

The New Port News
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for

SFPA 221

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Cover art by Charles G. Leland from **Johnnykin and the Goblins**
(Macmillan, New York 1876)

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on April 9. Glad to see Trinlay Khadro join, I know her through e-mail and one of the SF lists.

Tyndallite - Metcalf - Yes, my comments on the date of the Will Jenkins story were confused, both to you and Sheila!

Hard to imagine Forry sitting at a PC sending junk e-mails to Ellison - but of course we know how little it takes to set Ellison off; and in any case I think some of Forry's cyberac is done for him by others.

I suppose other "agricultural" SF tales might include *Day of the Triffids* and Ward Moore's **Greener than You Think**, which I always remember as disappointing as compared to his **Bring the Jubilee**.

Your definition of "science fiction" seems to require that the science be impeccable - I think this is a bit too much to expect!

You may well be right - as you say to Gary Brown - that the current generation of spy satellites would have detected any "lost civilizations" on Earth. But would the people who look at the data from these devices necessarily reveal what they had found? Also, a truly advanced culture might not leave any traces.

sub-micron - Guy - Sorry to hear about the loss of your website - but the files that were uploaded to create it must still exist. Have you considered putting it at fanac.org?

Variations - Lynch - Glad to hear you will survive the Bushite coup! I have the video of the Naschy *Werewolf vs the Vampire Woman* and knew about the other films. One of his turgid dramas was enough! I didn't know about the multiplicity of titles or that his real name was Jacinto Molina. Odd that he would choose a Slavic stage name that is even harder to pronounce in Spanish than in English. There probably are other "novelizations" of his films, but unless they were written by Scarm (or Scram) they probably aren't worth bothering about.

I don't recall what Joe Mayhew's age was, but I would have guessed he was a bit young for the hereditary form of CJD.

The difference between transparency and invisibility depends on the change in index of refraction at the surface of an object, not density *per se*. Certainly I don't know of any solid substance with the same index of refraction as air. And of course there is the additional difficulty that the human body is not homogeneous.

I would not want to see *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* again. My niece dragged me to it,

and while the plot was interesting, and the sets and scenery were well done, and the chop-socky not too annoying, I found the acting rather wooden. And I would have liked to see some sort of background for the ability of some of the characters to walk on air.

I am not surprised that no one paid any attention to you on the Kent State campus - the students must be used to all sorts of outsiders wandering about. I have been on both the Univ. of Virginia and Univ. of Georgia campuses just to use the library and no one seemed to notice me at all.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Sorry to hear about your wallet! I have never carried enough cash for it to really matter a lot if I lost it, but replacing the other cards and documents would be a pain.

When an Atlanta policewoman was killed in a drug raid last month - the killer was gunned down by her partner - it was eventually revealed that if he had not resisted arrest he probably would have served no time. The amount of drugs was small and he had no record - and the courts and jails are bursting at the seams with such cases.

The chance of the USPS objecting to SFPAs use of "Media Mail" is virtually nil in my opinion. I have been sending in my zine as a "book" for years, on the grounds that it is part of what will be a book.

Glad to hear your M-bag was not lost! The new rate schedule apparently has no overseas printed matter rate other than "Publishers Periodicals", which is cheap enough that it would be worth looking into. The PO computers don't even know there is still an overseas surface book rate, but it's on the USPS website and the brighter clerks can find it in the printed rate schedule kept in some distant corner of the PO.

No great mystery - *d/w* is shorthand for "dust wrapper". I don't remember where I first saw it, but I always assumed that everyone (I mean everyone who looks at book catalogs - who else matters at all?) knew what it meant!

I don't know that I would recognize the sound of squirrels copulating! Perhaps the one making such a racket in the gutter was indulging in squirrely auto-erotic practices.... He has not been back that I know of, so I have not gone any further with my plans for a 5000-volt trap.

According to the flyer, the DSC hotel is at 808 20th Street in Birmingham. If that's near the pagan fountain in front of the Methodist church, then it's in the part of town we are used to, within walking distance of the fish place and the antique malls.

Typewriter collectors consider the Blickensderfer rather common - unless it's the electric, which is so rare that a few years ago it was thought that no examples had survived. Office staplers first appeared in the late 1800s, about the same time as the typewriter - I have one with a patent date of 1882. They are neither as varied nor as complex as typewriters, but there are some interesting ones. I would like to have one of the ornate old Hotchkiss staplers.

