

YESTERDAY'S WORLD - TODAY AGAIN!

INTERMISSION #97

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com for EAPA, but due to I hope interesting history contents some outsiders will also get it. On Twitter, follow my newstweets from Nordic sf/fantasy/horror/fandom on @SFJournalen (but I've had less time to work with my private account @ahrvid). No worry about all typos! They will go away, magically... Early June 2020.

COVIDIALLY

Here's more on sf & fandom history, from the temporarily corona opened newspaper archive of the Royal Library in Stockholm. And also more corona talk. I suspect many are tired of the darn virus. Me too, but it's a bit therapeutical to write about the bugger as there's very little you can do about it...

Intermission is my EAPAZine but there're double reasons to distribute this issue to some outsider. I want to promote EAPA (*please join!* - new members welcome and needed) but I also think the history bits may interest folks, at least Swedish readers to receive this. For English readers, I'll make translations and/or summaries of things covered. (If you're especially interested in something, ask me for more translations.) Swedish readers may magnify newspaper clips and read the original texts. They should be readable, though blurry as I must shrink them to keep sizes down and make them fit.

I have lots of stuff from that newspaper archive, so there'll be more in next issue. During the two months the Royal Library had it open on-line I spent an estimated 250 hours digging and I have about 1500 files of the clips saved. And when Corona struck from outer space (it seems) I originally thought it would be over by summer. But it's become a poisonous gift that just gives and gives! There's been a lot of buzz about the Swedish IKEA screw-it-and-fix-it-yourself virus strategy, so the topic corona is inevitable.

The tragedy Minneapolis managed to push the corona shite away from top headlines. George Floyd being crushed to death by a stone-cold, unconcerned policeman was a shocking sight!

Minnesota had a large influx of Scandinavian immigrants, people believed to be peaceful, calm, tolerant... But reading up a bit on the state of the state I learn they've had a miserable history of racial tensions there. With people being in frustrating lockdown for months we had a powder keg ready to explode. One victim was the sf/mystery bookshop Uncle Hugo's, older even than the Stockholm SF-Bokhandeln (est 1977), being in Minneapolis since 1974. Pictures show just rubble after it torched. It



Ruins of Uncle Hugo's sf bookshop in Minneapolis. A tragedy within a tragedy.



There were G Floyd demos in Stockholm too. Thousands on Sergel's Sq here later marched to the Royal Palace.

must be a heartache for local fandom, on top on all else. Following the protests all over the US, and abroad - caused by a one action by a Chauvin-istic pig - as millions were on the streets not exactly social-distancing I suspect we'll see a virus surge 1-2 weeks later. It seems the preppers I wrote about earlier are right. First a pandemic, then economic collapse, followed by widespread riots..

The only consolation in these troubled times: the SpaceX astronaut launch went fine! *Ad Astra!*

I made a little blunder with last issue. I by mistake distributed a test save of the PDF, a version with two lines overflowing to next page, otherwise being blank. It's easy to fix, but the faulty version went out anyway. There's a corrected version of *Intermission* #96 which you can have if you just ask me.

Comments are welcome! I won't run LoCs but may indirectly address issues you raise.

--Ahrvid Engholm

Ps. "Yesterday's World - Today Again" is the old motto of my sf/fandom newsletter (now on Twitter),

MISC SF HISTORY NOTES

As in previous issue I'll present some of my fanarcheological discoveries from digging through the digitalised Swedish newspaper archive at the Royal Library, which was open on-line in April and May, to make life easier during the corona epidemic as the library practically closed. I spent quite a lot of time in front of my browser screen and could have spent even more time, among the perhaps 1000 newspapers from the 1600s and on said to have ca 80 million pages. Their scanning project isn't finished yet. Some papers are not scanned (mostly small, local ones, but I noted the important Stockholms-Tidningen was only scanned up to 1915) and it's only newspapers, not magazines. I did my best to find of interest, but didn't have time to do everything I wanted...



Review of radio report from the first Swedish sf con in 1956.

I'll try to present illos readable (but maybe a bit blurry) for Swedish readers. For English readers I'll make summaries and sometimes short translations. (Tell me if something is of extra interest and I'll translate more!) It'll be presented in more or less random order.

The first Swedish sf convention, and the first one in the Nordic region, was called Luncon and was held in the southern university town of Lund, 18-19 of August in 1956. The important sf magazine *Häpna!* ("Be Astounded!") had been founded two years earlier, and its fandom column promoted clubs and fanzines. Through the newspaper archive I found that a wave of curious interest in this new thing called "science fiction" began the year before *Häpna!* in 1953, as number of articles about it rose sharply then.

This was perhaps the reason the main news program on radio decided to cover Luncon! It's worth noting this meant *reaching everyone!* Swedish TV had barely begun and very few had TV sets, and Swedish radio had just two channels, called P1 and P2. (Swedish radio/TV politics and history is a strange beast I may write more about some day. It's a worse version of the BBC, basically.)

Everyone listened to the main radio news. I have no idea what the news report said, but Dagens Nyheter's radio reviewer wasn't satisfied in his review column Aug 19. He wrote:

To the unnecessary things during the evening was the Echo /the news were called "Today's Echo" from the science fiction conference in Lund. Such a flowing and uncertain subject should be treated in much more detail and with comments from different sides, and not be poured into people as if an already recognised science. The comparison with Karin Boye's /Retro-Hugo nominated/ "Kalloccain" was notably flawed, since it is based on elements of the soul and is a play of fantasy about the dangers of a certain development in man.

The review is rather obscure. The reviewer seems to believe that sf is some sort of science! He wants more critical comments ("from different sides") of this "flowing and uncertain" science. One can conclude that people on the con were interviewed, and they must have said that the famous dystopian tale Kalloccain belonged to the genre, but the reviewer disagreed with a rather obscure reflection about "elements of the soul".

If tell you a coronavirus joke now, you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

Anyway, it must have been a major breakthrough for the genre to have been heard in every living room and kitchen in the country. At the first try, with the first convention! I found not other comments on this radio program – but newspaper poetry! Swedish newspapers have a “light page” with light-hearted columns, jokes, observations from daily life and oddities. And they often have a “daily verse” with a humorous take on some topic of the day. Signature “Kajenn” wrote the verse below Svenska Dagbladet Aug 20, as the first “Scandinavian SF Union” had been founded on Luncon. As I think I have noted earlier, fans over here were crazy about forming a central Scandinavian sf organisation and all of them failed. People lost interest, or didn't see the need for one. (The same thing happening with N3F in the US, though it still exists it never became what it was intended to be.) This is what was written in Sweden's second biggest morning paper, in a fast translation without attempts to catch the rhymes:

A ROMANTIC EVENING

The Swedish sciencefiction-union has been founded in Lund

*Lo, the stars shine brightly
in autumn during evening.
Then you can see the ship Aniara.
A dog barks at the Moon.
Come, let us be merry
with the union in Lund.*

*Planets hang in the alley of willows.
We listen by the foot of the dome
for the swish in the August ether
and in the globes of our glass hoods.
“It should have been rockets,”
a delegate mumbles.*

*It echoes for a while in the helmet,
a sigh from deep in our breast
with a muffled planetary voice:
“We won't travel tonight, but
but another autumn...”*



“THE SWEDISH SF UNION The sf convention gathering about 100 attendees, from different parts of the country, finished Tuesday in Stockholm. They decided to form The Swedish SF Union, to be a central organ for the 36 sf clubs in the country. Among tasks “studying tendencies in opinions about the future” Sture Lönnerstrand, Stockholm, was elected chairman and the rest of the board was vice chairman Runo Sundin, Stockholm, secretary Alvar Appeltofft, Halmstad, vice secretary Clas-Otto Wene, Tyringe. It was decided next sf convention is in August next year.”

Svenska SF-unionen

Science fiction-kongressen, som samlat omkring 100 deltagare från olika delar av landet, avslutades på tisdagen i Stockholm. Man beslöt att bilda “Svenska SF-unionen”, som ska bli ett centralorgan för landets 36 science fiction-klubbar. “Undersökningar av tendenserna i uppfattningen om framtiden” ingår bl a i arbetsuppgifterna. Sture Lönnerstrand, Stockholm, valdes till ordförande i styrelsen, som i övrigt fick följande utseende: vice ordförande Runo Sundin, Stockholm, sekreterare Alvar Appeltofft, Halmstad, och vice sekreterare Clas-Otto Wene, Tyringe. Man beslöt att nästa science fiction-kongress skall äga rum i augusti nästa år.

To this was an illustration with a spaceman, a rocket and people gathering around a table.

The first Swedish sf con did have a certain media impact! Though these two examples are the only one I found. There may be more in papers not yet scanned, or the AI algorithm for OCR may have missed things (or coverage used other words than “Luncon” and “science fiction” which I searched for).

Svensk union bildad för science fiction

Science fiction-kongressen med ett hundratal deltagare från skilda delar av landet avslutades på tisdagen med att man beslöt bilda "Svenska SF-unionen", som skall bli ett centralorgan för landets lokala SF-klubbar, sammanlagt just nu 35 st. Till ordförande valdes redaktör Sture Lönnerstrand och till vice ordförande redaktör Runo Sundin, Stockholm. Nästa Science fiction-kongress hålls i augusti nästa år på plats, som bestäms senare. Mars, kanske?

"Swedish Union Formed for SF The sf convention with about 100 attendees from different parts of the country finished on Tuesday, with deciding to form The Swedish SF Union, to be a central organ for the local sf clubs in the country, right now 35. Sture Lönnerstrand was elected chairman and vice chairman Runo Sundin, Stockholm. Next sf convention in August next year on site to be decided later. Perhaps Mars?"

En fläkt av universum i eftermiddagsbrådskan

Strax före kl. 17 knackade det på dörren till marg-redaktionen. In trädde en 16-årig yngling, som presenterade sig som utgivare av tidningen "Super". Vi studsade lätt, men det visade sig att titeln inte ansplade på något som nykterhetsrörelsen kunde intressera sig för, utan på science fiction.

— En science fiction-kongress börjar i morgon på restaurang Gondolen, berättade han. Den fortsätter på lördag med ett tal av författaren Sture Lönnerstrand i en lokal vid S:t Eriksgatan. Arrangör är föreningen Futura, som utger tidningen "Star Stuff Science Fiction Fancies".

