

In this issue: Instead of a lockdown, a look down into Swedish skiffy history!

INTERMISSION #96

Small E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com for EAPA. In Twitter, follow my newstweets from Nordic sf/fantasy/horror/fandom on @SFJournalen (and my private account @ahrvid, but I've had less time to work with it). How about developing a vaccine against typos? Thish is problaby infected by them... Just after Mercer's Day 31 April 2020.

CORONALLY

Well. In thish I'll return to our not so welcome friend Corona, but not as a diary as in last issue. I'll just collect a number of random observations, thoughts and speculations. It might be of interest to hear this from a Swedish perspective, since Sweden through is outlier "lax" -not really, that's fishy! - virus policies has caught the attention of the world. Through Google News you'll find thousands of reports of how Sweden has rejected Total Lockdown, and Youtube has hundreds of newscasts about it.

There's been some lockdowns, eg lots of libraries have closed (probably because they tend to be visited by the elderly), including the Royal Library in Stockholm. To compensate for it this library has made it's huge collection of digitised newspapers available free and on-line for a limited period. That has been a goldmine for an sf and fandom researcher like me, and I have spent days upon days searching through the collection. Some of this will be presented in this *Intermission*, with translations of interesting parts. Because it may be of historical interest I'll distribute thish a bit outside EAPA, especially to Swedish fen for which the material should be of particular interest. (And I also want to interest people in EAPA. Fandom's oldest Electronic APA needs fresh, new blood! To join just write something mildly interesting and save it in your word processor as a PDF. Ask me for more details, or contact OE garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. You find more sf history findings from the newspapers in coming issues!)

Now, happy quarantine reading! And let's all hope that this nasty virus thingy goes away! It has *turned Earth into a science fiction world*, but I prefer skiffy in the form of books. Preferably with happy endings...

--Ahrvid Engholm

Ps. To Scandinavian readers, join writers list SKRIVA (skriva-request@freelists.org subj: subscribe) with more news & findings from sf history! And our annual short story competition has just begun.

SKIFFY HISTORY THROUGH OLD NEWSCLIPS

One positive effect of the Corona epidemic is that the Royal Library in Stockholm (our national library, like the British Library or the Library of Congress) decided to temporarily open their huge, digital newspaper archive and make it available online! They have been forced to limit physical access due to the corona bug - it's now only open for visitors by appointment - and have made a time limited deal with the copyright organisation representing newspapers. The open archive is to make it easier for researchers, academics, students etc and will last at least trough April (late news: through May also, they say).

I have of course used it to *research stuff about science fiction and fandom history*! I have spent countless hours doing different searches. Through some magic those old digitised newspapers are searchable. The "magic" is probably some very good program for Optical Character Recognition (OCR), supported by good AI training. The Royal Library digital newspaper archive covers Swedish

newspapers from the 1600's (the earliest one came around 1645) and up to now. But it's an ongoing project and not all newspapers are yet included, "only" some 900 titles and about 80 million pages... All the biggest newspapers, those from Stockholm, Gothenburg and Scania are AFAIK included. Not yet digitised are smaller, regional newspapers. Shaded markings you may notice are put there by the system, for searched words and paragraphs. I will here begin to present some of the very interesting stuff I have found, and I'll try to be somewhat chronological but also keep subjects together. Foreign readers may find it interesting to learn how this strange thing called "science fiction" was perceived here and how local fandom took its first steps.

When searching for things we have to remember that a) *magazines and small, regional newspapers aren't included* (eg the word "fanzine" seems to have first hit a Swedish newspaper as late as 1970, but it was used often in the sf magazine Håpna! from the 1950s and on), and b) even if the OCR seems to have worked very well *it may misread things*. I for instance got a hit from 1893 on the term "fanzine", but when checking it of course turned out to be another word being misread. The newspaper archive is at <https://tidningar.kb.se/> if you know Swedish and want to have a try. Quotation marks can be used to make a multi-word verbatim search, so eg "Walt Willis" will find only that and not all Walt and all Willis. Press "datum" to get pages in date order.

Clips will be in Swedish, but *I'll make summaries of interesting info*, here and/or in the captions. I won't translate the name of newspapers. It'd be of limited use to point out that eg "Dagens Nyheter" means "Today's News". I've tried to save the clips in a way that those knowing Swedish can read the text, though resolution may sometimes be low. I'll also put *important phrases in italics* to make my

Biografägare i Järbo omkommen
1927 genom drunkning.
(Från vår korrespondent.)

GÄVLE, måndag. En 43-årig biografägare **Arvid Engholm** i Järbo, som varit försvunnen sedan i torsdags, har anträffats drunknad i Holmsjön på Ovänsjö kronopark. Han hade på hemväg från en skogstur sökt ta sig över sjön på skidor, men den av vårsolen sönderfräta isen hade brustit, och **Engholm**, som dock var en god simmare, har tydligen duktat under därigenom att han var klädd i tjocka kläder och hade ryggsäck. Han efterlämnar maka och tre små barn.

descriptions easier to browse. I have this far saved ca 600 (!) newspaper clips - mostly skiffy but also other stuff that interests me - but I can only present a small fraction of it here... There'll be more in next issue!

But before sf and fandom stuff, I a couple of family-related discoveries. My paternal grandfather was one *Arvid Engholm* (different spelling) and he *owned a travelling cinema called Svenska Biograf-Kompaniet* ("The Swedish Cinema Company"), which also sold cinema equipment. Unfortunately he died way back in 1927... I found three small articles about it, two in national newspapers - he

must have been at least moderately known - and one in a regional one. Svenska Dagbladet wrote May 10 that year that he had "*been found drowned in Lake Holmsjön. On the way home from a forest excursion he tried to cross the lake on skis, but the ice withered by the spring sun gave way*". I also find eg adverts from The Swedish Cinema Company, which seems to have been quite active during the silent era. My grandfather's house



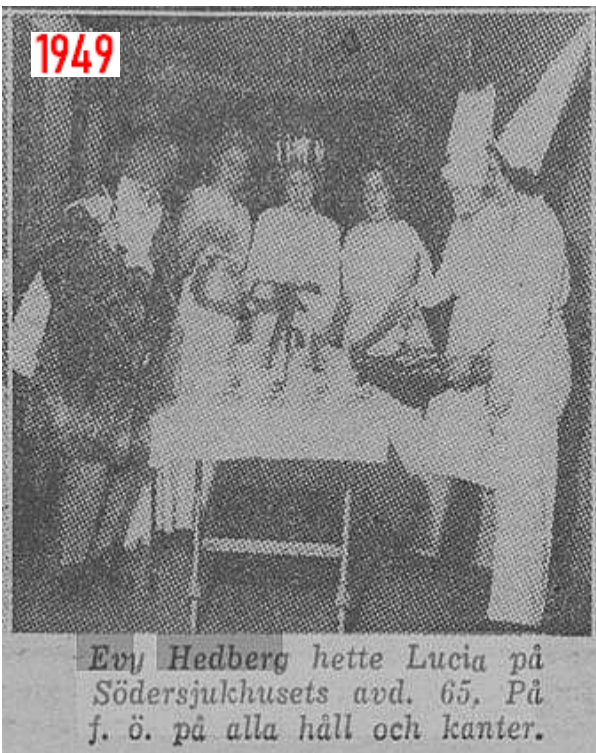
An ad from 1926 "Cinema machines are most favourably bought from The Swedish Cinema Company, Järna".

had lots of old movie posters, movie program leaflets, a rusty projector, a 78 rpm record player and other film related stuff in the attic. Surplus copies of posters and stuff has been donated to the Swedish Film Institute by us relatives.

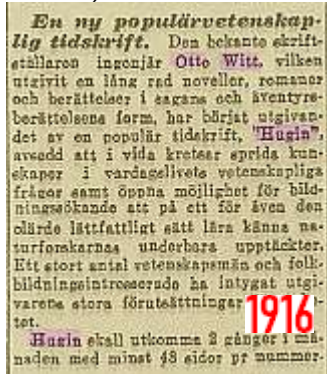
The Riddle of Plant Electricity Solved!

A simple apparatus which applied close to the roots of plants or their water source gives plants an urge to lively activity. Pat pend.

(An Otto Witt invention)



"Evy Hedberg was the name of the Lucia on Södersjukhuset, dpt 65." My mother is the one claimed to have published the world's "first sf magazine" with Hugin



the right man to spread knowledge of "science of everyday life...to get to know the wonderful discoveries of natural scientists". Among Witt's promoters in the announcements we have Nobel Prize



laureate Svante Arrhenius.

Witt also made inventions, eg for mining, in the new aeroplane technology and in agriculture. I find an ad about one invention, claimed to have

"The Riddle of Plant Electricity Solved!", by a device he calls "Elektrolit" (left) said to make plants grow faster. Unfortunately, this industrious fellow died already in 1923. It doesn't say from what, but as he was only 48. I would guess cancer, a heart attack or a stroke. In his obituary we learn that he apart from a long career in mining, as an inventor and publisher also has written "some detective novels, short stories, scientific adventure novels in the Jules Verne style and humorous technical stories. He has published a

A very surprising find was *my mother as Lucia!* There's this Swedish tradition that on December 13 a girl will dress up in white as Saint Lucia, having a crown with candles, and she is joined by maidens in white and guys dressed as "star boys", gnomes and gingerbread men. They then make processions while singing Christmas songs. And my mother Evy (Hedberg, before marriage) was Lucia in the Södersjukhuset hospital in 1949, which was noted in a newspaper! She was studying to be a nurse at the time.

But let's now start with the science fiction related subjects. The first time the word "rymdskepp" ("spaceship") is mentioned in Swedish newspapers seems to be April 22, 1902, in an article in Dagens Nyheter, about a German inventor and conman being arrested for fraud. He has been luring folks to invest in his inventions, among them a claimed spaceship!

Another inventor, but not swindler, is Otto Witt, often claimed to have published the world's "first sf magazine" with Hugin

(1916-20). Witt is actually mentioned with some respect in a few articles, as an *inventor full of ideas and as a prolific writer*. His magazine is always called a "popular science magazine", and that's what it was in my opinion - the fiction content was small. The start of the magazine is mentioned in several papers (see left), noting eg that many scientists and academics reassure that Witt is



RIP Otto Witt, from Aftonbladet 11 Oct 1923.

number of technical thesis in German and Norwegian. He is survived by wife, children, mother and siblings." I didn't know about the Norwegian connection. He worked in Norwegian mining. It may be worth researching Otto Witt in Norway!

But let's move on... The first mention of the Atomic Bomb in Swedish press seems to be in an article

Verklighet i krisfantasi. 1936

HAROLD NICOLSON'S "STATSMÄN EMELLAN"

En roman med verklighetsunderlag. — "Public Faces" nu mera aktuell än för fyra år sedan. — Storpolitisk satire och satiriker på en gång. — Abu-Saudkoncessionen och atom-bomben. — Tyskarnas malmkoncessioner i Lövik vid Hernösand storpolitiskt motdrag. — Huru det hela trots allt fick ett lyckligt slut.

about Harold Nicolson's 1932 Alternate History novel

Public Faces, having such bombs in the plot, in Aftonbladet June 10 1936 heradlined "Reality in

Atombomben. 1939

Av Radix

I en spännande roman med den ganska inletsägande och förtärlande titeln Public Faces skildrar den engelske diplomaten och skriftställaren Harold Nicolson vad som skulle bli följden, om tyskerna lyckades frigöra den oerhörda latent energi som ligger bunden i atomkärnans före och utnyttja den som bränsle för en maskin eller sprängladdning i en bomb. Författarens redogörelse för den sovjetiska uppfinningarna tekniska förutsättningar är helt naturligt föga övertygande. Han fantasierar om en malmfyndighet på en ö i Persiska viken och en ny aluminiumlegering med revolutionerande egenskaper, med vars hjälp man skulle bli i stånd att bygga raketsplan med den sagolika hastigheten av tusen kilometer i timmen och fabricera en "atombomb", ett förstörelseverktyg maktigare, effektivare och fördärligare än allt som hittills förekommit i den vägen under mänsklighetens historia.