You dream about stamps? Have you seen the "Pan-American Inverts" the USPS just reprinted? I wonder if this is the first time a stamp booboo has been recreated.

Offline - Irv - Sorry to hear about Kay's medical problems.

I had suggested some time ago that Trinlay join us here - I first had an e-mail from her about a *Weird Tales* she wanted. By an odd coincidence, it was the same one that I had copied *Quest of the Star Stone* from for the *Green Hills of Earth* booklet - she was interested in the cover story about the Golden Buddha. So I sent her my old coverless copy and a scan of the cover.

I have clipped a lot of the thorn vines at the ground, but some are in enormous evergreen

bushes - photina and azalea - and the stems inaccessible. They don't seem to care for the holly or tea olives.

A squirrel (or somesuch) did get into the roof and expired in a wall, that's why I was trying to keep them off the roof. I think it got into the garage roof through a ventilator and couldn't get out again - I found droppings on the hatch cover.

I sometimes wonder if anything important went to my old Virginia address and was lost after the forwarding expired.

I am sure the big *fanac.org* site would link with a SFPA site - they might host it for nothing, for that matter.

Frequent Flyer - Feller - Sorry to hear about your grandmother - I hadn't thought of you as being young enough to have a grandmother living. If either of mine were still living they would be pushing the record for human longevity - my mother is 92.

This PC froze yesterday when I closed the modem link, and then when I started up today was unhappy with corrupted files in the CACHE subdirectory. These files seemed to be bits of Net rubbish, I erased them. Later when I turned it on again, files of the same sort were back but the names were different, though still all starting with M and apparently generated internally.

Revenant - Sheila - I have a New Leviathan Foxtrot Orchestra album on 33rpm, from back when I went to New Orleans for a DSC and Faruk von Turk was involved with them. Had no idea there was a CD, maybe I will look it up on the Net.

I saw the *Lord of the Rings* trailer with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. There have already been hideous action figures marketed on the Net. My friend George Beahm is planning to re-issue the wonderful Tim Kirk calendar art from 25 years ago. I wonder what the singing of the Elves will be like - surely they would not omit the *Hymn to Elbereth*! We used to sing it at cons to either of the tunes in Vaughn Williams' *Fantasia on Greensleeves*.

Alas, the story that goes with the cover on NPN 195 is pretty much unreadable Victorian treacle!

Comments - Hughes - I thought I looked at *stamps.com* once and it was something like a 10% overcharge to use it. But Jeff says it's \$5 a month. I'm not sure what my monthly postage cost is!

I wouldn't be surprised if there were out-of-date files on this PC, it's a bit old as PCs go. But the "Real Player" is quite new, it installed itself when I downloaded an upgrade to Netscape.

Thanks for the info about the DVD players - the whole thing sounds like a scam to me. What business do they have limiting what sort of DVD I can play - if the region code can be selected, this option should be open to the user.

Ah well, you can use the 11x17 printer to print posters on!

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - You should have told us what computer you bought so we can avoid it.... I suppose when this one gets too bad I will replace it with another Gateway.

Yes, that was the same Charles G. Leland - I had never heard of him. I just bought the decrepit book for the artwork, which of course is in the public domain.

You are right that most teens are no more than semi-literate - more than ever now that they grow up watching TV. But even before that a teen who could write anything worth reading was considered a prodigy.

The stuff ScanDisk saved in FILE0001.CHK today was gibberish and a string of discarded e-mails. But the files it said it had to "fix" because they were corrupted were all named Mxxxxxxx.sss and all resided in NETSCAPE\USERS\NEDBROOKS\CACHE. Many of them were .GIF or .JPG files and when I looked at them with the graphics software they seemed to be fragments of HTML pages from the Net, nothing I wanted. I erased the lot. And the system never missed them, but just generated similar ones for itself.

Even in total darkness, where nothing could be seen by reflected light, creatures like us that oxidize food and make our own heat would show up in the infrared. And if we had evolved in such an environment, we probably would see in the infrared.

Prometheus just sent me a complimentary or review copy of **Gospel Fictions** by Randel Helms - rather late, they seem to have published it 12 years ago. Someone has corrected the mailing label that said "C W Brooks Jr/Owner/Cuyler Warnell Books" - it now says "C W Brooks Jr/Owner/Cuyler Warnell Brooks Jr"! I suppose it is true enough that I own myself rather than a non-existent bookstore, but why put it on a mailing label? I don't really feel qualified to review this tome. Maybe I should send it to George Wells and run his comments in IGOTS....