— Det låter amerikanskt. Använder ni ingen svenska?

— Jo — delvis.

Vi frågade om föreningens verksamhet och fick veta att den omfattar studium av rymdfärds teknik och litteratur om ämnet. Någon månfärd har man ännu inte antecknat sig för, men ett flygplan skall inköpas till nästa kongress. Harry Martinson diskuteras givetvis, och också något som heter "sverifandomen".

— Sverifandomen är i avtagande i Sverige, förklarade den unge chefredaktören för tidningen "Super" och lämnade snabbt redaktionen utan att vi lyckats bli klokare på vare sig science fiction eller vad som menas med "sverifandomen".

A faned visits Dagens Nyheter Aug 20, before Stockon1957.

However, as said the "SF Unions" formed had a tendency to die off — whereupon the industrious fans just formed a new one on the next convention. In 1957 an new one was formed on Stockon in Stockholm, and the biggest morning paper Dagens Nyheter wrote about it Aug 28 (translation in the caption above). Morning competitor Svenska Dagbladet also covered this new "SF Union" the same day (translation in the caption).

There's more from this Stockon 1957. Before it began, Dagens Nyheter was visited by one of the most active fans of the time, the publisher of the fanzine Super, Sture Sedolin (though his name isn't given), as reported Aug 20. Its too long to translate, but it says eg that the con would start Friday in restaurant Gondolen and continue Saturday on a site on S:t Erik Street. Sture Lönnerstrand, publisher of Star Stuff SF Fanzine, will hold a speech. The club "Future" (=Futura) studies space travel, though you can't book a Moon trip yet an airplane is to be bought to next con. Harry Martinson is discussed and something called the paper didn't understand called Sverifandom. (=Swedish fandom, from SVERIGE, ie Swedish for "Sweden").

Another fallout from the con a few days later Sep 1 when the evening paper Expressen got their hands on the fanzine

Urvoat, published by Clas-

Otto Wene, with eg contributions by Lennart Sörensen (who wrote a lot about sf in the newspapers at the time!). Too long to translate, but we learn eg the fanzine name comes from URania, VOLuspa & ATropos. In leading article there are "Blasphemic thoughts on modern sf"...Wene tries too much", the newspaper thinks so it becomes "a sneeze into emptiness", also said in the headline. Sörensen reviews his own poets which are "a new way to approach the universe".

I mentioned that a number of sf clubs were formed around this time. The third one, Futura (est 1950, No 2 was Strate-Organisation 1949 and No 1 Atom-Noak 1945) had a small classified ad in Dagens Nyheter as well as Aftonbladet Jan 7, 1954. Translation in the caption, I fill out all the abbreviations they used since they could only afford two lines... I also found a very strange classified ad (under "Contact wanted") by an obviously lovesick early fan, from Dagens Nyheter March 25, 1957. Translation in the

FUTURA, Sv. För. f. Science Fiction. Nya medl. välkomna! Ring 46 21 44.

"FUTURA. Swedish association for Science Fiction. New members welcome! Call 46 21 44." (Small ad from Jan 7, 1954.)

Utl. uppfinnare, 30/185, skild, med ordn. ekon., sök. bek. m. intro-verterad flicka som är road av teknik o. science fiction. Sv. med foto "S - K - 20", DN:s H.-k.

"Foreign inventor 80/180, divorced, with good economy seeks acquaintance with introverted girl who enjoys technology and science fiction. Answer with photo "S-K-20" DN's HQ" (The first numbers are probably weight and height.) Mar 25 '57

Science fiction fantaster

söker lämplig källarlokal med centralt läge till klubb- o. hobbyrum Vi är fantaster, i n t e miljonärer. Ring 0753/301 99 eller skriv C. H. Bierbaum, Box 19, Tumba.

"Sf fantasters wanting suitable basement situated centrally as club and hobby room. We're fantasters, n o t millionaires. Call 0753/301 99 or write to C H Bierbaum, Box 19, Tumba" Jan 4 '58

Översättare av Science Fiction

från engelskan får löpande uppdrag. Journalistiskt meriterad föredras. Svar med stilprov till "SF -58", Dagens Nyheter Hk.

"Translator of SF to get running commissions. Journalistic merits preferred. Answer with sample work to SF-58, Dagens Nyheter HQ!" Apr 25 '58

SF-nysning ut i tomma intet

Av PER KELLBERG

♦ "Urvoat" låter som ett stridsrop av nysnings- eller uppkastningskaraktär, och som stridsrop kanske det bör tolkas när det som titel åsätts en alldeles ny science fiction-publikation, men som nysning och något av uppkastning eller fjört kan väl bladet närmast karaktäriseras.

Utgivaren kallar sig koordinator och heter Clas-Otto Wene, och han förklarar namnet som "en sammansmältning av tre sinnebilder: två grekiska, Urania och Atropos, smak-satta med litet eskatologi, Voluspa". Det var fint värre. Det förpliktar. Hur förnimmar man ansvaret?

Wene rekommenderar oss i presentationen att ta del av koordinators egen artikel, "Kätterska tankar kring modern science fiction", samt av fil kand Lennart Sörensens "Kaviar åt bönder". I den förstnämnda anbefalles blodtransfusioner till de professionella leden av science fiction-författare, och det låter sig ju sägas. Men Wene siktar så högt och spänner sig till sådana krystningar, att resultatet blir en nysning ut i tomma intet. Prosit.

Sörensen recenserar egna dikter. Han tål inte att de har kritiserats och menar därför att de är kaviar åt bönder. "De svarar för en ny metod att närma sig universum", säger han efter att, otillständigt snorkigt, ha kritiserat sina kritiker. Åt sådant säger man inte prosit utan fy skäms.

Urvoat in Expressen Sep1, 1957

Lördagen den 4 augusti 1962

— Vetenskapens, framstegets och framtidens dag —

Översikter av kända vetenskapsmän om aktuella frågor inom vetenskap och teknik
Rymdflygarna tas emot (på flygfältet eller järnvägsstationen)
Stort möte med rymdflygarna (på eftermiddagen)
Invigning av »Framtidens» park
— Plantering av träd och uppförande av ett minnesmärke
Diskussion om science-fiction-litteraturen
Visning av science-fiction-filmer
Modellflygplans-visning och -tävling; miniatyrraketer
Seminarium om den moderna arkitekturen
Internationella konserter
Bal med deltagande av rymdflygarna
Studenternas Fria Forum
Utställningar:
— kosmos
— livets utveckling

The full program for the festival's "Day of science, progress and the Future", including receiving GoH J Gagarin, discussion on sf literature, sf films, model rocket contest, ball with cosmonauts, exhibition about cosmos

caption, and I'll expand the abbreviations (except the signature). Who placed this ad? I have a theory, which becomes obvious with another classified ad (translation in the caption, abbreviations filled out, except for "sf") from the same newspaper not long after, Jan 4, 1958. Bierbaum, a known fan of the time, was German so I guess he is the "foreign inventor" seeking an introvert sf girl. I hope he found her, because you know it's otherwise a *Proud And Lonely Thing To Be A Fan...* Finally another classified ad, from the magazine *Häpna!* I guess since they needed translators, in Dagens Nyheter April 25, 1958.

Speaking of conventions, some Finnish fen claim the first Finnish sf con was a film festival held in 1969. As far as I've been able to check it out it had very little of what we require from a proper con (no mixed program, no GoH, no book tables, etc). It was just a film festival. I was co-organiser of the first proper sf con in Finland, in Helsinki in 1982, named King-Con (done with eg the energetic Tom Ölander, Sam J Lundwall lead a bunch of Swedes coming over by

ferry and recruited Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison as GoHs) and am BTW the only one who have subsequently been to all the following Finncons. But now I found something that *may* qualify as the first Finnish sf con — provided you like communism!

I found a full page ad in one of the Stockholm papers July 25 1958 about the 8th International Youth Festival, held in Helsinki, June 28-6 Aug. And Saturday 4 Aug it had the "Day of science, Progress and The Future", with a GoH in the form of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, films, debates, speeches, exhibitions...

This is a much better candidate for the first Finnish sf con, or perhaps we should call it an *eo-con*. There was a mixed program, both literature and films, exhibitions, to me science and space is also connected to the genre and cosmonaut Gagarin - first man in space - guested, as well as other spacemen, who all got an official reception "on the airport or the railway station". Scientists presents "topics in contemporary science and technology". There's a ball, as others have had banquets, a concert (not unknown on cons) and even a seminar about modern architecture. Old communist architecture was known to be pretty spaced out, resembling Amazing covers by Frank R Paul. The only thing that nags



The full page ad for the youth festival in Helsinki in 1962. (I lost in which paper, but it doesn't matter since it was probably run in many.)

me is that these “youth festivals” were communist East bloc events, directed from Moscow.

Finland was here the odd man out, adhering to the West, democratic and free, but after WWII kneeling a little bit in the Soviet shadow. Eg, Finland is the only country which took part in *both* the Eurovision Song Contest and the East bloc alternative, which was called the Intervision - which she even won once! (The Intervision had a exotic voting system. Lacking infrastructure for other systems - not all had a telephone, for instance - the viewers were asked to turn on all their lights for the song they liked best. Organisers would then measure electricity consumption in the power net!)

But I'm not so sure a communist youth festival is something Roscoe would approve of, even if the ideology behind is utopian. Utterly failed utopian, but still.

(Worth noting, though, is that politicalization has sneaked into regular sf cons in later years, with promotion of quotas, trigger warnings, historically invaluable genre people being declared “fascists” and stripped of their awards, at the same time as even the mention of the word “snowflake” gets you Nyconthirtynined under a resurrected Exclusion Act. It's called “Code of Conduct”, this retroactive self-righteousness and suppression of non-approved opinions.)

Speaking of the old East bloc, to my surprise I found this in the old Swedish communist paper Norrskensflamman (the name means “The Flame of Aurora Borealis”), November 22 1962:

Klubb för äventyrslystna

KIEV (APN) En klubb för äventyrslystna har startats i Kiev. Meningen är att deltagarna på sina sammanträden skall diskutera science fiction och djärva hypotester av de mest skilda slag. T. ex. vad som väntar rymdfararna på fjärran planeter eller möjligheterna att skapa konstgjort liv.

