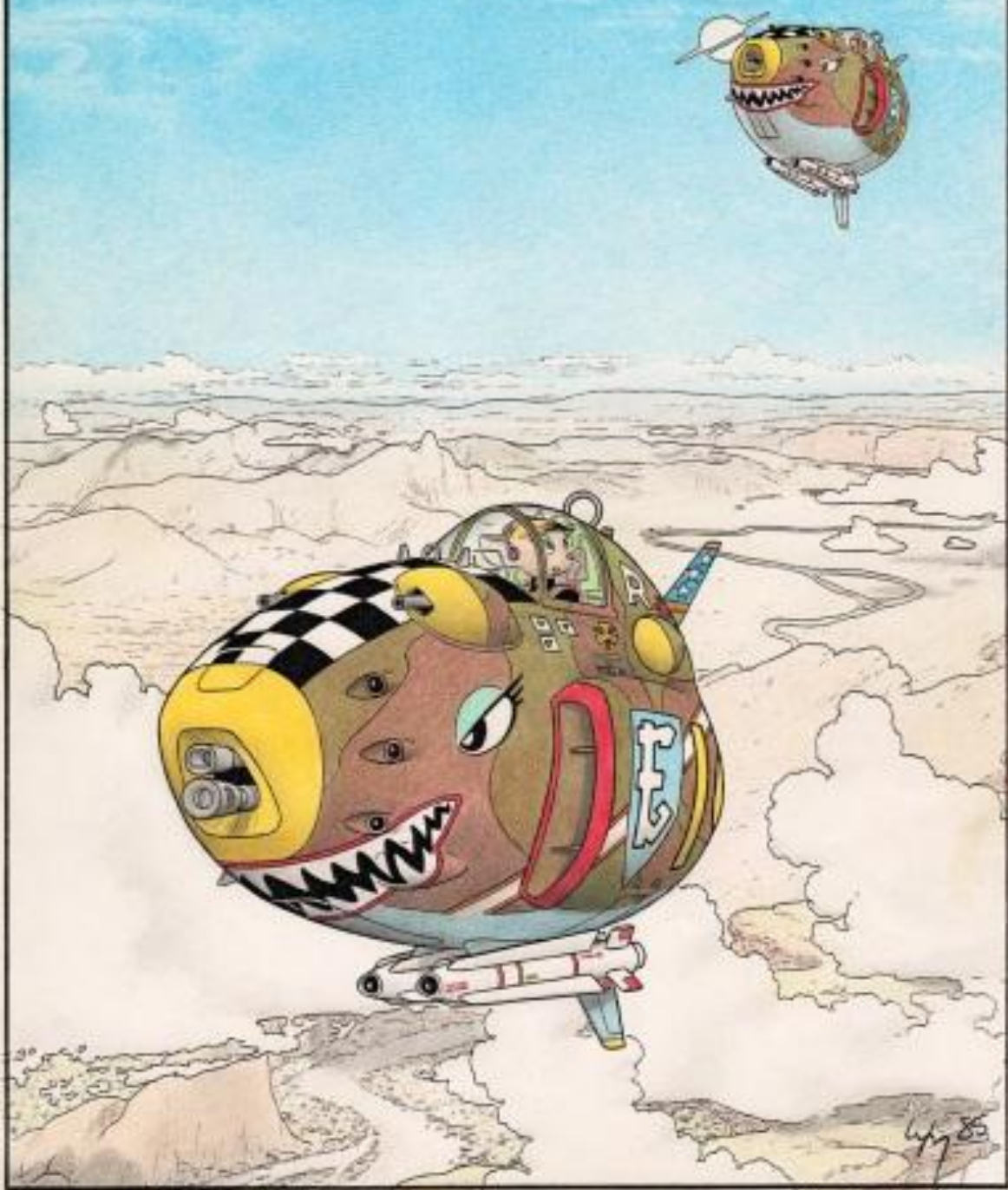


Auroran Lights 15



Based on character & spaceship designs by Jerry Collins

AURORAN LIGHTS

The Official E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association
Dedicated to Promoting the Prix Aurora Awards and the Canadian SF&F Genre
(Issue # 15 – February 2015)

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ART CREDITS:

Taral Wayne – Cover art. And pages 37, 40, 46, 51, & 58.

EDITORIAL

Finally, after twelve hours straight I'm ready to put this issue to bed. Will try to pace myself better next issue.

Happy to showcase some of Taral Wayne's fannish art this time around. Great stuff! He's been nominated for the Hugo Best Fan Artist no less than eleven times. Deservedly so. Bit of a living legend he is.

