time delay of one year.

After three years in the emptiness of eternity we came back to recognisable grounds, passed the orbit of Pluto and continued with slowing speed further into the solar system. The Sun shone friendly on us, still very far away. We had a month to go to the Earth we longed for and the landing at the space station. During the very last week we reached radio contact and exchanged time data. We knew what was to expect but the experience was still sensational. This is what the report about us read like:

FR-F18 calls Earth after three years of interstellar travel and speeds up to Einstein 0.834. Rocket time and date 22.07 August 14 year 1987. Shortly thereafter Earth replied:

Earth calls FR-F18. When receiving your call we had Greenwich time 22.15 August 16 year 1988.

The time dilation in Einstein's relativity theory was proven in practice. Time of Earth was within 8 minutes the same as ours - but ONE YEAR LATER.

Several colleagues had gathered around the mess table where Peter and I sat, and the discussion was lively. What had happened with the missing year? It's a middle-aged astronaut on the Moon route who comes with the decisive words:

"You are both of you wrong, boys. Nobody has neither lost or won a year. There has only been a year's displacement between your lives. You onboard the photon rocket - you have moved forward one year, but your life time hasn't changed. You can call it to travel in time."

A nice little story. For us hard-boiled sf fans it may seem trivial, but for the readers of this evening tabloid it must have been quite exciting.

Earlier *Intermissions* have covered Eugen's early life, born in Sweden in 1923 in a Russian immigrant family, having the father Vladimir who was already an acclaimed author. The father wrote a lot in newspapers and weeklies and had several books published in Swedish, becoming a respected and well-known name in Stockholm's cultural life - even appearing in national radio! Here you see the radio program for August 21 1927, the relevant part reads "Vladimir Semitjov and his boy Valdemar play the balalaika and guitar". The "Valdemar" mentioned

Riksprogrammet för veckan 21—27 aug.

Stockholm (454,5):

Följande förkortningar användas: St. = Stockholm, Mo. = Motala, G. = Göteborg, Må. = Malmö, Su. = Sundsvall, B. = Boden och Ö. = Östersund. Då ingen bokstav förekommer, går programmet över alla stationer.

Varje dag (då intet annat angivits): 12,35 St, Mo, G, Må och Su: Väderleksrapport. 12,45 St, Mo, G, Må och Su: Riksbanks- och fondbörsnoteringarna. 12,55 St, Mo, G, Må och Su: Tidssignal. 9,15 Dagsnyheter från TT. 9,30 Väderleksrapport.

Söndag: 11 Högmässa från St Peterskyrkan. — 12,45 Väderleksrapport. — 5,10 Barnprogram: Ebbe Lieberath berättar pojkhistorier, Hekarna Zedig sjunga visor och Vladimir Semitjov och hans pojke Valdemar spela balalaika och gitarr. — 5,55 Klockspelet från Stadshustornet. — 6 Aftonsång från Jakobs kyrka. Predikan av kyrkoherde Eskil Andre. — 7,15 Konsert av Siljansbygdens körörbund. — 8 "En nyckel". Proverb av Alfred de Musset. — 8,45 Militärmusik av Upplands infanteriregementes musikkår. — 9,35 Su: Idrottsnytt. — 9,40 —10,30 Gamml dansmusik från "Polketten" på Liseberg (Göteborg). — 10,30 G: Idrottsnytt.

LÖRDAGENS PROGRAM.

Motala (Riksprogrammet):

7,20 Gymnastik.
7,45 Morgonandakt.
8,00 Väderleksrapport.
12,00 Klockspelet från Stadshustornet; dagens dikt.
12,10 Väderleksrapport och dagsnyheter.
12,25 Musik av Skansenkvartetten.
12,50 Valutakurser o. fondb.-noteringar.
12,55 Tidssignal.
13,00 Forts. på musiken av Skansenkvartetten.
13,25 S. M. i skidloppning: 50-kilometersloppet (Örnsköldsvik).
15,45 På audiens hos en jazzkung. Käseri med grammonofonillustrationer av Claes Livijn.
16,15 Ett besök på planeten Venus. Ur "43,000,000 mil i världrymden" av Vladimir Semitjov. Uppläsning för ungdom av Fritiof Billquist.
16,45 Sång till luta av Vilhelm Julinder.
17,00 Väderleksrapport.
17,05 Kompositioner för violin och piano spelade av Charles Barkel och Nata-nael Broman.
17,35 San Marino — Europas äldsta stat. Käseri av James Dickson (Göteborg)

must be Eugen's - he was only four at the time - older brother Volodja, making the name sound more Swedish. It was only two years since the national radio monopoly had started, and having only one channel everyone who owned a radio set would listen. Beside being talented with words, the Semitjovs knew their way around music too!

