The history book on the shelf is always repeating itself. -ABBA

INTERMISSION #99

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com for EAPA, but thish also for the Worldcon Order Of Faneds and a few other innocent victims, due to interesting - I hope you think so! - sf&fandom history stuff. BTW, follow @SFJournalen's newstweets from Nordic sf/fantasy/horror/fandom on Twitter! 42 years of covering fanews. Do typo distancing and don't leave your eyetracks around! Early August 2020.

CORONIALLY

In last issue I covered the amazing movie "Space Invasion of Lapland". It so happens that I'm now sitting in a cottage in Lapland writing this! Corona's fault. For Lapland trips I hitch a ride with my brother. This year he intended to go to Switzerland with my sporting nephew on a little training camp, but just days before leaving the Swiss decided Swedes - despite corona figures now in single digits - must quarantine to get in. So he went for Lapland instead and I joined. We have our late grandma's house here in the little village Bellvik (see map). As I covered my Lapland trips 2018 and 2019 in #75 and #87 and in #98 the "Space Invasion of Lapland" flick (map shows where much of it was shot) I don't feel a pressing urge to write more now about Lapland. Ask me for those issues if you're interested. Not much is happening here anyway, except we saw a reindeer by the roadside today. Lapland feels far from the corona scare. Mosquitoes are a bigger annoyance!

Instead there'll be more history stuff from the Stockholm Royal Library newspaper archive, as in the last few issues. The Swedish national library temporarily let their digitised newspaper archive be open on-line for two months this spring- usually you go there and sit by a terminal - to compensate for the library being corona-closed. So I spent a lot of time researching sf, fandom and related stuff from old newspapers, thousands of them from the 1600s and on, totalling 80+ million pages. (Their OCR doesn't work well on the really old-style old-style typefaces, which limits the scope. Texts

become readable from the 1800s and on.) I feel it's my duty to sf&fandom history to report interesting stuff found!

As usual, I reproduce the articles as illos which Nordic readers can read (just magnify, though it may be a bit blurry - I must limit the file size!) and for other readers I'll make translations and/or summaries of essential parts. I hope you like it. Some of the material is rather unique, which is the reason I'll mail expand distribution a little, also to WOOF. I also want to make a plug for the oldest electronic APA around. New members welcomed! If you have something mildly interesting to say, know your way around a keyboard and find the "Save as PDF" command in your word processor - *join!* It's free. Contact me or OE garth.van.spencer@gamil.com if you have any questions.

But first some corona notes. I know it's boring beyond belief, but the world having a bit of a crazy apocalypse can't pass without comments.

Besides, old Sweden has an interesting take on the virus...

LAPLAND

--Ahrvid Engholm

LIES, DAMN LIES & CORONA STATISTICS

You should be very careful when using statistics. That's especially true when it comes to the corona situation. For instance: the number of "confirmed cases" is most of all only a measure of *how much you have tested,* and the number of fatalities *relies heavily on your definition of "corona death" and the reporting practices,* which vary widely from country to country. Not to mention that the figures are

The New Hork Times

Sweden Has Become the World's Cautionary Tale **Not exactly true...**

Its decision to carry on in the face of the pandemic has yielded a surge of deaths without sparing its economy from damage — a red flag as the United States and Britain move to lift lockdowns.

reasons. For instance, I find it very likely that the real figures for China and Russia are much higher than the official ones - to make the communist party and Putin, respectively, look better. And the US is a mess, with 50 states all doing their own races, and elections coming up in which politicians want to shine. And the US health system is so fractured that the figures probably miss a lot, like corona fatalities at home, in institutions, among immigrants, the uninsured. (We know that NY state at one point had to add many thousands

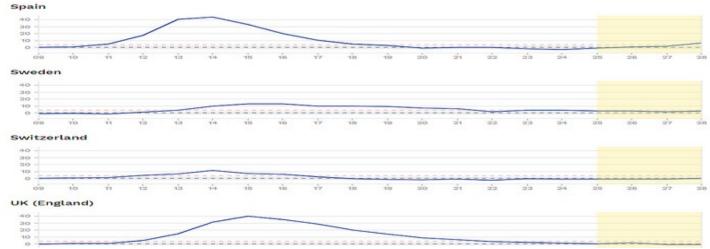
in many cases doctored (no pun intended) for political

to their statistics, when they realised all they had missed. And there're 49 other states!)

When I see articles like the one in New York Times I just sigh...a gross exaggeration, shallow analysis and misrepresentation. It may come from the urge to vindicate the local much stricter measures. New York had a very tough lockdown. As I have noted before, the Swedish epidemic results while not being the "best" have been *unexcitingly average*. And that's *without a lockdown!* More than half a dozen nations have done much worse, all of them more or less incarcerating the entire population. And for fatalities it seems US as a whole, Brazil and others are on their way to overtake Sweden's modest averageness. Our Nordic neighbours have been struck milder, but that's in all likelihood due to having a minimal initial spread of the virus. Sweden have more immigrants and had school breaks late February, early March and millions travelled abroad. To this we have that Swedish figures are likely very inflated, counting mostly deaths *with* the virus, not *from* it.

Economic and other secondary damages, while not absent will at least be much milder here. The Swedish economy is calculated to shrink by 6-7% - mostly because important export markets are hit badly - which is half or less than half of the figures for most other industrial nations. And in the UK medical experts calculate that there will be 50 000 excess deaths in cancer, due to cancelled or delayed diagnostics and treatments. That's *more* for cancer alone - other diseases uncounted - than the presently ca 45 000 British corona fatalities! Lockdowns have effects on unemployment, domestic violence, mental health and suicides, depression, drug use and alcohol... Some of that will come here too, but I'm sure not being a prisoner in your home for three months is helpful. Very helpful, in fact!

The only *reliable* corona death statistics are what is called "excessive deaths". Statisticians have noted that death figures for the same periods of a year are strikingly similar every year. As people are



either alive or dead, without room for difference of opinion on causes, any variations can be ascribed to external factors - as the corona epidemic in this case. See the graph from https://www.euromomo.eu/graphs-and-maps

Sweden lies on the same level as lockdown-Switzerland, though effects lasted a little longer, and is way, way below lockdown-Spain and lockdown-England. At the epidemic's spike the excessive deaths in Sweden was 13% above normal, while a bit slower to subside it just means tackling things

earlier and most likely having much less trouble later. The present figure in July is in fact within the *limits if normal variations*, ie the excessive deaths are as for a normal flu. I made a little calculation of Swedish excess deaths March-June, and found them to be ca 1800 rather than the official figure of

5400. It seems media and many papers have got things wrong. If Google translate works see https%3A%2F%2Fwww.freelists.org%2Fpost%2Fskriva%2FStarkt-verdrivna-coronasiffror-tycks-det You need to subtract 65% from Swedish corona deaths to get deaths *from* not just with the virus, if the excessive death numbers are correct. "Cautionary tale"? Really? This New York paper wants to comfort its readers, who were locked up for three months in an overreaction to a virus can't eradicate, only temporarily slow down. We now hear about regions, states and countries being *forced to go back into lockdown*. They suppressed the virus so hard that immunity became minimal, freed quarantine

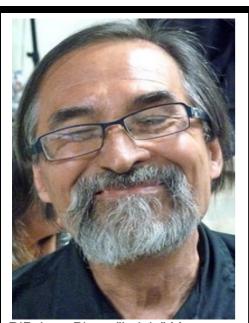


The Corona Knights of Gotland!

prisoners invaded bars and beaches, and the little bugger just bounced back. Chances are that won't happen here and there's no lockdown to go "back" to. Note though, we should wait 1-2 years until the corona bug is gone, to finally evaluate what did and didn't work and what real numbers are.

On the latest twice-weekly press conference - daily ones are deemed unnecessary - state epidemiologist Dr Anders Tegnell said that Sweden can now count on a comfortable level of herd immunity, due to what is called T-cell immunity. That's from the fast, general immune system, which however doesn't leave or rely on anti-bodies. He also estimated (a seasoned scientist, fighting viruses in Africa etc for many years!) that those having had the virus will be immune for at least six months. But next Nobel banquet will be cancelled. The separate price ceremony may be without an audience, but it's not clear yet. It's mostly due to that the infection status of all international guest may be uncertain. Most Swedes will be OK, probably long before the Nobel Day in December.

Dr Tegnell has earlier explained that the Swedish measures have always been the usual ones based on experience: hand hygiene, social distancing, don't visit the elderly, stay at home if the slightest ill (work from home if possible), close schools only for older students, and so on. Locking up people is unnecessary, maybe useful only in *extreme cases for short periods* so that the medical



RIP Jean-Pierre "Laigle" Moumon 1947-2020, heart attack. French sf expert, enthusiast, good friend from many sf cons. Adieu, mon ami!

systems can prepare. Masks are a tricky thing. The effects of them are actually questionable, since they may give a *false sense of security*. They won't stop you at all from getting infected (Nota Bene!) and while they may stop sneeze droplets, it is much worse if they make you forget keeping distancing and even to go out on town when you don't feel 100% healthy.

The Swedish strategy have always been the standard for fighting an epidemic, but then "the rest of the world suddenly became crazy," Dr Tegnell said. But politicians wanted to show "strength", fooled by faulty epidemic models since proved wrong. Result: economy and people's non-virus related health suffer a disastrous blow.

An odd end note. Since i's still important to wash your hands, keep your distance to others and so on, the wonderful Baltic island of Gotland, a popular vacation destination, has found a new method to remind visitors: medieval knights! They have recruited a local medieval re-enactment society to move around in their armour, on their horses, and remind people about the virus:

"Keep twain cubits away, Sire, or the Black Death will fall upon you!"

SCIENT CONUNDRI

Time to go back in time, to the old scriptures in the form of the highly intelligent newspapers and their hard-working reporters! Once more, some findings from the newspaper archive of the Royal Library in Stockholm. What marvels will be unearthed? What old mysteries will be unraveled? Will there be the secret recipe for corflu? Will we learn who sawed Courtney's boat? Come along and find out! First a little thing I can't remember seeing at the time it was published. I wrote an editorial in the

Nova SF magazine in 1985, with advice to sf authors. Morning paper Dagens Nyheter commented upon it **April 13, 1985**:

ADVICE TO SF WRITERS. "To you who write", writes editor Ahrvid Engholm in an editorial in the latest issue of sf magazine Nova. It seems Nova gets a lot of short stories from its readers, and Engholm has in this issue decided to give some advice to his enthusiastic but perhaps not so accomplished submitters. It's a nice little article by a seasoned but still optimistic editor. Engholm has to start from scratch: You must write with cleaned types... The advices are wise and constructive: most must be re-written - try to spell correctly - the start is important. Ahrvid Engholm is also a friend of the logical ending. Most claimed surprise endings are far from surprising. And he ask readers to avoid endings where "the sun turns into a nova", a giant explosion that ends both characters and plots. "A good sf author only lets the sun explode when it's needed", Engholm maintains."