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - As I understand it - I wasn't there myself - the "Stars and Bars" (a modified St.Andrews Cross) was used as the Confederate battle flag. It never appeared on the Georgia flag after the Civil War until 1956, when it was put on in a deliberate reaction to federal integration laws. When it first appeared on the state flags of the other previous members of the Confederacy I don't know. All have now abandoned (well, the new Georgia flag retains it in miniature in a historical series across the bottom) it except Mississippi.

Interesting that the Biblical prohibition refers to *wine or other strong drink* - what other was there at the time? *Beer* is not in the concordances I have, and I don't think distilleries had been invented yet. Mead, perhaps.

Aristotle Meets Gernsback - Jeff - The story about Barbie Doll sociology made the paper here, on about the same level as the one about the kids suspended for pointing fish sticks at each other and saying *Bang Bang*. And the one about the kid with a "toy gun" about 1/4-inch long on a charm bracelet. The local story about the little girl suspended for her *Tweety-Bird* keychain made the front page for several days. Depressing to think that our educational institutions appear to be run by idiots.

Of the movies you review I have seen only *Gladiator* and *The Cell* (on pay-per-view). I thought them a pleasant enough pastime, but if I had never seen them, I don't feel I would have missed anything great. One of the great movies of the 60s has at last appeared on video - I got a catalog today from Movies Unlimited offering the 1968 John Huston *Candy* for \$14.99 on VHS or \$29.99 on DVD - Burton, Brando, Ringo Starr, John Astin, Jackie Robinson, James Coburn, John Huston, Charles Aznavour. One of the few movies that is far better than the novel it was based on!

I'm sure I'm neither the first nor the last to notice Dubya's resemblance to the *What, me worry* Kid - but did the gag appear in *Mad* itself? Someone noted recently that *Mad Magazine* has sold out - it now carries ads.

Much as I enjoy DSC, I am hardly amazed that even a dedicated fan might not be able to attend from the opposite corner of the country. We'll miss you though!

I had imagined - in my ignorance - that luggage thieves just took the whole bag and sorted it

out later. If they have the time and place to open a case for pilfering and then put it back, the plastic ties seem less of a deterrent than a lock, as they are easily cut with fingernail clippers and replaced afterwards for pennies. Picking a lock takes talent and time.

If Henry Morgan didn't make the transition to TV, why is it that I imagine I know what he looked like? I thought he had appeared in some light comedy films, but he isn't listed in **Golden Retriever**, where they list the Harry Morgan of *Dragnet* and *M.A.S.H.* fame as "Henry (Harry) Morgan".

I have no *Galaxy Quest* scripts, but I do have a scanner and know where most of my SFPA stuff is!

There was good art, good music, and good storytelling long before anyone dreamed up the idea of "copyright" or "intellectual property". To me the idea that only the prospect of income will instigate good art cynically anti-fannish! The limited protection of the old copyright law made sense in view of the technical enhancement of communication, but I think what they did in 1978 and since is just something to keep the lawyers in Mercedes. There has been a big flap locally over the attempt of the Margaret Mitchell estate to suppress the publication of a parody of **Gone With the Wind** called **The Wind Done Gone** - of course this may be just a manufactured issue to boost sales of both books, as the current copyright law, like the old one, specifically exempts parodies.

Marching Through Oneshot - *divers hands* - Nice pictures! I saw the ads for the ballet based on *Carmina Burana* but could not imagine that watching a lot of jumping around would add to my enjoyment of the music. You can tell Hank that a man of his alleged erudition would know that there are two *l*'s in *hoi polloi*....

Dewachen - *Trinlay* - Welcome to the apa! "Dewachen" looks like a German word, but if it is I don't know what it means. Remarkable detail on the cover statuette, which is blown up by a factor of about seven of the original is only 1½ inches high. Your photo looks rather Buddha-like - like Gertrude Stein or Madame Blavatsky or Joyce Scribner (to include a fan).

The Naga falls a bit short in terms of plot of being a story, but it's a pretty good prose poem. The Nepal travelog is a good look at a culture that is as alien to most of us here as those we read of in SF.

Planet of the APAs - *Trinlay* - I used Eudora for e-mail at work until I retired and liked it. I always used Netscape at home, but I don't remember having any problem with confusing the two systems.