I styrelsen för Science fiction-klubben, som den officiellt heter, ingår flera kända författare och vetenskapsmän, bl. a. astronomiprofessorn Sergej Vsechsvjatskij och biologiprofessorn Michail Klovov.

Club for Lusting for Adventure – A Club for those lusting for adventure has started in Kiev. The purpose is that participants on the meetings shall discuss science fiction and bold hypotheses of all kinds. E g what space travellers may expect on distant planets or the possibility to create artificial life. In the board for The Science Fiction Club, as the official name is, there are several known authors and scientists, among them Astronomy professor Sergey Vsechscjatskij and biology professor Michail Klovov.



Yngste pojke Jack Ramström kommer att gå till historien som den lekfullaste av de två och framför allt som berättare av övernaturliga ting.

Den nu 15-åriga Jack Ramström gjorde redan för något år sedan sin internationella novelldebut, då han i "Authentic Science Fiction" Englands stora magasin för dylika artiklar — fick publicerad en artikel "How they landed".

Det var en svensk grabb — med fotbollsroster från Huvudsta och med bordtennis som hobby — som skrev en såpass bra sak, att den internationella expertisen utnämnde honom till "en knoppande Ray Bradbury". De som är inne i gamet vet, att Bradbury är något av världsmästare i Science Fiction, och de som vet lite mindre kan ju lägga på minnet, att Jack Ramström går i andra ringen i Norra latin, är ordförande i bordtennis-klubben och kan så mycket att hans mormor för ett år sedan suckade fram då hon sett hans betyg:

— Nämen Jack, du hade ju bara 9 a.

(The second to last name is difficult. Swedish uses another transcription system of Cyrillic than English and I don't know how to fix it.)

As I understand it, in old Soviet times anything resembling space and science fiction was under the communist youth federation Komsomol, but this sounds like a club independent at least from them, perhaps for older members as professors were members. I wonder what happened to the Kiev sf-club? I've had contacts with the sf club Dorado in Lithuania, which was active during Soviet times, but somewhat disliked, or so disliked that Komsomol ordered the club to disband. They continued as an underground club...until communism fell and they could reappear

Who was the first Swedish writer to make on the international skiffy scene? (We don't count Karin Boye or Harry Martinson, since all know they were Real Authors of Serious Literature...) It wasn't the jet pilot Björn Nyberg who in 1957 was credited for co-authoring The Return of Conan, with L Sprague de Camp. I understand he wrote all of it. de Camp just changed a comma here and there, sort of. It wasn't the much later Sam J Lundwall, even if it was quite remarkable to get that many books out from Ace and DAW.

No, the first one was 15 year old Jack Ramström! In 1953 he made his debut in the British sf rag

Authentic. Aftonbladet writes February 6 1954 about this "15 year-old Author Genius". The story begins telling how his father was a great fotbballer, and then:

"...his youngest boy Jack Ramström will go down in history as the most playful of the two, most of all as teller of supernatural tales. The now 15 year-old Jack Ramström already a year ago had is international story debut, as he in Authentic Science Fiction England's big magazine for such pieces – had a story published, "How they landed". /But the paper call stories "articles".../ ...international experts has called him "a coming Ray Bradbury". Those who know can tell that Bradbury is somewhat of a world champion of sf, and those who don't know should remember that Jack Ramström attends second year of Norra Latin high school, chairs the table tennis club and knows so much that his grandmother a year ago sighed seeing his grades:

"But Jack, you only had 9 As..."

Liten intervju
med USA-sinnad 15-åriga Jack Ramström i tredje ringen i Norra latin för göra en tre månaders resa till USA i december. Han vann en uppsatstävling för svenska gymnasister, ordnad av den amerikanska tidningen New York Herald Tribune. Han skrev om ämnet "Världen som vi vill ha den". De sex bästa uppsatsskrivarna kallades till en "munta" på amerikanska ambassaden, och därvid utsågs Jack slutgiltigt som segrare.

Uppsatsen skrev Jack i skolans kollegierum på cirka fem timmar och behandlade därvid ämnet ur starkt kritisk synvinkel. Världen kan endast förändras genom att människorna förändras, hävdade han. Underlättnad för uppsatsskrivandet var att Jack är ganska styv i engelska språket. Betyget är A, och träningen har han inte fått i England, utan genom att läsa engelska och amerikanska romaner. Han är mycket intresserad av USA, och hans stora hobby är science fiction.

— Av en händelse — Jack är mycket blygsam — fick jag för en tid sedan en novell införd i Authentic Magazine, berättar han. Jag tror den slank in för att den var så kort. Men för all del, det var ju roligt ändå. Det är visst ingen annan svensk som medarbetat där förut, och att bidraget blev införd har sporrat mig att fortsätta i samma stil. Jag håller för närvarande på med en science fiction-samling, som jag tänker publicera vad det ligger. Sedan en tid tillbaka är han medarbetare i Futura.

Amerikaresan blir redan i december och varar ända till mars. Före starten måste Jack läsa en del om Sverige, så att han kan föreläsa inför elever i amerikanska skolor. Men han har lite träning på att uttala sig om Sverige i andra länder. I fjol gjorde han en resa till Finland. Han valdes ut som den bäste i skolan i humanistiska ämnen och reste i Föreningen Norðens regi på kungastipendium till grannlandet.

— Nervös? Nej, inte alls, säger Jack. Jag är bara glad. Kanske kan jag under resan också få kontakt med några amerikanska representanter för science fiction.



Jack Ramström

But we hadn't heard the last from Jack the Writer. Later that year he won a essay competition organised by New York Herald Tribune and was interviewed in Dagens Nyheter March 21. The prize was a three-month trip to America, and his essay on the topic "The world as we want it" had...

...and angle of stark criticism. The World can only change by people changing, he claimed. Writing the essay was made easier since Jack is rather good at English. The grade is A and he hasn't had the exercise in England, but through reading English and American novels. He is very interested in the USA and his big hobby is science fiction.

"By chance," Jack is a very modest man,"some time ago had had a short story published in Authentic Magazine," he says. "I think it sneaked in because it was so short. But anyway, it was fun anyway. I don't think any Swede had written there before, and that it was published has inspired me to continue in the same way. I'm presently working on an sf collection which I intend to publish as time comes."/It probably means a collection of short stories, but AFAIK it never came./ Since some time back he is a co-worker of Futura.

The America trip is already in December and last until March. Before the trip Jack has to read up on Sweden, so he can lecture for students in American schools...

"Nervous? No, not at all," Jack says. "I'm just glad. Perhaps I can make contact with some American representatives of sf on the trip."

Does anyone know if Jack met any fans or other sf people during his trip? And I can't remember reading Mr Ramström's stories, so I'd be grateful of someone could fix a scan of one! There is his story "How They Landed" in Authentic #33. There are many issues at <https://archive.org/> but not #33.

There's an old Legend in Sverifandom. It goes like this: Once upon a time the Superfan Alvar Appeltofft organised a Cunning SF Promotion project. The lead was to flood the Readers' Letters pages of newspapers. It would start with someone writing an incredibly silly letter denouncing the genre as trash, whereupon the highly Slannish fans would reply with very intelligent letters defending this gutter literature in all its glory. But the plan failed, so the Legend

goes, because the stupid papers weren't in on the finer details of the scheme. They only published the silly anti-sf letters...

But it's just a Legend. I can now reveal that Alvar's plan worked! I found a letter exchange following

Mr Appeltofft's plan to the letter. It was all well set up, because the plan was detailed in a cruddy oneshot (awful printing) by Alvar called *Top Secret* (1958). Tomas Cronholm has digitised it and it's available here: <https://bugeyedmonsters.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/topsecret.pdf> (but it's in Swedish). Without going into all *top secret* doings, it also included a list of who would send what letters where and when. And in *Expressen* 13 Nov 1958 we find:

About science fiction

A new type of leisure reading has in later years reached our country. This literature is often called "science fiction". Could it be advantageous for the younger generation to read these unreasonable and neurotic "future tales"?

The supporters of this "literature" swallows everything; they believe in flying saucers for instance, it is scientifically prove it is fabrications and illusions.

They also believe that humanity should invade the universe with force, to rule and give orders to all machines and women which live there. However that would be possible since there are no creatures there to shot to death.

No, science fiction should be outlawed since it is unusually naïve and obnoxious reading,

Ang. science fiction

En ny form av "förrörelseläsning" har de senaste åren gjort sitt intåg i vårt land. Denna löjliga avart av riktig litteratur kallas för "science fiction". Kan det vara någon uppbyggelse för den yngre generationen att läsa dessa orimliga och neurotiska "framtidssagor"?

Anhängarna av denna "litteratur" sväljer allt; de tror på flygande tefat t ex, det är ju vetenskapligt bevisat att det är påhitt och synvillor.

De tror också att mänskligheten skall inta universum med våld för att sedan härska och befalla över alla maskiner och kvinnor som finns där! Hur det nu skall gå till efter-

som det ju inte finns några varelser att skjuta ihjäl.

Nej, "science fiction" borde förbjudas eftersom det är en ovanligt naiv och vidrig läsning, som endast frammanar de sämsta och råaste egenskaperna hos människan!

A reader

Anti-sf letter in Expressen 13 Nov, 1958.

"Intet är nytt under solen"

Sign "A-reader" förfasar sig över "science fiction" — skrifterna som utkommit på senare år. Jag måste protestera och upplysa att det inte är allenast de senaste åren som dessa givits ut. Så tidigt som på 1800-talet fanns det sådana skrifter.

Den mest framstående författaren till dessa "neurotiska framtidssagor" som sign kallar dem, var en fransman som hette Jules Verne. Han har bl a skrivit "Jorden runt på 80 dagar", "En världsomsegling under havet" m fl.

Jag förmodar att Jules Verne på sin tid blev utpekad som tokig då han var dumdristig nog att påstå att man i framtiden skulle kunna segla under havet.

Ja, hur blev det? Snart nog konstruerades en mystisk tingest som kallades u-båt, som inte för så länge sedan tom gick under polarisen. År 1903 gjorde bröderna Wright sin första uppstigning med flygmaskin. Knappt 25 år senare flög Charles Lindbergh non stop New York—Paris. Detta föreföll ju otänkbart på den tiden, men det gick.