Råd till en sf-författare

"TILL DIG SOM SKRIVER" skriver redaktör Ahrvid Engholm en ledare i senaste numret av sciencefictiontidningen Nova.

Tydligen får Nova in en mängd noveller från sina läsare, och i detta nummer har Engholm beslutat förmedla några råd till sina entusiastiska men kanske inte alltid så tränade bidragsgivarë.

Det är en fin liten artikel, skriven av luttrad men fortfarande optimistisk redaktör. Engholm får börja från scratch: "Du måste skriva maskin med rengjorda typer.

Råden är kloka och konstruktiva: det mesta måste skrivas om försök stava rätt — början är viktig.

Ahrvid Engholm talar sig också varm för det logiska slutet; de flesta förment överraskande slut är allt annat än överraskande. Och han vädjar till läsarna att undvika slut "där solen blir en nova", och i en jätte-explosion gör slut på både personer och intrig.

"En bra sf-författare låter bara solen explodera när det behövs framhäller Engholm. MARTEN BLOMKVIST

Well, I think I can still stand behind all of that. I sound like a very experienced author, though I at the time had only had two short stories published in Jules Verne Magasinet (and a handful in fanzines). I had of course been writing for many years. I think I must have submitted my first story attempt to Sam J Lundwall of JVM around 1978 or something. I have always written short story fiction, beside writing non-fiction articles and books, fanzine pieces and all kinds of stuff, even poetry. Over the years I've had an estimated 100+ short stories published professionally or semi-professionally (the difference is sometimes academic....) and have always been interested in the art of writing. I have written an unpublished book on writing short stories (I'm not satisfied with it, it needs polishing, so I haven't tried it with any publisher) and had the writers' E-mail list SKRIVA running since 1997. I don't have an enormous output, maybe only 2-4 short stories per year and it's only short stories. I have only written half a novel (the infamous heavy tuckerised crime fiction parody Brotherhood of Blood, hacked out during a weekend together with David Nessle, who wrote the other half) and a couple of

novellas. I like short fiction best.

But enough about me. Beside writing and fiction, much around science fiction Manraket forskardröm is about space. And I'm not really surprised that it's the topic the first time Arthur C "Ego" Clarke is mentioned in Swedish newspapers. We find a short article in Dagens Nyheter again, May 28 1950:

Moon rocket researcher's dream for Russian planetary offensive. It's possible the the Russians will be the first to reach the Moon. They work

för rysk planetoffensiv

UP. LONDON, lördag. Det är tänkbart att ryssarna blir de första som når fram till må-nen. De arbetar intensivt på projektet, kanhända med en triumferande rysk "ockupation" av planeten i sikte, påstår den engelske vetenskapsmannen Arthur C. Clarke.

ioner från den vetenskapliga värl- jektet. den i Sovjet, bl. a. yppade i ryska | Clarke är den som leder engelska resan till månen mindre än fyra stärkning av flera skickliga tyska i

facktidskrifter. Under de senaste forskningar på området. Han räk- dagar, allt enligt Clarkes optimisigen har ryssarna dessutom fått för- nar för egen del med att kunna tiska beräkningar. Forts, sidan sex, spalt sex.

Månraket... (Forts. fr. sid. 1)

företa månresan inom 20 år, berättar han. Korta utflykter i rymden kommer att vara vardagsmat inom tio år. Rymdflygningen befinner sig nu på det stadium där flygningen befann sig för 40 år sedan. Man behöver "bara" femdubbla raketernas hastighet till 40.000 kilometer i timmen för att övervinna jor-Han baserar sin teori på informa- forskare, som satts i arbete på pro- dens dragningskraft, och detta anses inte längre omöjligt. Sedan tar

intensively on that project, perhaps with a triumphant Russian 'occupation' of the planet as an aim, says the

English scientist Arthur C Clarke. He bases his theory on information from the Soviet scientific world, eg stated in Russian journals. During later years the Russians have also been augmented by several skilled German scientists who are working on the project. Clarke is the one leading English research in the field. He counts on that he himself will be able to take part in the first Moon trip within 20 years, he says. Short excursions into space will be common within ten years. Space flight is now at the stage where ordinary flight was 40 years ago. You "only" need to increase the speed of rocket fivefold to 40 000 km/h to conquer Earth's gravity, and this is no longer considered impossible. And then the trip to the Moon will take less than four days, according to Clarke's optimistic calculations.

For Arthur C himself hoping to get to the moon was a bit optimistic, but otherwise he wasn't that far off in his assessments. He was chairman of the British Interplanetary Society which had made a detailed study of how to build a British moon rocket (thus "leading English research in then field"...). He was absolutely correct with assuming that the Soviets would take the lead in the space race early on. He must have had good sources.

Atomic bombs is also something sf authors have been writing about, even before Hiroshima. Sweden also wanted to catch that train, at least in the beginning, as we could read in Söderhamns Tidning as early as November 16 1945...



Omedelbart före sin resa till London på inbjudan av engelska vetenskapsakademin meddelade professor Manne Siegbahn i en intervju, att han skulle vara i stånd att göra en svensk atombomb inom en tid av tre månader. AT har låtit frågan gå vidare till en av våra främsta experter på sprängämnesområdet, och han ställer sig litet skeptisk till professor Eiegbahns löfte om tre månader, men i övrigt bekräftar han professorns yttrande.

vara så oerhört ståhej kring hemligheten med atombomben, säger han. Atombomben är ingen hemlighet och hur tillverkningen av en sådan skall ske är känt av vetenskapsmännen i hela världen. För oss här i Sverige skulle det endast gälla att få i gång; en industri, som tog hand om tillverkningen, och vi skulle kunna göra atombomber på löpande band.

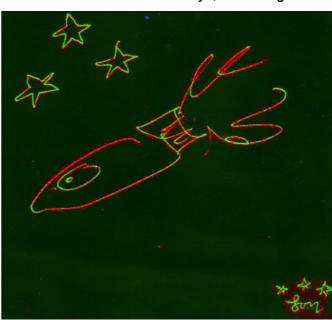
- Och hur länge skulle det dröja?

månader kan naturligtvis endast gälla en laboratorieprodukt, men i industriell många år. Amerika ligger före här, ty sådant blir av.

långt med problemet, det var bara atomic bombs in long lines. dess omsättande i praktiken, som då det inte var aktuellt, fick anstå.

-Några hinder för denna tillverkinte föreligga.

- Nej, men maskiner måste byggas, och det tar här som inom all annan - Professor Siegbahns löfte om tre tillverkning sin rundliga tid. Hur bomtillverkningen kunna bara sig, kommer vi att lösa under



Rocket to the stars, according to artist "Lon"!

SWEDEN CAN ALSO MAKE ATOMIC BOMBS Just before his trip to London, invited by the English academy of science professor Manne Siegbahn said in an interview that he'd be able to make an atomic bomb within three months. We have asked this question to one of our foremost experts on explosives and he was somewhat sceptical to professor Siegbahn's promise about three months, but otherwise he confirms what the professor says.

"I don't understand why the secret of the atomic bomb should be such an issue." he says. "The atomic bomb is no secret and how one can be constructed is known by scientists - Jag förstår inte, varför det skall där forcerades tillverkningen fram för in the whole world. For us in Sweden it would att få ett snabbt krigsslut, men den only be a matter of starting an industry to take svenska expertisen hade kommit lika care of production, and we could produce

"How long would it take?"

"Professor Siegbahn's promise of three months would only be a laboratory item, but in ning skulle alltså om resurserna funnes on an industrial scale production could start within the same number of years. America is in the lead here, because the production was speeded up there to reach an end of the war, but Swedish experts could have reached just ben skall byggas vet vi, och smärre de- as far, the problem only being to realise it in taljspörsmål som naturligtvis uppen- practice, but as it wasn't needed it could wait.

"There wouldn't be any obstacles for this igångsättas inom låt oss säga lika byggandet. För den händelse nu ett production, as long as the resources where there?"

"No. the machines must be built but it will as a

lot of other production take some time. We know how the bomb shall be built, and other little details that appears will be solved during construction. In case that will happen."

Who this explosives expert is isn't said. It may be the case that the basic principles of creating an atomic chain reaction was known to a lot of scientists, but it seems the guy underestimates the problems with obtaining U235 or handling plutonium... Building atomic bombs in three months! It sounhds like it's just being some sort of firecrackers.

And it was already from the beginning clear how these firecrackers were to be used: you'd put them on rockets and throw them half-way into space to hit the cities and industries of the enemy. As said in this article in Dagens Nyheter, November 12 1945:

PHANTOM WEAPONS FOR USA Atomic projectiles from "space ships" The head of the US Air Force, general Arnold, says that the US Air Force should have such an efficient spying and intelligence organisation that they in peace time can make complete and modern plans for destroying cities and industrial and military objects in any possible enemy state with atomic bombs and other weapons. This is evident from the general's official report to the war secretary Paterson regarding US Air Force 1945 operations. "V2 is a weapon type ideal for transporting atomic explosives, since it would be very difficult to find any efficient defence against it." Arnold writes. "If any defence is developed against such projectiles which operationer under år 1945. "V-2 år en moveswith 4500 km/h, we must be ready to launch it from closer to target, give it a som det skulle bli ytterst svårt att shorter flight time and make it more difficult to discover and destroy. We must be ready to lounch if from weeklas några försvarsmedel mot såbe ready to launch it from unexpected directions. That can b e done with real 'space ships' that can operate from outside Earth's atmosphere. It is already now almost possible to construct such

crafts, and technical research ADIMIR SEMITJOV will certainly be able to do it within future." The general openly

KULTUR

VladimirSemitjov's first (rather good!) sf novel from 1936. When the title refers to "mil", it's the "Swedish mile" '= 10 km.

FANTOMVAPEN FÖR U.S.A. Atomprojektiler från "rymdskepp

TT fr. Reuter. WASHINGTON, söndag. Chefen för Förenta staternas flygvapen, general Arnold, anser att det amerikanska flyget bör ha ett så effektivt spioneri- och underrättelseväsen som möjligt och under fredstid förfoga över fullständiga och moderna planer på att med atombomber och andra vapen förstöra alla strategiskt viktiga städer samt industriella och militära anläggningar i varje tänkbar fiendestat.

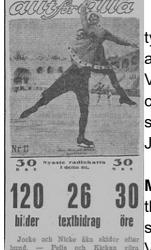
Detta framgår av generalens officiella rapport till krigsminister Patterson rörande det amerikanska flygets vapentyp som idealiskt lämpar sig för transport av atomsprängämnen, efterframbringa något effektivt försvar mot dana projektiler som rör sig med en hastighet av 4.800 km i timmen, måste vi vara redo att sända i väg dem närmare målet, ge dem kortare flygtid och göra dem svårare att upptäcka och förstöra. Vi måste vara redo att sända i väg dem från oväntade riktningar. Detta kan göras med verkliga rymdskepp', som kan operera utanför jordens atmosfär. Det är redan nu nästan möjligt att konstruera sådana skepp, och den tekniska forskningen kommer säkert att kunna göra det inom överskådlig framtid,"

Generalen diskuterar öppet möjligforeseeable heten av ett nytt krig och skriver: "Med nuvarande utrustning kan en fientlig flygmakt utan föregående varning passera alla tidigare tänkta för-



discusses the possibility of a new war and writes: "With the present equipment an enemy air power may without prior warning penetrate all perceivable defences."