While it is true, I think, that African hair curls more tightly because it is flatter in cross-section, while straight hair is rounder in cross-section, I find it hard to believe that this difference matters much to a louse. My guess is that some difference in body chemistry accounts for people of African descent not getting head lice.

As to your idea that flying a Confederate flag could be considered treasonous, it has been a long time since anyone here could be charged with treason for flying any flag - under the 1st Amendment to the US constitution almost all speech (oral, written, or symbolic) is protected from government interference. And rightly so - government control of ideas is a slippery slope into tyranny that we want to stay well clear of.

The idea of the Lotus-Eaters (*Lotophagi*) is from *The Odyssey*, the classical Greek poem

about the adventures of the hero Odysseus, attributed to the legendary poet Homer - in this tale, Odysseus (who gets about the Aegean Sea in a sail boat) visits a coast where previous travellers have settled because eating the local fruit called *lotus* caused them to lose any desire to return home. A much later poem by Tennyson probably reinforced the notion that "lotus-eaters" were dreamy dope addicts. I didn't know that the modern lotus was in fact eaten, but I'm not surprised it has no such effect!

Trivial Pursuits - *Janice* - I took a UNIX class once - did not care for it at all as compared to DOS.

I misunderstood about the Scarm (or Scram) book. You are right about signing credit cards - I still don't do it because if I got my name in that dismal space no one could read it anyway.

I have a *Haggadah* but didn't know it was specifically used at the seder - I bought it on Walnut Street in Philadelphia in the early 60s while at a Philcon. It's illustrated by Arthur Szyk (which is why I bought it) and the d/w is tooled aluminum sheet hinged at the spine and set with colored glass.

Somewhere I have a picture of the *chronosynclastic infundibulum*, didn't recall that it came from Vonnegut. But I don't see how your little stunt proved that the school office didn't read absence notes - that pile of fake Latin probably looks like the name of a malady to most non-fans.

Tennessee Trash - *Robe* - Great account of the ConCave. The local press coverage was unusually inoffensive.

What I have read of the Promise-Keepers sounds appalling - in terms of what my reaction would be if I had to attend any such affair. But I am not the target of their efforts. I don't trust either the motives or the judgement of the people that run these mass movements, but I haven't seen any data on whether their efforts are beneficial - such data would of necessity be statistical and hard to acquire and analyze.

Steve vs. the Printer - *Hughes* - That printer doesn't really sound like practical technology, but the output is beautiful. Who did the artwork?

Guilty Pleasures - *Eve* - I have a shelf of James Branch Cabell books, but didn't know he had done one of the Rivers of America series. Most of what I have was picked up in thrift stores or for the artwork, though I did enjoy reading a couple of his short novels - in general he is too longwinded for me.

All of the electric and hybrid cars now on the road use lead-acid batteries, an ancient technology with well-understood hazards. I suppose in a severe crash there might be quite a bit of sulfuric acid released, at least there would be *more* of it than from the single battery in the ordinary car. It would take an extremely catastrophic crash to release much of the lead in a way that would affect emergency workers, but I suppose it could happen. Another possible hazard would be high DC voltages (or currents, depending on how the battery pack is wired). To some extent these dangers cancel each other, as release of the electrolyte would halt the current flow. Sulfuric acid is toxic only in that it is corrosive at high concentrations - flushing with water renders it harmless.

Overall, only experience will show whether the hazards introduced by the electric auto

technology will outweigh the reduction in hazardous pollution. And an all-electric vehicle has no gasoline at all to burn or explode.

Only an Idiot - George - It has always seemed wrong to me somehow for the tax laws to encourage the production of an already surplus commodity, namely children. But there are probably more voters with children than without....

I don't see enough movies to have much feel for which should win the Oscar - how *Gladiator* could be "better" or "worse" than *Traffic* is hard to see. I thought *Gladiator* was mildly interesting, but I wouldn't want to see it again - if there is any valid criterion for saying that one movie is better than the rest it's how often you want to see it again.

I'm glad to see you can still tell a good palindrome when you see one!

The new Georgia flag includes all the old ones as being historical. I suppose they could have included an "African-ancestry" flag - but is there any consensus on what that would look like? I don't even know if the West African tribes of the slaving era had flags; or if Horrible Hank had a flag as Ulric of Wolfhaven, Lord of the Southern Marches.