Konkret, som naturligtvis förvärvat koncession på den nya tyndheten, råkar i svårigheter, och dess luftminuter läter på eget be-våg antälla ett experiment med atombomben för att demonstrera

ten. Så småningom komma de tro- tigen också underfund med hur de skola bära sig åt för att avvärja den. Men under mellantiden kan man befara att skumliga, oförskräckta eller illvilliga experimentatorer ställa till med en olycka och sprän- ga såväl sig själva som hela sin om- givning, sitt laboratorium, sitt uni- versitet, sin hemstad, ja, hela sin hemtrakt i luften. En amerikansk fysiker har räknat ut att redan en ringa mängd uranför skulle räcka till för att spränga hela New York med förutskick i spillror och endast kräslösa ett djupt hål med 150 kilometer genomskärning. Och det- ta är ingen överdrift. En samvets- grann 1932 vetenskapsman vid Kin- ses Wilhelm-institutet har nämligen kommit till liknande resultat.

A andra sidan finns ingen anled- ning till panik. Föreläsningarna kunna vara felaktiga. Uranium fö- rekommer ej i rent tillstånd, och det blir kanske aldrig möjligt att isolera någon värdig mängd av den riskabla substansen. Helt professor Niels Bohr är endast en liten bräddel av kärnet explosiv, och även denna bristande egenskap kunna lätt dämpas med enkla medel. På sin höjd kan man säga att det nu-

Crisis Fantasy" (left). The idea of atomic firecrackers existed that early!

The second mention is another article about the same novel, headline "The Atomic Bomb" (right), in Svenska Dagbladet July 7 1939. The public who paid attention could already imagine this new war invention before World War II and it prior to becoming the top secret Manhattan Project.

Var det Hitlers hemliga vapen?

I en laboratoriebyggnad hade några särskilt duktiga arbetare satts att skjuta några nya och konstiga kemiska apparater. De framställde »tungt vatten», och ryktet påstod att de tyska ingenjörer som kommit till Rjukan experimenterade med att av »tungt vatten» göra ett nytt sprängämne jämfört med vilket dynamit var lika ofarligt som ryska smållare. De tyska experimenten sades gå ut på att släppa lös själva atomkraften. Folk påstod att en liten »atombomb» skulle ha mer förödande verkningar än de engelska fyratonsbomberna, att det nya sprängämnet, när det blivit fullt utexperimenterat, skulle användas till att jämna London med jorden.

Plötsligt stod fem maskerade män med automatpistoler i händerna i laboratoriet. »Hendene i väret!» kommanderade de på oförfalskad norska. Men arbetarna i laboratoriet såg till sin häpnad att männen hade engelska soldatuniformer. Under högra axelklaffen skyntade man en liten lapp på vilken stod broderat »Norway». Arbetarna fick med händerna i luften marschera ut ur rummet och ställdes upp mot en vägg, bevakade av tre av de maskerade männen medan de båda återstående stannade kvar i labo- ratoriet. Efter en stund hördes en våldsam explosion. Hela avdelning 1943

framställning av tungt vatten förvand- lades till en ruin.

The Swedish press seemed surprisingly well-informed about nuclear weapons. The paper Arbetarbladet Nov 24, 1943, wrote a quite accurate account of the Norwegian resistance men's raid on the heavy water plant in Rjukan, headline "Was It Hitler's Secret Weapon?" (left), ie an "atomic bomb...which would be used to obliterate London".

The atomic bomb was also mentioned in Aftonbladet April 24 and again May 17, 1945, in the piece (right) "Atomic Bomb Would Put London to Ruins", which describes how US troops track atomic bomb German research, claiming that at war's end "the first copy of this was ready, but the Allies saw its effect as doubtful...Also British scientists have worked

Atombomb skulle lägga hela London i ruiner 1945

— Privat till Dagens Nyheter. —

MED AMERIKANSKA TRUPPER I TYSKLAND, onsdag.

U.P. I årtal arbetade tyskarnas vetenskapsmän med försök och experiment med atomsprängnin- gar i syfte att få fram en bomb som vid nedslaget skulle kunna jämna hela London med marken.

Vid tiden för vapenstilleståndet var det första exemplaret av denna bomb klar, men dess verkan betraktas på al- lierat håll som tvivelaktig. Amerikan- ska sjukvårdssoldater tillhörande 30:e sjukvårdskompani har gjort ett fynd som kanske kan ge ledtrådar vid un- dersökningarna av de tyska veten- skapsmännens rön. I sjukhuset Bad Mergentheim hittades en liten trälåda innehållande radium till ett värde av en miljon dollar. Även brittiska veten- skapsmän har arbetat enligt "atom- principen" med sikte på ett nytt slags bomber, förklaras i regeringskretsar.

according to the 'atomic principle' aiming for a new type of weapon. "All this before Trinity and Hiroshima, when it was

supposed to be secret.

Many who had their eyes open could have an inkling of atomic power and the possibility of making a bomb. That gives some perspectives to the well-known episode of FBI and Clive Cartmill's story

**JULES VERNE-
MAGASINET** 1940

Det moderna äventyrmagasinet, innehåller fascinerande berättelser om rymdfärder i raket skepp, om vetenskapliga detektivberättelser, om framtidens krig, försvunna civilisationer, livet på fjärran planeter och mycket annat. I nr 1 bl. a.: En robots bekännelse, Skattsökare i Venus' djungler, Oskar - den tektiven från Mars, två följetonger, varav en om det sjunkna Atlantis, och två verböret spännande serier i färg: Djungel-Jim och Titanen från Krypton. Konstnärligt omslag i flerfärgstryck. Pris endast 35 öre.

Fyll och insänd nedanstående kupong, så erhåller Ni gratis och franco ett provnummer av Jules Verne-Magasinet! Kupongen sändes i öppet kuvert, frimärkt med 5 öre, till Jules Verne-Magasinet, Box 457, Stockholm 1.

Sänd mig utan kostnad provexemplar av Jules Verne-Magasinet!

Namn:

Adress:

Postanstalt:

Skriv tydligt! 3

"Deadline" in Astounding SF under John W Campbell in 1944. I'll come back to these atoms...

I have now and then mentioned the Swedish 1940s sf pulp *Jules Verne Magasinet* (later getting the additional title *Veckans Äventyr*).

They often published small adverts in the daily paper, at least in the beginning, like the one shown left from 1940, in time for issue No 1. It offers readers to get a free sample copy and the magazine is described as having "fascinating tales of space travel in rocket ships, of scientific detective feats, about war in the future, lost civilisations, life on distant planets and much more. In No 1 eg Confessions of a Robot, Treasure Hunter in the Jungles of Venus, Oskar - the Detective from Mars, to serials, one about the sinken Atlantis". Who would like to read about all that! Gosh wow boy-oh-boy!

But it wasn't popular with everyone. My friend old-time author and journalist Bertil Falk have told me how teachers would confiscate this "useless trash" if found in the hands of a pupil, and a group of 62

high-brow authors wrote a proclamation demanding that paper rationing must be used to kill off this and other substandard "coloured weeklies", as they were just full of sex, violence and dumb fantasies.

Jan 26, 1941, a columnist wrote in Aftonbladet about "Gangsters of tomorrow... The other day I obtained a little magazine named Jules Verne Magasinet. It showed to be a special publication for visions

Här om dagen fick jag tag i en liten tidning som hette "Jules Verne-Magasinet". Det visade sig vara en special-publication just för framtidsvisioner. I dess noveller och följetonger rörde man sig obehindrat med rymdmaskiner som tillryggalade 500 ljusår på 30 dagar genom att färdas "i auti dimensionerna i stället för utanför dem", men vilken skillnad var det inte mellan de människor som dessa berättelser handlade om och de som beskrevs av Jules Verne, Flammarion, H. G. Wells och Stapledon. Här hade man erövrat planeten Venus, men bara för att införa ett gangstervälde på den, man hade gjort Saturnus till deportationsort för straffångar, och smockat dalförde lika löse på det underbara rymdskeppet som på någon bar i Chicago. 1941

of the future... Here they had conquered the planet Venus, but only to introduce a rule by gangsters, they've made Saturn a deportation camp for prisoners., and the punch was thrown on the wonderful spaceship as loosely as in any bar in Chicago." That these magazines would create juvenile delinquents was a common theme.

A colonel bossing over the regiment I8 in Uppsala even banned JVM on his regiment, or at least the soldiers couldn't use money from the crown to subscribe to among others Jules Verne Magasinet. Newspaper Expressen wrote about it January 14, 1945: "Colonel Dislikes Reading Different from the Chiefs of Staff". (Left)

Överste gillar ej samma lektyr som försvarsstaben 1945

En överste är enväldshärskare över lägerkassan och kan för dess medel prenumerera på vilka tidningar han vill, enligt vad Expressen inhämtat. Han har alltså inga skyldigheter att undersöka manskapets inställning innan han går att anskaffa den lektyr som skall förströ folket på lediga stunder. Hans enda rättesnöre är att lägerkassans medel skall vara till "manskapets nytta och nöje" men han bedömer själv vad som är nytta och nöje för sitt folk.

Överste Olle Norman i Uppsala, som uppfört ett stort antal veckotidningar på en "svart lista" har alltså varit i sin fulla rätt, men det bör framhållas, att det bara är på depåerna, som denna censurering av lektyren kan förekomma. Ute på fältförbanden sker prenumeration på tidningar och tidskrifter efter manskapets förande.

Regementetschefen bestämmer ensam över hur lägerkassans medel skall användas, berättar överstelöjtnant Gustaf Kolmodin, chef för försvarsstabens personalvårdsavdelning. Lägerkassan får vinsterna av regementets affärsdrivande företag, av handelsboden, markententeriet, bageriet etc. Manskapet satsar alltså självt inga pengar till lägerkassan och därför behöver översten heller ej ta hänsyn till dess smak. Det är ju möjligt att han gör det i vissa fall, men han bedömer i de allra flesta fallen själv vilken lektyr som är hälsosammast för folket.

Pojkarna skall uppfostas.

Manskapet på depån består ju av rekryter, unga pojkar, som skall uppfostas och därför är det väl en ganska naturlig sak, att översten inte vill sätta vilken lektyr som helst i händerna på dem.

Men denna censur gäller alltså bara depåerna. Ute på fältförbanden, i avlägsna avkrokar av vårt land, där karlarna inte består av rekryter, där är det meningen att de skall få läsa vad de är vana vid. Där prenumererar kompanichefen eller motsvarande chef först sedan han inhämtat personalens önskemål. Den kan villja mellan ett dussin förströsetidningar, på vilka prenumeration betalas av försvarsstabens personalvårdsavdelning: Aller Fa-



Överste OLLE NORMAN, lektyrdiktator på I 8 i Uppsala.

milj-Journal, Folket i Bild, Hemmets Journal, Röster i Radio, Hemmets Veckotidning, Se. Vårt Hem, Damernas Värld, Husmodern, Svensk Dämtidning, Säningsmannen, Friksport och Idrottsbladet. Så långt överstelöjtnant Kolmodin.

Av annan mening.

Någon desavering av överordnad myndighets beslut har inte överste Norman gjort sig skyldig till. Däremot har han tydligen deklarerat att han har en helt annan uppfattning än försvarsstabens personalvårdsavdelning om vad som är lämpligt att sätta i händerna på svenska soldater. Bland de tidningar, som är port-förbudna på I 8 i Uppsala märks Allas Veckotidning, Cocktail, Filmjournalen, Hela Världen, Jules Verne-magasinet, Lektyr, Levande Livet, Tidsfördriv, 25:an och Veckarevyen. Något förbud för den enskilde soldaten att hålla sig med dessa tidningar innebär givetvis inte överstens åsikt.

This is what we call "panic of morals", and it is almost always about an older generation not understanding the innocent entertainment of a younger one. Jazz music, comics, the Lindy hop, science fiction, rock music, computer games, all that and much more have been attacked, condemned, even banned, and described as a danger to the youth, destroying good morals and the structure of society. But if they had read science fiction there are plenty of pandemic skiffy stories - they'd have known what destroys society...

The term "science fiction" was, not unexpectedly, first mentioned in Swedish press in connection to the atomic bomb. It was in Expressen May 4, in 1947, below. I translate the whole text of this historic article.

Första atombomben exploderade i amerikanskt novellmagasin

NEW YORK (Expressen). Den första atombomben i historien exploderade inte som de flesta tror i en New Mexico-öken den 16 juli 1945 utan på sidan 56 i ett kvasivetenskapligt novellmagasin femton år tidigare. Författaren till den då otroliga berättelsen, som nu påtalats av vetenskapsmännen i olika sammanhang, använde uranum 235 för sin egen uppfinning, och beskrev också i detalj de fruktansvärda verkningarna hans atombomb medförde.