In previous issues I've talked about Sture Lönnerstrand (1919-1999), a pioneer of Swedish sf. Other pioneer were the Semitjovs, in fact *two* pioneers, the father author Vladimir and his son author and space journalist Eugen (whom I knew very well). The Semitjovs fled Russia after the revolution and came to Sweden after a complicated journey through eg Turkey. Vladimir Semitjov (1882-1939) wrote fine sf novels and lots of short stories and articles in Swedish magazines and newspapers, of all



är doktor antasi av WL Semitjov, "Tynest-crosten", en folklivsskildring av J. B kull, Üppgift på Europas radiostatio-

types but much of it science fiction. Eugen Semitjov (1923-1987), born in Sweden after the family had arrived, first became an accomplished illustrator, working for Jules Verne Magasinet and then creating the sf comics Allan Kämpe published in several countries. Then he became an author and space journalist, writing about the coming space age long before it became a reality, finally winning the Grand Prize of Journalism, a Swedish Pulitzer, for his fine material.

One of the first examples of Vladimir's activities I find is from an advert in Aftonbladet March 10 1926, for #11 of the magazine Allt för alla, which says the issue will have the story by "WL" (sic!) Semitjov named "24-25, a future fantasy". This is about the same time the genre got going in the US with the start of Amazing Stories - so Vladimir was early on to it. The ad also mentions that the magazine will have "information about Europe's radio stations and their wavelengths" - the new futuristic technology, the "wireless "Internet" of its time. I can't find Valdimir's story, since the newspaper archive doesn't cover magazines. But I found for instance the short story "Avatism", a Dr Jekyll Mr Hyde tale of sorts, by him in Aftonbladet, August 27 1933,

which you'll find on next full page. (It's a challenge to run it. The original is a full tabloid page, but here it has to be reproduced smaller, which makes the text extra blurry... Too long to summarise, sorry.) Sf historian Bertil Falk has through the years collected many of Vladimir's short stories and estimates he

must have written hundreds of them!

His Swedish Wikipedia page also mentions around 15 books, some apparently mainstream, some non-fiction but also the sf novels - and I translate the titles -430 000 000 km through Space (see ill), Towards Fading Suns and The Lost Aeroplane (https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir Semitjov if you can make out the Swedish text). As he was an engineer by trade it's no wonder he was interested in science, space and such things. He for instance also wrote the non-fiction book How the Universe is Arranged.

A review of 430 000 000 km Through Space is worth looking into, a rather appreciative piece from Dagens Nyheter, November 19 1963, "Jules Verniade". Some excerpts:

He knows his space and physics, but doesn't go into deep explanations on how it's possible for Dr Sternborn's strange giant torpedo to cruise between the planets. This is Semitjov's strength as an adventure author, he never stops the story for guasi-science babble but lets the story run in new fresh adventures. Another advantage of this adventure-spinner is his total lack of the usual, banal love story. Everything here is adventure and excitement. ... You can experience how it feels to get lost on the Moon with 24h of air left in your breathing apparatus, you go through a violent wild fire on Venus - where the grass is light blue - a rather unpleasant place BTW, where you always run the risk of encountering relatives to Earth's fortunately extinct dinosaurs, and finally you get insights into the cultural dusk on Mars, where the proletariat seems to be really at disadvantage, as the upper class already at birth removes their cognitive abilities. Giving a wink to older readers, Semitjov BTW also notes how Mars already a long time ago had

a very extreme birth control. As you can see, "430 000 000 km in Space" isn't only full of imaginative, exciting adventures, it also has much new, valuable information for the reader.

15,45 På audiens hos en jazzkung. Kåseri med grammofonillustrationer av Claes Livijn.
16,15 Ett besök på planeten Venus. Ur "43,000,000 mil i världsrymden" av Vladimir Semitjov. Uppläsning för ungdom av Fritiof Billquist.
16,45 Sång till luta av Vilhelm Julinder.

A part of this exciting novel was also read in radio, a half hour reading by Fritiof Billquist, March 5 1937 (right).

It is worth noting is that while he learned Swedish for everyday use, he never felt comfortable writing it, so he wrote everything in Russian and had to split the money with a translator. Still, he apparently managed to make a living. What I

Jules Verniad.

LADIMIR SEMITIOV: 3.000.000 mil i världsrymden. Natur och Kultur. Pris 3: 25.

mir Semitjov har roat sig med att skri va en modern variation på Jules Verne "Resan till månen". nöjer sig emellertig inte med månen. Han för sina passagerare både till Venus och Mars med en självklarhet som inte känner några tekniska svå righeter. Den fantastiska författare var också i unga år ingenjör berta S:t Petersburg. Han kan sin världs rymd och sin fysik, men ger sig änd aldrig för djupt in i förklaringar om det egentligen är möjligt att dol Sternborns sällsamma jättetorpe kryssa så där mellan planetern Detta är en sida av Seniltjøvs styrk-som äventyrsförfaltare, han stoppa aldrig upp sin handling med kvasitek niskt snusförnuft, han låter den löp friskt undan i ständigt nya äventyr En annan fördel hos denne äventyrsbe-rättare är också hans fullständiga fri-hat före den vanling handa könlat. historien. Här är allt äventyr och

"43,000,000 mll i världsrymden" bör därför vara en utmärkt pojkbok; bland de svenska äventyraböcker som kom-mit ut de sensste åren är den också ganska unik. Man får vara med om hur det känns att gå vilse på månen med luft kvar i sin andningsapparat för 24 timmar, man får uppleva en väldsam skonshrand rå Usens "43.000.000 mil i världsrymden' våldsam skogsbrand på Venus — grüset är linebler gräset är ljusblått — en ganska olust himlakropp för resten, där man stän digt löpte risk att stöta ihop med släk tingar till jordens numera lyckligtv utdöds dinosaurusar, och till sist man en inblick i kulturförfallet Mars, där proletariatet verkligen ty ta det högst beklagansvärt ställt, överklassen redan vid dess födsel op rerar bort reflexionsförmågan hos det Med en blinkning ät den äldre läsaren konstaterar Semitjov för resten äver hur mars för längesedan infört en till ytterlighet gående födelsekontroll. Som man hör, är "43,000.000 mil" inte hara full av fantasirika, spännande äventyr, utan också av många nya, värdefulla upplysningar för läsaren.

ATAVISM

Novell

av

WLADIMIR SEMITJOV

Stälmagnaten R. C. Haram led av spleen. D I henmet var det outhärdligt. Om några dagar måste han hålla en stor festmiddag. Hans vänner och bekanta yrknde bestämt på att få fira hans fyrtioärsdag, och som han ogärna gick på restaurang föredrog han att ha tillställningen i sitt ungkarls-hem. Förberedelserna hade redan börjat,

Dür han sted framför fösstrat i sovrum-met kände han sig underligt overklig. Det som existerade var hans namn, hans fabri-ker, hans pengar — men människan R. C. Haram, vem brydde sig om den? Och när häns så kallade vänner nu voro ivriga att betyga sin glädje övre att han uthärdat fyra deconquier i denna immerdalen, bedecennier i denna jämmerdalen, berodde det inte på att de voce förtjasta å hans person. Nej, de bebiede benem av andra orsaker: de satte värde på benem som duktig affärsman, de spekulerade i hans aktier och ville gärna ha tips av

han levde, predikade han för sin son Rufus vikten av systematiskt arbete. Man skulle sätta sig ett mål före och seden sträva att nă det, varje dag, varje timme, varje minut. Det var den săkraste văgen till frangâng, sade gubben. Men ibland, năr han var pă gett humör, brukade den gamle dra mustrande historier om aina upplevelser som tramp på 60-talet. Så neg hade han haft religt i sinn dar, medan Rufus döremot från första stunden konfronterats med livets all-var. Vad hade följden blivit? Han hade inte haft tid att leva. Han hade inte hun-nit lära känna en kvinna, som han kunnat göra till sin hustru. Han misstrodde alla nämniskor, han isolerade sig från världen. Det var som en mar omkring honom, och det var han själv som rest den muren. Det

var han modveten om.

Han tryckte på en knapp. Dörren öpp-pades, men han vände sig inte om.

padea, men han vände sig inte om.

— Jag går och lägger mig tidigt i kväll och vill inte bli störd, sade han.

— All right, sir.
Dörren stängdes. Haram lyssnade till stegen, som avlägmade sig. När allt var tyst gick han på tå in i hadrummet och öppnade försiktigt ett skåp, ur vilket han plockade fram diverse koustilks persedlar, som man minst av allt väntat se i ett miljenärshem; en samtsig overall, en rock med trasica ärmlissnigar och flickar på upptrasiga armilianingar och fläckar på upp-singen, en illa medfaren sportmissa och ett par snedgingsa kängor. Denna skrud iförde han sig, sedan han låst dörren ut

Det värsta kapitlet var att komma ut obemärkt, men i skydd av mörkret tog han sig ut genom ett fönster, som vette åt par-ken, och klättrade över muren på ett ställe,

där belyanisgen var svag.

Ute på trottoaren drog han en lättnadens suck. Hans raks, spässetja grestalt liksom förvandlades. Med hånderna i byxfickorna och mösskärnen seddragen över ögenen ankannetecknar grändernas folk. Han kinde sig äntligen fri. Nu var han mäaniska, och ingen mur skilde honom längre från den övriga miaskligheten. Han förstod, att om han förvärvade en vän i den kostym han su har, så måste det ligga oegennytta i den vinskapen. Rufus Haram fanns inte längre till sanat än som ett begrepp, som havdsakligen manifesterat sig i några järn- och stliverk. Men den materiella delen sv

sausgen manischen auf gegen jeden av Refus Haram gick i denna habit under namnet Johnay Blunt, permanent arbetslös. Klockan var över eiva. Johnny Blunt tog en buse, som gick ut till en av förstöderna. Vid en pies hållplats hoppade han

av och begav alg till en källariokal vid en hakgata i närheten. Här var en brokig samling av gangsters och beotleggers, min med dunkla och bjusskygga yrken, felk av alla mejliga nationalister sökte sig hit om nätterna för att träffa bekanta och tömma

Här fick man vara i fred. Ingen begärde att få se ens prästbetyg. Slog man sig i slang med någon av de andra glisterna i lokalen, beblyde man inte presentera sig.

Det gick lika ben att resonera ändå. I ett hien satt ett par kvinnor v I ett hörn satt ett par kvinnor vid ett litet bord. Den ena reste sig och gick emot

- Var har du hâllit hus hels veckan? ora trodde dem hade burat in dig. Hon grauskade hans kläder med en kri-

tisk blick.