The spam wasn't *about* a Nigerian princess, it was *from* a Nigerian princess - she offered to share millions with me if I would only send her my bank account access.

I quite agree that postage reduction would be an appropriate tax cut, as it would encourage literacy - at least if it was limited to 1st class and Book mail. In fact, I think books should be mailed free of charge - or maybe there should actually be a postal credit for sending someone a book, they could give you a few stamps.

I don't know why the effort to encourage use of the metric system wasn't extended to the postal rates - that would have been a lot simpler than changing the machines that make machine bolts. I don't think this effort was ever very sincere, though they certainly bugged us about it a lot at NASA.

My niece Violet was here to visit and made tacos one evening - an idiotically inefficient way to eat over-spiced food. Hard to imagine a Methodist like your own self encouraging such a method....

I never heard of the PINE format - is it woodcuts? Hope you didn't get splinters!

Avatar - Cleary - I don't know about that photo - at first glance it looks pleasant enough, but something about the eyes makes me wonder of this guy isn't building a Doomsday Machine in the basement.

Good luck with the house!

Armadillo - Liz - Fancy cover! Is there to be an entire quilt Tarot deck?

Confessions - Hlavaty - Somehow that cover doesn't match my mental image of your saturnine *persona* at all.... Jeff says that packages with metered postage are exempt from the 1-lb limit - a loophole put in by the postage-meter lobby I suppose. And in fact when I mailed two parcels of books to amazon.com today I noticed that the sign on the box now specifically prohibits "parcels over 1 lb with stamp postage".

Passages - Janet - Nice photo! I don't remember ever having a lot of "art" in school. Once in Brooklyn in the 1st grade we were all marched somewhere to listen to a band play *March of the*

Toy Soldiers. If any of the other schools I went to had art or drama, I missed it.

Oblio - Brown - Nice Finlay cover! Glad to hear your physical went so well. I had one every year when I worked for the government, but have only had one since I retired.

Great cover for the mailing comments. The OE could change his name to the old British spelling and call himself *GeoffrOEy*. But it looks silly....

The artist/author of **Johnnykin and the Goblins** was an American architect, and if you look "Charles G. Leland" up in google you find that he was into quite a lot of odd stuff.

Yes, the aniline dyes in the ditto colors are pretty stable as long as they aren't exposed to UV. Fluorescent lighting probably fades them more than incandescent, but as you say they aren't generally exposed that long - maybe in a museum display.

"Wavy" probably isn't the best word for those staples made for the Ace Scout - there are two sharp kinks in the top leg, in opposite directions. Hard to see what benefit would have justified the increase in production cost.

I agree, a half hour would have been plenty for *The Cube*. *The Cell*, which I saw on pay-per-view last month, had a bit more content.

If you are down to the weight coded in your genes, you might endanger your health pushing it any further.

Me and My Monkey - *weber* - All alone and feeling like a banana? My brain is haunted with old pop music rubbish....

Interesting that you were able to find the author of *Abdul the Bulbul Ameer* and it is listed as by anon in the massive **Master Index to Poetry** - perhaps they are concerned mostly with copyright, which in this case would have expired anyway.

The Sphere - Don - Great to hear about the success of your website! Your political arguments with Toni make me dizzy - should the government interfere with the pernicious trade in land mines? If not the government, then who?

Yngvi - Toni - What is that on the cover, the ghost of a louse in hyperspace? Did you have a way to send Joe a copy? The last I heard, he got 5 days leave from being in the crew of the *Mimi* (see www.mimifest.org) while she remains docked in Philadelphia, so by the time you see this they will be somewhere else - they go as far as the Gulf. I hear that thousands of kids toured the ship in Philadelphia, so the crew probably needed a break! He and a friend went up to Gloucester by train for the 5 days.

My sister knows a Brian Engel who is a professional glass harmonicist, he lives in the neighborhood when not on tour and has been over to the house a couple of times. He uses the older wine-glass system rather than Franklin's mechanical gizmo. He has one CD out - which I cannot at the moment put my hands on.

Is that p.10 illo by Hank a self-portrait?

As to the Louima lawsuit, I quite agree with you that the police department probably would not have funds to compensate for the injury they did him - but the police department is a creature of the city itself. If everyone has to sue for compensation I suppose it keeps the lawyers happy! Who pays when the cops smash in the wrong door?