Please send me feedback! You can reach me at: < [The Graeme](#) >

Or my Twitter account: < [@rgraemecameron](#) >

And don't forget to check out my website < [Cdn. SF Zine Archive](#) > which is devoted to the history of Canadian SF Fandom and Fanzines

OFFICIAL SECTION – BLAME CSFFA!

CSFFA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AURORA AWARD ELIGIBILITY LISTS STILL OPEN TO ADDITIONS

Till Midnight EST April 25th, 2015.

Anyone can add to the list as long as each item meets the [Category definitions](#).

You don't have to be a CSFFA member but in order to limit SPAM and allow us to contact you if we have questions about the submission we do need a valid e-mail address. Just login in (and then go to Eligibility lists), or join us to become a member (\$10), at [Aurora Awards Login](#).

You can find the [Eligibility lists](#) here. Covers 2014 achievements for the 2015 Awards.

2015 AURORA NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN

To nominate, you must become a CSFFA member, which costs \$10, or, if a member in 2014, you must now renew. Join here. [join or renew](#)

You may nominate anyone or anything from the eligibility list, but also anything not yet on the eligibility list, as long as it meets the nomination criteria.

Both the eligibility list and the nominations form will be **open till Midnight EST April 25th, 2015.**

2015 CSFFA AGM

The voting ballot will be announced the weekend of May 15th at the CSFFA Annual General Meeting (possibly at Keycon). Note that all CSFFA members are entitled to attend the AGM, either in person or online.

2015 AURORA AWARD VOTING

Voting will begin June 1st, 2015 and close Midnight EST October 17th, 2015. (There will be no voting during Convention 35.)

To assist you in making up your mind whom to vote for, the works of most nominees (possibly all) will be available in the CSFFA Member's Voters Package for free download either complete or in excerpts.

Awards will be announced at Convention 35. Note that there will be a separate CSFFA business meeting which all CSFFA members are encouraged to attend.

CSFFA WEBSITE – [Prix Aurora Awards](#)

UNOFFICIAL SECTION – BLAME THE EDITOR!

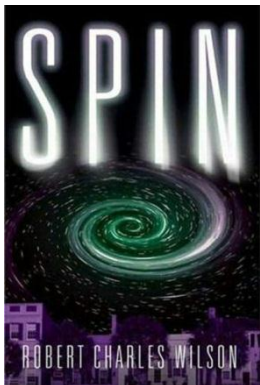
PRODOM NEWS ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES & OTHER CATASTROPHES

Ursulu Pflug reports:

“**John Joseph Adams** is buying a reprint of **Python** for **Lightspeed**. It's appeared previously in (or at) **Keith Brooke's Infinity Plus**, **Jeff VanderMeer's Album Zutique # 1**, and in my 2008 **Tightrope Books** collection, **After the Fires**. I'm ever so excited, as JJA wrote to me out of the blue. This is one story that really had a life of its own.”

Robert J. Sawyer reports:



“The Syfy network on Thursday announced that it has tapped *Fight Club* and *Jumper's Jim Uhls* to adapt **Robert Charles Wilson's** Hugo Award-winning novel **Spin** into a six-hour miniseries.

Spin is about a scientist named Tyler Dupree who is trying to save the world from a mysterious black membrane that has surrounded the planet and cut it off from the rest of the solar system. The membrane also blocks the earth from satellite communications and, somehow, speeds up time for everything inside it. Because of this, the sun will die faster than it otherwise would, so the people on Earth are a bit screwed. Or are they?

The book, originally published in 2005, is the first in a trilogy of the best-selling series that also includes **Axis** and **Vortex**.”

Randy McCharles posted on January 14th:

“One year ago today, a good number of friends joined me at Buffalo Bob's Pub to help me celebrate my retirement from the day job and transition to writing full time. Looking back, it has been a super busy year. Among other things, I met my goal of 2 books published in 2014 and am well on my way to meeting that goal again for 2015. Thank you everyone for your kind support.”

Merril Collection

The Merrill Collection of SF&F genre-related items just announced their collection count has gone past 80K items (80,569 individual books, magazines, documents, fanzines, etc. to be precise). Fantastic!

Also to be noted, the 50th issue of The Friends of the Merrill Collection magazine was released to members circa January 26.

Here is a link to back issues of Sol rising from (#1) to (#49): [Sol Rising](#)

SFWA Votes To Accept Self-published/Small Press Authors as Members

SFWA (Science Fiction Writers of America), which includes Canadians, recently voted to [accept credits for self-published and small press authors](#). Applications will be accepted **beginning March 1st, 2015**. A combination of advances and income will be required to meet the professional qualifying standards; currently a minimum of \$3,000 for a novel, or at least 10,000 words paid at 6 cents a word. See [the basic standards will remain in place](#) for further details. Complete information will be announced March 1st.