— Och inte har du riggat upp dig beller. Då har du väl kevan du vann sist i
behåll då. Ska du inte bjuda Delly och
mig på ett glas vin? Men här är Nora...

— Vad racklar du om, va? utbrast en
liten pågg blondin, som under tiden kenmit in i lokalen. Duger inte Johanys rigg
åt dig, så kan du låta boroen varn i fred.

— Asch, bråka inte nu, sade Blunt med
ett godmoligt leende. Och så slego de fyra
sig ned vid bordet och beställde in dricksvaror.

Nora lutade sig mot Blunt och viskade

- Roger Fry har frägat efter dig. Han skulle visst komma hit i kväll och se em

du var hir.

Det var livlig omsättning bland publiken;
semliga gings, men det kom ständigt nya,
och sorlet och glammet stog högt över
tobaksmelnen, som lågo-lägrade likt en
dimma kring gishens. Ju mer tiden led
in på småtimmarna, dess glättigare blev
stänningen. Nora hade placerat sig i
klinnt hir diff satt hen och varande fram

stämningen. Norn hade placerat sig i Blunts knä; där aut hon och vaggade fram och tillhaka som en litten barnungs medan hon gaolade på en revyvisa. Hon var söt, men hon visate om det också. Hon var svår-fängad; det visate nästan alla, och därför fick hen varn i fred. Hon hade en vass tungs och var oerbört slagfärdig. Det var inne rollier att säke ut för hanne när hon inte roligt att råka ut för henne, när hon var på misshundr. Blust tycktes dock ha funnit nåd inför hennes ögon. Det var tyd-

ligt att hon hade saknat henoen, tänkte han med en känsla av tillfredsställelse. In i lekalen kom nu ett sällskap, som

In i Beagen ben nu et eine Blagade Noras uppmärksamhet.

— Där är Reger Fry, sade han och sid sig hårdare till Blust. Fy sjutten, så han ser ut. Jag är rådd för den där karlen. Ta

ser ut. Jag är rådd för den där karlen. Ta reda på vad han vill dig, men låt honen inte lura dig till några galeuskaper. Hoper Pry, som hade några av sina kam-rater i följe, såg ut som en tilla åtgången borare i ansiktet. Nåsan var tillplattad, underkäken var absornt utvecklad mon kroppen var välväx toch proportionerilg. Nera satt kvar i Blunts knå, när Fry

kom fram och nickade.

— Du, Blunt, det är en sak jag skulle vilja snacka med dig om. Låt jäntan kom-

vilja snacka med dig om. Låt jäntan kom-ma med förresten.

De gingo in i ett mindre rum, som var reserverat för mera gynnade gister.

— Här är storn saker i görningen, sade Fry. Vi kom ju överens om förra gån-gen, att vi skulle göra ett bättre kap.

— Vad giller det? undrade Blunt.

— Vad galler det? undrede Brant. Fry einkte reisten och talade om att del gällde ett inbrott. Han hade sett att Ellmit alltid hade gett om alantar. Karlen var säkert ingen kläpere, tänkte Fry, fast han fögedrog att jobba på egen hand. Hur det

Blunt; om något lokrativt skulle dyka upp kunde han ju stöta på.

Inhrott, sa du? Ja, jag vet inte, det inte min bransch procis.

 Jag tänkte ni skulle vara med bägge

två. Jäntan kan vara till stor nytta. Blunt ryukade ögonbeynen. — Hen gör vill som bon vill i det fallet, sade Blunt buttert. Hör du Nora, du kan

girna himta in våra glas hit.

Nir flickan avlägsnat sig lutnée Fry sig fram över bordet och visknée till Bluat. - Har du biet talas om Haraus, stål

kungen. Blunt ryckte till och kände har blodet Vad au 417 Var han hettade i kinderna. Vad nu då? Var han avskind? Men så behärskade han sig, kliu-

de sig på näsan och tycktes fundera.

— Visst har jag det. Dom där högdjuren

Nå, då kanske du begriper att det är

Blunt tog sig om hakan för att dölja ett

Hur har du tänkt dig det? frågade

Fry redogjorde för sin plan. Nör han slutat, nickade Blunt efterfänksamt. — Är det inte konstigt, att ingen passat på att plocka henom förut? Den kuppen

på att plocks henom förut? Den kuppen blir jag gärna ned om. Han hade svårt att didja sin förtjusning över att få göra inhrott i sitt egat hem. — Han fyller fyrtio om ett par dar, och då ställer han till ned en stor skiva. Det lär sku bli över hundra personer, meddelnlade den villinformersde Fry. Det bästa är naturligtris att Nora spökar ut sig och far dit sem gäst. Hon kan alla finesser som behöve hoe tockna där. Hon fär försöka komma på ta man hand med krösnene ett tag. Har kon hara nychhrna och kan alänga ut dem till oss, så äka vi nog klara resten.

Men Nora ville inte varu med. Hon vägrade bestämt, trots älla övertalningsförsök.
Blunt beundrade henne för denna ständaktighet. Men när ben fick börn att Bönnt
skulle medverka, gav hen efter.
Kvällen därpå råkades åter Fry och
Blunt. Under dagens lopp hade Fry lyekats skuffin en neggrann plan över killaren,
där kansavadret var utprickat. Han hade
också reda på var nlarmledningen gick och
har den fungerade. Blunt kunde inte flestå
det på annat sätt lin att det måste finnas
någon skurk bland personnlen, som försett
Fry med planritningen. Eligst var det oförMarligt.

— Alarmledningen skulle Nora kunnst klippa av, een hon barn gick med på att spela inhjuden, sade Fry. Men eftersom hen inte vill så... Jag tvingar ingen. Fry skitte alla förberedelser. Han var den vane ledaren, och Blunt hade bara att

ta emet sina instruktioner

Det var natt. Klockan var ett, när Blant steg in på källaren, där de andra redan väntade hancen.

Du är punktlig, sade Fry erkännande.
 Ska vi? frågade Blunt.
 Tucka fasen för det. Nu pågår vil galdet som bist, och ingen kun förestilla sig att någen vilgar bryta sig in då.

atg att någon vägar hryta sig in då. En bil väntade den i hörnet. Den förde den på en kvart till en gata i nårheben av Harans magnifika privathus. Chauffören, en gammal medhjälpare till Fry, fick order att stamas en stund och sedan långoamt köra upp på den gata, åt vilken parkmuren vette. Där kunde han vänta på något låtendlet stille å skynneden. lämpligt ställe i skymundan.

Blust kinds bur hjärtat hopp och ner i donom, när han kröp efter Fry över gräsmattan i skuggan av nuren. Fry dök ner genom en källarbucka, som stod olist efter hans besik ett par timmar tidigare på kvällen, då han gjort en liten re-kognoscering. Blunt följde honem i hälarna Nora skulle ligga däruppe och passa, så ingen kom och överraskade dem,

Fry hade stött på en dörr, som var låst. Den ledde in till det killarrem, där kassa-valvet fanns. Fick han upp den dörren, kom signalapparaten i funktion uppe i våningen. Det visste Blunt,

i det inre rummet med ficklampan fram-

Just som han sted i begrepp att börja bearbeta kassavalvets dörr hördes en avag vissling utifrån. Det var Neen...

- Fort ... det kommer folk!

— Fort... det kommer folk!

— Satan! brunmade Fry och lämnade det påbörjade arbetot. Vig som en apa klängde han sig vop i källarluckan. Blunt efter. Fry autte i vig tot muren i full fart. Blunt tänkte göra detsurma, men hindrades av ett vill applicerat krobben. Han föll handlöst till marken och slog huvudet i något härt, så att han nässtan svimmade av. Nägra sekunder däreförr lyttes han upp av starka ammar, som obstrahårigt vrede haus Nagra sekunder dareiter lyttres han upp av starka nrumr, som obarrahärtigt verfo haus egna uppåt och bakåt. Han vände på hu-vudet och urskilde bekanta drug; det var en av hans egna betjänter. Skulle han förstöm sig på en föreklaring för att få hela saken nedtystad? Men i detsämma förstod han att det var koliket, tyr ett stycke bak-om hörfe han en hassist som rilliksirke hans om hörde han en hasröst, som tillhörde hans

- Här är flickan. Henne fick vi tag i Men den tredje, han smet han. Di hade visst en bil som väntade stanför. Polisen är här när som helst. Snyggt följe, va?

ar hir när som helst. Snyggt följe, va?
En halvtimme somare satt Johnny Blent
i silvert förvar bakom lås och galler.
En vecka gick. Nora frigava i brist på
beris — hon gjorde gällande, att hen av
nyfikenhot att få se de eleganta tealetterna
på nära häll tagit sig in i parken, och när
polisen sälppte henne, var det i den hemliga avsikten att genom att skugga henne
få fatt på den som lyckades smita.
På börsen uppstod panik med anledning.

få fatt på den som lyckndes smits.

På börsen uppstod panik med anledning av Rafor Harmas försvinnsade. Det var det mest gåtfalla man hört om på länge. Gästerna hade sett honom halv ett, ech ingenting ovanligt lade märkts på honom. Månne ligan bade tagit honom som gisslan? Sänggningen av filckan ledde ej till resultat. Möjligen förbäll det sig verkligen som hon sade, att hon alltat var ockyldig. Den som att i arrest fick man inte ett ord ur. Då kom polischefen på en Ivande ide.

Då kem polischefen på en lysande idé. Varför inte släppa karlen eckså, men hålla noga zeda på yart han tog vägen. På så slitt kunde man kanske få upp ett spår

En dag överraskades Blunt av att kon-stapeln öppnade dörren och med en hug-ning, som skulle verkn ironisk, antydde att han kunde passers.

— Vi har inga hevis mot er. Ni får gå, ande polischefen och gjorde med huvudet en gest åt utgången,

Blunt avlägsnade sig med händerna i byx-fickorna. Han trodde inte det var sant, De sista dagarna hade han grabbiat hit och dit för att komma på en utväg att rymma. dit for att komma på en utvig att rymma. Endant i yttersta nidfall kunnde han av-skija ven han var. Han var hjärteglad över att han sluppit det. Ku kunde han gå hem och kli en sig. Han flek förklara saken med att han måst resa bort. Ett angeliget telegram hade kommit... Men ännn var det ljusan dag, och innan det blev miekt sordes han inte göra ett försök att amita in. Bist var det mellan tio och elva; då stod fösstrat till sorqummet öppet för vid-stod fösstrat till sorqummet öppet för vidsted fönstret till sovrummet öpper för väd-ring. Nå, han fick gå här och larva om-kring, tills tiden var inns.

När nattens skuppa brett sig över par-ken kring stälmsgnaten Refus Harsma palä, syntes en individ i förd med att klättrn över muren. Det var en man, och han smög sig hastigt över grösmattan fram till buset, där han raskt klättrade uppför stupröret och lycknöss ta sig in genom ett öppet fönster.