När denna historia för någon vecka sedan blev känd började dessa lila ansedd s. k. vetenskapliga magasin annonsera om att snart sagt alla mera betydande uppfinningar stätt beskrivna i dem något tiotal år innan de verkligen kom till. I ett nummer som utkom Pearl Harbor-dagen beskrives t. ex. precis hur det gick till då amerikanerna fällde den första atombomben över Japan och på så sätt drev fram kapitulationen, vilket historien upprepade tre år senare.

Dessa magasin har emellertid sina trogna anhängare, bland vilka åtskilliga framstående vetenskapsmän återfinnes, och främst bland dem Nobelpristagaren Herman J. Müller, som då han för till Stockholm för att hämta sitt Nobelpris, lät sig fotograferas läsande ett exemplar av "Astounding Science Fiction Magazine".

Långt innan den första televisionen fungera var denna uppfinning en känd sak för läsarna av "Astounding", "Amazing" och "Startling". Likaså hade man i dessa magasin för länge sedan löst problemet med radar, infraröda strålar, raketkanoner och åtskilliga andra fantastiska vapen, som så småningom kom till användning i det andra världskriget.

Vid några tillfällen har det också hänt att de militära vetenskapsmännen erkänt att de hämtat uppslag från novellmagasinen, och för inte så länge sedan förklarade en officer vid flottan att han stulit idén till en uppfinning, för vilken han dekorerades, ur "Startling".

— NILSSON.

1947

The First Atomic Bomb Exploded in an American Short Story Magazine

The first atomic bomb did not explode, as most people believe in a New Mexico desert on July 16, 1945, but on page 56 of a quasi-scientific short story magazine fifteen years earlier. The author of the then incredible story, now being cited by scientists in various societies, used uranium 235 for his invention, and also described in detail the terrible effects his atomic bomb brought. When this story became known a week ago, these ill-reputed so-called scientific magazines announced that all more important inventions had been described in them some ten years before they really came into being. In

an issue that appeared on Pearl Harbor Day, eg describes exactly how Americans dropped the first nuclear bomb over Japan, thus forcing the capitulation history repeated three years later. These magazines, however, have their loyal followers, among whom are several prominent scientists, and most notably Nobel Laureate Herman J Muller, who when he traveled to Stockholm to collect his Nobel Prize, allowed himself to be photographed reading a copy of Astounding Science Fiction Magazine. Long before the first television worked, this invention was a well-known thing for readers of Astounding, Amazing and Startling. Similarly, in these magazines solved the problem of radar, infrared rays, rocket cannons and many other amazing weapons, which eventually came to light and use in World War II. On some occasions, it has also happened that the military scientists acknowledged that they had taken a look in these short story magazines, and not long ago a navy officer declared that he had stolen the idea for an invention for which he was decorated, from Startling."

Note that this story *doesn't* refer to how the FBI raided Astounding after they published Clive Cartmill's story "Deadline" in 1944, but some story from 1930.

"Atom-Noak"

välver plan 1946 på rymdfordon

I föreningsregistret för Stockholms stad har i dagarna införts en anmälan från en sammanslutning med namnet Föreningen Atom-Noak u. p. a. Sammanslutningen är inte, som man kanske först kunde tro, ett sällskap för praktiska skämt eller tillagandet av revysketcher, utan en högst allvarlig samling herrar som vetenskapligt sysslar med praktisk tillämpning av den moderna fysikens upptäckter.

I Atom-Noaks stadgar heter det att "Föreningen har till ändamål att främja medlemmarnas ekonomiska intressen genom att frambringa konstruktioner för projektiler och fordon för rymdtrafik, att utnyttja, förvärva och försälja patent och licenser å sådana konstruktioner".

Bland medlemmarna av styrelsen är fil. lic. Bertil Stålhane, Stockholm, känd som arg vedersakare av samlingsröreligen under kriget. Vid ett samtal med Dagens Nyheter omtalar hr Stålhane att föreningen till att börja med endast är avsedd att utgöra ett forum för diskussionen kring fysikaliska problem.

Some research implies it may be John W Campbell's own "When the Atoms Failed" (Amazing, Jan 1930; haven't read it so I'm not sure). It should be noted, though, that the word *scientifiction* had already been used, in an editorial about this type of literature in the first issue of Jules Verne Magasinet, in January 1940.

I have earlier in *Intermission* covered what must be considered the first sf club in Sweden, Atom-Noak ("Atomic Noah"), since it was deep into science fiction ideas (and members must have been readers of Jules Verne Magasinet which was published at the time!). It was founded a short time after Hiroshima, September 15 1945, and a main idea of them was to construct a spaceship to take mankind to a new planet (Mars, I assume) to save it from the coming WWII. Space travel and a nuclear war, how much sf isn't that! Most members were electric engineers working for the company ASEA, and their plans were more a "thought experiment" than realistic ones. Despite this Dagens Nyheter wrote, December 8, 1946 (above) about how "Atomic Noah Spins Plans for Space Vehicles":

"The society isn't, as one might believe at first, for practical jokes or comedy sketches, but a serious group of men who in a scientific manner deals with practical applications of the discoveries of modern physics. In the statutes of Atomic Noah it is said 'the association's purpose is to benefit the economic interests of members by producing constructions for projectiles and vehicles for space transport, to use, acquire and sell patents and licences for such constructions...During an interview with Dagens Nyheter Mr Stålhane mentions that the association to begin with only will be a platform for discussion problems of physics."

The second mention of the term "science fiction" in Swedish press is in a review in Svenska Dagbladet June 4, 1951, of a radioplay of a story by Upton Sinclair (right, Swedish title translates to "The Others Had It Too"): "...Sunday's performance of Upton Sinclair's 'The Others Had It Too' offered an excellent reason to sigh. Upton Sinclair have never been very deep, but he doesn't become really shallow until he writes 'science fiction', as the term goes, and with cracking brain cells lumbers in the footprints of HG Wells. In 'The Others Had It Too' Uncle Upton tells all naughty children, not the least children of the Soviet Union, what the world looks like, after East and West have eradicated each other with bacterial weapons."



rade för Ingvid, ungefär som underpsykoanalys. Den var dubbelt så lång, men hälften räckte. Jag ville ha fram det själiska.

Dikten är Martinsons egen favorit, och han inser inte hur många recensenter kan tolka den så fel eller så olika — "det är ju ren klartexten. Doris är både jorden och jorderkvinna, namnet tillhörde Oceanos dotter. Miman är ett instrument, som jag fektur kommer att uppfinnas." Harry plockar fram rymdromaner från olika ställen på hyllorna.

Harry plockar fram rymdromaner från olika ställen på hyllorna.

— Vegt är väl hitfull! den bästa, men jag ser nu hur de senare börjar befräa sig från en mängd av den tekniska apparaturen och behandla själva den planetariska ondskan. Djävulen har kommit tillbaka. Sedan han sparkades ut från jorden finner man honom nu i trakten av Vintergatan, och i en roman tränger han sig in i rymdskeppet. Tyvärr är han så tekniskt begåvad att det var ett helvete att få ut honom ur maskinen. Det är plågsamt nog att vistas i världs-

rymden utan att ha fun i båten, tillägger Harry Martinson tankfullt.

Drömmen om Japan och Kina

Decembergränaden ligger över sjön, som huset nästan speglar sig i. Vasstråna vid bryggan uppför ett japaneseri, men den stora vita björken, som kommer att döppa sitt gröna hår i vattnet i vår, är ärligt svensk, liksom alkärret strax intill, med tuschigt svarta konturer. Det orientalska som är utsikt och renhet tilltalar Harry Martinson — han har stora böcker med klassiska japanska teaterkostymer, han har japanska dikter på lut — bara en kom med i "Cikada" — och drömmen om museernas Kina, delad av många, förverkligar han i silkeslena stengodsglasyrer av Nathalie Krebs, Trillers och Berndt Friberg. Käges Farstageds, som verkar uppgrävt ur en bronsåldersmyr, älskar han också, helst om glasryon rinner i en blå, stelnad droppe. Och han har beställt ett särskilt hörnskap där hans stengodsskålar bor som i ett duvslag. Därtill äger han två Tanghästar och en liten fågelbur med konstgjord

Though it was a slow trickle, the interest in this strange thing called "science fiction" began to rise in the early 1950's. Maybe it had to do with the reports of flying saucers (beginning in 1947 with Kenneth Arnold's claims of sightings) or the tsunami of American Earth-invasion films?

I have earlier written about Sweden's first fanzine, *Vår Rymd*, published by the sf influenced astronomy club Andromeda in 1952, and seeing it there's no doubt it's a fanzine

in the fandom sense since it's full of science fiction - stories, sf reviews, sf illustrations incl covers, speculative articles on the future, etc. For some reason I have assumed it came from a group of students at Östra Real high school in central Stockholm. But doing searches on the names we find in the fanzine, this is likely this wrong. The boys behind are from elsewhere. Two are from Bromma high school, one from the Nya Elementar school, both in western Stockholm, and only one is from a central city school, the Beskowska school. That the editors are spread out between several schools makes my believe that the Andromeda club and their fanzine wasn't very tightly connected to any school and a quite independent hobby activity.

The year 1953 was the year the newspapers began writing more about science fiction. We saw the publication of future Nobelism Harry Martinson's famous Aniara space poetry, in a partial form as Cikada (the complete Aniara came in 1956). It has been debated how big of an sf fan Harry was, but an interview in Dagens Nyheter Dec 12, 1953 (above), leaves no doubt about that he read and liked the stuff!

"Now I've begun collecting space novels, since I wrote Doris and Mimmi /corr: Mima/, Harry Martinson says...Doris is both Earth and an earthly woman, the name from Oceano's daughter. The Mima is an instrument, that I fear will be invented." Harry picks out space novels from different places of his shelves.

"Van Vogt is so far the best, but I see how they now begin to liberate themselves from the many technical devices and instead deal with the planetary evil. The devils has returned. Since he was kicked away from Earth we now find him around the Milky Way, and in one novel he makes his way into the spaceship.

Unfortunately he is so technically skilled that it was like hell to get him out. It is painful to be in space without getting the devil in the ship," Harry adds thoughtfully.

The "devil on the spaceship" is probabloy from Van Vogt s The Voyage of the Space Beagle So there you have it. Harry Martinson both read and collected science fiction, and like AE Van Vogt! One thing to notice is as nothing by Van Vogt had been translated to Swedish at the time, Martinson must have read it in English. (Which he didn't learn in school, but as he earlier had worked several years as a sailor on the big oceans he might have picked up English. After all, he was an intelligent man working with language.)

And Martinson's Cikada gets mainly favourable reviews, eg



1953 *Helvete*

En lustgård, det betyder ett ställe
Evarifrån man blivit utdriven, som
Adam och Eva blev från Eden. De
flesta associerar då till barndomen.
människolivets och, tänkt som ana-
logi, mänsklighetens. Den förgyllning
minnet består barndomsupplevelserna
för att de inte ska bli odrägliga att
bära på — de är ju regelbundet
otäcka och svåra, så länge de varar
— överföres till människosläktets ur-
tid och gör om den till ett Eden. Där
borta, i det förgångna, i livets mor-
gondager, fanns ett sällhetsland som
blev oåtkomligt när oskulden tog
slut.

När Frans G. Bengtsson omsider,
inför sextiårsdagen nästa år, fått
fram en bok om sina barndomsmin-
nen, anknäyer han till den mytbild-
ningen redan i boks titeln. Det kan
förvåna, ty Frans G. Bengtsson tror
inte på något Eden, vare sig oskul-
dens eller sällhetens. Hans enda tros-
bekännelse är att godtaga, utan prut
och utan knot, "naturlagen om all-
tings inneboende djävlskap" (litte-
raturhistorisk anmärkning: den som
först funnit och lanserat formeln är
inte han, utan en Lundskamrat, för-

SCIENCE FICTION på vers har Harry Martinson experimenterat med i
sin senaste diktenamling. Det är dock inte bara utflykten i världarymden
som ger Martinsons poesi luft under vingarna.

Martinsons världsrymd

Etthundrafemtio sidor Harry Mar-
tinson: det är utan tvekan den
stora svenska lyrikhändelsen i höst.
Boken heter "Cikada", och man lä-
ser den med en nästan oanständig
glädje. Bara glupar, glupar och för-
undras. Det är en vidunderlig bok:
det var inte i går en svensk poet
bjöd på en så sällsam resa.