Father Vladimir would hit the ether more times, like having his books read on radio, as March 5 1937 (see right), time 16:15 (4:15 PM): "A visit to the planet Venus. From 480 000 000 in outer

Mänresenärer in spe på supé

Svenska Interplanetariska Sällskapet skulle egentligen hålla sin första stora jubileumsfest 1960 — när SIS fyller 10 år. Men eftersom 1958 blivit det nykläckta rymdflygets stora år, bråkade det löst redan i går på Flygrestaurangen i Bromma.

Efter piccata milanese och klingande bågare överräckte ordföranden Åke Hjertstrand — han som brukar höras i radiolocket så snart det hänt något i rymden — ordförandeklubban till sin efterträdare ing. Lars Henrik Ågren. Hjertstrand avgår för att få tid att förbereda den internationella rymdkongressen i Stockholm 1960. Som tack för det stöd hon varit frö fru Gun Hjertstrand en guld-länk med Världsfederationens symboler av sin make.

Och så kom man förstås in på rymdflygning. SAAB-chefen Lars Brising sa att astronautiken (så heter rymdflyg fackfolk emellan) är mer beroende av mänsklig samverkan än av tekniken. Civ-ling. Björn Bergqvist från Flygtekniska försöksanstalten ville få astronautiken bättre respekterad och dir. Lars Garielsson ansåg att sputnikarna och påvens väl-signelse betytt mest för rymdforskarnas kontakt med allmänheten. Docent Carl Reuterswärd tog upp frågan om pressen och rymdnyheterna, och AB-tecknaren Eugen Semitjov berättade hur det går till att rita månkrak-ter klockan 5 på morgonen.

Fru Märta Bergqvist talade om att det finns skolor som tänker lägga hembygden på hyllan och gå in för rymdläran i stället.

— Jag vet inte ett dytt om astronautik, men är rysligt intresserad, sa den nyaste SIS-medlemmen, piloten Ulla Du Rietz i marsröd klänning.

Och så drog rymdsällskapet hemåt medan stjärnorna blinkade — kanake inte fullt så avlägsna som förut.

space" by Vladimir Semitjov. Read for the youth by Fritiof Billquist." By the way, speaking of skiing, the radio program for this day also offered, 13:25 (1:25 PM) "Swedish Championship in cross-country skiing: the 50 km race (Örnsköldsvik)".

To finish withy the Semitjovs, for now, let's note that Sweden's top space reporter of course lectured when the Swedish Interplanetary Society held its 10th anniversary, due to time dilation two years in advance, "Moon travellers in Spe having Supper", Aftonbladet, October 17 1958:

The Swedish Interplanetary Society should have had its first big anniversary party 1960 - when SIS is 10 years. But since 1958 has become the newborn aerospace big year, it came about already yesterday at the Airport Restaurant in Bromma. After Piccata Milanese and ringing toasts the chairman Åke Hjertstrand - who is heard in the radio news as soon something is on in space - the chairman gavel to his successor engineer Lars Henrik Ågren. Hjertstrand resigns to have time to prepare the international space convention in Stockholm 1960. As thanks for the support she has been Mrs Gun Hjertstrand was given a gold bracelet with the symbols of the World Federation by her husband. And they of course came into talking spaceflight. The SAAB boss Lars Brising said that astronautics (that's what spaceflight is called between the experts) is more dependent of human cooperation than technology. Civil engineer Björn Bergqvist from the Aeronautic Experiments Agency wanted to have more respect for astronautics and director Lars Garielsson thought that the sputniks and the blessings from the pope has been most important for the space scientists' contacts with the public. PhD Carl Reuterswärd raised the question about the press and space news, while the AB artist Eugen Semitjov told how you can draw moon rockets at 5 in the morning. Mrs Märta Bergqvist told us that that there are schools that plan to can local history and replace it with space science. "I don't know one bit about astronautics, but am terribly interested," the newest SIS member Ulla Du Rietz said, in a dress red as Mars. And then the space society went home while the stars twinkled - perhaps not as distant as before.