Han hade knappt förssunnit, förrän tvenne massiva gestalter döke upp. Den ens placerade sig nedanför fönstret, vilket den mystiske individen för övrigt stängt ordentligt efter sig; den andre skyndade runt huset till havndentrén, där han ömsem ringde och holtade ett par minuter, innan

han fick liv i nagon dirinne, Betjänten, som öppnade porten, stod och gapade efter den grevlemmede figuren, som at bryskt skjutit henom åt sidan och erängt in i vestibulen. Men så blev det liv i honom.

- Vad vill ni? Vad är det fråga om?

- Tes . . . Det är inbrott här! En tjuv

en trappa upp...

Hovmistaren tillkallades, och tillsam-mans smöge de tre männen på tysta sulor

- Han kröp in genom ett fönster, stod öppet. Vilket rum ledde det till?

— Det måste vara nr Harams sovrum. Han är inte hemma, som ni kassåe vet, men hans order lyder vi, och sovrummet vādras varje kvāll.

Med dignese på skaft stannade trice utan-för dörren till sovrunmet. Hovmistaren tog i vredet och öppnade fördktigt. Den ver ellet. Runmet låg i mörker, men i det angränsande badrummet lyste det, och där plaskade någon i karet så det stod här-liva till

lige till. Hovmästaren gick fram på skälvande

- Ah, mr Haram, jag ber tusen gånger m ursäkt, men jag vieste verkligen

- För all del, Jones. Ge mig lite to och rostat bröd är ni snäll. Jag är hungrig, som en varg.

oon rosats seed at a time. Jag at hungrigsom en varg.

Detoktiven sig ut som en idiot.

— Ven har ni med er, Jones? hördes
Harmas röst.

— Det är en..., hm..., detektiv, som tredde att någon hade brutit sig in I våningen, sir.

— Vad sägev nå? Det var ræskigt! Leta igenem huset då, för gads skull.

Det gjorde man, medan stålmagnaten Rafus Haram gick emkring I pyjannas och frissade som en tjuvpojke, som lyckats med ett riktigt redge ræckartyg.

— Ataviem, tänkte hän. Jag brås nog på pappa, som han var då han var ung.

hadn't realised is that he became a minor celebrity in his new homeland. In 1935 he took part in honouring Sweden's at the time most famous actor, Gösta Ekman, after a performance at the Vasa Theatre, and it appears in the papers as in Svenska Dagbladet, **March 3 1935**:

Gösta Ekman Receives a Thank You Oration Grand Celebrations at Saturday's Fejda performance ...

Author Vladimir Semitjov steps forth and according to Russian customs delivers an artistic oration with thanks from friends and admirers of Gösta Ekman's art. A lady from the Russian colony in Stockholm delivers flowers.

There's also a picture to this on page one, and I'll translate the caption:

Gösta Ekman was on Saturday evening's performance of Fedja object of grand celebrations. An artistic oration with thanks from friends and admirers of his art was delivered, to ovations from the audience. The text is in an article in the paper. Above we see Vladimir Semitjov hand it over to Gösta Ekman-Fedja.

It seems Vladimir (to the right) was a good friend of Gösta Ekman, who was a superstar at the time. That's something! This grand man unfortunately died, AFAIK during a surgical operation (I don't know what illness he had),

Gösta Ekman får mottaga tack-adress.

> Storslagen hyllning vid lördagens Fedjaföreställning.

Det är på Vasan. Fullsatt. Lördagskväll. Publiken sitter gripen av den starka slutscenen i Fedja. Så bryter bifallet löst. Man vet ej hur man skall visa sin tacksamhet starkt nog. Max Hansen viskar till sitt sällskap, att föreställningen var en av de djupaste, hun upplevat. Publiken vill ej gå. Kanske känner man på sig, att något ovtra är i görningen. Och det kommer. Efter alla inromingar står till sist Gösta Ekman-Fedja ensam på scenen. Författaren Vladimir Semitjöv träder fram och överlämnar enligt rysk sed en konstnärlig adress med tack från vänner och beundrare av Gösta Ekmans konst. En dam ur ryska kolonien

February 6 1939. There were death notices already the next day in eg Svenska Dagbladet (**February 7**, excerpts):

Author Vladimir
Semitjov died
Monday at Maria
hospital in
Stockholm,
almost 57 years
old. He was an
engineer by
trade but later
went to the
press. Until the
Bolshevik
revolution he



Pörfattaren Vladimir Semitjev å måndagen på Maria sjukhus i S olm, nära 57 år gammal. Han noim, nara by at gamma. In the right of the Marande Petrograd Under redigerade han sedan en tidning kasus, men maste vid de rö-raugande fly också darriran. iournalist in then rinind och ett arbote. Amerikanska K. P. U. M. tog nämligen här hans tratter i attepräk för sitt hjälparbete Ar 1923 flyttade has med hustru och harn till Stockholm. Har lycks-den han föret få grovarbete i Räsunds filmatad och där träffade han en dag Mauritz Stiller, som uppmuntrade ko-nom att börja skriva. Han författade inktiritet, men han lyckades på rbete icke endast försörja sin fa itan även att ge sina barn en god ut ildning. Han skrev också romaner rika delvis handlade om hans ogns iden, han utarbetade en rysk grammaik, utgav flera böcker med gåtor och allskapsspel, författade dstorier i Jules Verne-stil och hade id sin död till hälften färdig en roan: 'Jag klappar på Sveriges dörr. Alls. som kommo i beröring me on var ah stolt över sitt till pist arrade avenaka medborgarakap. var en utomordentlig sällskapsmänni-ka talangfull och underhållande, men

ockeå en god människa, vilkens trofasa handsing och lives blick man sent

commer att glömma.



GÖSTA EKMAN blev vid lördagskvällens föreställning av Fedja på Vasateatern föremål för en storslagen hyllning. En konstnärlig adress med tack från vänner och beundrare av hans konst överlämnades revolution he
under publikens ovationer. Adressens text återfinnes i artikel inuti tidningen. Här ovan ses författaren WOrked as
Vladimir Semitjov överlämna adressen till Gösta Ekman-Fed a. journalist in the

Petrograd. For a time he edited a newspaper in Kaukasus, but after the advance of the Reds he had to flee from there. As many other Russian emigrants Semitjov and his family went west from Constantinopel in 1919. In Deutschgabel in Bohemia he found temporary sanctuary and work. American YMCA hired him for their relief work during the difficult post-war years. 1923 he moved with wife and children to Stockholm where he managed to be hired as a stage worker at Råsunda filmtown, where he met Mauritz Stiller who encouraged him to begin writing. He wrote a short story, ""One against Three" which was published in a weeklie. ... he wrote fantastic stories in the Jules Verne style and at the time of his death he had a half-finished novel, "I Knock on the Door to Sweden". All who came in contact with him liked this big Russian who was so proud of his acquired Swedish citizenship, He was a magnificent socialite, talented and entertaining, but also a good human being, whose faithful handshake and bright eyes you won't forget.

There's a similar death notice in Dagens Nyheter the same day, where we also learn that his mother in Petrograd was Swedish, born Liljewall, which might have helped him getting a Swedish citizenship. I won't reproduce DN's obituary but I'll quote the end:

The many of us here who came to know Vladimir Semitjov personally have only one opinion: he was a man of rare noble, good-hearted character, who with admirable courage under hard circumstances took up the struggle for his family's existence and did his duty. His being was in good or bad times heart-warming and open, with a modest philosophy of life and a great ability to make and keep friends, who long will respect and care for the memory of "Volodja". - Stoftet efter författaren Vladi-

These are words that really touches you! Vladimir Semitjov must have been a very special man. The half-finished book mentioned before, could have been the basis for the later family biography Viktor Somov's Diary, based on notes by Vladimir and in 1985 edited, translated and published by his sons Eugen and Volodja ("Somov" was a pseudonym Vladimir used sometimes). It's a very han först talat på ryska, vlade kan sig dilirette till Vladimir Semilyes struadle aettina away from the Bolsheviks, moving through Europe and finally coming to Sweden.

As somewhat of a celebrity there was of course also a report from his funeral, var bungrig och I gåven mig att sta, jag
As somewhat of a celebrity there was of course also a report from his funeral, in Svenska Dagbladet, February 13 1939:

The dust of author Vladimir Semitjov was on Sunday committed to the final rest in Lindingö church. The church in beautiful decorations was full to the last seat. /lt was a Greek-Catholic-Orthodox ceremony./ A choir of compatriots sung and Dr de Roubetz held a memorial address about the deceased. After first speaking in Russian he then turned to Vladimir Semitjov's Swedish friends and thanked them for their actions for him when he first came to Sweden as a refugee. /Then a Bible quote on this subject./ Editor Karl Johan Rådström spoke by the coffin. From the stage society

Kottarna miss Inga Olsson gave a last farewell and read a poem. After the act an old friend of the dead, miss Elsa Berglund, sang. Finally the coffin was carried out in procession together with the choir and brought to Lindingö cemetery to be buried. The many flower arrangements were around 50, notably a wreath from the publisher Åhlen & Åkerlund.

But we are not finished with the Semitjovs. Far from! Both of Vladimir's sons made their marks in

history. First we have Vlaidimir "Volodja" Semitjov (1912-1985) and I quote from http://immigrantinstitutet.se/immi.se/kultur/authors/ryssar/semitjov2.htm

"Volodia trained as an engineer and then turned into writing. He was war correspondent for Dagens Nyheter and followed the collapse of Poland during WWII as Hitler invaded, and was a reporter during the Finnish-Russian war on the Karelian peninsula, he was present as Israel was founded and witnessed their first war with the Arabs, etc. He also wrote around 40 film manuscripts. In the 1950's he wrote the manuscript to Swedish film's big international success, Per Olof Ekström's "One Summer of Happiness".

Based on Ekström's novel this film (1951),

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One Summer of Happiness, made a major

international splash, since the actress Ulla Jacobsson had short sequences of nudeness! A major scandal, long lines around the block and the beginning of what came to be known as Swedish Sin. It's available on Youtube, with English subtitles: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=YJcCLUlr8ec As Ingmar Bergman followed with more

nudity in "Summer with Monika" (1953) even president Eisenhower took notice and warned the world about the

"sin, nudity, drunkenness and suicides" there on the Scandinavian peninsula... http://www.nordstjernan.com/news/sweden/6415/

Kyrkan, som var vackert dekorerad, var fulisatt till sista plats. Officiant var dr Alexander de Roubetz, som förrättrads jord-fästningen efter grekisk-katolsk-ortodox ri-tual. En kör av landsmän till den dide sjöng själamässan och dr de Roubetz höll ett minnestal över den bortgångne. Sedan mot denne, när han först kom till Sverige som flykting. Såsom det står i bibeln: "Jag ha ni, hans svenska vänner, handlat denne man, sade dr de Roubetz. Vid båren talade redaktör Karl Johan Rådström för vännerna. Från scensillskapet Kottarna framförde fröken Inga Olsson en sista hills-ning och läste en dikt. Efter akten sjöng en gammul vän till den döde, fröken Elsa Berglund, en sång. Till sist bars kistan ut i procession med den sjungande kören i täten och fördes till Lidingö kyrkogård för att gravsättas. I den rika blomstergärden, kransarna uppgingo till ett 50-tal, märktes en krans från Ahlén & Akerlunds förlag.

mir Semitjov vigdes på söndagen i

Lidingö kyrka till den sista vilan.