Ray Bradbury Home Demolished

In early January the new owner, an architect, had the Ray Bradbury house demolished. Pity it couldn't have been preserved like, say, the house of Mark Twain. But 'progress' continues apace, alas. The house which will replace it, designed and to be lived in by the new owner and his family, seems vaguely futuristic. It will consist of five stories, three of which will be below ground. Maximum use of space I guess. No doubt in the distant future the house will change hands again and the next owner will fill the below-ground levels with concrete to provide a solid base for a shining spire of adamant steel reaching for the stars. I feel the bright yellow walls of Bradbury's house already accomplished that, actually. They're gone now. Oh well.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, & OTHER EXULTATIONS

Shortlist for 2015 ReLit Awards

*(The Graeme – The ReLit Awards are for any-and-all-genre independent Canadian Presses. I recognize **Ursula Pflug's** Novel "The Alphabet Stones" as SF&F genre, but I don't know about the other items on the shortlist, though judging from the titles some of them could be. At any rate, an interesting list of independent Canadian presses worth Goggling.)*

The ReLit Awards, founded by Newfoundland author and filmmaker, **Kenneth J Harvey**, are considered Canada's "pre-eminent literary prize recognizing independent presses – The Globe and Mail."

"Canada's ReLit Award--founded to acknowledge the best new work released by independent publishers--may not come with a purse, but it brings a welcome, back-to-the-books focus to the craft. – Amazon.com."

The ReLit rings, made with four moveable dials, each stamped with the entire alphabet for spelling words, are crafted by Newfoundland goldsmith, **Christopher Kearney**.

NOVEL

Rogue Cells/ Carbon Harbour, **Garry Thomas Morse** (Talonbooks)

The Miracle of Ordinary Men, **Amanda Leduc** (ECW)

Burning From the Inside, **Christine Walde** (DCB)

The Strangers' Gallery, **Paul Bowdring** (Vagrant)

Sneaker Wave, **Jeff Beamish** (Oolichan)

Anatomy of a Girl Gang, **Ashley Little** (Arsenal Pulp)

Caught, **Lisa Moore** (Anansi)

Paradise Revisited, **Shane Joseph** (Blue Denim Press)

Say Nothing Saw Wood, **Joel Thomas Hynes** (Running the Goat)

Infidelity, **Stacey May Fowles** (ECW)

The Alphabet Stones, **Ursula Pflug** (Blue Denim Press) *

Fallsy Downsies, **Stephanie Domet** (Invisible)
The Desperates, **Greg Kearney** (Cormorant)
Savage 1986-2011, **Nathaniel G. Moore** (Anvil)
Every Little Thing, **Chad Pelley** (Breakwater)
Juanita Wildrose My True Life, **Susan Downe** (Pedlar)

SHORT FICTION

Auxiliary Skins, **Christine Miscione** (Exile)
Dear Leaves I Miss You, **Sara Heinonen** (Mansfield)
All We Want is Everything, **Andrew F. Sullivan** (ARP Books)
The Critic and Other Stories, **Martin Hunter** (Cormorant)
After it Rains, **Bill Haugland** (Vehicule)
Someone Somewhere, **Dana Mills** (Gaspereau)
You Haven't Changed a Bit, **Astrid Blodgett** (UOA Pres)
The Other Side of Youth, **Kelli Deeth** (Arsenal Pulp)
Exceptions & Deceptions, **Cliff Burns** (Black Dog Press)
Keeping the Peace, Colette **Maitland** (Biblioasis)
They Never Told Me, **Austin Clarke** (Exile)
Life Without Death, **Peter Unwin** (Cormorant)
Islands of Decolonial Love, **Leanne Simpson** (ARP Books)
Red Girl Rat Boy, **Cynthia Flood** (Biblioasis)

POETRY

The Ends of the Earth, **Jacqueline Turner** (ECW)
Monkey Soap, **Glen Downie** (Mansfield)
Forge, **Kevin McPherson Eckhoff** (Invisible)
The Sea with No One in it, **Niki Koulouris** (Porcupine's Quill)
Liquidities, **Daphne Marlatt** (Talon)
Coping with Emotions and Otters, **Dina Del Bucchia** (Talonbooks)
When This World Comes to an End, **Kate Cayley** (Brick)
How Poetry Saved My Life, **Amber Dawn** (Arsenal Pulp)
Knife Throwing Through Self-Hypnosis, **Robin Richardson** (ECW)
The Family China, **Ann Shin** (Brick)
Love's Not the Way to, **Stan Rogal** (BookLand)
The Polymers, **Adam Dickinson** (Anansi)
Hard Ass, **Sharon McCartney** (Palimpsest)
The Lost Letters, **Catherine Greenwood** (Brick)
The Cockeyed World, **Jim Christy** (Guernica)
For Display Purposes Only, **David Seymour** (Coach House)
Placeholder, **Charmaine Cadeau** (Brick)
Multitudes, **Margaret Christakos** (Coach House)
Complete Surprising Fragments of Improbable Books, **Stephen Brockwell** (Mansfield)
What the World Said, **Jason Camlot** (Mansfield)
A Pretty Sight, **David O'Meara** (Coach House)
Our Days in Vaudeville, **Stuart Ross** (Mansfield)