Man reser i tid och i rum. I tid:
från folksagens urtid till den goldon-
diska era när jorden blivit strålför-
giftad och måste evakueras. I rum:
från blålockans rike i gräset ut i

en fjärran sol till sist ända färden,
ta fatt skeppet som en lampa en mal.
"Sången om Doris och Mima" he-
ter berättelsen om denna rymdfärd:
en av de ombordvarande för ordet i
den sex år efter starten från jorden.
Han berättar om livet ombord, hur
alla "gnider... dröm mot dröm av
brist på verklighet", om hur det bil-
das sekter, om hur det sjungs sån-
ger: "Snart är den här min sköna
gjutjärnstid..." Om hur folk dör,
om hur förste astroloben förlorar
förståndet, om hur orkestern ändå
ständigt snelar fancies till dansen i

ense..." Är det kanske den som kan
sammanfatta hela boken?

Känn dig ense i tid med allt som
förgås
och låt ditt hjärta samla all sin
längtan
som är mycket stor och inte ryms i
någon grav.
Gör av denna längtan hjärtats sång.

Känn dig ense i tid
med sådant som är värt att sakna,
men allt som tog vägen genom som-
maren för att dö.
Känn dig ense i höstens tid med det
enda ljuset

by the influential Bo Strömstedt Nov 20, 1953, in Expressen, above (Strömstedt later would become the paper's editor-in-chief): ...without doubt the big poetry event this autumn, and you read it with almost obscene joy. You just gasp, gasp and wonder. It wasn't yesterday a Swedish poet offered such a strange journey. You travel in time and space. In time: from the days of the folk tale in ancient time to the goldendian era when Earth has been radiation poisoned and must be evacuated. In space: from the realm of the bluebells ion the grass and out into infinite space, far away from our solar system.

But Martinson wasn't a hit everywhere. Olof Lagercrantz, influential editor of Dagens Nyheter (and father of David Lagercrantz, known for adding new novels to Stieg Larsson's Millennium series) attacked Aniara when it came in 1956. But Martinson found a defender in Expressen's editor-in-chief Ivar Harrie, 15 October 1956:

Sådan får inte förekomma, kulturhändelser ska förbli interna angelägenheter kulturpersonligheter emellan, det är helgerån om de framställs så att de kanske väcker intresse hos "plebs", den stora enkla dumma allmänheten.

Olof Lagercrantz har just nu blivit upprörd över att Expressen har en bildsida om en stor händelse i svensk skönlitteratur: Harry Martinsons epos om rymdskeppet Aniara, det enda genuina och spontana epos som finns i nutida svensk diktning. På bildsidan finns en konstruktionsritning som visar hur rymdskeppet är byggt — varenda detalj är belagd med citat ur Harry Martinsons dikt, som redovisas omsorgsfullt.

Usch, säger Olof Lagercrantz, där ser man hur en sensations-tidning vulgariserar och banaliserar stor dikt. Harry Martinsons dikt är ju inte "science fiction" om hur samfärdsmedlen ska kunna tekniskt utvecklas. Hans dikt handlar om människolivets eviga villkor. Rymdskeppet ska fattas symboliskt, som sinnebild av hur hopplöst det är att söka ändra människolivets villkor med maskiner, med teknik.

Ja tänk, det är just vad som står i Expressen — i Bo Strömstedts utförliga och genomtänkta analys av Harry Martinsons dikt på kultursidan.

Men sen tillkommer det märkliga, det unika, det med rätta uppseendeväckande: Harry Martinson har inte bara skissat upp ett rymdskepp som symbol för teknokratiska framtidsdrömmar — nej han råkar dessutom vara intresserad av det tekniska problemet hur människor ska kunna färdas i världsrymden. Den frågan har engagerat allt som finns inuti honom av ofördärvat, nyfiskt barn. Han slukar, barnsligt, allt han kommer över av "science fiction". Han har lärt sig allt man kan lära sig om hur ett rymdskepp ska konstrueras, och det har roat honom, och varit en äresak för honom, att när han nu behöver ett rymdskepp som sinnebild i en dikt, så ska det rymdskeppet vara riktigt, stämma in i detalj med vad han lärt sig i många lärda tekniska skrifter men också i "science-fiction"-tidningen Häpna.

Detta unika, detta som gör Harry Martinsons symbolik olik alla andra, är vad Expressens

medarbetare Lars Widding har tagit fasta på. Det är en poäng som han har ovanliga förutsättningar att fatta, eftersom han är både journalist, diktare och flygare. Han kände sig hemma på rymdskeppet Aniara.

Och den poängen har Olof Lagercrantz dessvärre inte märkt alls. Vad som har hänt är att Expressens nyhetsredaktion har upptäckt och åskådliggjort en komplikation i Harry Martinsons diktning som kulturredaktören i Dagens Nyheter inte tycks ha en aning om.

Till allra sist en upplysning åt herrarna Lagercrantz och Leiser: den redaktör som bär ansvaret för Expressens kultursida menar att där ska tillgodoses de två väsentliga kraven: ge nyheter och väcka debatt (alltså inte söva ner debatten med schablonklyschor). Längs den linjen kommer Expressens kulturredaktion att fortsätta. Personnamn är oväsentliga i sammanhanget.

Men väsentligt är att vi också framgent hoppas kunna framkalla dygdig fasa.

1956

"Blah, Olof Lagercrantz says, see how a sensational tabloid makes great poetry vulgar and banal. Harry Martinson's poem isn't 'science fiction' about how technical development of travel...But then comes the notable, the unique, the rightly remarkable: Harry Martinson hasn't only sketched a spaceship for technocratic drams of the future - he also happens to be interested in the technology of how humans will be able to travel in space. That has engulfed everything inside him as an unblemished, curious child. He devours everything he finds of 'science fiction' like a child. He has learned everything about how a spaceship shall be constructed, and it has amused him and been a thing of honour, that when he now needs a spaceship as a symbol in his poetry, it must be a real spaceship, true in every detail from what he has come to learn in knowledgable technical journals but also from the 'science fiction' magazine Häpna!."

One could add, that Martinson picked up much of what he knew about space travel from the Atomic Noah club, of which he became a member in 1947. Earlier *Intermissions* have covered that, and we know that Martinson kept up the contacts the the Atom-Noahckians.

1953

Döp Science Fiction!

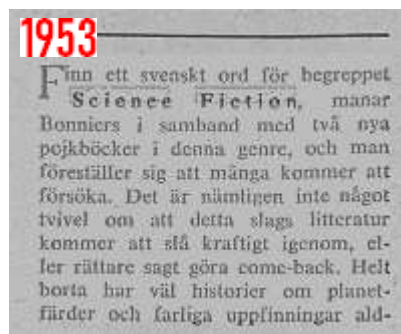
När höstlitteraturen nu börjar strömma ut på bokhandelsdiskarna innehåller den en försvartlig laddning av s. k. Science-Fiction. Det är som bekant historier om rymdfärder och folk som försvinner in i den fjärde dimensionen och sådant. Somliga tycker om dem och somliga inte, men inte skall de väl, som en noggrann person har påpekat för marginalen, behöva kallas vid ett så besynnerligt namn. Vi kallar inte detektivromaner för "whodunits". Men var finns det svenska namnet på naturvetenskapliga äventyrsromaner — och noveller — kort och uttrycksfullt? Förslag mottas. Förste pristagare får 25 kr. Märk kuvertet "Världslitteratur".

As said, science fiction began getting attention in 1953, but folks weren't comfortable with the term "science fiction". A wild hunt began for a Swedish term for the genre, with several name competitions! *"Christen Science Fiction!"* Svenska Dagbladet exclaimed August 27 that year: *"As the autumn literature now begins to arrive on the bookshop desks it contains a substantial load of so called Science Fiction...Some like it, some don't...why should it be called by such a strange name? We don't call detective stories 'whodunnits'. But where is the Swedish name for scientific adventure novels"*

The prize offered was 25 Crowns, ca €2.5. Unfortunately, I haven't yet found who won and what the new term was, but there is a suggestion September 4 from a reader, to call sf novels "fiktivromaner" (approx "fictitious novels"), an idea from a complicated wordplay in Swedish which draws a parallel to detective stories, "detektivroman" to become "fiktivroman"). The next attempt came October 20, with an ad from the popular technology magazine Teknikens värld, right:

"Science fiction is an American concept that lacks a Swedish name. It is tales of adventures in the world of the future, exciting space trips, fantastic stories about technological inventions and advances of the future."

The prize was a course in becoming a glider pilot. The winning suggestion was *"teknovision"*, ie "techno vision". It was soon forgotten.



If it was a formal competition or not, I don't know, but Svenska Dagbladet reported November 14 that the biggest Swedish book publisher Bonniers wanted a Swedish name for science fiction, left.

I think this was announced through ads in the books mentioned, but I don't know what came out of it.

"Find a Swedish word for the concept of Science Fiction, Bonniers urges in connection with two new books for youngsters in the genre, and they expect than many will have a try. You see, there's no doubt that this type of literature will have a forceful breakthrough."

But not to give up, the Aftonbladet tabloid invited readers to also have a go! Beginning November 29 (right) they run a series of small articles, *"What is science fiction?"*, which asked readers to find a new name for this strange space stuff, quoting a passage from Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot*:

"Look at yourself, the robot finally said. I don't want to be contemptful, but just look at yourself. The material you are made of is soft and sloppy, fragile and without strength. Now and then you become uncious and for the slightest variation in temperature, air pressure, humidity or radiation you become inefficient. You are of inferior quality. I however is superior..."

50 SEK or ca €5 was offered in first prize. (Eh, did the Euro exist then...?) The winning name announced December 16 was "teknodikt". "Dikt" means poem but also has a broader meaning relating to "making things up". On second place came the known sf author Sture Lönnerstrand with "faktasi" ("Factasy"). That word has actually survived a little bit, while everyone have forgotten about "teknodikt"...

MANLIGA eller KVINNLIGA LEDIGA PLATSER
1953 **SCIENCE FICTION**

Redaktör för tidskrift med inriktning på äventyr och framtidsutvecklingen i rymden anställes — eventuellt deltid — å förlag. Tidskriften är avsedd utkomma en gång i månaden. Goda kunskaper i engelska nödvändiga, enär större delen av materialet skall översättas från engelska till svenska. Svar med löneanspråk, meritförteckning, referenser o. dyl. till "S — Science Fiction", Dagens Nyheters Huvudkontor.

The sf magazine Håpna! ("Be Astounded!") was launched in 1954, obviously with sf fan and collector Harry M as a reader. And through the Royal Library's Artificially Intelligent search robot I found how the publishers (Kindbergs Grafiska, run by the brothers KG and Kurt Kindberg) recruited the editor-in-chief of the magazine - through an advert in Dagens Nyheter October 1953:

MALES OR FEMALES HIRED

SCIENCE FICTION

Editor for a magazine aimed at adventure and future development employed - possibly part time - by publisher. The magazine is intended to be published once a month. Good knowledge of English necessary, since most of the material is to be translated from English to Swedish. Answer with salary claim, CV, references and so on to "S - Science Fiction", Dagens Nyheter's main office.

1954



NI KAN VINNA 200.000 kr.
om Ni låter oss veta vad Ni tycker om **HÄPNA!** — den nya Science-fiction tidskriften.
Väldsamt spännande, tekniska äventyr i rymden och i framtiden.
LÄS HÄPNA! — och häpna!
GRAFISKA FÖRLAGET,
S:t Larsgatan 3, Jönköping.

Ad as sf magazine Håpna! started in 1954. The huge sum promised was a lottery ticket...

The editor they found was one Kjell Ekström, PhD in literature from the University of Lund in 1951 (if I'm not incorrect) and active as translator. Others would also take part in making the magazine, like the brothers Kindberg (owners), Roland Adlerberth (writing the long standing review column in his very special funny style), Alvar Appeltofft and others. Curiously, little is known about Kjell Ekström. I find no interviews or other stuff about him!

The first issue of Håpna! Came very shortly after finding the editor, dated March 1954 but out in late February. It presented itself in an ad in Dagens Nyheter February 24 that year. The reward promised would of course be a lottery ticket with that prize sum...

1957



Another very small ad for Håpna!, in Svenska Dagbladet October 26 1957.