"She Danced One Summer is the Swedish title of the film manuscripted by Volodja Semitjov. To the left a scene from it. Dirty, dirty!

Language note: Swedish transcription of the Russian Cyrillic alphabet differs from English. Transcription in English would be something like "Semichev", but I use the Swedish version. Playing with Google Translate I find "Semi" should mean "family, home" or something similar and "tjov/chev" is probably a grammatical suffix of some sort. Let me know if you have a better idea of what "Semitjov" means!

I knew his little brother, Eugen Semitjov (1923-1987), who became a skilled artist, author and space journalist, writing about the coming space age long before everyone else, commenting the Apollo landing on TV, and winning the biggest Swedish journalism award for his reporting. I first met

him in the late 1970's on an sf con and later he was a columnist for the popular tech/science mag Teknikmagasinet, which I worked for. He used to drop in to our editorial office and sit there in a corner talking about space and his life. I also did a long interview with him for my sf newsletter SF-Journalen.

I have enormous amounts of newspaper material with Eugen, so it's difficult to choose and the EAPA OE may go mad if this issue goes up to 50 pages... But let's start from the very beginning, with his very first published artwork, from Svenska Dagbladet, May 7 1931 (right) at age 7. Eugen inherited his father's interest in technical stuff and turned to flying

model aeroplanes. The years 1938-39 I find four mentions of his results from model aeroplane competitions. An example, from Svenska Dagbladet, **November** 7 1938:



En av de unga tävlingsdeltagarna sän stoll tody ain maskin,

På söndagen tävlade 45 skolyngli blev ganske gott trots ogynnsamt der. Det var modellflygklubben V tre man i varje, och sammanlagt ag hade ställt upp med frm i nyhti argruppen och tio i den andra, fö sämliga gruppen. De 45 maskinerna h skreve eleganta svängar och gjurde få skreve elegants svängar och gjurks fåns Best Individual result was ga raider i medvinden, som dock förstördt möjligheterna att nå verkligt fina reached by Eugen Semitjov, tider. Haverierna vero dock ovättat Vasa Real school, with 139 nådde Eugen Semitjov, Vasa real, med seconds läß sek, och den blista sammanlarda tiden för tre "uppstigningar", 281,6 sek, avarade Bertil landqvist, Palmsek, avarade Bertil landqvist, Palmsek, avarade Bertil landqvist, Palmsek, svarade Bertil landqvist, State Sek, svarade Bertil fandgvist, Palmsek, svarade Bertil fandgvi

One of the young contestants proudly releases his machine ... On Sunday 45 pupils competed for five hours on Ladugårdsgärde in flying furtherest and for longest time with their model aeroplanes ... Best individual result was

grenska skolan, för. Palmgrenska sko-lan lade överlägset beslag på första military service during WWII as a mechanic with the Air

Force on an airbase near Stockholm. While doing that he invented and drew the comics character "Allan Kämpe" (kämpe = fighter), which appeared in many newspapers, also abroad as far away as Argentina. He came to produce it for about 10 years. The hero works for the Brain Trust and together with his friends and scientific machines he averts disasters and fights for justice. It's a bit like Edmond Hamilton's Captain Future, who at the time appeared in the pulp mag Jules Verne Magasinet. Eugen also made a wonderful little film about how "Allan Kämpe was born", here on Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=3ZXj1OTdgbQ&t=29s











Tennis är ju en lek, som på samma gång är sport, och Eugen Semitjov, 7 år, har lyckats fånga tennisspelarnas rörelser riktigt bra i sin tavla.



"Tennis is a game, at the same time a sport, and Eugen Semitjov, 7, has managed to catch the tennis players' movements really well in his painting."

Det var naket

och sött och blomsterarrangemang håret på både balett och parkett på Oscars i går, när "Vita hästen" galopperade fram, och på den publika sidan av rampen fann man nästan lika stora stjärnor som på den andra. Paranta Margit Rosengren kände sis mera hemma än de flesta, och när Sickan Carlsson i helvitt gjorde entré tillsammans med dekorative maken Äke Rapp och blonda fru Malmberg i svart och vitt hade man svårt att hålla tillbaka en applåd.

Under en jättekorg av gyllenblonda flätor hittade vi grevinnan Edith Oxenstierna d'Amara, omgiven av ett

Eugen would also work for Jules Verne Magasinet, doing several cover illos for instance. But his venture into comics began with a small strip about A Boy and His Dog (hear, Harlan!) from 1943 in Dagens Nyheter, though it didn't catch on (see right). A distraction was perhaps that he just as his father knew his way around the theatre stage. From Expressen, September 18 1948, from the premiere of the musical "White Horse" at the Oscars theatre:

hov av kavaljerer, och tillsammans It was nude and cute and flower arrangements...Under a giant med Eugen Semitjon och Hans charmanta basket of golden blonde braids we found countess Edith Öxenstierna d'Amanta, surrounded by a court of cavaliers, and together with

> Eugen Semitjov and Hans Graucob conversed with charming Madeleine Posse.

The newspaper Expressen also sent

Eugen to England in 1950 to do the drawings to a report about this new thing called "television", which hadn't started in Sweden yet. A full page article came February 1 that year, but I'll skip it. In a notice in Aftonbladet, September 25 that year, we read that "Eugen Semitjov has been appointed advertising director of Tonefilm, after Olle Hellbom who now will concentrate on writing manuscripts" so at that time he was into ads, where I guess he could use his artistic talents. Hellbom would later be famous for doing beloved film/TV adaptions of many of Astrid Lindgren's books.

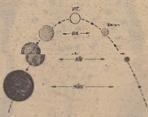
But he'd soon raise his eyes towards space. The first of many space articles, where he'd usually both write the text and do the art, could have been the one in Expressen, April 1 1950, "Come along to the Atomic Power Plant Which We Have Longed for This Winter", and with that he means the sun. The sun is a part of space, last time I checked...

Who hasn't longed for the sun this winter? It has been darker, we think, and colder than any year. Now the sun will finally emerge. Do you want to see it close up? Since its 150 million km from us we must approach it in a fantasy



lammande kaskader sprutar upp ur solens inre och slungas till enorma höjder, där de svävar som glödan-de moln.

FÖLJ MED TILL ATOMKRAFTVERKET SOM VI LÄNGTAT EFTER I VINTER!



En stjärnas liv: Från en gigantisk sval gasmassa komprimeras den till en vitglödande sol, för att sedan åter svalna medan krympningen fortsätter. Vår egen sol har passerat toppvärmen — men det är

Captions: Flaming cascades spurts from inside the sun to enormous heights, where they hover like glowing clouds. And: Life of a star. From, a giant cool mass of gas it compresses to a white glowing sphere, to later once more cool down while it shrinks. Our own sun has passed peak of warmth - but it's nothing to worry about.

VEM HAR INTE LÄNGTAT EFTER SOLEN I VINTER? V Det har vari* mörkare och, tycker vi, kallare än något år. Nu kommer solen fram så småningom. Vill ni se den på närmare hall?

Eftersom den befinner sig 150 miljoner kilometer ifrån oss får vi lov att nalkas den i en fantasifarkost för att kunna ordna en närnasifar presentation. Vi tänker oss alltså siktande i en rymdraket, pansrad för att motstå den ofantliga hettan och försedd med mängdubbla sikyddsglas för att dimpa den intensiva strålningen. Vi lärger märke till att seless vi lagger märke seless vi lagger mårke vi l

Ett område är täckt av karaktäistiska mörka fläckar — solfläctarna. De är i själva verket inte
mörka, de lyser med ett rödaktigt
jus som är flera hundra gånger startare än fullnånens, men som drunknar fullständigt på den bländande
oblytan, och därför förefaller mörka.
Dessa fläckar har bildats av ofantiga cykloner i solens atmosfär. Det
ta virvlar av sådan storlek att de
skulle kunna innesluta hela jorden,
ofta ända till tjugu gånger jordens
rolym.

· Bikinimoln

Fläckarna är flammande kaskader ån de ständiga atomexplosionerna solens inre. De tränger genom yt-

mer troligen att lysa lika länge till.

Kunde man placera ett fragment av solatmosfären i ett provrör och analysera den skulle man finna att den består av sönderfallande atomer. Mot solens inre stegras graden av sönderdelning och själva centrum består av helt sprängda atomer, sammanpressade under det ofantliga trycket av 50.000.000.000 jordiska atmosfärer, med en temperatur på cirka 25.000.000 grader Celsius. Om ett knappnålshuvud vore upphettat till denna temperatur skulle dessegren värmestrålning förbränna allt på flera kilometers avstånd.

Solen roterar kring sin axel, ganska långsamt: ett varv på 26 dygn. Dess massa är så "flytande" att polerna vrider sig långsammare än ekvatorzonen.



vehicle to do a closer presentation. So we imagine we are in a space rocket, armoured to withstand the immense heat and equipped with many layers of protective glass to dampen the intensive radiation. We notice that the sun's contour is blander, weaker than the inner globe. The darker nuance means the outer layer is a gas, you could say the sun has an "atmosphere" of glowing gas which becomes thicker going inwards turning into the more compact sun mass. An area is covered with dark spots - the sunspots. In reality they aren't dark, they glow with a reddish light many hundred of times stronger than a full moon, but drowns completely by the gleaming sun surface and thus seem dark. The spots comes from huge cyclones in the sun's atmosphere. It's vortexes of such a size that they could swallow the Earth up to 20 times. The spots are flaming cascades from the eternal atomic explosions inside the sun. They penetrate the surface and throw up to enormous heights where they hover like flaming clouds - protuberances. Their shapes makes thoughts go to atomic clouds over Bikini. The constant renewal is the key to the riddle of the sun, the answer to the question from many generations: why don't the sun go out, when will it fade, what will happen then? If the sun had only been a glowing mass, like a piece of hot iron, it would have gone out within a few thousand years, killed by the cold universe. But the sun has existed and burned for billions of years, and it will probably burn for that long more. If you could take a fragment of the sun atmosphere in a test tube to analyse you'd find it consists of atoms that fall apart. Towards the core the decay increases and the centre consists entirely of shattered atoms, compressed under the huge pressure of 50 000 000 000 Earth atmospheres, with a temperature of 25 000 000 degrees C. If a pinhead was that hot its radiated heat would burn everything within km. The sun rotates around its axis, one turn every 26 days. Its mass is so flowing that the poles rotates slower than the equator.