The Alphabet Stones – by **Ursula Pflug ***



THE ALPHABET STONES

URSULA PFLUG

The Alphabet Stones is about three families, one of them supernatural, and how they intertwine—with each other and with the land, a moody eastern Ontario of communes, music festivals and cedar swamps; stony farms and muddy rivers. This is a story about enchantment—how the land enchants us, how we enchant one another—why it's necessary that we do, and dangerous when we don't. Like 14 year old Jody, we learn not just the names of trees and stars and birds, but also of “the gate between worlds,” a place she stumbles across in a forgotten back pasture, both ordinary and powerfully mysterious.

Jack McDevitt Wins 2015 Robert A. Heinlein Award

Jack McDevitt, science fiction author is the 2015 winner of the Robert A. Heinlein Award. The award is bestowed for outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space. This award is in recognition of Mr. McDevitt's body of work including over 21 novels and 81 short stories.

The award will be presented on Friday, May 22, 2015 at opening ceremonies during Balticon 49, the Maryland Regional Science Fiction Convention. Balticon and the Robert A. Heinlein Award are both managed and sponsored by The Baltimore Science Fiction Society. The Robert A. Heinlein Award is a sterling silver medallion bearing the image of Robert A. Heinlein, as depicted by artist **Arlin Robbins**.

The Robert A. Heinlein Award selection committee consists of science fiction writers and was founded by **Dr. Yoji Kondo**, a long-time friend of Robert and **Virginia Heinlein**. Members of the committee were originally approved by Virginia Heinlein. The current Chairman of the Selection Committee is **Michael F. Flynn**.

Virginia Heinlein authorized multiple awards in memory of her husband, including the Heinlein Prize, which is fully funded by Virginia Heinlein's estate, and a National Space Society award for volunteer projects.

More information on the Robert A. Heinlein Award, including past winners, can be found at <http://www.bsfs.org/bsfsheinlein.htm>.

2015 William L. Crawford Fantasy Award Announced

This award is presented annually by the International Association for the Fantastic in Arts for a first fantasy book publication. Zen Cho for his short story collection *Spirits Abroad* tied with Stephanie Feldman for her novel *The angel of losses*.

This year's shortlist included **Fire in the unnameable Country** by **Ghalib Islam**, **The Stone Boatmen** by **Sahrah Tomie**, **Boundary Problems** by **Greg Bechtel**, and **The Miniaturist** by **Jessie Burton**.

I note that Candace Jane Dorsey was one of the judges. The award will be presented on **March 21st, 2015** during the [36th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts](#) in Orlando, Florida.

Bram Stoker Preliminary Ballot Announced

The Horror Writers Association (HWA) is inviting members to nominate from a preliminary list of potential nominees. The list of nominated finalists will be announced **February 23rd, 2015**. To see who is on the list check out [Preliminary Ballot for the 2014 Bram Stoker Awards®](#)

Hugo Award Nominations Underway

Only the following are eligible to nominate:

- Attending or supporting members of Sasquan (the 2015 World Science Fiction Convention),
- Attending or supporting members of Loncon 3 (the 2014 World Science Fiction Convention).
- Attending or supporting members of MidAmeriCon II (the 2016 World Science Fiction Convention).

Go to the [Sasquan Hugo nominations webpage](#) for further information. Note that a PIN number is required (as assigned by the above conventions). Instructions are provided on researching your PIN.

Go to www.sasquan.org to acquire your Worldcon membership.

The Writers' Trust of Canada/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize

This is apparently Canada's largest prize for short fiction (\$10,000). It is funded by James A. Michener's Canadian royalties from his novel **Journey**.

Nominees must be "new and developing Canadian writers during the early stages of their career..."

NOT eligible for consideration are "Writers who have published more than three books of fiction, or who have won national awards for their fiction, or whose fiction has already received substantial attention..."