De där konstiga bildeutorna som man så ofta såg i serierna finns ju nu. Det är televisionen; trådlös radio finns ju också. Detta var bara några exempel på vad som betraktades som fantasi då, men som är ren verklighet nu. För fem år sedan trodde allmänheten det vara omöjligt att flyga i rymden. Nu har vi begåvats med "Sputnikarna".

Sign skriver vidare att det är bara påhitt med de flygande tefaten, och att det inte finns några varelser på andra planeter. Jag kan tala om att vetenskapen inte kan lägga fram några bevis för att det inte finns

Jorden, vara utrustat med växter och djur? Det finns ju planeter som är mycket större än vår egen. Man får inte sätta för stor tillit till vetenskapen. Månen har ju alltid betraktats som kall och livlös. I *Expressen* 13/11 stod en notis om att man sett ett vulkanutbrott på månen. Det borde väl omkullkasta teorin om att månen är kall. Och vem har bevisat att den är livlös? Vem har för resten sagt att man inte kan leva utan luft? Dessa varelser kanske lever av något annat slags gas.

Nej, kära sign "A reader", glöm inte den gamla frasen "Intet är nytt under solen". Also a reader

FRÅN OVAN SETT

Ordet "finhet" användes förr i världen om inre egenskaper. Man talade t ex om själens och andens finhet osv. Men nu när alla svenskar i detta hänseende blivit rundslipade som gula ärtor i en burk, nu använder man ordet "finhet" mer och mer bara i kroppslig betydelse. Man talar icke bara om "fin figur" och "fina händer" utan också om "fin hals", "fin näsa" och till och med "fina öron". Ordet "fint" är på väg att bli en smaklöshetens uppskattning.

Vad skall man då kalla de inre egenskapernas finhet, när begreppet snart nog kommer att bli helt överflyttat? Kanske helt enkelt nonchalera den sidan av saken och icke alls betrakta sitt eget eller grannens inre? Ytligheten blir allt påtagligare i den

that only brings out the rawest and worst in man.

Signed "A reader". I especially fond of how the genre is bashed because it wants to push machines around — and women. If they aren't to be shot! According to the scheme this letter may be by Erik Westberg (unknown to me) or Anders Fröberg. And here's the point, the letter got a pro-sf reply and contrary to the Legend, it was published.

The letter sending scheme in *Top Secret* also includes letter exchanges in *Stockholms-Tidningen* which is only digitised up to 1915, so it hasn't been checked, and in *Morgon-Tidningen*, an old, now folded newspaper which I suspect isn't digitised yet (I can't remember seeing it in my research). Also in the scheme are letters to *Dagens Nyheter* and *Aftonbladet*, which I haven't found in my searches (searching for "science fiction" around that time). The system could have missed them or those papers were in an unfannish mode and declined playing along in the Appeltofftian gambit.

Anyway, the answer to the letter about ordering machines and women around came Nov 20 in *Expressen*, according to the *Top Secret* conspiracy planning written by Sam J Lundwall or the unknown Göran Eriksson (I'd go for Sam J since it shows a refined and intellectual letter

The pro-sf reply in Expressen, November 20. (By mistake a sentence in the middle was partly cropped, but I think it could be reconstructed in the translated version.)

writer, though perhaps lacking slightly in astrobiology knowledge), signed "Another reader":

Nothing is new under the sun

Sign "A reader" is horrified over "science fiction" - publications that have come out in later years. I must protest and inform about that it isn't only in later years such have been published. As early as in the 1800s there were such publications.

The most prominent author of these "neurotic future tales" as sign called them, was a Frenchman named Jules Verne. He has written eg Around the World in 80 Days and Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea etc.

I suppose Jules Verne in his days was called crazy as he was foolhardy enough to claim that we in the future would be able to sail under the sea.

Well, how did it go? Soon a mysterious gadget was constructed called a submarine, which not long ago even sailed under the polar ice. In the year 1903 the Wright brothers made their first flight with a flying machine. Less than 25 years later Charles Lindberg flew non-stop New York-Paris. This seemed impossible in those days, but it worked.

These strange picture frames you so often saw in the comics now exists. It's the television; wireless radio also exist. This are only a few examples of things seen as fantasy then, which are pure reality now. Five years ago the public thought it was impossible to fly in space. Now we have the "sputniks".

Sign also writes the flying saucers are only a fabrications, and that there are no beings on other planets. Let me just say that science can't put forth proof that there aren't any flying saucers, from planets like Earth, equipped with plants and animals. There are planets much bigger than ours. You can't put too much faith in science. The moon has always been regarded as cold and lifeless. In Expressen 13 November there was a story that a volcanic eruption has been observed on the Moon. That should falsify the theory about the moon being cold. And who can prove it is lifeless? Who has by the way said you can't live without air?

These beings perhaps lives from some other sort of gas.

No, dear sign "A reader", don't forget the old phrase "nothing is new under the sun".

When it comes to flying saucers it seems some fans at the time believed in that swirling kitchenware. The craze really began with the private pilot Kenneth Arnold in 1947 (perhaps having poured something strong and unsuitable into his morning tea?), but there were observations in Sweden before this – the so called "ghost rockets". There's an example from Hudiksvallstidningen June 4, 1946 (translation of the opening in the caption).

There were many such observations around that time. Some believed it was secret weapons from after WWII. A V2 did crash in Sweden during the war! However, surprisingly soon the theory was put forth it was aliens in their spaceships. Here's a long article from Aftonbladet, August 17 the same year, 1946. Time and space only allows me to translate the beginning of the piece:



"Thundering 'ghost rocket' disturbed coffee-drinking Färila residents. The ghost rocket that could be observed last Tuesday seems to have also visited western Hälsingland. According to what this newspaper has learned after talking with Mrs Lindgren, Nilsvallen, Färila, they were there aware of a mysterious phenomenon of nature, the same day as in Örebro, and they are of the belief, that it was the same ghost rocket."

"Spökraketerna" påhälsning från Mars?

Folkfantasin har sedan århundraden tillbaka alltid varit road av att frossa i de mest vidunderliga upptäcktsfärder i den okända världsrymden. T. o. m. en så modern människa som våra dagars amerikan, han må vara hissiggrabb på Waldorf Astoria eller framstående industrimagnat, läser med största förtjusning vecka efter vecka om "Blixt Gordon", "Tom Trick", "Rymdens Riddare" eller någon annan teknad bildserie, som innehåller rafflande äventyr i främmande världar. Man måste förstå den jaktade amerikanen, som under ett ögonblicks avkoppling unnar sin fantasi fritt spelrum, alltid under det ögonen glider fram över de både underhållande och många gånger skönt tecknade figurerna. I synnerhet kvinnorna på de okända planeter, som seriehjältarna dimper ned på, har ju som bekant ett utseende som en filmstjärna skulle kunna avundas dem.

Men kanske amerikanen med sitt, för fascinerande projekt tränade sinne är mera klärovojjant än andra människor och han kanske också inser, att vad som i dag verkar fantastiskt och ogenomförbart, kommer för morgondagens människa att bli rena vardagsmaten. Vi har ju dock, fast ganska omärkligt, glidit in i en ny tidsepok — atomåldern, och vad denna bär i sitt sköte kan ingen med säkerhet förutsäga men kanske de flesta ana.

Under kriget gjordes som känt åt många upptäckningar, varav flera nu i fredstid kommit till mänsklighetens gagn och fromma. Hitt hör exempelvis Radar eller den s. k. ekoradion, med vars hjälp man kan "se" i det mest ogenomträngliga mörker eller dimma. Nyligen har också vetenskapsmännen världen runt haft kontakt med månen på ekoradio och planerar även för liknande försök med planeterna Mars och Venus m. fl. Vad beträffar den förstnämnda himlakroppen hoppas man att med Radar, i viss mån, få hjälp med lösandet av mysteriet med de s. k. "kanalerna". Men de fortsatta experimenten för utforskande av världsrymden fordrar ett både tidsödande och mycket dyrbart förarbete, innan positiva resultat kan framläggas. Bl. a. måste radarstrålarnas kapacitet ökas oerhört och mångdubbelt överträffa styrkan hos de strålar, vilka utsändes mot månen.

Att experiment med radiostyrda raketter och projektiler eller dylika drivna med atomkraft f. n. febrilt pågår världen runt, är icke längre någon hemlighet. Därom vittnar så gott som dagligen både press och radio. Inte minst de för vårt land så aktuella "spökraketerna" är fullgoda bevis på att "något är i görningen". Givetvis omges själva experimentarbetena och resultaten därunder inom resp. länder med den största sekretess, men av vad som dock sipprat ut, lär synnerligen värdefulla rön ha gjorts, såväl inom atomenergins utnyttjande som konstruktioner av olika raketer (projektiler). För en tid sedan kunde man även läsa en notis om, att franska vetenskapsmän arbetar på ett atomdrivet raketskepp och att "vi borde vara klara för den första flygningen till Mars 1960". Alltså inom en tidrymd av 20 år beräknas den första människan kunna landstiga på planeten Mars!

Är det nu radiostyrda, av människor konstruerade och tillverkade raketer, som f. n. överflyger vårt land? Så länge icke något påtagligt bevis i form av t. ex. spiltter från någon nedslagen projektil av jordisk metall framlagts för beskådande i dagsljuset, torde ingen här i landet med bestämdhet kunna säga att det rör sig om mänskliga försök. Naturligtvis är det med 99 procentig säkerhet dylika försök som pågår, men så länge som — vad skulle det annars vara? Meteoriter? Synvillor? Påhälsning från Mars?