The article continues with talking about the supergiant Antares, colder and so "thin" you could fly through it as with air (if it was even colder) and Eugen also informs us stars will burn out eventually, grow redder and colder and finally collapse. But one glitch: he says the sun has atoms "falling apart", which is only true in the sense at atoms are a plasma where they've lost their electrons - otherwise the atoms are rather *fusing*, as we know now! However, the exact workings of its fusion was just emerging in the 1950's so Eugen may be excused. Things were happening in his personal life...

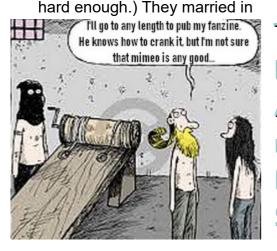
From a report of a premiere of a show at the Folkan theatre in Afonbladet, **Maj 17 1951**, we learn that Eugen has snatched himself a little lady, one Inga Brink. The caption (next page) says: "Ernst Eklund, Inga Brink and fiance Eugen Semitjov." She looks at him lovingly, doesn't she! And it would

later turn serious, as we see in Expressen's gossip column, **August 25 1952**, *"It is said...":*

That the perky little Inga Brink will get married. The second church announcement for her and editor Eugen Semitjov came yesterday and in the autumn the wedding bells will ring. Inga will BTW go to Malmö, where she'll play the female lead in "The Rainbow", which will have Swedish premiere in early October. Eugen has this summer written an adventure novel for youngsters, "Four Film Frames" and have just begun with a new book. And more news: the couple have acquired a nice studio apartment in Blackeberg.

Blackeberg is a Stockholm suburb, maybe 10 km to the west. The Tunnelbana (metro) had just opened in that direction the year before and

modern couples would of course want to be near it. A small notice in Expressen **December 30 1952** says they married that day and they plan to honeymoon in France by car. (I know they divorced later and Eugen re-married. But I don't have details. It wasn't in the newspapers or maybe I didn't look



There is worse torture than joining EAPA Waitered down bheer. Cloi Möller's latest yarn. A LoC from a shaggy Afghan dog. Furning out of corflu. Finding someone nicked your fan fund money. More George Lucas toys. Don't hesitate! Join! EAPA needs /b/o/o/z/i/n/g boosting. So come along! Ee a *Pretty Dandy Fan* with your FDFs!

redaktören Eugen
Semitjov i går, och på höstkanten skall bröllopsklockorna ringa.
Inga skall för övrigt till Malmö
Stadsteater, där hon skall ha den
kvinnliga huvudrollen i "Regnbågen", som får sin svenska urpremiär
i början av oktober. Eugen har i
sommar skrivit en äventyrsroman
för ungdom, "Fyra filmrutor", och
har just börjat med en ny bok. Och
så en nyhet till: paret har fått en
snygg ateljévåning i Blackeberg!



revyfolk - S:t Erikson naturligtivs undantagen — i salongen än på scenen, då den thaliaistiskt historiska händelse som innebar pånyatöpp-

nandet av nya gamla Folkans scen i går kväll utspelade sig vid Östermalmstorg. Den filmiska brandmuren var äntligen nedkämpad, och folk som minns riktigt gamla Folkan, satt med tårar i ögonen för att nu inte tala om dem, som bara minus nya Folkan med Karl-Gerhard och



December, but it took some time before their honeymoon. Maybe it was because Eugen was busy winning a competition. Aftonbladet **June** 16 1953, "Winner":

AB-tecknaren Eugen Semitjov har vunnit första pris i den tävling som Nationalföreningen för trafiksäkerhetens främjande ut-



lyst om bl. a. trafikpropagantecknade bästa dan. Semitjov belönades för en bildsida i Aftonbladet om 'Livets sista bom".

I dag har han bilat på semester

söderut med sin fru operettsångerskan Inga Brink, för att pröva sin egen trafiksäkerhet på sydligare landsvägar.

Aftonbladet's artist

Eugen Semitjov won first prize in the competition announced by the National Association for Safe Traffic about eg best drawing for traffic propaganda. Semitjov was awarded for e picture page in Aftonbladet about "The last miss of life". Today he has begun a car trip south with his wife operetta singer Inga Brink, to try out his own traffic safety on southern roads.



A real boost for his space stuff was the series of articles announced November 18 1953 in Aftonbladet, "Science defeats space":

Adventure writers no longer have exclusive rights to rocket flight through space. Science has entered the field and rushes on fast. Aftonbladet lets artist Eugen Semitjov explore the latest science, It will be presented in a series of fascinated picture pages. The first is published today.

I think Eugen by this time had left the advertising agency and he was now free-lancing, mostly for Aftonbladet. But I know he would also take up the weekly family magazines, where he could get more space for texts and also get his artwork published in colour. The Aftonbladet series here mentioned included eg;

18 November: "We arm ourselves for space", on high altitude jets and flying in a parable to get weightlessness.

25 November: "Space not for women"Monotonous life in space too demanding", it would take at least 63 days to Mars for instance (it takes longer, but here he counts on reaching a higher speed).

12 December: "To find your way among the stars", you must navigate in three dimensions, and in the US they are building a mechanical space navigation nrätt på temat raketflygning simulator.

> I' not sure I could find all articles in the series, but it seems Eugen soon got another article series, starting January 21 1954 under the title "Around

space". This time he would take us to the planets and other bodies in our solar system. I'm not reproducing all of this, since it would take a heavy toll on the file size of this PDF. And in fact, Eugen was now hot as a supernova when it comes to space material! I find about 50 articles by him from the 1950's alone, and I might not have found everything - and besides, he had just as much or maybe more in the weeklies! And his output continued in the 1960's when the space race became real. Beside this he wrote a lot of books. Swedish Wikipedia https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugen Semitjov counts to:

- 8 fiction books/novels, mostly for a young adult audience
- 2 comics album, Allan Kämpe of course!

bt tempo. Aftonbladet har låtit tecknare

- 9 non-fiction books, mostly space, science and "fantastic" things
- 2 biographies, one about his father and family, one his own illustrated sort of autobio, title "The Space Artist"

And to this hundreds of articles covering the space age, probably before any other Swedish reporter. And his excellent drawings and paintings must amount to thousands. I own one Eugen Semitjov original. I don't now if his status is such that it's worth silly amounts of money - but it should, if it was up to me! Now let's have a look at a classic (next page) his page one to Aftonbladet **October 5 1957**, after the news of Sputink, headline:

"THE RUSSO MOON CAN BE SEEN HERE Around the world in 95 minutes - USA congratulations - YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THE ARTIFICIAL MOON". The short news text on page 1 isn't by Eugen, because he was busy fixing the rather accurate artwork. He once told me how it went...

Sputnik was of course a total surprise (even if the Soviets actually had announced they intended to launch a satellite, I guess most didn't believe them) and the news came just before the newspaper's deadline. The editors of course called Eugen and asked for A Fast One to illustrate the front page. Eugen set to work with an incredible speed. He knew the approximate orbit and it's impressive how he made Sputnik a silver ball. The only thing he got slightly wrong was that the antennas should be swept back, but all in all it's an amazingly good Fast One! The newspaper sent a messenger to pick up the drawing, a boy who sat there and became more and more nervous. Finally Eugen just needed to include the moon, but since it was near a Douglas Adams Deadline (you know the sound of such swishing by) he took out an astronomy book, cut out a moon picture there and glued it on. Finished! The news text reads:

The artificial moon the Russians surprised the world with by launching it yesterday, can with great probability be seen in Sweden tonight in clear weather. It is 900 km up and orbits the Earth in 1h35m. The orbit goes with a little deviation over the poles. The Russomoon is a metal globe full of instruments weighing 83.6 kg, having a diameter of 58 cm, ie somewhat bigger than the moon the Americans have presented. The Russomoon transmits radio signals on 15 and 7.3 m wavelength. The signals have been received by British radio amateurs who describes the sound this way: it sounds like a cricket but a bit coarser. Swedish short wave listeners have also heard similar signals. The satellite was launched with a multi-stage rocket - as fuel is consumed, rockets fall off. Final speed was 29 000 km/h. American scientists have congratulated their defeaters, who won the space race with about a month. Caption: The satellite orbit is about 35 degrees off the equator. This means it will go over every part of Earth between 25 degrees north and 65 degrees South - in Sweden it will be visible up towards Skellefteå. This drawing is by AB artist Eugen Semitjov.

(I'm sorry if you find the Swedish text hard to read. It's not ideal to reduce tabloid format to A4!) That Eugen could get so much right - eg the orbit he draws crosses Skellefteå! - must partly be because he was one of few science journalists in the west who could talk to the Russians in their own language. I'm not sure how strong his Russian was. Eugen was born in Sweden in a Russian household. But obviously his Russian must have been good enough. He told me how fascinated he was sitting in the Moscow metro and suddenly realise ha understood what people around him said!

Eugen, nicknamed "Genie", was a great guy of many talents. He supported us when we in the 1980's founded the Swedish Space Movement group (which later fell apart in a mess too intricate to go into here) and was made honorary member, of course. I wish he was alive today, because he'd be excited about all the buzz around the space activities going on now: finding new planets with super telescopes, probing Mars for life, aiming for the Moon and soon Mars, the reusable, giant rockets from Space X, space plane tourism, and much more.

Time to wrap things up - with myself. What has been designated as the "official national" Swedish sf convention is called Swecon, running in that capacity for a couple of decades. But the first of our cons to be called Swecon was actually in 1982, though we then didn't call it the "official national" con (there were also Swecons in 1983 and 1985). There's been sf cons almost every year here since 1956, and the system used to be that anyone who felt like doing an sf convention...just did it. Many years have had 2-3 cons. 1980 was a record year with six Swedish sf cons, most of them small, 50-100 attenting or so, big cons would have 150-250 (the record is Eurocon 2011 with 750...).

Anyway, I have often been the press agent for cons, since I think I know a bit how media works. It wasn't intentional, but as I mailed out a press release about Swecon 82 morning paper Dagens

Grundades år 1830 av Lars Johan HIERTA TELEFONER: 22 63 00 * RRs 23 63 40 * TELENYTT 22 91 40

Sid. 9: PRESS-STOPP-NYTT

SENASTE NYTT - OPINION - NÖIEN - SPORT

Stockholmsvädret 6:10: Ostodigt. Kyligt.

Lördagen den 5 oktober 1957

Nr 270

Pris 30 ôre

RYSS-MÅNEN KAN SES HÄR!