I'm not sure how this works (prize came to my attention just before publication deadline) but the Pulphouse Literature Magazine people have nominated:

SL Nickerson, 'Only the Loons Know'
Pulp Literature Issue 1, Winter 2014

Trevor Shikaze, 'The Tun'
Pulp Literature Issue 2, Spring 2014

Ace Baker, 'Victory Girl'
Pulp Literature Issue 4, Autumn 2014

CONTESTS, COMPETITIONS, & OTHER CONIPTIONS

Friends of the Merril Short Story Contest

Don't forget: the deadline for submissions is **February 14th, 2015**. Polish those stories and send 'em in! Guidelines, as ever, [right here](#). If you're ready, delay no more and [submit now](#).

See [Auroran Lights \(#14\)](#) for details.

Grant for Impoverished Writers Available [SpecLit Grant](#)

The Speculative Literature Foundation: the application period for our first annual Working Class/Impoverished Writers Grant is still open.

The application period for the Working Class/Impoverished Writers Grant opened December 1, 2014, and **will close February 20, 2015**. The winner for the grant is expected to be announced by April 15, 2015.

The SLF Working-Class / Impoverished Writers' \$750 Grant

Working class, blue-collar, poor, and homeless writers have been historically underrepresented in speculative fiction, due to financial barriers which have made it much harder for them to have access to the writing world. Such lack of access might include an inability to attend conventions, to purchase a computer, to buy books, to attend college or high school, to have the time to write (if, for example, you must work two jobs simply to pay rent and feed a family, or if you must spend all your waking hours job-hunting for months on end). The SLF would like to assist in finding more of these marginalized voices and bringing them into speculative fiction.

You are eligible for this grant if you come from a background such as described above, if you grew up (or are growing up) in homelessness, poverty, or a blue collar / working-class household, or if you have lived for a significant portion of your life in such conditions, especially if you had limited access to relatives/friends who could assist you financially. We will give preference to members of that larger pool who are currently in financial need (given our limited funds).

Please note that while we are based in America, this grant is available to international writers; please assess your own situation as appropriate for your home country.

Please note that, unlike our other grants, you may receive this grant anonymously or pseudonymously. Application materials will be kept confidential to the grant committee and SLF staff.

What Do We Mean By Working-Class / Impoverished?

Here are some examples; they are not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to offer some guidelines to help you determine if you might be eligible. We mean to cast a wide net for this grant, so if you think you might be eligible, you probably are. If you have specific questions about your financial situation's applicability, please don't hesitate to write to us and ask.

You would potentially be eligible for this grant if any of the following apply:

- you live paycheck to paycheck,
- your parents did not go to college,
- you rely on payday loans,
- you're currently being raised in a single parent household,
- you're supporting yourself and paying your own way through college,
- you've lived at or below 200% of the poverty line for your state/province for at least one year,
- you've experienced stretches of time when food was not readily and easily available.

Application Materials:

- personal statement: a short statement (up to 750 words) which addresses both your relevant financial background (why you qualify for this grant), and your future writing goals (what you hope to accomplish, with the help of this grant)
- writing sample (your best work, published or unpublished -- up to 10 pages of poetry, 10 pages of drama, or 10,000 words of fiction or creative nonfiction -- if sending a segment of a novel, novella, or novелlette, please include a one-page synopsis as well)
- a bibliography of previously-published work by the author (no more than one page, typed); applicants need not have previous publications to apply

- If awarded the grant, the recipient will be invited to provide a brief excerpt from their work, and an autobiographical statement describing themselves and their writing (500-1000 words) for our files, and for possible public dissemination on our website. This is entirely optional on the grant recipient's part.

PLEASE NOTE: This grant, as with all SLF grants, is intended to help writers working with speculative literature. If you're not sure what areas that term encompasses, we recommend referencing [our general SLF FAQ \(question #2\)](#).

Working-Class Grant Application Procedures

Send the three items listed above to our class grant administrator as attached .doc files, to [Submissions](#). Include a brief cover letter with your name and contact info (e-mail, phone in case of emergency). If you have questions, direct them to that same address.

Class grant applications will be considered from December 1st to February 28th, this year. Applications received outside that period will be discarded unread.

The grant recipient will be announced by April 15th, annually. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application by that date.

Jurors

The 2014 jurors for the Working-Class Grant are:

- Suneetha Balakrishnan
- Linda Wight
- Rebecca Gibson
- Candace West
- Sam Montgomery-Blinn
- Malon Edwards

(The Graeme – I don't know whether cutoff date is the 20th of February or the 28th. Best to apply by the 20th methinks. I'm not sure any of our readers will apply, this year at any rate, but I figured an interesting grant worthy of your attention.)