För många år sedan skrev den i dagarna bortgångne författaren H. G. Wells sin berömda bok "Världarnas krig". I romanen lät han marsborna bombardera jorden med jätteprojektiler, vilka slog ned i England. Ur dessa kröp sedan fram vedertystyggliga varelser, som med sina mystiska dödsstrålar försökte förinta världen. En annan författare, som där emot gav marsmänniskan ett mera humant och intelligentare utseende, var Kurd Lasswitz, som i sin bok "På tvenne planeter" beskrev hurusom två polarforskare kom att hamna på planeten Mars. Vem som har rätt, får väl framtiden utvisa, om det nu inte kommer att visa sig att planeten är lika utdöd som månen. Hur många böcker som sedan

Folkfantasin frossar i märkliga upptäcktsfärder. — Atomåldern förverkligar det otroliga. — Radar avslöjar andra planeters hemligheter. — Kontakt med Mars klar 1960?

tidernas begynnelse skrivits om rymdforskning och i synnerhet om planeten Mars, kan inte exakt anges; dock torde antalet snarare över- än understiga tusentalet.

Fanns det levande varelser på Mars eller Venus? Beträffande den sistnämnda himlakroppen, vars bana går närmare solen än vår egen jord, tvivlar vetenskapsmännen, bl. a. på grund av den där rådande hetten från solen. Likaså är Venus alltid omgiven av täta moln- eller dimbankar, varför ett mera ingående studium av nämnda planet är förknippat med synnerligen svåra omständigheter. Det är här Radar beräknas komma att spela en stor roll. Mars däremot, som oaktat den ligger längre från jorden än Venus, är mera känd på grund av klarare atmosfär runt sin kropp samt att dess bana omsluter jordbanan. Bl. a. har planeten i analogi med vår egen jord vita fläckar vid bägge polerna, vilka har uttytts som event. snö. Och finns det snö, är steget inte långt till fruset vatten, som ju består av väte och syre. Vad de mörka "kanalerna" är för något, får väl Radar, som tidigare påpekats, så småningom bidra till att lösa, eller det nya jätteteleskopet i Amerika, när detta i sinom tid blir färdigställt. Vad som däremot är bekymmersamt är temperaturförhållandena på Mars. Temperaturen beräknas nämligen ligga endast vid omkring +4° C., samtidigt som atmosfärtrycket endast är 1/7 av jordens. Kanske har marsinvånaren tvingats till att "gå under jorden", en sak som människorna på vår egen planet om miljoner år kommer att få finna sig i, då solens värme börjat avta och jorden alltigenom blivit kall.

En kropp som med svindlande fart rusar mot jorden, blir på grund av friktionen så småningom glödande, såvida icke hastigheten kan regleras. Ett exempel härpå är meteoriterna, som då och då dimper ned på vår jord. Om marsvarelserna vill bombardera jorden med något slag av projektiler, måste farten sålunda regleras under färden genom världsrymden. En annan viktig sak att ta med i beräkningen är jordens dragningskraft. Tas icke nödig hänsyn till nyssnämnda faktorer, föreligger således risken att ifrågakvarande föremål upphetas och så småningom förgasas samt under ett väsende eller visslande ljud upplöses i tomma intet — utan knall!

Men om det nu, som många tror, verkligen existerar levande varelser på Mars, och att dessa på grund av den där rådande kylan tvingats till att förlägga sin verksamhet i själva planetens inre, måste ju detta i så fall peka på ett visst mått av intelligens och ävenledes på en väl framskriden teknisk utveckling. Varför skulle då Marsborna icke tidigare ha sökt kontakt med jorden, då man kan räkna med att deras teknisk nivå överträffar vår egen? Den som lever tar se, heter ett gammalt ordspråk: låt oss därför alla hoppas på att få uppleva år 1960.

Hans Hansson

Svenska turister kungligt mottagna

KÖPENHAMN, lördag. (A3)

På Skagen har man roligt åt en liten episod som inträffade härom dagen när några svenska turister drivna av nyfikenhet närmade sig Klitgaarden för att titta på huset, av allt att döma i den tron att det stod tomt. De nöjde sig inte med att titta in genom fönstren utan öppnade också en dörr och såg till sin förvåning en dam sittande vid ett skrivbord.

— Förlåt, stammade de svenska turisterna, vi trodde inte här bodde någon. Men kanske bor konungen och drottningen här för tillfället.

— Konungen bor inte här, blev svaret, det är bara jag.

Varpå drottning Alexandrine med stor vänlighet förevisade Klitgaardens inredning för de svenska turisterna. — Frandsen.

Ghost Rockets a Visit from Mars?

Popular imagination indulges in remarkable exploration trips. - The Atomic Age makes the incredible real. - Radar reveals the secrets of other planets. - Contact with Mars ready by 1960? But here's a summary of the rest:

Americans read fantastic tales about alien worlds about Flash Gordon etc. We have entered the new Atomic Age. During the war many new inventions were made, eg radar, which recently has been used to get contact with the moon, and soon it will be directed to Mars, Venus etc. Improved radar could perhaps reveal the secret of the Martian canals. They experiment with radio directed projectiles, perhaps Atomic powered, and the "ghost rockets" says something is going on. French scientists are working on an Atomic spaceship which should "be ready for first flight to Mars in 1960". Yet there is no

evidence, eg like fragments from the rockets, but its 99% sure such experiments are going on What else could it be? Meteorites?

Illusions? Visits from Mars? HG Wells and Kurd Lasswitz have written about Martians. Life on Venus is unlikely, it's too hot, but Mars is possible. It has polar ice just like Earth, that means water and oxygen. A new telescope being built in America will reveal more. But the cold temperature of +4C and a pressure of only 1/7 of Earth's is a problem. Martians may have been forced to go underground. Martians must control speed if they want to go to Earth, with a strong gravity what burn up objects as they fall through the atmosphere. But Martians who have been forced to live underground must have technology far ahead of our own. Let us hope we can experience year 1960.

But there also speculations about Soviet sf-like inventions, but of more sinister kind, like in Afonbladet January 11, 1933. It seems the communists had failed in producing enough food (who is surprised!) and as protests were boiling in

ROBOT OCH GAS SKYDDA STALIN

Omfattande säkerhetsanordningar i Kreml

— Från vår korrespondent. —

Berlin, onsdag. Den våldsamma upphetsning mot Stalin, som den senaste tiden varit rådande i Moskva med anledning av regeringens livsmedelsdecret, har lett till att den röde diktatorn vidtagit en rad utomordentliga åtgärder för att skydda sin person i Kreml.

Den betydelsefullaste rollen vid dessa skyddsanordningar spela giftiga gaser, om vilka det f. n. går fantastiska rykten i Moskva. Det uppges att man genom utsläppandet av dessa gaser på en timme kan tillintetgöra allt liv i huvudstaden och dess närmaste omgivningar. De vanliga militära gasmaskerna lämna inget effektivt skydd, och de masker som skydda mot gaserna förvaras i Kreml och utlämnas endast med Stalins speciella tillstånd till några få privilegierade personer. Särskilda tjeatrupper ha även utbildats för handhavandet av dessa gaser.

Alla byggnader omkring och inom Kreml, som kunna tänkas underlätta ett anfall mot högborger, ha rivits ned. Dessutom ha de rum som bebos av Stalin och de intilliggande korridorerna utrustats med de allra modernaste mekaniska och elektriska skyddsanordningar. Om någon obehörig trots allt skulle lyckas smyga sig in i Stalins våning, mötes han av en — robot. Denna drives av ter-

the "perfect workers' and farmers' state" Stalin took to measures to protect himself...

Robot and Gas Protect Stalin

...the red dictator has a number of strong measures to protect himself in the Kremlin.

Most important of the protective measures are poisonous gas, about which there presently are fantastic rumours in Moscow. It is claimed that by releasing these gases can obliterate all life in the capital and its surroundings in an hour. Ordinary military gas masks give no protection, and the masks that can protect are stores in the Kremlin and are only issued to a few privileged groups... All rooms and nearby corridors that Stalin lives in have the most modern mechanical and electrical protection devices. If someone unauthorised should manage to sneak into Stalin's flat he'll be met by – a robot!

We have seen that Swedish fandom was sometimes covered in the Swedish newspapers, but foreign fandom was much more rare. The first mention was a surprise notice about the mimeographed poetry fanzine Starlines, in Expressen September 29 in 1954.

Lyrical Saucers

Starlanes, a new poetry publication published in Ferndale in Michigan, proclaims itself as "the leading magazine for scientific and science-fiction poetry". A Martian edition is said to be in the making.

This "poezine" is well-known in fandom, but I wonder how come that a Swedish newspaper write about it? Could it be that Sture Lönnerstrand tipped them off? Sture was beside writing prize-winning science fiction, and being founder of the Futura sf club, also an at the time well-known "modernistic" poet with several poetry volumes to his conscience.

◆ LYRISKA TEFAT?
Starlanes, en ny lyriktidskrift som publiceras i Ferndale i Michigan, annonserar sig "som det ledande magasinet för vetenskaplig och science-fiction-poesi". Marsiansk delupplaga lär vara under utarbetande.



Slut med treögda odjur

En känd engelsk astronom, Patrick Moore, som har börjat skriva vetenskapliga fantasinoveller, försäkrade på ett möte i London med Science Fiction Club att det nu är oåterkalleligen slut med de treögda odjuret och marsmännen med känslspröt. Han tror att de flesta "rymdförfattarena" efter hand kommer att bli utleda på att dikta upp osannskyldiga odjur och i framtiden kommer att koncentrera sig på mera sannolika ting. För det behövs en hel del mera noggrannhet och respekt för sanningen även i romaner, säger astronomen. Moore är övertygad om att de vetenskapliga novellerna är en litteraturart som nu slagit igenom och som har all utsikt att hålla i sig, förutsatt att man inte överdriver. Efterfrågan på sådana romaner är våldsam och den bästa skribenten får varje år en premie, en modell av ett rymdskepp i krom, som kan användas som cigarrettändare.

<http://www.zinewiki.com/Starlanes> doesn't mention that Mr Lönnerstrand appeared in Starlanes. (I may come back to Sture Lönnerstrand in a later issue. There are some surprising news about his doings in younger years!) This is also at the same time the first mention of a fanzine in Swedish newspapers, though the term "fanzine" isn't used.

Another mention of foreign fandom was in the small, local paper Hudiksvallstidningen April 22 1955 reported from a meeting with London fandom, which was just called "The Science Fiction Club" - it must have been from on one of their famous pub meetings!