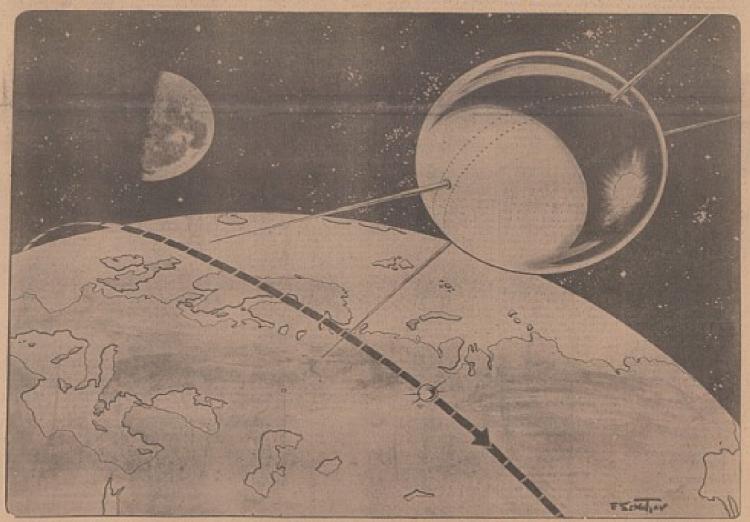
Runt jorden på 95 min – USA-lyckönskan

DEN KONSTGJORDA MANK, som rysomma dvorruskade världen med am simla upp i går, kan med star sannolikhet ses från Sverige i kvill vid klars välder. Den sår nå 900 km hijd och har en varstid eunt jurdklotet på I timme 35 minuter. Banan går med knapp avsikelse deer polerna.

RYSSHANEN is on instrumentspicket metallklet meg en vikt av 83.0 kg och har en därmeter på 58 cm, dvs. någet större än den mine anserlkarsena presenterat. Rysominen nånder radinsignaler på 15 lerna her uppfattats av helviska radholugenjärer, som beskriver lätet al här: Den läter som en syvas fast någså skrævligare. Även svenska kortskjelyssnareher uppfattat liknande signaler. SATELLITEN sindes upp med hjälp av flerstegenheter – efterhand som helindet flatbruktat faller delruketerna en Utgingehattigheten une 20,000 km l. timmer. Amerikanska forskare har gratulerat sina symillereng rare, nom vana happlispningen med ungefär en minad.

states & section A.

NI HAR CHANS FÅ SE KONSTGJORDA MÅNEN



SATELLITBANAN bilder 35 graders vinkel mot ekvetorn. Dette involür ett den konomer att svepa över varje punkt på jardeten meilan 25 grader nordlig och 65 grader sydlig bredd — i Sveriga kommer den att synas upp till Skellafted. Denne tackning är gjord er All-tocknoren Engen Somitjer.

Nyheter's Stockholm supplement På Stan wanted to make an article interviewing me. It could have been because the reporter was Swedish fandom's Secret Contact on that paper, Martin Stugart, but he should know better than misspelling my name! I'll give you some excerpts of the article, published **November 20 1982**, also featuring Sverifandom's Grand Old Man Lars-Olov Strandberg (Fan-GoH of the 2005 Worldcon, if you remember!) Headline "Science fiction and fanzines on SWECON 82", captions "AE Stockholm's biggest of fan. He has painted the walls himself, a glittering starry sky."



Arvid Enghalm, Stockholmsk störste svienvefiction-fan. Väggens motiv, en guistrande stjärnhimmel, har han målat själv.

■ En av Sveriges mer okünda folkrüreiser, fan-dom, kongressar i stan i helgen. Sciengefiction-fans från hela Sverige, plus några från Norge, Danmark och Finland, möts i Medicinska för-eningens kärlus vid Ka-rolinska institutel för tre dugars inlensiv samvaro: filmvisningar, panelde-butter, föredrag, rumspar-tyn m.m.

Fandom — vad ar det? Ett sätt att umgås, säger en del. Ett sätt att leva, anser andra. I grunden ligger hur som belst ett brinnande intresse för sciencefiction i alla for-

Science fiction, fandom och fanziner på SWECON 82

fandoms eldsjálar och är självfallet med på årets kongress, SWECON 82.

Rapporter



*Lari-Oliv Su "Jandarix marjar

Arvid Englishm has va-

Ett sådant undantag är Lars-Olov Strandberg, är-kefan med 25 års erfaren-het av fandom. Han är som vanlagt med och or-ganiserar årets kongress.

— Alt jag varit med så länge beror delvis på den sköna och fängslande lät-teraturen. Men ännu men på hemkänslan bland fansen, en känsta som blir starkare med åren.

— I början var det här en udda aktivitet: folk tog inte sf på allvar. Alltså gick vi så smått under jor-den och hade trøvligt till-sammans i lugn och ro-Det var egentligen inte vår mening, vi talade mycket om att sprida in-tresset till fler, men...

Först på 1970-talat bör-jude sciencefiction att ac-cepteras som litterat kunstform, kanske efter den lyckade månland-ningen är 1969 och film-skar som "2001" och så succeer som "2001" och småningom "Star Wors"

FOTO: OLLE SELJBOLI

fansen, nog lyser samm efforts fänsen, nog lyser samm efforts färgelada pocketböcker bokkyllorna, nog känne hobby. man igen jargungen. Så dant ger en kolossa "OK, prensel associations och benkänsh

And: "Lars-Olov Strandberg, fandom's granddad in Sweden."

One of Swedens more unknown popular movements, fandom, has a convention in town this weekend. Sf fans from all of Sweden plus so me from Norway, Denmark and Finland meet in the Medicine Student House near Karolinska Institute for three days of intensive socialising, films, panels, lectures, room parties etc. Fandom .- what is it? A way socialise, some say. A way of life others say. It often starts that you by accident slip into a convention. Once in fandom you begin doing fanzines, mimeoed papers, go to club meetings where you increasingly initiated trade gossip about those not there Ahrvid Engholm tells us all of kum till våra kongresse Ahrvid Engholm tells us all of med höjdpunkt år 1976 this on a visit to his one-roomer tats av igen, vad det min Gröndal. He is one of those

Runt världen reser eiburning for fandom ... and a bit bit bit burn njuter av derespected for his fanzine här med kongresser. Lars-Olov Strandberg a Fanytt, which with unfailing en av dem – han missa sällan ach ogärna ett till precision tells what has fälle act träffa medfans. happened in the movement skulle nog fandom int lately. Nothing passes Ahrvid is konstigt: vart maby, who spends a lot of time, efforts and money on his

" "OK, it costs but you get mar Lars-Olov Strand much out of it that it evens out. An sf fan consumes many

books per months so your knowledge of English grows hugely. And you get a lot of new friends, fun and interesting people who makes your life richer. AE has been active for about six years - longer than that is rare that interests for the demanding fandom lasts. ... An exception is Lars-Olov Strandberg, arch-fan with 25 years of experience. He is as usual one of the organisers.

"That I've been around so long is partly due to the cool and fascinating literature. But even more the feeling of being at home, a feeling growing stronger over the years. In the beginning it was an odd activity: people didn't take sf seriously. So we went somewhat underground and had it nice and cosy together.

It took until the 1970s for sf to be accepted as a literary art form, perhaps after the successful moon landing in 1969 and film successes like 2001 and later Star Wars.

"That was noticeable in fandom too. More came to our conventions, with the top in 1976. Since interest has gone down again, for whatever reason ... Without an inner core fandom wouldn't survive. And it's strange, wherever you come in the world home to fans, you see the same colourful paperbacks in the shelves and you recognise the jargon."

Lars-Olov - another great guy, much missed! - had then been a fan for about 26 years, counting from his first con. I felt at the time he had been a fan forever, since Hugo Gernsback lay in the cradle or something. But I realise now to my shock that I have now been in fandom 18 years longer than he had at that time! I suddenly feel so old and worn out... What a sad world! Paper fanzines are gone with all the mimeographs, on cons you see droves of clueless neo-fringefans who call our holy stuff "sci-fi" and dress in silly costumes, sf magazines just fold, few know about Walt Willis, and on top of

all a bloody virus from outer space to make everything apocalyptically topsy turvy. And you have now been in this for the better part of five decades! Nextish will be #100 - how come? Roscoe, help us...

M--I-ng Co--en-s

Henry Grynnsten: I read through it all, and though I'm not sure I understood everything, I land on that your piece can be summarised: "God exists, as he is a meme and memes exist." OK...or? It seems like a statement that is void of contents. It's like saying Mickey Mouse exists because he is in drawings and animations in comic books and cartoon films, and those exist. OK, those drawings exist - but it's clear that Mickey Mouse *does not exist* the form of a little mouse that wears costumes and can speak! God and Mickey Mouse are just ideas (a meme is just an idea that spreads) and the question then becomes: Does ideas exist?

Yes. And No. You can't touch an idea (or a meme), observe it in a microscope, put it in a test tube to analyse. But on the other hand, ideas do seem to have *some kind* of existence. We can define an idea and describe it. You can even get legal possession (of a kind, limited in time and in other ways) of ideas through copyright and patents. An idea can have effects. The idea of communism had for instance 100+ million killed as an effect. But we come back to one of the most fundamental hypotheses in philosophy, thousands of years old: Plato and his thoughts about the "world of ideas", which he thought was even more real than the physical world. Wild Ideas' piece "The God of Memes" to me just seems to follow Plato, and whether his idea is substantial or not is even to this day inconclusive.

A couple of other things. I quote "you can not understand God literally". But the thing is that many - even most - who are religious *do* take the idea of God literally! So that must be the basis in a discussion about religion. Interesting idea, this: "Psilocybe cubensis, which was picked and eaten by our ancestors. Now this mushroom has hallucinogenic properties, and according to the theory affected the brains in a way that eventually gave rise to language and culture." One can very well imagine that a substance that kicks the brain around could have played a role in causing the sort of quantum leap that language is. (But there are more theories of the origin of language, eg the Bow-wow, the Pooh-pooh, the Ding-dong, the Yo-he-ho and the Ta-ta theories... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origin_of_language.)

William McCabe: You sound like defending Mr Floyd being crushed to death, which doesn't go down well with me. The autopsies said nothing about drugs being in his system to the amount influencing the outcome. The thing with counting "excessive deaths" is that those numbers are really quite stable every year, *unless* there are external factors in play. And then we know that those factors are the cause. I agree that a number of corona deaths are probably not *caused* by the virus, its fatalities *with* corona, not *by* corona, and the difference is something excessive death figures can catch (see my earlier comment on this). Since numbers are quite similar every year, deaths *with* X but not *from* X will be known. BTW, I sometimes write near the limits of my own understanding...

Garth Spencer: I've been checking the URL you gave, but no Confabulation there yet. BTW, I *have* summarised my fandom history research. (I sent you a copy of *Fandboken*, though it's in Swedish...)

R Greame Cameron: Unfortunately I don't like Zoom meetings or any other such thing where you are supposed to sit in front of a webcam in real time. I like on-line activities to be things I can do in my own speed, at my own time. I wouldn't mind, however, to be a passive onlooker, to watch something but without having to show my own ugly face. I have often suggested that sf cons should broadcast eg panels and lectures over the net! Nice that you have cons about writing sf! There are no such ones here, though I'd love to attend one. I too had contacts with the guys from Chernobylisation, Alexander and Boris. I met Alexander on last year's Irish Worldcon BTW. Yeah, the corona thing hasn't been handled particularly well south of the border. Mr Trump hasn't exactly helped... But I do stand behind the Swedish strategy, with its average results (which are good, without lockdown!) and it will possibly/probably pay off well in the longer run. BTW, here's a recent interview with Dr Anders Tegnell, our chief epidemiologist, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xh9wso6bEAc