BOOK SIGNINGS, LECTURES, & OTHER CONFRONTATIONS

2015 Toronto SpecFic Colloquium

By Chiaroscuro Reading Series ([other events](#))

Saturday, March 7th, 2015 – 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

152A Augusta Avenue , 2nd Floor, Toronto, ON M5T 2L5, Canada

Saturday, March 7 2015 9:30 AM — 5:30 PM

<http://chiseries.ticketleap.com/2015-toronto-specific-colloquium/>

Guest of honour will be **Nnedi Okorafor**, World Fantasy Award-winning author of **Who Fears Death** and **Akata Witch**. With additional guest speakers **Derek Newman-Stille** and **Peter Watts**. Other guests TBC.

The Annual Toronto SpecFic Colloquium is run by the Chiaroscuro Reading Series, and sponsored in part by ChiZine Publications.

CanWrite! 2015 Writers' Conference

Robert J. Sawyer reports:

"I'll be a workshop leader at the Canadian Authors Association's CanWrite writers' conference this June in beautiful Orillia, Ontario."

CanWrite! 2015 writers' conference is scheduled for June 11 to 14, 2015, once again at Lakehead University's Orillia campus. (Registration opens early March.) More info next issue.

Banned Books Café Reading

Edward Willett reports:

"I'll be reading from **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by *Mark Twain* at the Banned Books Cafe in the RPL Film Theatre **February 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** The event, in honour of Freedom to Read Week, will be hosted by Arthur Slade and also features Jill Morgan of CBC reading from **Bridge to Terabithia** by *Katherine Paterson*, Gord Barnes from Amnesty International reading from **Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban** by *J.K. Rowling*, Kelly Jo Burke reading from **The Wars** by *Timothy Findlay*, and Gail Bowen reading from **The Handmaid's Tale** by *Margaret Atwood*. Admission is free! Hope to see you there!"

LOCATION

RPL Film Theatre, Central Library, Regina Public Library
2311-12th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan

ADMISSION: Free

CONTACT

Warren James
306-777-6151

[Visit the event website](#)

Bundoran Press Appearances 2015

- **Ad Astra: April 10-12th, 2015** Toronto, Ontario BOOK LAUNCH.
See <http://www.ad-astra.org/>
- **When Words Collide: August 14-16, 2015** Calgary, AB BOOK LAUNCH.
See www.whenwordscollide.org
- **CanCon: October 30 - November 1, 2015** Ottawa, ON BOOK LAUNCH.
See <http://www.can-con.org/>

On Spec Magazine Appearances 2015

- The Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo in Calgary, Alberta, **April 16-19, 2015**.
See www.calgaryexpo.com
- When Words Collide 2015 in Calgary, Alberta, **August 14-16, 2015**.
See www.whenwordscollide.org
- The Edmonton Comic and Entertainment Expo in Edmonton, Alberta, **September 25-27, 2015**.
See www.edmontonexpo.com

ChiSeries Vancouver Reading Report by *Graham J. Darling*

ChiSeries Vancouver held a Reading Event on January 27th, 2015. It featured **Kristi Charish** reading from her new novel "**Owl & the Japanese Circus**" and **Jennifer Lott** from her recent children's book "**Hexed Hair**". There was also an audience-judged competitive Open Mike with a \$50 prize, won by **Rissa Johnson** for "**Come Alone**", followed by **Lynda Williams** with "**Tiny Demons**" and **Graham J. Darling** with "**Jon Carver of Barzoon, You Misunderstood**".

The event was hosted by **Colleen Anderson**, and sponsored by ChiZine Publications and the Ontario Arts Council. The next ChiSeries Vancouver Reading will be **April 2, 7:30 pm** at the Cottage Bistro, 4470 Main St, with Featured Authors to be announced, all welcome.

Pulp Literature Magazine Writers Workshops

"We invite you to join our circle for a morning of writing and reader response, using the **The Hour Stories** created by Dale Adams Segal. In this three-hour workshop you will generate approximately 1000 words of either a new story or a section of your work-in-progress. We will share our stories and inspiration over tea and good food, and walk away with fresh inspiration. The Hour Story cards are excellent tools to promote deeper insight, unstick a writing block, or take your story in a new and exciting direction. For more about the writing process see this post: <http://pulpliterature.com/writing-circles/>"

Our next available workshops are:

Date: **Thursdays 12 February or 12 March 2015**

Time: 10am - 1pm

Location: Burnaby BC (exact address available on registration)

Cost: \$100 (includes print subscription to Pulp Literature)

To register: info@pulpliterature.com

Creative Ink Festival Announced – [Creative Ink Festival Website](#)



Sandra Wickham – On April 25th, 2015, we're hosting a sampler event for the official Full Weekend event to launch in April of 2016.