No More Three-Eyed Beasts

En well-known English astronomer, Patrick Moore, who had begun writing scientific fantasy stories, ensured everyone on a meeting with the Science Fiction Club in London it was now over with three-eyed beasts and Martians with antennas. He thinks most "space writers" after a time will be tired of fantasising about incredible animals, and in the future will concentrate on more probable things. That requires more precision and respect for truth even in novels, the astronomer says. Moore is convinced that the scientific stories is a genre which now has made its breakthrough, and there's every reason it will continue provided exaggerations are avoided. There's a huge demand for such stories and the best writer every year receives a prize, a model of a spaceship in chrome, which can be used as a cigarette lighter.

I suppose the last refers to the Hugo Award, which is done as a rocket (and maybe it had a built in lighter one year – does anyone know?). Maybe there are more descriptions of Patrick Moore's meeting with the London fans in 1955 – give me a pointer!

Speaking of fanzines, central to this is the mimeograph! As some may know, the lightbulb or the phonograph wasn't Thomas A Edison's greatest invention – it was the mimeo, in 1876! (Don't you agree!) His original version was a “flat bed” affair, and as he licensed the invention to the firm AB Dick they added a rotating cylinder to it so printing could be done much faster.

The first mention of the mimeograph in Swedish newspapers was in Borås Tidning, Aug 1889:

— “**Mimeograf**”, skriver en Stockholms-korr., heter en ny, af den berömda Edison konstruerad apparat för mångfaldigandet af skrift, hvilken apparat kaptenen vid Jemtlands Fältjägarbataljon G. Bremberg ämnar söka föra in i den svenska marknaden, sedan han vid ett besök i Amerika tagit del af uppfinningen och på sig fått öfverlåta generalagenturen för Sverige.
Apparaten, som kostar c:a 60 kr., lämpar sig i synnerhet för embetsverk, juridiska byråer och andra affärer som ofta behöfva ut-sända cirkulär o. d. Äfven kartor och andra teckningar kunna mångfaldigas med denna apparat, som obetingadt öfverträffar alla förut i handeln varande dylika. Apparaten och beskrifning derpå kunna rekvireras från kapten Bremberg, Stockholm.

Mimeograph, a Stockholm correspondent writes, is a by the famous Edison constructed device for duplicating writing, which the captain of Jemtland's Mountain Rangers corps G Bremberg intends to bring into the Swedish market, after he on a visit to America has come in contact with the invention and has obtained becoming general agent for Sweden. The device which costs 60 crowns /ca 12 USD/, is especially suitable for government agencies, law firms and others who often have to send out forms and such. Maps and drawings could also be duplicated with this device, which without doubt is superior to all others of the type that can be purchased. The device and a description can be obtained from captain Bremberg, Stockholm.

And the machine was soon put into action with publishing small magazines and stuff. Nya Norrlänningen writes February 22 1895, at the same time also describing a new offset printing method.:

With Edison's mimeograph they have in Norway already began to compete with book printers, by printing small newspapers on it. That competition will however never become dangerous. It will be worse when they have improved the American craft of photographing what has been written with a typewriter, after which a plate is treated chemically so that the bright sections are lowered. After that no typesetters will longer be needed. They have already printed books in America that way.

Med Edisons **mimeograf** lär man i Norge ha börjat konkurrera med boktryckerierna, i det små tidningar tryckts på densamma. Den konkurrensen torde dock aldrig bli farlig. Värre blir det när man fått utveckla den amerikanska konsten att fotografera hvad som skrivits med skrifmaskin, hvarefter genom plattans behandling på kemisk väg de ljusa partierna sänkas. Sedan behöfvas ej sätterierna längre. Man har redan tryckt böcker i Amerika på det sättet.

Lets return to Mars. The first time Martians are mentioned seems to be also in Borås Tidning, October 2 1895, referring to the ideas of Percival Lowell (of course). It's too long to translate, but below a summary:

You know what they say: feed a cold, starve a fever, drink a corona!

Invånarna på Mars.

Efter Percival Lowell.

Efter de iakttagelser, som föreligga, måste vi tills vidare anse det som sannolikt, att Mars bebos af intelligenta väsen. Möjligen komma framtida iakttagelser att omstörta denna vår hypotes. För närvarande är dock knappast någon annan möjlig.

Men vi måste akta oss för att tala om dessa intelligentia Marsväsenden såsom »Marsmänskiska».

Människan representerar icke den mest högstående fysiska organismen. Hon är ej en gång en hög art af däggdjur — fysiskt sett. Hennes förhållande ställning beror endast på ande och själ. Så vidt vi kunna se, kunde lika väl en eller annan reptil eller fisk hafva utvecklats sig till ett själsbegåfvadt väsen och intagit människans plats såsom jordens behärskares. Under andra fysiska förhållanden skulle ganska säkert något sådant ha inträffat.

Vi kunna med visshet säga, att på Mars måste ha utvecklats sig livsformer, som skulle synas oss vidunderliga. De varelser, som där utvecklats sig till intelligenta väsen, äro visserligen ytterst olika jordmänskorna och tillhöra möjligen en helt annan djurklass. Här är det förnuftiga väsendet ett däggdjur, där kunde det vara en reptil. Hvad det nu verkligen är, det är oss omöjligt att veta.

Allt där måste vara mycket olika emottagelse, det känna vi emellertid. Det följer af de två planeternas vidt skilda fysiska förhållanden. Redan tyngdlagens olika verksamhet på de båda kloten skall ofelbart utöfva djupgående verkningar på alla livsformer. Tyngden är på Mars endast något mer än en tredjedel af hvad den är här. Allenast detta måste utöfva inflytande på två sätt. För det första skulle med lika muskelansträngning där tre gånger så mycket arbete kunna utföras som här. Gräfningsen af en kana skulle t. ex. vara ett tre gånger lättare arbete där än här — n. b. för samma väsenden. Vi skulle kunna utträda tre gånger så mycket där som här. Men på grund af den mindre tyngden kunde, för det andra, naturen skapa Marsinvånarna efter en tre gånger så stor måttstock som här.

På hvilken ståndpunkt befinna sig invånarna på Mars, om det finnes sådana? Hafva de kommit längre än vi, eller stå de efter oss i utveckling? Sannolikheter talar starkt för, att de stå framom oss äro oss öfverlägsna.

Först och främst peka planetens rent fysiska förhållanden i denna riktning Mars är nämligen en äldre planet, längre framskriden i utveckling än vår jord. Den är nu en döende värld.

Och hvar planet kan sägas ha sin livsbana, sin eldiga ungdom med dess väldiga revolutioner, sin mandom och ålderdom. Den födes, lever och dör. Och lifvet på dess yta genomlöper emot planetens eget lifslopp svarande utveckling. Formerna ändras med de fysiska förhållandena. Det finnes utveckling från gröfre till finare former, till dess dekadensen kommer och finheten förvandlas till svaghet och sjuklighet, blekhet och händöende. En gammal planet har nog också ett förhållandevis högt utveckladt lif. Vi kunna af planetens

ålder sluta oss till arten af det lif, som finnes därpå, vi kunna af geologien sluta oss till livsformer och livsutveckling, liksom vi uti en hästs tänder kunna läsa hans ålder och styrka.

Mars är så gammal, att lifvet på dess yta helt säkert har nått ungefärligen en så hög grad af utveckling, som på det hela taget är möjligt. Nästa steg måste blifva ålderdom och död. Mars' »mänskligbet» måste vara längre kommen i sin utveckling än vi i vår. Ty jorden är ännu en planet i sin bästa ålder.

Om lifvet och »mänskorna» på Mars äfven absolut taget stå högre, än hvad förhållandet är hos oss, det är en annan sak; det beror på omständigheter, dem vi icke känna, på de bägge kloten möjligheter och gynnsamma eller ogynnsamma betingelser för lif. Dock finnes det skäl att antaga, att äfven absolut sett Mars' befolkning nått en högre kultur än vi. Mars måste nämligen, absolut sett, under en längre tid än jorden varit i stånd att lya högre lif. Och när så är, talar sannolikheten för, att dess inbyggare hunnit längre i odling än vi.

Därför tala också de märkvärdiga kanalerna, som man iakttagit på denna planet. De visa i alla händelser vetenskaplig utveckling och användning af de teoretiska vetenskaperna i det praktiska lifvets tjänst. Det storartade kanalsystemet vittnar om en hög och långt kommen intelligens — i allt fall högre än den, som visar sig i vår jords offentliga arbeten.

Partipolitik och chauvinism måste på Mars vara en öfvervunnen ståndpunkt, ty kanalsystemet omfattar hela planeten; krig torde där vara en saga blott och nationerna lefva i bästa förstånd med hvarandra, odlade sina slätter och glädjande sig åt den evigt klara luften. Den politiska och sociala utvecklingen synes alltså vara långt framom vår. Kanhända ha de därför också gjort uppfindingar, som vi ej ens drömt om. Kanske förvaras i museerna på Mars elektrofoner och kinetoskoper såsom minnen af en förgången mindre utvecklad tid.

Men framtiden må afgöra dessa problem! Att Mars ej är bebodd, är ej det sista, utan det första ordet i denna sak. Viktigare än att veta, att där finnas invånare, är det att veta, hurdana de äro. Om vi skola lefva länge nog för att få besked härom, det är naturligtvis omöjligt att kunna säga.

Men en sak kunna vi göra: befria oss från dåraktiga fördomar och blind högmot och betrakta möjligheten af andra förnuftiga varelser i världsaltet i samma ljus, i hvilket vi betrakta vissheten af vår egen tillvaro. Att just vi skulle vara universi totalsumma och krona hvad intelligens beträffar, är inför himmelens myriader af glänsande världar ett antagande, så egenkärt och meningslöst, att det blir komiskt. Människan är blott en länk i en kedja. Hon är denna jords högsta produkt till dato. Att hon också skulle utgöra gränsen för alla möjligheter i universum, är en lika förmåten som löjlig tanke. Hon är, som vi lätt kunna inse, ej en gång gränsen för denna lilla planets möjligheter. Hon har genom omätliga tidsrymder utvecklats sig till, hvad hon nu är; hon är stadd i utveckling och skall sannolikt ännu länge så vara. Och så skulle vi fördrista oss att tro, att här i vår hjärna, i vår eländiga sociala utveckling skulle vi finna alltets höjdpunkt och blomma! Antagligen finnas i andra världar väsenden och »mänskigheter», oändligt mera utvecklade än vi äro — ja, mer än vi ligen finnas i andra världar väsenden och »mänskigheter», oändligt mera utvecklade än vi äro — ja, mer än vi kanske på denna lilla jord kunna blifva. Vi äro blott ett exempel på något, som troligtvis finnes på mångfaldiga ställen i världsaltet och som på somliga ställen kanske vida öfverträffas.