YOU CAN WIN 200 000 CROWNS (ca € 20 000, equal to millions today...)

if you let us know what you think about HÄPNA! - the new science-fiction magazine. Fiercely exciting, technical adventures in space and in the future.

Read Håpna! - and Be Astounded!

Grafiska Publishers

3 S:t Lars Street, Jönköping

Ungdomsläsning

Undertecknad läste i sin gröna barndom med förtjusning det nu saligen avsmnade s. k. Jules Verne-Magasinet, senare Veckans Äventyr. Skulle vara road av att nu vid mognare ålder förnya bekant.

1954 *SF-fan.*

The first time the word "sf-fan" (Sverifen were already into Hyphen then...) was in the press, was in Aftonbladet May 9, 1954, in a short note from a reader. The fan concept probably came from Håpna! but the writer talks about Jules Verne Magasinet, headlined "Reading for

the Youth": The undersigned in his green youth read the now deceased so called Jules Verne Magasinet with great joy, later named Veckans Äventyr. Would be amused to renew this acquaintance now at a more mature age. (Signed "SF-fan.")

That several were involved in editing Häpna! is clear from this article, in Aftonbladet September 27 1958, which presents the magazine owner Karl-Gustav (KG) Kindberg, also presented as editor, and in a typical editor pose in the picture, pen in hand and a bunch of magazines on the table:

MURDER ON THE MOON ETC WORRIES SCIENCE-FICTION EDITOR WHO THINKS THE FIRST MOON TRIP HAPPENS IN 1957

(The article describes how sf predicted a "manned space satellite" in 1920, Hugo Gernsback predicting TV in 1910, how sf anticipated the Manhattan Project and Atomic bombs, things Jules Verne described. KG Kindberg worked as a lawyer for Husqvarna Weapons Manufacturer, and in the article he worries about legal problems with space exploration:)

"Who owns space? Who owns the Moon? What country's law shall we use if there is a murder during a moon trip? ... Karl-Gustav Kindberg got bitten by science fiction in 1952 when he was on a business trip in the USA in 1952. He then met sf authors and sf aficionados among scientists and found out that this thing with space and future stories wasn't as unrealistic and difficult to understand as he had believed. The Swedish sf readers are rather different from the ones in America and England. In Sweden you want sf literature with lots of tech talk. You want to know what the space rockets look like, how they work, how many rocket tubes they have. In the English speaking countries they want satires or views of future political structures, but it could be because the average age of sf readers is lower here than there.

Mord på månen m.m. oroar science-fiction-redaktör som tror att år 1977 sker FÖRSTA MÅNRESAN
Av JÖRGEN BLOM

— Jag hoppas att det dröjer länge innan den första människan sätter sin fot på månen.

Man väntar sig inte att Karl-Gustav Kindberg i Husqvarna ska säga något sånt. Han, som är förläggare för Science-fiction-tidskriften "Häpna!" borde väl vara mån om att människan når månen så fort som möjligt.

När Sputnik I seglade upp i rymden märktes det genast på Science-fiction-tidskriftens upp- och nedgångar. De seglade också upp en bit.

Intresset för Science-fiction (sf-förkortas SF) har ökat enormt. Vi vet nu att SF inte bara är frimantaser, framtidsbildningar utan grund. SF-författarna spådomar har slagit in med häpnadsväckande precision.

- Redan 1920 beskrev en författare hur den bemannade rymdsatelliten skulle se ut. I dag säger allvarliga vetenskapsmän att satelliten ska se ut så och så och det är märkvärdigt vad författarens och vetenskapsmännens beskrivningar stämmer väl överens.
- SF-författaren Hugo Gernsback talade om television redan år 1910. Då tyckte man att hans fantasi var väl utgådd. Det är bl.a. den där TV-spådomen som har renderat Gernsback titeln "SF-litteraturens fader".
- Medan Manhattanprojektet var så hemligt att knappt någon visste om det skrev en SF-författare om atombomben och höll på att bli bökad för spionage på kuppen.
- Sen har vi ju gamle Jules Verne som skrev om ubåten (Nautilus) innan den var patenterad. Och Leonardo da Vinci som ritade helikoptrar när Sikorsky förfäddes

(läs: krig) skulle kunna uppstå, om t.ex. Sovjet eller USA planerade en flagga på månen och så. Månen tillhör oss!

— För att undvika såna komplikationer måste vi ha alla juridiska aspekter klara innan vi ger oss av till månen, säger SF-förläggaren. Mitt och många andra SF-intresserade tips är att vi ska kunna stiga fladd på månen först om 20 år. Självt tror jag att det blir 1977.

Juridiska problem

Karl-Gustav Kindberg är naturligtvis glad om uppgången ökar men han tycker att det är viktigare att alla juridiska problem som uppstår i samband med månfärder blir lösta innan den första bemannade raketens fräse iväg.

SF-förläggaren är jurist också. I vardagslag är han juridiskt omhändertagen av Husqvarna Vapenfabrik. Det är juristen som talar nu:

— Vems är världsrymden? Vem äger månen? Vilket land äger alla tillhörigheter om ett mord begås under en månresa?

Men det finns några som tycker att den juridiska aspekten på månfärder och bemannade satelliter är så viktig att man bildat en särskild kommitté för att utreda problemen. Astronautiska sällskapet har föreslagit att all rymd 50 kilometer ovanför jorden ska tillhöra FN. Sällskapet är inte främmande för tanken på att allvarliga politiska förvecklingar

ser ut, hur de fungerar, hur satelliter eller vyer på framtida måna raketter ser ut. I de politiska strukturer. Men det kan engelska länderna föredrar man ska beror på att genomtittaderna a.k.a. social Science-fiction, gärna på SF-läsarna är lägre här än där.

De svenska SF-läsarna skiljer sig i stort ganska väsentligt från läsarna i Amerika och England. I Sverige vill man ha SF-litteratur med mycket tekniskt snack. I man vill veta hur rymdraketerna



1958

— Vi får inte glömma de juridiska problemen, som uppstår i samband med en månresa, säger Science-fiction-förläggaren Karl-Gustav Kindberg.

Yours Truly met KG Kindberg once, on an informal minicon in the early 1990's. A jovial man who passed away in 1995.

In an earlier issue I told about the music career sf writer Börje Crona had together with the ABBA

manager Stig Stikkan Anderson in the 1950's. In the archive I find ads about their tour stops and info on national radio playing their records. Here's from Aftonbladet September 5, 1955, where Stikkan and Börje are presented, the latter described overlead (not shown here) as *"now editor in the weeklies...before coming to Iggesund /the school where he mett Stikkan/ he had worked on boats, buses and trains. Though the school he came into journalism, working in both daylies and weeklies. Stikkan and Börje now tours in the weekends, having ordinary jobs during the weekdays"*

1955

BARNENS AFTONBLAD
Söndagsträff - Endast för barn

Stig Anderson och hans MOSIGA GRÄDDKLICKAR

Som ni kanske uppläckt har Barnens AB en mycket flitig medarbetare i Hova vid namn Lars Löfstrand. Lars har i dag sänt oss en skildring av två "plattchärmörer" som han kommit i kontakt med.

Bästa Red!
Sänder härmed en liten artikel om två s. k. plattchärmörer. Det är om två pojkar som heter Stig Anderson och Börje Crona.

Efter som Stigs efternamn börjar på A börjar jag med honom. Stig är född och uppvuxen i Hova, alltså inte helt okända. Stig Anderson deles på gränsen till Heidenstams Tiveden. Efter skolan tog han plats BÄB-medarbetaren Lars Löfstrand.

I en specieraffär. Vid sidan av jobbet började han komponera så smått. Till ett par lokalrevyer kom "Valsen om Frans-Oskar" och "Tivedshambo" till.
(Forts. på nästa sida)



Other writers also had a music career, like Sam J Lundwall who made an LP, several singles and EPs in mainly the 1960s. There are much about that in the newspapers, but lets look at a review of his LP "Songs in Our Time" (to translate the title) in Dagens Nyheter December 12, 1965, headline "Songs on Stockholmian" (ie Stockholm dialect). It is a bit lukewarm, but I think the album is rather good!

Visor på stockholmska

Senast anländ i raden av svenska trubadurer är fotografen Sam J Lundwall. Det mesta av innehållet på Visor i vår tid (Philips) är föga originellt, men där finns några visor som håller. Melodierna är helt allmogliga, och tyngdpunkten ligger i Lundwalls på utpräglad stockholmska sjungna texter. Samhällssatiren når inte utanför vad som är på modet just nu, och ängslan inför vår sköna nya värld har vi också hört förr.

Men nog öppnar satellitparfrasen på Taubes "Möte i Monsunen" ("Möte i Rymden") ett kul och vardagshandgripligt perspektiv. Historien om den företagsammaungen som av beskäftiga människor räddas undan imaginära "fula gubbar" förefaller inte verklighetsfrämmande. Fräckheten är inte mustigare än att de kan sjungas i vilka sällskap som helst, men heller inte kvicka nog att ta fram medan åhörarna är nyktra.
LARS WECK



1965

Sam J Lundwall

report from a high school show, in which one Mats P Wikner took part. But he had also a new publication to distribute there, "QWERTY has arrived":

The same Wikner has also these days sprung up as a magazine editor. His publication is named QWERTY. An editorial message says it wants to show fandom, culture critics and others an average selection of the poetic works from the science fiction movement. Contacts have been taken with foreign fans, with the result that

"Most of the contents is rather unoriginal, but some songs hold up...emphasis on Lundwall's singing in distinct Stockholm dialect. The social satire isn't outside what is running right now, and worries about our brave new world have also been heard before. But the satellite paraphrase of /Evert/ Taube's Meeting in the Monsoon (Meeting in Space) opens a fun and everyday perspective."

The first time "fandom" is mentioned in Swedish press is in the same Aftonbladet, December 12 1964, in a

1964

QWERTY har kommit

SAMME Wikner har i dagarna också framträtt som tidskriftsredaktör. Hans publikation heter QWERTY. Den vill enligt ett redaktionellt meddelande visa Fandom, kulturkritiker och andra ett enkelt genomsnitt av science fiction-rörelsens lyriska arbeten. Kontakter har också tagits med utländska sf-fans, med resultat att bidrag förekommer inte bara på svenska utan också på engelska, tyska, norska, ett artifiacial futurelanguage — och ett litet stycke på Martinsons Anianspråk. Men detta är bara början. De 200 exemplaren av den 28-sidiga stencilerade tidskriften skall nu distribueras ut över 10 länder med



Inbjudan till medarbetarskap; den förbindlige redaktören hopas på en rik brevskörd.

Nu är, om sanningen skall fram, inte allt i Qwerty lyrik. En del är också renhårigt uppsatt som prosa. Och allt är inte science fiction. En del är rena rama kärleksversen. Illustrationerna är dock konsekvent sf. Vi skall int

contributions aren't only in Swedish, but also in English, German, Norwegian and an artificial future language – and a little piece in Martinson's Anlara language. But this is only the beginning. The 200 copies of the 29 page mimeographed magazine shall now be sent to more than 10 countries with an invitation of submitting material. The nice editor hopes for a rich harvest of letters. But to tell the truth, all in QWERTY isn't poetry. Some is declared as prose,. And all isn't science fiction. Some is love poems. Illustrations are sf all through, though."

I have a copy of QWERTY and think it is a rather nice zine. An interesting point is that the high school Nya Elementar was the same I went to many years later - a real sf-fandom hothouse! Beside Wikner and me, fan and author Inger Edelfeldt went there, and as assistant librarian we had the old-time fan Bengt-Olof Ringberg. Earlier, as said, we found out that at least one person behind our first fanzine (Vår Rymd, 1952) had studied there too. Beside this, Nya Elementar is the only Stockholm high school with a real observatory on the roof...

To find the first time the word "fanzine" is mentioned in Swedish press, it seems we have to turn back to dear old Sam. Göteborgsposten had an article August 22, 1970, "Swedish SF-Man Gets USA chance". The article talks about Club Cosmos "which among other things publish their own little magazine" and about how Sam J recently had his SF What's It All About and a couple of novels

accepted by Ace. I don't have space to translate all, but here's what is said about "fanzine":

Svensk sf-man får USA-chans

1970

Science-fictionlitteraturen har inte förlorat greppet om sin publik trots att en rad av genrens klassiska romaner handlar om den numera redan inaktuella första månlandningen. Sina starkaste fästen har science-fiction-intresset i USA och England, men även i Sverige finns det många vänner av denna tankestimulerande och fantasieggande läsning. I Göteborg frodas tex livaktiga Club Cosmos som bl a ger ut sin egen lilla tidning.