This is a one day "prequel" event full of great events for writers, readers and artists. Come join us! The day will include workshops, presentations and panels from professional authors and artists. You'll have the opportunity to get help with your craft, to attend readings, shop with our sponsors and artists and much more!

Guest of Honour: **Mark Teppo**. "He is the publisher of Resurrection House, a fiercely independent genre publishing venture that seeks to reignite a passionate love affair between authors and audiences via the printed book."

Where? At the Executive Inn and Suites, 4201 Lougheed Hwy, Burnaby, B.C.

Check back to the site often! More details will be added as things become available.

POETS, POEMS, & OTHER PROBLEMS

A Dragon at the Gate – a poem by **Gregg Chamberlain**.

Gregg reports: I can now, technically, list myself as a children's writer also along with the adult sf, fantasy, horror, and mystery-suspense... Golden Fleece Press emailed acceptance of a poem I wrote a decade or two ago, **A Dragon at the Gate** which was done as a sort of sing-song children's verse piece... been wondering for years what i was going to do with it... now I know.

Slated for **Wee Tales anthology**, Vol. 2 in May this year... just waiting now for the contract to arrive in April.

Check out their website... <http://goldenfleecepress.com>

WHAT THE USUAL SUSPECTS ARE UP TO



Robert J. Sawyer posted: "I have a small role in episode 4 of STAR TREK CONTINUES. **Carolyn Clink** and I spent three amazing days in Georgia earlier this month. We had the time of our lives hanging out with the cast and crew. The Starship Farragut team there has created exact duplicates of the original ENTERPRISE sets as they were on Desilu/Paramount Stage 9 in the 1960s, sets now shared with STC. It was incredibly moving to see; truly one of the peak experiences of my life."

Melissa Mary Duncan posted: "I have been asked to be the artist Guest of Honour at The Time Traveller's Bazaar April 12th in Vancouver at Heritage Hall. Now I will be the only 2D artist at this Electric, Vintage Fashion and Accessories Fair. I have been told that I was asked because of the way I paint costuming and textiles . . . Interesting eh?"

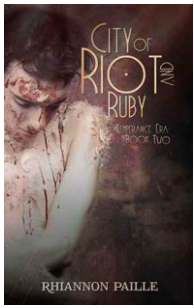
PUBLICATIONS NEWLY UNLEASHED

City of Riot and Ruby – by **Rhiannon Paille** – [Available here](#)

Nuclear warfare uncovered a city under the permafrost in Antarctica, and the survivors called it Temperance. Milo Ketterling was taught these things thirteen hundred years after that tragedy.

Milo never wanted to join Senate.

He never wanted to know what existed outside of Temperance.

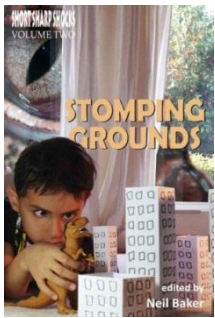


He never wanted to know what was in Johannesburg.

He never wanted to escape.

Rhiannon Paille is a Booksmith from the middle of nowhere, Canada. She holds a PhD in Metaphysical Science and Parapsychology, which is to say she happens to know a lot about what goes bump in the night. When she's not writing she's singing karaoke, burning dinner, and hiding her superhero identity. She'd like to own a unicorn one day, as long as it doesn't eat her. You'll find her sipping iced cappuccino despite her allergy to coffee at [Rhiannon](#)

Stomping Grounds 2 – edited by [Neil Baker](#) April Moon Books [Available here](#)



Authors: Stomping Grounds (Short Sharp Shocks Book 2) [Kindle Edition]
[C.J. Henderson](#), [R. Allen Leider](#), [Amy Braun](#), [David Bernard](#), [Konstantine Paradias](#),
[David Longshore](#), [Christine Morgan](#), [Doug Blakeslee](#), [Kerry G.S. Lipp](#)

When I first announced the theme for this second volume of amusingly shocking tales, I was keen to stress that I didn't want a slew of Godzilla clones. The lovable lizard certainly has his place at the top of the pile, but I was looking for stories that featured enormous beasts I hadn't seen before; monsters that would catch the reader off-guard. My authors did not disappoint.

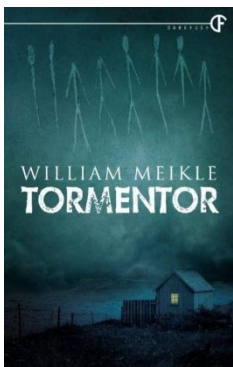
While some creatures make perfect monsters (hellgrammites, wasps and three-headed hounds), others have been dragged from their comfortable roles as good subjects for Beanie Babies, and transformed into gargantuan, blood-crazed fiends (giraffes, beavers, frogs, humming birds, kangaroos and a platypus). Less Godzilla - more Night of the Lepus.