Astronomien lärar en sak med visshet, nämligen att människan blott är en detalj i universi utveckling, och att liknande, om också ej alldeles lika detaljer kunna förmodas rundt omkring på kloten i världsrymden.

Inhabitants of Mars - after Percival Lowell
Observations make it probably for the time being that there are intelligent beings on Mars, but be careful not to think they are Martian humans. It must be incredible beings, different from us. They could be reptiles, which follows from the different properties of our two planets. Martian gravity is 1/3 of Earth's which would make digging canals easier. It would take only 1/3 of the efforts. Martians would also use three times Earth measurements due to the lower gravity. Mars is an older planet and a dying world. Still the beings must have come further in their development. If they in absolute terms are further than us is unknown, it depends on unknown factors. Their canal system speaks for high development and high IQ. Their culture must have developed more, past our chauvinism and party politics, and live in peace. Maybe they've made fantastic inventions, like electrophones and kinetoscopes. Mankind must free itself from prejudice and pride. We aren't the crown of the universe. Astronomy teaches us we are just a detail in universe and there are "humanities" much more developed.

Swedish Fandom First Time on TV?

20.20 Tid för annat. I kvällens hobbymagasin får vi möta några medlemmar i en science fiction-klubb. Klubb Meteor i Malmö. Thore Rundgren pratar med Leif Andersson (10 000-kronorsvinnare i ämnet astronomi för en del år sedan), Denis Lindblom, Bertil Mårtensson och Einar Pettersson. Ännu en 10 000-kronorsvinnare ställer upp i hobbymagasinet, nämligen direktör Helge Rambring som skall berätta om den stora samling dagfjärilar han har; dagfjärilar var förstås hans ämne i Kvitt eller dubbel 1961.

From at TV program listing Oct 21, 1966:
"Time for something else.' In tonight's hobby magazine we meet some members of an sf club, club Meteor in Malmö, Thore Rundgren talks with Leif Andersson (10 000 crown winner in astronomy some years back), Denis Lindbohm, Bertil Mårtensson and Einar Pettersson." I haven't heard of any earlier TV program with fans. Swedish TV had only one channel in 1966. The 20 min show also interviewed a butterfly collector.

THE PANDEMIC...EH, PANDEMIC!

Another month gone, but no end in sight. They originally said that the corona virus was a bit like a seasonal flu, just a little, little bit nastier. So I thought it'd be around for the spring and then it'd be over. But no mercy!

A collection of molecules that isn't even alive has *turned Tellus into a science-fiction world*. The happiest people on the planet must be the so called preppers which I wrote about in #94. First a pandemic, then mass unemployment and a most likely somewhat of an economic collapse, followed by widespread riots and looting... They must feel vindicated, but perhaps also a bit disappointed that the disasters haven't yet caused more mayhem! And we science-fiction guys have *also* been right. There are so many sf tales about world-wide disasters. We thought about such things before the preppers even.

The restrictions and recommendations we have even in Sweden will essentially stay through the summer. They may perhaps lift the advice against domestic travel, so we can have vacations at least within the country, even if going overseas will be impossible. And let's hope they increase the limit on crowds (presently max 50) so people can celebrate around the Midsummer pole. Midsummer is almost as big as Christmas here! It is after all likely that the virus spreads much less outdoors, especially in the Sun where UV light kills it off and air humidity makes virus particles drop faster to the ground.

Presently this is what applies in Sweden:

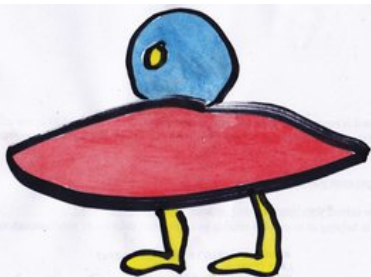
- * Recommendations about *hand washing, social distancing* and *avoiding unnecessary travel*.
- * *Stay at home* if feeling the least bit ill (and *sick pay from day 1*). *Work from home* if you can. *Stay at home if over 70*.
- * Physical education at *high schools and universities closed*. Distance classes only. *Lower schools and kindergartens are open*.
- * *Visits to care homes banned*. Recommendations against visiting any elderly.
- * *Gatherings of more than 50 people banned*.
- * *Restaurants, shops etc are open, but practice social distancing*, eg with markings on the floor, how they furnish, plastic shields etc. You may only be *served sitting down*. (Despite things being open, they struggle, Many customers stay at home, of course. The only shops not very affected are grocery stores, and probably pharmacies and the state liquor stores,.)

* *Borders closed for travellers from outside the Schengen area + British Isles*. (Just in: those symptom free may travel freely in the country. And: Swedish version of "Survival" TV show will for first time ever be shot in Sweden, not in the South Seas.)

* A lot of *testing has begun*. Capacity 100 000/week, of which only 30 000/week has yet been reached (but it will increase). The latest I've read is that a private medical company have begun offering antibody tests in the major Swedish cities, saying they will shortly be able to do 100 000/week. (But each test cost ca €60, so I wonder how



"First a pandemic, then economic collapse and riots, I'm just looking for the comet that is sure to hit us!"



SMYGANDE TEFAT

A "Prying Saucer" according to artist Lars "Lon" Olsson...did it bring the virus?

saying they will shortly be able to do 100 000/week. (But each test cost ca €60, so I wonder how

many will take it...)

Deaths have gone down quite a lot. Last Sunday it was 0 (zero!), which of course can have with delayed reporting during weekends to do. However, the following Monday had only 8 corona deaths, so delayed reporting or not it has gone down. Generally trend is below 50/day now.

With a *total* so far of around 4400, at time of writing, there's been a lot of press about a gruelling death rate here. Compared to Nordic neighbours (which have locked down, which of course have effects) it's much higher, but compared to the rest of Europe figures are "about average" and much lower than Italy, UK, Belgium, France and Spain. But as peak has passed the death rate is now significantly lower than before – and falling. Half of it comes from care homes! The elderly have been hard hit - 95% of all corona deaths comes from the 65+! Half of those are in care homes.

I think the asymptomatic spread of the virus has been underestimated. The care home clients have probably been infected by staff that showed no symptoms and didn't know they carried the virus. Together with a shortage of PPE in the care homes, that has been fatal.

In deaths/million Sweden is presently at the level of Britain, but was earlier much lower. The Swedish strategy will make the infection curve flatter but longer. With a lockdown like in the UK you get a steeper decline. With a softer policy than locking everything up and throwing away the key the virus spreads slowly and the decline isn't as sharp. The idea is to take more infections and deaths *early* and *not push the curve ahead*. This goes towards reaching herd immunity, which is useful since the virus will be around for a while. Its either that or a vaccine that can do the job.

Some optimists claim there'll be a vaccine coming autumn, but that could be risking an unsafe product or one that doesn't work very well. 12 months is what experts say is the minimum, which means we'll have a vaccine next spring at the earliest. So we'll have to hope for herd immunity meanwhile.

Over here that seems to take longer than expected. One study from the end of April claimed only 7,9% had antibodies among Stockholmers, but it has since been withdrawn as the selection of those tested weren't representative. It has also been pointed out that early antibody tests a) are unreliable and may only pick up perhaps 70-90% of the cases, and b) it takes a while for antibodies to reach detectable levels. But herd immunity taking longer than expected also indicates that measures taken have proven to work, even without policing the streets, closing down everything. The latest estimate is that about 1/3 of Stockholmers should have antibodies and maybe 10% in the rest of the country, where the virus hasn't spread as much (yet...).

Mathematics professor Tom Britten, specialist in doing epidemic modelling, says herd immunity can be reached at the level 40-50% when you also count in effects of social distancing and other behavioural changes. It should perhaps be reachable by Midsummer. Let's hope so! Bring out the pickled herring, the spiced Akvavit and lets jump around like little frogs!

Statistics and corona are BTW two not very compatible entities. It's very difficult to compare different countries, because statistics standards and definitions differ so much. How is a death of corona defined? Is every instance counted, or are only deaths in hospitals counted?

Swedish population statistics is very comprehensive, with a long history going back to the medieval so called church books where all lives and deaths were kept in detail. The national statistics and census agency was founded in 1749 and every citizen got a "personal number" in 1947 (a social security number, first in the world I believe). But elsewhere I'm not sure statistics are so well ordered. For instance Russia seems to have a huge and fast rising number of infections, which doesn't seem to fit at all with their modest reported corona deaths. One gets the suspicion Mr Putin had just ordered hospitals to count things extremely conservative. And I don't trust figures from China at all! It's the most populous country in the world, the virus started there and no matter how oppressive their communist regime is I find it highly improbable that they don't have a major epidemic, which is hugely under-reported.

The *best way to bypass questionable statistics and reporting*, and measure the effect of the virus, is

by what is called “excess deaths”. Number of deaths vary surprisingly little for the same periods each year. A person is either dead or alive, so there's no margin for difference of opinions. All civilised countries require you note exact date of death. If you have an epidemic going on you can conclude that the disease is the cause.