En av Sveriges främsta kännare av Science-fiction är stockholmaren Sam J. Lundwall, 29. Han producerade 1969 en serie TV-program om »sf» (de initierades förkortning av den översättbara termen science-fiction). Sam J. har även skrivit den första verkligt grundliga översikten av »sf-genren», »Science-fiction — från begynnelsen till våra dagar» (Sveriges Radios förlag).

Ovanstående bok är en nära 200 sidor tjock volym som i föredömligt korta avsnitt informerar om de mesta inom denna »sf» både vad beträffar böcker, filmer, tidsskrifter, serier m m, allt från Cyrano de Bergerac, Swift, Jules Verne och H. G. Wells fram till våra »sf-dagars» stora författarnamn och förgrundsfigurer.

Sam J. Lundwall har sysslat med »sf i olika former sedan sina tidligaste tonår. Han gav då ut »Fanzine» (små stencilerade tidsskrifter). Senare skrev han noveller för det svenska »sf-magasinet» »Häpna!» (som utkom från 1954—1965), han spelade in egna »sf-filmer» under sin tid vid Fototeatern i Stockholm och 1962 publicerade han på eget förlag »Bibliografi över science-fiction and fantasy». En utgåva som väckte uppmärksamhet även utanför våra gränser.

Sam J. Lundwall har under

alla sina »sf-år» varit en aktiv medlem av den internationella »sf-rörelsen». Därtill kom det inte som en direkt överraskning när det amerikanska förlaget Ace Books nyligen meddelade att man i januari 1971 publicerar två romaner författade av Sam J. Lundwall — skrivna direkt på engelska!

Titlarna är »Alice's World» och »No Time For Heroes» och romanerna presenteras tillsammans som en s k »dubbeldeckare» i pocketformat. Ace Books specialitet sedan många år tillbaka.

Båda Sam J. Lundwalls romaner bygger på samma grundtema varierat på två olika sätt. Förstnämnda är en poetisk och allvarlig historia medan den andra är burlesk och lite hänsynslöst rå följand. Handlingen i romanerna kretsar kring vad som händer när människan återvänder till jorden efter en längre tids bortavaro och upptäcker att alla våra välkända sago- och fantasifigurer från bl a film och litteratur har tagit fast form och gör allt för att försöka övertala människorna att stanna kvar på hemplanet i fortsättningen...

— Jag kan inte neka till att jag är förnöjt glad åt det här. Det är ju inte bara min roman debut jag gör utan dessutom får jag göra den i USA! Det medför att jag blir den första svenske »sf-förfat-



Sam J. Lundwall, 29, får två »sf-romaner» publicerade i USA nästa år.

tare som lyckats kränga sig in på denna hårda och svåra marknad. Dessutom gör jag ju dubbel roman debut!

Sam J. Lundwall är förresten inte bara författare utan även kompositör, musikalant och vissångare. För några år sedan kom han med LP:n »Visor i Vår Tid», som innehåller »sf-betonade» inslag om robotmännor, rymdsköpp och monster från Mars...

F n sitter Sam J. Lundwall hemma i lägenheten på Lidingö och myser bland alla sina tusen och åter tusen »sf-romaner». Han väntar på att få utöka biblioteket med en viss nytryckt dubbeldeckare från Ace Books i USA! I väntan på denna håller han på att omarbete översätta och utöka sin första bok, »Science-fiction — från begynnelsen till våra dagar». Även denna skall nämligen ut på amerikanska marknaden, först inbunden och sedan som pocket. Underhandlingar pågår dessutom med förlag runt om i Europa.

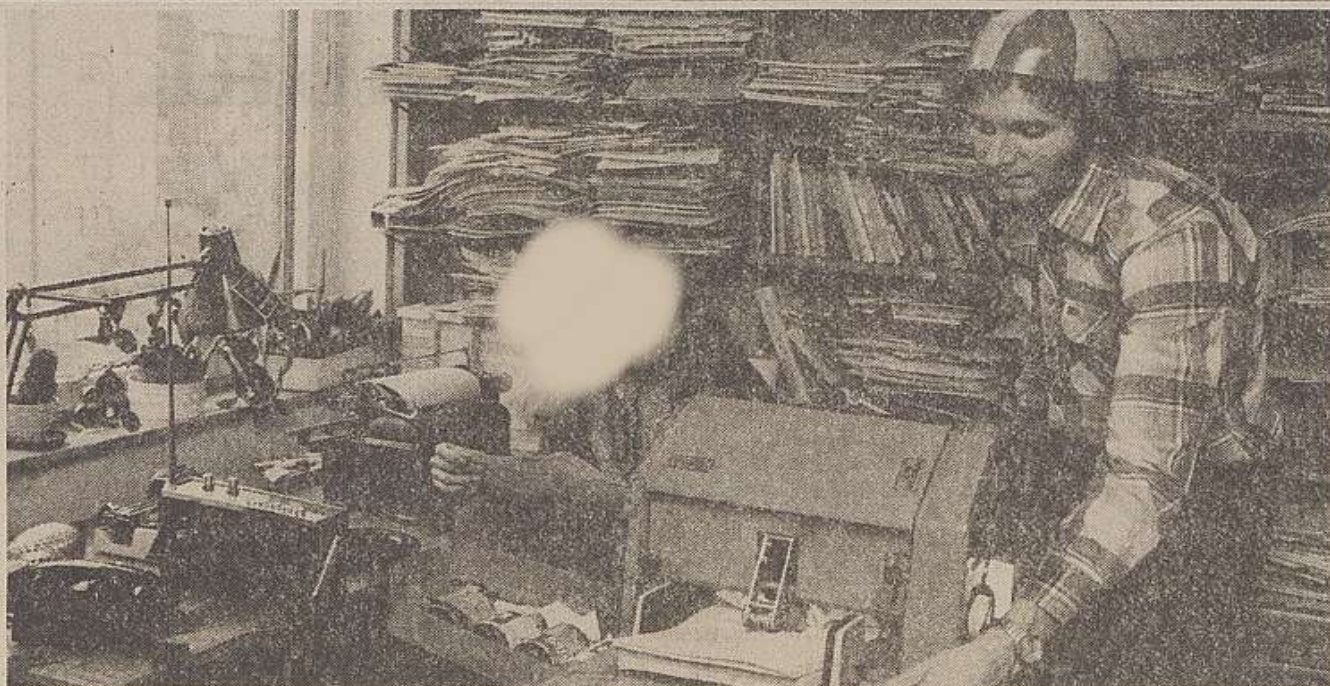
Sam J. Lundwall håller på att bli ett internationellt svenskt »sf-namn». Ser man tillbaka på allt han redan gjort — både som s k fan (= glad amatör) och som proffs — så är det inte utan att man tycker det var på tiden att Sam J. Lundwall nu även uppmärksammas utanför våra gränser. Så mycket »sf-begövning» skall inte ransoneras och förbehållas bara ett land och ett enda språk.

Hans Stålen

"Sam J Lundwall have worked with sf in different forms since the early teens. He published fanzine (small stencilled magazines) then, Later he wrote short stories for the Swedish sf magazine Häpna! (published 1954-1965 /66!/,) he made his own sf films during his time in the Photo School in Stockholm and in 1962 he published from his own publishing house Bibliography of Science Fiction and Fantasy. A publication arousing attention also outside our borders. Sam J Lundwall has through the years been an active member of the international sf movement."

And talking about fanzines and sf writers doing music, Börje Crona December 6, 1980, wrote about my newszine, founded as Vreckans Ävfentyr in 1978 ("The Wheel's Adfentures" referring to the alternate title of JVM) which through some transformations still runs, but now as as Twitter newstweets as @SFJournalen. The headline was "They Want to Reach Ever damn soul". Excerpt:

"The publication is a 'fanzine', ie a mimeographed magazine for friends of science fiction. A true fan isn't content with reading about space travel. Preferably he or she should publish or at least contribute to a fanzine. The first fanzine published in the US 50 years ago have had followers in practically the whole world. In Sweden published 150 fanzines with a total of 550 issues and 4200 stencilled pages. In this rich flora Vheckans Ävfentyr is somewhat of an old hand. The first issue came in December 1978, and now it has reached No 74."



(t v) och Ahrvid Engholm redigerar och publicerar Vheckans Ävfentyr — tidningen med den största upplageökningen i svensk press.

De vill nå varenda fan

□ Veckopressen är i kris, sägs det. Sjunkande upplagor, nedlagda blad, jämmer och elände.

Branschen kanske borde ta en pratstund med och Ahrvid Engholm, utgivarna av Vheckans Ävfentyr, som det senaste halvåret varit de mest framgångsrika i hela den svenska pressen.

Upplagan har stigit med 50 procent, alltså från 100 till 150 exemplar!

Deras publikation är ett "fanzine", dvs en stencilerad tidskrift för vänner av sciencefiction.

En äkta sf-fan nöjer sig nämligen inte med att läsa om rymdfärder. Helst ska han eller hon också utge eller åtminstone medverka i ett fanzine.

Det första fanzinet, som publicerades i USA för 50 år sedan, har fått efterföljare i praktiskt taget hela världen.

Enbart i Sverige kom förra året ca 150 fanziner med sammanlagt över 500 nummer och 4 200 stencilerade sidor.

I den rika floran är Vheckans

Ävfentyr något av en veteran. Det första exemplaret skrevs i december 1978, och nu är man framme vid nummer 74.

— Och vi tänker i varje fall fortsätta till nummer 500, förklarar

□ Tidningen har två redaktioner, en hemma hos på Vanadisvägen i Stockholm och en hos Ahrvid i Vällingby.

Varje redaktion har en krånglande stencilapparat och en uråldrig skrivmaskin, och dessutom har redaktörerna förstås varsin "beanie", den mössa med propeller som är en fanatisk fans kännetecken.

— Jag gör två nummer, och sedan gör två, berättar Ahrvid. När det är min tur står jag för alla kostnader, och när är chefredaktör är det han som betalar papper, stenciler och porto.

□ Ett av skälen till Vheckans Ävfentyrs framgång torde vara att man mutat in ett alldeles eget område. Andra fanziner innehåller noveller och litteraturkritik, medan VÄ främst är ett nyhetsorgan.

Bland notiserna om vem som var på kaneln, när och hur man stjal hamburgare var, finns hett stoff om strider mellan översättare och bokförlag, interna fejder i klubbar eller mellan olika fan-grupper.

Könskampen pågår även inom fan-rörelsen, och den refereras och förvärras av de båda chefredaktörerna, som dessutom har diverse sf-kändisar som kåsörer eller intervjuoffer.

□ som är 19 år, blev klar med gymnasiet i våras och tänker nu jobba ett år innan han fortsätter studierna.

21-åriga Ahrvid pluggar databehandling. Men det viktigaste i deras tillvaro är utan tvekan tidningen. Trots den unika upplageökningen kostar den pengar, och framför allt kostar den tid.

— Antalet sidor varierar mellan 2 och 18, men genomsnittet ligger på 10, säger Ut-skriften tar en dag, och så går ytterligare en halv åt till att stencilera och posta.

Men så ska vi ju också samla in nyheter vid besök på kongresser och klubbar och genom brevväxling.

□ Nå, hur ser ekonomin ut?

Där skiljer sig dess värre inte VÄ från andra veckotidningar — varje nummer går med en liten men dock förlust, och på ett år rör det sig sannolikt om tusenlappar. Ahrvid redovisar siffrorna.

— Vi har 50 prenumeranter

som betalar 1:50 per nummer. Resten av upplagan säljs som lösnummer, delas ut gratis till medarbetare eller används i byteshandeln med andra fanziner.

Enbart papper och stenciler till varje nummer kostar 80 bagis, och en ännu större utgiftspost är portot. Ett faktum är att vi aldrig gått igenom budgeten ordentligt. Gjorde vi det, skulle vi antagligen inte våga fortsätta.

Ändå är de båda chefredaktörerna fyllda av förtröstan inför framtiden.

— I Sverige finns minst 1 000 fans, som inte nöjer sig med att läsa böcker, utan också besöker kongresser och är med i klubbar. Fler och fler av dem börjar upptäcka oss, så vi är ganska säkra på att Vheckans Ävfentyr även i framtiden blir den tidning som ökar mest.