The Swedish Interplanetary Society still "indirectly" exists, since it in 1968 joined the Aerotechnical Association ("Flygtekniska föreningen", name "Interplanetary" was unfortunately dropped)) which still exists, and has always been a much bigger group due to the quite important Swedish aircraft industry (building all those advanced jets: J29, J35, J37, now J39 Gripen). Here a presentation of the old Swedish Interplanetary Society, through Google Translate:

[https://translate.google.com/translate?](https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=sv&u=https://www.zenker.se/Space/sis_hjertstrand.shtml)

https://www.zenker.se/Space/sis_hjertstrand.shtml

Nothing Happened In 2020...

Intermission usually has an events calendar, showing and reporting from maybe half a dozen events the last month. I often attend lectures, seminars, art show openings, press conferences, literary events and so on. But virtually *all* of that have been cancelled since March last year. I did go to Lapland with my brother for a little vacation last summer, but I save that for a later issue - I have made Lapland reports before - and I have already reported from the small sf con Ökon2 we managed to do in the autumn, the sole Swedish 2020 con. As the virus is *clearly receding* with vaccines and warmer weather, I hope that opportunistic politicians and snug "experts" will confess their sins and let us have a normal eventful life, with a calendar once more filled up...

However, after the summer and much of the autumn the damn virus kept reasonably calm - until weather became colder and the virus yelled "Horray!" as people moved more indoors to infect each

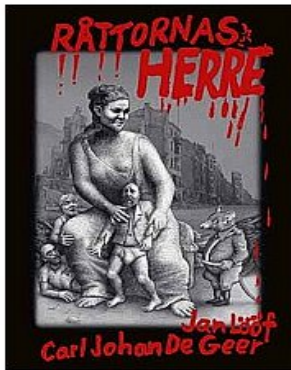
Välkommen på release för nya böcker av Carl Johan De Geer och Lena Andersson!

Kom till Lilla Nygatan 10 i Gamla Stan och fira tillsammans med Lena Andersson och Carl Johan De Geer. Torsdag 24 september kl 18.30-20.00.
Möt författarna och hör dem berätta om sina böcker i ett samtal modererat av Nina Hemmingsson.

Inbjudan är personlig och gäller för en person.
OSA senast 21/9 till: thomas@kaunitz-olsson.com eller 0704 32 10 44

När: Torsdag 24 september 18.30-20.00
Var: Kaunitz-Olssons bokhandel samt Gamla Stans Cykel,
Lilla nygatan 10

Välkomna önskar bokförlagen Kaunitz-Olsson och Polaris!



other in all friendliness...

One publisher dared to hold a book release, for a social novel by columnist Lena Andersson (one of the best ones, in the Svenska Dagbladet paper) and the dystopian sf novel *Lord of the Rats* by Carl Johan De Geer, about people and mutated rats struggling underground after the Big Disaster (see left). They held it September



Me with CJ De Geer signing his new, k apocalyptic novel .

24 in the Old Town's quaint alleys outside the publisher's bookshop. Echoing through the alleys you could hear New Orleans jazz played by a small band brought in for the occasion. Nice! Had a

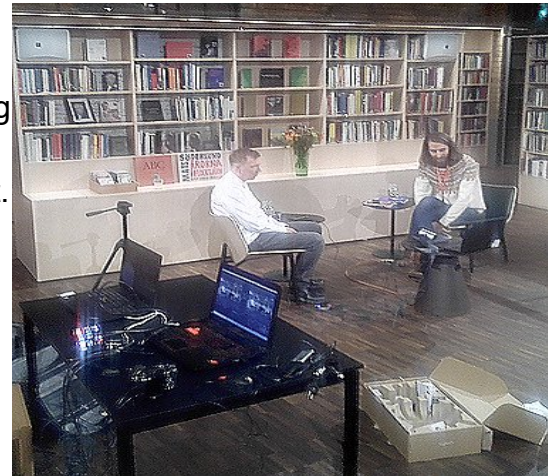


little chat with Carl Johan, who I have known for many years, but was very, very careful to keep six feet away, since he is in a risk group. Had some bheer, krisps and a good time.