In excess deaths Sweden is “about average”. You can study it for a number of countries at <https://www.euromomo.eu/graphs-and-maps> At the peak of the epidemic, which was in mid-April, Sweden's excess deaths were ca 14%. Belgium had ca 30%, France 24%, Italy 17%, Netherlands

.eu/graphs-and-maps

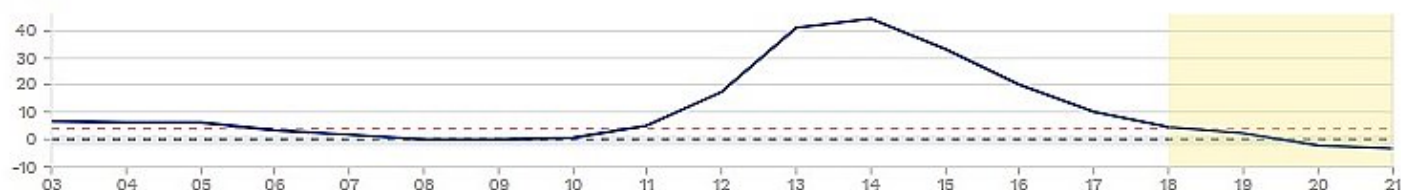


WEEK RANGE

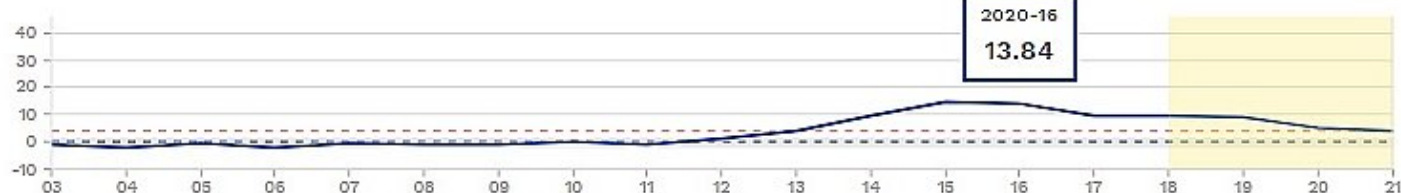


— Z-score — Baseline Normal range — Substantial increase Corrected for delay in registration

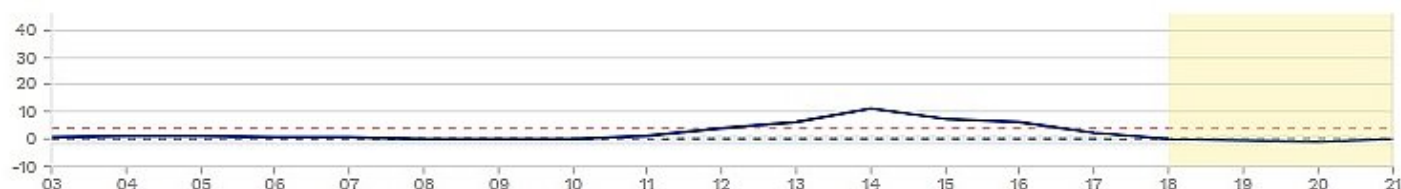
Spain



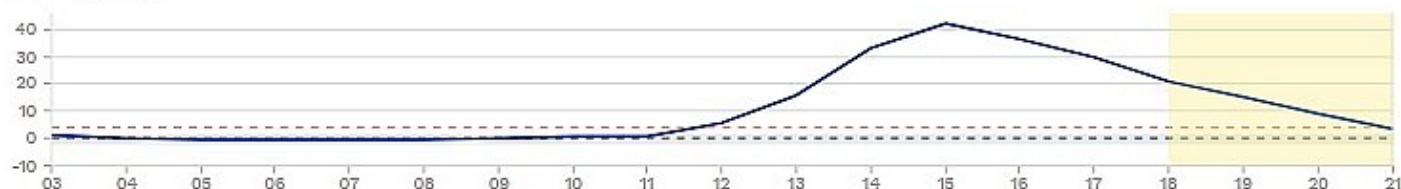
Sweden



Switzerland



UK (England)



Excessive deaths for some countries (UK is presented the FIFA Soccer World Cup way; Scotland, Wales and N Ireland lies lower than England). Sweden is somewhere in between all others. Placing the cursor on the curve pops up excess death percent, as you see ca 14% in this case. That's despite "lax" virus strategy. England seems to be almost worst hit of all, mostly due to London because it is a popular travel destination. Tourists like London town and brought microbiological presents with them...

22%, Spain 44%, Switzerland 11%, England 42%. While it's true Norway had only 2% and Finland 3%, it seems the reason is both having very little initial infections and their lockdowns thus made a big difference. I see no reason for outcries of “utterly failed experiment!” or “disaster!!” for the Swedes, which some foreign headlines have claimed. I rather suspect they more like to justify their domestic drastic measures, which look less justified if others had nearly the same results without them...

But my take on it is that Total Lockdown was probably justified for some countries – like Italy, Spain, the UK, Belgium, France - just because they were so hard hit in the initial attack by the virus. I think however the lockdowns should have been *shorter in time!* It's a folly to believe you can stamp out the virus without a vaccine. It is however critical to flatten any curve that threatens to overwhelm the hospitals, and helping the health care system to cope should be the aim – not to erase the epidemic, because you can't. As soon as the hospitals knew they could take it and have a decent spare capacity, you go out of lockdown and do something similar to Sweden. (Our health care system was never near breakdown. At the peak of infections, there were 20% spare ICUs.)

BTW, the Public Health Agency has done genetic analysis of viruses spread in Sweden. It seems most didn't come from skiing tourists in the Alps, but from the UK and US! London is a very popular destination for Swedes, and that city was heavily hit. And so was New York City. I've heard some of NY governor Andrew Cuomo's press conferences (those are on Youtube, as well as many international news programs, documentaries etc) where he complains that the virus came from Europe, without the US knowing about it. Europeans weren't checked at the NYC airports. However, in that case, NYC also sent some of the viruses back the other way...

The question now is: how will this blasted pandemic end? Most experts warn for a second wave in the autumn. The sun becomes weaker and people creep indoors where a virus spreads more easily. And there won't be a vaccine around until next spring, most experts maintain. I hope Sweden has reached a substantial herd immunity by that time, and suspect lockdown countries will fare worse.

Yes, It looks like there will be herd immunity. Korean reports of “second infections” have shown to just detect dead virus remains. Monkeys and other animals (eg cats get a mild version of covid) recovering from infections have shown to develop antibodies. The open question is for how long it will last. Typically it should last from a half to a couple of years. We'll find out.

Trying to come out of lockdown, some will try to rely on what's called tracking and tracing. I'm not so sure it will work very well. The corona virus seems to be very sneaky, so it'd be difficult to catch everyone who needs to isolate. And tracking apps for mobiles are things some will refuse to use. Some like the elderly may not even know how to use them. And if you have found an infected person, tracing all contacts won't be easy. Do people remember all they've met the last week? What if it is 50 people, who each have met another 50 people... The corona virus is a devious bastard, with an incubation period varying from 2 to 14 days (if I understand it correctly) many of these days being without symptoms while the virus can still be transmitted. Tracking and tracing is something that's traditionally used for limited (in number of persons) epidemics, like venereal diseases. I seriously doubt it will work very well among millions,

Some experts say we'll may have to live with the corona virus for years. A not very pleasant thought!

TRAILING MAILING COMMENTS

Due to time constraints, I missed out on MCs in last mailing. I'm still a bit time stressed, but I'll try to make some short comments to the last *two* mailings now... BTW, here you see how *wonderful* EAPA is, so please join and become a part of coming mailing comments! Ask me for info or garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

R Graeme Cameron: Mailing 192 – My disgust of Facebook is among other things that it's a medium preset to share too much. And besides, if something seems extremely popular, I'm always reluctant to join, I'm not the one to follow a flock of sheep... As for misinformation, I think people worry too much! People aren't stupid and don't fall easily for lies. Besides, studies show that fake news only reaches those who already believe in it. Good to see that your Aurora Polaris is popular among contributors! M193 – It is claimed the “trust between citizens and government” makes mostly voluntary corona measures work in Sweden, and it wouldn't work in eg the US, which is more divided. I have a feeling it might work in Canada (and perhaps the UK, though it has become more divided because of Brexit). For me, fandom history is most of all *a lot of fun!* Group dynamics where they do crazy but inventive things. (BTW, never marry a pirate girl from an sf convention!)

William McCabe: M192 – About virus names... I think the “scientific name” is Covid-19 or Sars-Cov-2, but it's a virus in the Corona family, so “Corona” only should do, like you can say “It's a shark!” even you could specify “It's a tiger shark”. I notice that many English users write “coronavirus”, and wonder why not “corona virus”? What happened to English aversion to compound words? Interesting to get your history notes on the Brum group. The heavy metal band called Tröjan makes me laugh. The umlaut transforms the word to mean sweater... M193 – The UK was on the way to adopt the same virus measures as in Sweden, but changed at the last moment. I think the lockdown should have been much shorter in time, to give the NHS time to gear up, but the you should then have eased up.

Garth Spencer: M192 – I note how many preppers are jubilant these days! We were right! But I'm not sure some of them would survive a real disaster... I don't think we'll run out of resources. Atoms don't perish and can be collected and reused. Besides, we have asteroids to get stuff from. Elon Musk will help us... I wrote about the Bob Weber hoax in Mimosa, available here <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa/m14/engholm.htm> In fact, we intended to use the name Bob Webber, but a B was lost somehow. M193 – The Royal Library in Sweden has obtained a big collection of fanzines, mainly the Alvar Appeltofft Foundation collection. But when I've been there, I noted the fanzines seems not to be registered yet, you can't search for them, etc. And they got the zines over 10 years ago. I intend to let the Uppsala university library have my fanzine collection, upon my passing (I should write a will...). As for treating material, a Swedish media mogul said this on what he did with job applications: “I take half the heap and throw it in the waste basket. They are just people with bad luck. I don't want people with bad luck...” Thanks for your fandom history notes! (Is Confabulation a PDF? Would like to see it.) A con chair dipping into the con funds sounds a lot like guys here dipping into fan fund funds, no fun. I think the Golden Age of Fandom is around age 20.

Starwolf: M192 – Girls, girls, girls... I feel like being thrown back to Startling Stories covers by Earle Bergey. Yes, I'd like to hear more about what you pre-1989 concluded about the Soviet Union! M193 – It seems you repeated the Mailing 192 issue?



Pippi Longstocking has now been in space! Swe-American (dual citizenship) astronaut Jessica Meir brought Pippi along on her 205 days mission to ISS. It's 75 years since the first Pippi book 2020. Jessica landed Apr 17...to a rather different world!

Vol 1 (of 3) of Bertil Falk's monumental Swedish sf history Faktasin (“The Factasy”) now out, covering 1600s to 1930s! First study of Swedish language genre fiction only, after years of extensive research. A milestone! (Yours Truly earlier read proofs.)

<https://alephbok.com/faktasin-band-1>