□ Hörde ni det i tidningshusen vid Torsgatan och Sveaplan? Nu är ni varnade.

CRONA

It's me in the beanie, cranking the mimeo. There was a co-editor of the first incarnation of the newszine VÄ/Fanytt/SFJ, who seven years later became infamous for together with cohorts faking a lot of votes in he then fan fund SEFF, in a big embezzlement of over €500. But not to shift focus in this historical newspaper clips odyssey I've blurred his face and name. Everyone in Swedish fandom knows about all this, though.

There's much more in store in this deep dive into what newspapers have written about skiffy and our dear old fandom, but I'll come back to that in next issue.

●

HEARD FROM THE MERE

OR

CORONA COMMENTS & CONTEMPLATIONS

"The Swedes are nuts!" many news headlines claims. "No, they are cunning bastards and know how to fight Corona..." others reply. All this comes from that, while half the world is in Total Lockdown, the measures against the Corona virus has been reasonably mild on the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula.

I have been following all the news about the pandemic as much as I can. I have daily been reading Swedish and foreign newspapers and articles through <https://news.google.com/>, often followed the many press conferences and news programs through Youtube, eg those from the Swedish Public Health Agency, the British government, governor Andrew Cuomo in New York (but rarely Donald Trump's briefings, which tends to be *thin in facts, but thick with Big Words...*). Here I'll collect bits and pieces and thoughts and speculations, not giving sources due to the simple fact that I didn't note such down from the start and chasing for them afterwards would be slow and awkward. But things tend to be uncertain and change fast in these strange times, so it shouldn't matter. Here we go....

Swedish Corona Measures

This is what has happened here in Sweden:

● The government strongly recommends *social distancing*, frequent *washing of hands*, to *work from home* if you can, *skipping non-essential travel*, and you must *stay at home if you feel the least bit ill* (sick benefits have expanded for this purpose). There are *posters about all this everywhere*, full-page ads in the newspapers, popup reminders when you go to your favourite sites, TV spots and shows, and so on. Very strong recommendations, *it is all voluntary*.

● To protect the elderly is especially stressed, so *visits to care homes* from outsiders, even family, are banned. Unfortunately, it hasn't worked well. More than half the fatalities are from care homes! It probably comes from the personnel who have been unaware of so called asymptomatic infections, that you can infect others without having symptoms. (They handle this in a stricter way now, so hopefully it drops.)

● Gatherings of *more than 50 people are banned*. The 50-people ban has in practice lead to virtually *all* events being cancelled, or being moved on-line. On my writing E-mail list SKRIVA I have a regular events calendar and I tend to keep good track of things happening in skiffy but also literature and culture in general, and practically *all* events have for the time being been cancelled, or moved on-line, no matter if they are below 50 people in size. Many would be hesitant to attend any event anyway, due to our unwelcome Corona visitor.

● *Preschools and primary schools are open* (kids up to age 16). *High schools and universities are on distance teaching*. It seems kids and youngsters are less easily infected and less spreaders. Though it has happened young people have become very ill, even died, it is very rare.

● *Shops, restaurants, businesses in general are open*. But it's not a "normal" situation. *They lose a lot of customers, of course, because many stay home*. All shops I've been to have *markings on the floor for the checkout lines 1.5 or 2 metres apart* and most have put up *plastic panels* in front of the cashiers. Authorities actually go around to check that places adjust themselves to social distancing, and *some restaurants have been forced to closed*. It's not voluntary for establishments to promote social distancing, they are bound by law to follow government instructions here.

● *The borders are closed for non-EU residents*, except for certain essential travellers, like diplomats, important experts, needed workers with work permits and so on. Farmers complain that needed foregin seasonal workers may be stopped (officials answer they should apply for a prior work permit, and then they may come - let's see how that works out). Under any circumstances, travelling is small.

● A lot of *virus testing is going on*. It has unfortunately had a slow start, due to lack of certain expendables needed - the whole world raced to get them at the same time! But *it will shortly be beefed up to 100 000 tests/week*. I read for instance that a company running a lab in Uppsala have converted their entire capacity to testing and will be able to do 70 000 test/week when running at full speed. Those testing positive are required to self-isolate at home. The *Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm has according to another piece I read deveolped an amazing anti-body test with near 100% accuracy* and Sahlgrenska hospital in Gothenburg is installing what they call a "*conveyer belt*" *anti-body test capacity for 15 000 test/day*. Let's see when all this becomes available. This strong testing capacity will be needed. The UK aims for 100 000 test/day, while Sweden hopes for 100 000 test/week but percapita the levels will be about the same..
Translated to US conditions, Sweden aims for the equivalent of 3 million test/week...

● The government has presented rescue packages for the economy, worth billions upon billions. I won't go into details about that, because economy is not at the core of my competence. His Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition at this time tend not to seek quarrel about the governments policies. That's wise.

● The national health system has *quadrupled its Intensive Care Units* (from ca 550 to over 2000). The Army has set up two *field hospitals*, which however have had very little use. The curve had been flattened enough for the regular hospitals to cope. It is even said that at the point in early April when infections and hospital admissions grew fastest, *the ICUs had a 20% spare capacity*. But it hasn't been a waste of efforts. One would expect the Army's field hospitals to have exercises about setting up their stuff, and it must be a brilliant exercise to do it under somewhat real conditions! It should be very valuable training.

● The Public Health Agency, lead by state epidemiologist *Anders Tegnell* - *who has had a rocket-rise to stardom* - *hold daily press conferences* about the situation. In other countries it's the government informing the citizens, here expert agency. The government will have press conferences anytime important additions to the virus policies are announced. Both king Carl XVI Gustaf and Prime



There's been demonstrations like this in several US states against too harsh lockdowns.

Minister (a prime can't be divisive...) Stefan Löfven have both held very solemn TV speeches about the severity of the situation. But there's no lockdown. No house arrest, en masse.

Result about Average

It has been claimed that these measures relying much on people to take take personal responsibility are possible only because *Swedes trust the government and each other*, and Swedish people are BTW *already from the start a bit distant and reserved...*

The result?



From a Stockholm park recently. Don't worry about people sitting in groups. That's families or workmates who if so probably already have infected each other. Otherwise groups keep distances. (Anyway catching the bug outdoors is very, very unlikely!)

are collected differently for each country.

At the moment I write this Sweden has ca 20 000 registered infections and ca 2400 fatalities. The number of *registered infections is BTW the most meaningless figure of them all*. It's just a measurement of how much you have spread testing - the more you test, the more infections you'll find. The Swedish fatality rate translates to ca 240 deaths/million inhabitants...but then we have to remember:

The Swedish figures are *All Inclusive!* They are taken directly from the national population registry, which has everything in immaculate detail, *including* deaths in care homes and private homes. *In eg Norway, the figures misses that*. In fact, the Norwegian system is that the doctor must phone up their statistics agency and report each death, if he remembers in the middle of all tension. In the end all corona deaths may be sorted out there too, but Norwegian deaths statistics should be boosted by at least 50% from private homes and care homes, I guess. I suspect our two other Nordic neighbours have gaps in their reporting too.

We also have the problem of *how to define a Corona death*. The formal death may be pneumonia, heart or kidney failure or a stroke - but it was Corona that made it happen. Some countries will only register it as a Corona death if the patient died in a hospital and prior to it was tested and diagnosed with the virus. Swedish doctors will register it as a corona death both after a test or if they conclude it was this virus from the symptoms, even if it was only a contributing factor. This makes a difference.

Sweden is doing *better than "downstate Europe"* but *worse than our Nordic neighbours*. And we're doing much, much better than eg New York City. With comparable population, NYC has about 10 times the infections and deaths. We're doing better than Italy, Spain, France, the UK, Belgium and several others - but worse than Norway, Denmark and Finland. I'll come to that. Overall, we are somewhere middle in the field, but - *Nota Bene!* - without a lockdown!

Let's remember what the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli once observed: *There are lies, damn' lies, and statistics*. You can't really study virus tables and

compare the columns, because the figures means different and are



Some celebrities and half-celebs have died, but usually it won't be known if it was Corona. The biggest name known being C-dead is the popular TV/radio host Adam Alsing, who was only 51.

Tracking the True Toll of the Coronavirus Outbreak

By Jin Wu, Allison McCann, Josh Katz and Elian Peltier Updated April 30, 2020, 2:30 P.M. E.T.



At least 46,000 more people have died during the coronavirus pandemic than the official Covid-19 death counts report, a review of mortality data in 14 countries shows — providing a clearer, if still incomplete, picture of the toll of the crisis.

Over the last two months, far more people have died in most of these countries than in previous years, The New York Times found.

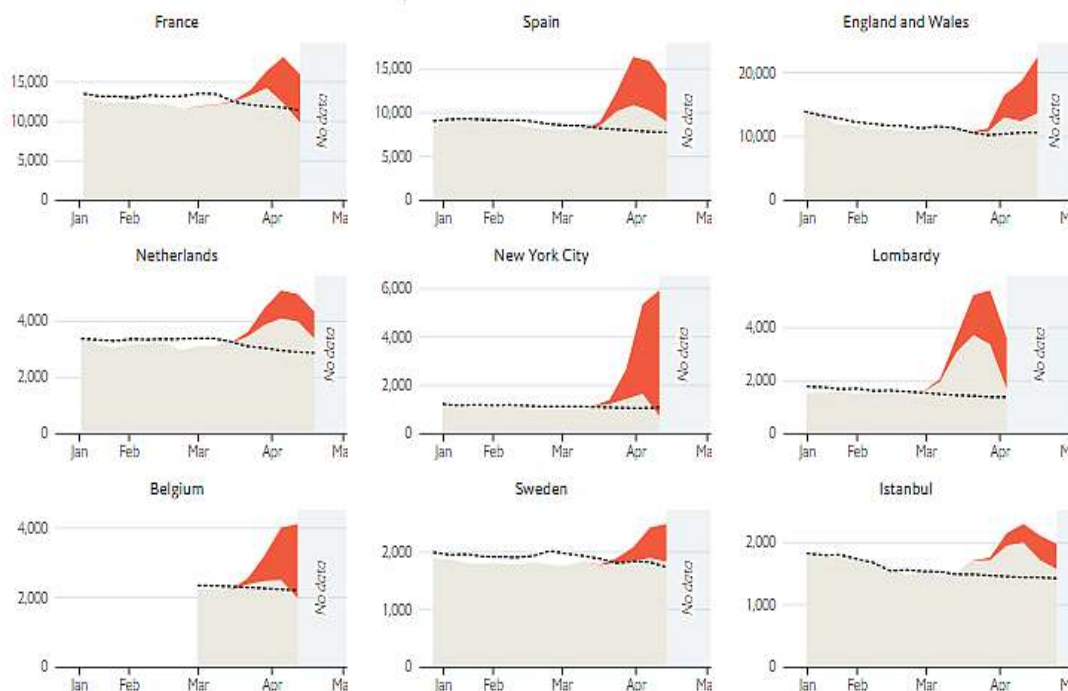
Graphs of “excess deaths” due to Corona in selected countries. The surest method to study the virus effects, since other statistics reports standards vary hugely between countries. From <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/21/world/coronavirus-missing-deaths.html>

of deaths for a given period this year, with the same period previous year. Those numbers tend to be very similar year by year, and unless there are special factors (nature disaster, war, terrorist attacks, epidemics) they differ very little. Over a longer period you of course have to adjust for population growth or decline.

The New York times has made a investigation into this, where Sweden seems to be doing just as well as most other countries, but much better than the UK, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium and New York City.

Confirmed weekly deaths

■ Deaths attributed to covid-19 ■ All other deaths Expected deaths



Another presentation of excess deaths due to Corona, this time from The Economist. From <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2020/04/16/tracking-covid-19-excess-deaths-across-countries>

No Statistics Standards, But Population Data Show

There is *no international standard for how to define, report and register* things in this area so it is very, very tricky to make comparisons out of those impressive looking tables you see. But there is one area which is quite standardised, the simple art of registering the number of deaths for different periods.

This opens a more *direct and objective way to measure Corona deaths*.

Just compare the number

of deaths for a given period this year, with the same period previous year. Those numbers tend to be very similar year by year, and unless there are special factors (nature disaster, war, terrorist attacks, epidemics) they differ very little. Over a longer period you of course have to adjust for population growth or decline.