And the Tranströmer Public Library, named for Nobel laureate Tomas Tranströmer (unless some activist mob thinks he said something bad in 1962 and demands the place to be de-named...) had live following of the Nobel prize announcement for literature to poet Louise Glück, with just a small audience present October 8 (below, left). Later, the same library, which has recently got new renovated space in the Citizen's House - where they were before, in another wing - held an on-line seminar on writing about love, December 3. No

audience present or allowed, but I took a shot (below, right) of them setting up their gear before they closed and kicked us all out. That's about all I have to report for now. Lapland in next ish, perhaps. There have been a lot of on-line events through Zoom or Loom or Doom or what-the-heck-it's-called, but I'm not

interested in such. Sitting in front of a computer to stare at a talking head isn't for me, unless it's something funny on Youtube. I of course also went to Katarina Street above the Stockholm harbour for the best view of the New Year's fireworks, and I noted that there were just about as many people out as usual there. Quarantine? Distancing? Lockdowns? Don't kid us!



Sailing Cometh

R Graeme Cameron: Come back, all is forgiven!

William McCabe: According to all experts I've heard the corona flu vaccines do make you immune, ie if the vaccine takes hold, if it works on you. They give an efficiency of a vaccine, which for most seems to be in the range 90-95%. If you are in those 90-95% you are immune, but if you still are infected a vaccine will make it less severe. The best info we have also says you are immune if you have had the virus, "for at least 12 months" (says our chief epidemiologist Dr Tegnell, adding "Re-infection seems to be extremely rare", single cases among millions or so). The vaccines also seems to work well on the new "mutations". Stockholm has seen lots of snow in January and February, and it's been rather cold. (Hear, Greta!) But we're used to it. It seems it has been worse in the US, even in many of the states that hardly ever see snow. You're right about RE Howard! He imagined his stories set in on pre-historical Earth. As for the Tentacles, I just found it through Google. Yes, there have always been "unknown" groups of fans; it's something I have sometimes found out, like the Atomic Noah club.

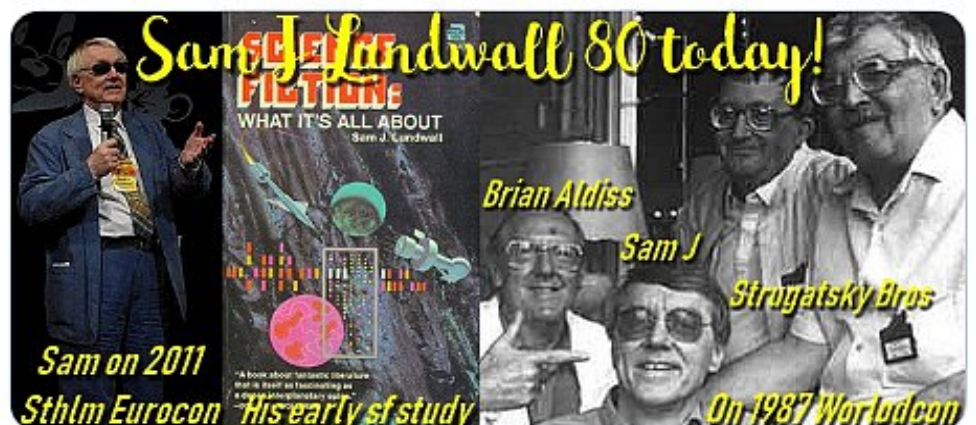
Henry Grynsten: Good that you found and liked and was inspired by Clloev! Interesting about Mozart, that he didn't write all the works ascribed to him. I must say it does sound a bit odd that he should have written his thirteenth three hour opera shortly after he was out of the womb... That other members of the family wrote some, that they "borrowed" pieces etc sounds possible. Many of the things and evidence you present looks compelling, but I don't know enough about classical music to say much. Personally, I'd like to see more off the strange hobbies of Arnold Layne...

Garth Spencer: What were the mistakes in the Official Guidelines? As for making PDFs, it also works very well to do them in Open Office Writer. Just select Save As PDF in the menus. BTW I've heard rumours that a group of 8 or possibly 9 unknown fans will congregate. Have you heard of it...?

Finally, congratulations to Sam J Lundwall, who turned 80 February 24! No one has done more for the sf genre over here than him. Intermission has earlier covered eg his music and TV career, and from what I heard the virus hasn't gotten to him yet. To the right what I posted on Twitter about him. And also the links, in short form, if you want to read more on Sam J:

<https://t.co/x1Bj74m4GG>
<https://t.co/U3Yomt1BjO>
<https://t.co/CtHJth4ZPb>
<https://t.co/6pBeNB2v3L>

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Doing fanzines is like a virus! So join EAPA and get that bug instead of Another Notorious One...