The New York times has made a investigation into this, where Sweden seems to be doing just as well as most other countries, but much better than the UK, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium and New York City. There are *three “outliers”*. (The numbers you see in the NYT curves are not readings, but markings of the scale, so eg “2000” means “2000 starts here”.) Germany has a very flat curve, and it is said it's because they have the most extensive testing and tracking program in Europe. And flatness, even decline, also goes for Norway and Denmark. My interpretation is that they had very little initial virus spreading as they went into lockdown, and

those actions have of course continued to keep the curves flat. Sweden wasn't as lucky and had a certain epidemic going on when measures began. It's unwise to compare with countries which had different initial conditions.

I also add a similar presentation from The Economist, where the Swedish "extra deaths" seems rather modest compared to others.

But What Happens After Lockdowns?

The "big losers" this far (Italy, the UK etc) had *unfortunately a major epidemic going on when they began a lockdown*, and that's why they have been so heavily hit despite harsh measures. These countries are much bigger travel destinations than for instance Sweden, so they got much more infected visitors to begin with. In their cases a *lockdown may have been wise since they had so bad initial conditions*. But for getting out of it I think they should look a little on what Sweden did.

Lockdowns can't go on forever, so all countries will have to *consider what to do to get out of it*. It is possible we'll see death rates rise again, even a major second wave, in Norway, Denmark and Finland. They have to hope for *extensive testing and tracing and maybe new, effective medicines*.

But the milder Swedish measures are balanced so that they, according to Anders Tegnell of the Public Health Agency, *"can go on for months, even years"*. And at the same time the Swedish population is *moving towards herd immunity*, which is unlikely after a hard lockdown. Swedish Corona deaths now hover around 50/day, last weekend they were in fact only...16+10! It may be an effect of lagging reports, but as you can see from the curve for Sweden the peak has passed. Deaths here will go down with increasing herd immunity, and our Nordic neighbours may begin to pass our figures.

The final tally will only come when this blasted Corona situation is over. And it will take years and years to finally analyse the pandemic.

As I wrote in last issue, I believe the the Swedish measures achieves about 85% of the effects of strict lockdowns. The *remaining 15% lets the epidemic slowly and in a controlled way leak out in society to get herd immunity*, as a side effect. This means that our Nordic lockdown neighbours because of their actions are in a much *earlier phase of the epidemic. While flattening the curve they also shuffle it ahead.*

There are just two ways to beat the virus: a vaccine, which is 12-18 months away, or herd immunity. You can't eradicate it (even if New Zealand claims she has - we'll have to see) and a vaccine is far away. Those applauding themselves for low death figures, will either have to continue with a lockdown for 18 months until we see a vaccine, or be prepared to see figures rise when they ease restrictions.



Volunteers help out making PPE aprons in a makeshift "factory" in southern Stockholm.

Herd Immunity

Stockholm is said to be at or near herd immunity now. "Herd immunity" happens when 50-70% of a population has had the disease and are immune. It's *not total immunity* but the situation when so

many are immune that the virus suddenly find it much more difficult to spread - some will still get the bug, but it will be much fewer. And we'll still need to protect the elderly, because they have intentionally as much as possible been kept away from getting herd immunity.

"Sweden did that, the herd, they call it the herd. Sweden's suffering very, very badly. It's a way of doing it..."

--The Man in Orange



Sweden's State Epidemiologist Anders Tegnell has risen to stardom, and have even become a tattoo...

That's a major challenge. Our Public Health Agency and Dr Tegnell say, however, that we're not in this for a sprint, but a marathon.

I wonder how people who have been under house arrest will react if it begins to lift... Maybe they'll all *run to the pub and kiss everybody!* It's easy to implement a Total Lockdown, but much more difficult to lift it. It's also a question of *other health aspects, coming from a crashing economy: unemployment, mental problems from being locked up, suicides.*

Swedish unemployment have gone up with roughly 100 000, which proportionally would be equal to 3 million for the US of A – but there 30 million have registered as unemployed! That's

10xSweden..

We also have *other illnesses, which may not have had sufficient treatment* because of concentrated efforts towards Corona. It's easier to do it right from the beginning.

It has been questioned if you can count immunity after recovering from an infection. Most experts say that you can - the only uncertainty being how long it lasts. There had been studies from South Korea implying "reinfections", but the latest news is that they are retracted. It was *a mistake from "false positive" tests. It was dead virus particles remaining* after infection that caused test to indicate the patients were still infected or "reinfected". We'll soon have about half a year's data on immunity and this far it seems immunity lasts.

Medicines

What hopes are there for vaccines and medicines? There are a reported *100 vaccine projects going on* right now, and among the leaders in the field is eg a *project by Oxford University I cooperation with the British-Swedish company Astra-Zeneca*. They have just begun their first clinical tests, but results will take months. You have to wait that long to see a) if the vaccine works, b) if effects last, c) if there are any unwanted side-effects. It is said that if everything goes straight on track ö which is unlikely in vaccine development - they could have a vaccine in September. But then it will take months to begin production, setting up distribution etc. Most experts say a vaccine is available next spring, at the earliest.

Meanwhile, we could hope for medicines and treatments to make infections milder. Here are some suggestions...

- *Chloroquine* has been suggested and promoted by both Donald Trump and a French witch doctor, but clinical tests haven't been very positive. The drug may even be dangerous!

- *Remdesivir* is a failed medicine for the Ebola virus, and here some limited test have shown promise. It is now permitted for "emergency use" in some countries, incl Sweden.

- Another promising method has been to take *blood plasma* from patients who have had the Corona, and inject it (given the right blood groups and other factors) since it will contain antibodies against the Corona virus. It has shown promise. Maybe all who had the disease will have to donate blood!

- German scientists have noted that the Corona virus initially multiplies very fast in the upper nasal region, and are developing a *nose spray* to fight the virus early in an infection.

- Noting than men are about twice as likely to become seriously ill and die compared with women, it has been suggested to inject patients with the *female sex hormone oestrogen*. Tests are going on with that now. (Limited doses, not enough to make guys suddenly feel the urge to wear high heels

and book time with the hairdresser.)

- Since pneumonia is a disease often caused by Corona, it's been suggested *vaccination against the most common pneumonia bacteria* would be a good preventive measure.

- *Learning and improving the dynamics of ventilators has shown to be very important.* What should the pressure be, and the frequency? Oxygen content? How to vary the factor? Swedish doctors have been exchanging experiences with international colleagues about optimal ventilator use. At the Karolinska hospital they've reached 80% survival for ventilator patients, better than the typical 50%.

- There are indications that having had a shot for the latest ordinary seasonal flu may make Corona milder, since it is related to those flus.

- A strange observation is that smokers tend to be less affected. There are investigations going on if *nicotine could hamper the virus*. This substance is often used as a pesticide in agriculture, after all. The Swedes here have a secret weapon, the wet tobacco with salt and spices put under the lip and called snus, which is very popular.

...and then we have US president Trump who seems, I'm sorry to say, disconnected from reality, suggesting injecting *disinfectants into the blood stream*, something most likely to kill folks. Or *projecting UV light on people!* It's true that UV kills viruses. That's why they often are less active in the summer, when there's more sun. But it is stopped by the skin! The UV light is absorbed by certain skin cells and causes a tan. It can't penetrate into the body. The US president first ignored the Corona virus, said it would go away "magically". He was late with measures. He seems not to understand the science and gives conflicting messages. He has daily, babbling press conferences where he claims everything is the "best ever" and "amazing". Is Donald J Trump for real?



One bothering thing is *what will happen in the third world with this virus*. So far statistics implies it hasn't spread too much there, but if it does and the dynamics is the same as with us...it may be a massacre! Speculations are, though, that the virus *won't like tropical climate* as much (the Sun's UV light and other conditions) so we may hope for that. Many third world countries also have a *population structure dominated by young people*, who don't get as easily infected. That's also something to hope for. Otherwise, we in the "North" will have to pack up all our surplus ventilators and send already overworked medics south.

China is a strange case. Their official pandemic statistics (on eg <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>) show a surprisingly mild epidemic. For my part I find that *highly suspicious*. *They have the largest population in the world, the virus came from there first, before they took any action they had the Chinese New Year causing hundreds of millions to travel*. Not matter how "effective" (ie oppressive) their communist dictatorship is, the disease figures they present stands out as impossible. Most likely the Chinese have a major, ongoing epidemic which they try hide. I saw a report from an Asian news outlet which found a way to expose the Chinese cover up: they contacted the firms in Wuhan delivering the cremation urns used in Chinese burials. These firms *had delivered 30 to 50 times more urns than needed for the official death figures*. After their report, it suddenly became impossible to contact the urn makers again... The Chinese regime is lying through their teeth.

What Will the Future Be?

In many countries, things will start to calm down in the autumn, because herd immunity will arrive whether you like it or not. Next spring there may be a vaccine and it will become even calmer. But economies haven't meanwhile *dropped to 1930's Great Depression figures*... Sweden counts on ca 10% unemployment and 6-7% GDP drop. Private consumption has during this crisis dropped by

30%. People don't go out shopping and drinking as much (but in eg Norway and Finland, private consumption has dropped ca 70%, and it's similar in some US states).

We won't be unaffected, because we're so dependent on exports - who who will buy stuff, with the economy in shambles? *It take the best case a couple of years for the economy to bounce back* to something resembling normal, I think. Politicians today *know more about economics theory* than in the 1930s, and we have experience from the 2008 recession.

What we call globalisation will unfortunately take a pause. Travel and tourism will take time to resume. I suspect that Swedes this year will be forced to domestic vacations, which may compensate a little for foreign visitors being away. Airlines will be in major troubles. To *meet through the net, virtual reality and video conferencing* has already gotten a boost. I think *"traditional" politicians and parties will gain*, because they stand for something well-known which you can trust in uncertain times. In Sweden, the Social Democrats have gained heavily from the crisis. In the US I guess *Trump will get the boot* in next election. He's too non-traditional, to say the least! People will be more cautious with things.

I wonder what happens with the trillions of Crowns, Dollars and Pounds governments have let lose? As noted earlier, governments can through their *national banks create any amount of money* - but what happens then? Budget deficits and public debt will skyrocket and taxes probably go up, but will there be much inflation, it's taxes and inflation that hit ordinary people the hardest (except of course being fired and unemployed).

Science fiction will suddenly become more popular, I'm sure! We have been writing and reading about global disasters for ages, after all. We'll see many new fictional disaster stories. *Sf cons can hopefully resume*, say, this autumn. But to be on the safe side Swecon 2020 re-scheduled for October, have also booked a spare date in March 2021. So the 2020 con may come come in 2021... *They have invented fandom's Time Machine!*

But we'll have to see what happens. It ain't over until the Fat Lady rises from the ventilator!

Give me your thoughts on this blasted Corona bug, and may Roscoe kick this little bug in the behind until it goes away!

Mailing Comments Ventilated Later

The Mailing Comments began to cough and developed high fever, so they were rushed to intensive care... No, seriously, because of time-constraints I have to push the curve of Mailing Comments to next issue (which hopefully this will get MCs for two mailings). I've been very stressed doing this issue. First I have had to prepare for the 2020 Fantastic Short Story Competition - now having it's 20th anniversary! - but most of all have been spending countless hours and days digging into the temporarily open newspaper archive of the Royal Library. Those efforts of that have taken up a lot of time, and some of the efforts of that are in this issue. The archive was originally to be open only through April so I took upon me to do as much research as possible before month's end. (Later came the news it would be open in May too, but it had put a pressure on available time anyway.)

To this comes that the issue has been extremely complicated to edit It's always like that when mixing a lot of pictures with text, but to this comes extra picture editing (trying to make the texts in the pictures somewhat readable, for those who know Swedish at least) and some fast translations. Still I have only been able to present a tiny fraction of my history findings. More in next issue. Beware!

To promote EAPA (*please join - new members wanted!*) I'll mail this issue around a little, also because I hope that the *sf and fandom historical material here might be of interest*. I'll of course especially target some Swedish and Scandinavian fans, who can actually read the text in the newspaper clips. As for English translations and summaries, it's only possible - in most cases - to present little snippets. However, if something seems of particular interest, send me a note and *I'll make a more comprehensive summary or translation* of that! Please also tell me if you know anyone you think may be especially interested in what this *Intermission* has to present and I'll mail a copy. Any comments to this issue are of course welcome. I won't run a LoCol, but I may indirectly address

interesting points made. And those responding will get next issue, though the best way to get your
Intermissions is to be in EAPA..., --Ahrvid