Then we encounter the afore-said forces of nature in the form of giant, God-like entities (sea creatures, the Karkadann, even planetary bodies) and finally round off the roster of rampagers with Lovecraftian entities (a Mayan deity, a monster conjured from a treph, a cosmic blob, an ancient machine that transforms your darkest urges into monsters and a hound of Tindalos).

So here they are, seventeen stories, seventeen monsters, all here to delight and disgust you as they return to their Stomping Grounds!

Tormentor – **William Meikle** [Darkfuse](#) (Feb 17 release date) [Available here](#)

On the Isle of Skye, near the community of Dunvegan, sits a rustic old one-bedroom home, waiting for a new tenant. It seems like the perfect opportunity for Jim Greenwood to escape the hectic London city life—a place to move on from tragedy.



This is the story of a house.

As he tries to settle into country life, his is tormented by mysterious soot marks left throughout the house while he sleeps, cryptic e-mails from unknown senders, and hundreds of hand-drawn stick-figure drawings etched in a perfect pattern on the cottage's cellar walls. *Stay. Beth needs you.*

Jim begins losing control, drinking excessively, shaking to an uncontrollable beat in his

head, trying to decipher what may or may not be a code—or a warning.

No limbs, no limbs, no head, no head, left arm gone, left leg gone, no legs, no head.

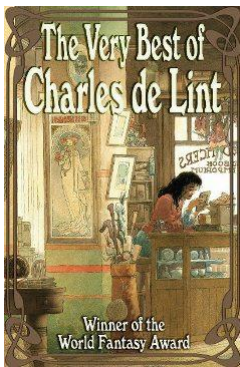
The door is open, and something is coming through. It's just a matter of when—and what.

“I think you have to have grown up with pulp to get it. A lot of writers have been told that pulp=bad plotting and that you have to have deep psychological insight in your work for it to be valid. They've also been told that pulp=bad writing, and they believe it. Whereas I remember the joy I got from early Moorcock, from Mickey Spillane and further back, A E Merritt and H Rider Haggard. I'd love to have a chance to write a Tarzan, John Carter, Allan Quatermain, Mike Hammer or Conan novel, whereas a lot of writers I know would sniff and turn their noses up at the very thought of it. I write to escape. I haven't managed it yet, but I'm working on it.”

– [William Meikle](#)

“One of the premier storytellers of our time” – Famous Monsters of Filmland

The Very Best of Charles de Lint – Kindle & Paperback [Available here](#)



“...an outstanding and widely varied collection of 29 tales. The delightfully light-hearted **Pixel Pixies** adds magic and mischief to innocent online interactions. (“If you're lucky, [the pixies are] still on the Internet and didn't follow you home.”) **Merlin Dreams in the Mondream Wood** investigates the nature and meaning of memories. The heart-wrenching **In the House of My Enemy**, later developed into the novel **The Onion Girl**, narrates the decisions made by a pregnant girl with an abusive past. Longtime fans and newcomers alike will fall in love with de Lint's graceful, poetic language and characters like “an old man who wore the shape of a red-haired boy with crackernut eyes that seemed as bright as salmon tails glinting up the water.”

—Publishers Weekly

“To determine which stories to include (from a body of work spanning 25 years), he asked his fans for their favourites via Facebook and Twitter. The resulting volume is more than 400 pages of the finest urban fantasy fiction of the past three decades, characterized by de Lint's deep and passionate humanism.

—**Robert Wiersema**, National Post

“There are a number of stories here—quite an impressive number of them—that are simply perfect... storytelling at its best.”

—Green Man Review

Vampires Suck! (Alternate Hilarities Vol.2) – Edited by **Giovanni Valentino**.

Kindle & Paperback available at Amazon books. – [Available here](#)



Includes short story **Got Cookies?** by **Gregg Chamberlain** (pictured holding book).

Each story has a different take on the legend of the Vampire. Some hide from the darkness and others can walk in the daylight. Some are cold, calculated killers and other are full of teenaged angst. Some are held at bay by garlic but others love Italian food. Here is a collection of story designed to poke funny at the whole vampire genre. We have funny stories about the troubles of immortality, about the crazy life of the

vampire slayer, and about just how the different vampires get along. But in all the stories, one element is always there. Vampires Suck.

Javenny – *Al Onia* – [Bundoran Press](#) – [Available here](#)



A race for power and wealth transforms into a race to save the world in Al Onia's debut novel, *Javenny*. A young woman's calling may be all that stands between Earth and the dreams of a dying alien race... assuming she survives the machinations of her church and the corporate sharks who want to use her for their own ambitions. *Javenny* is a globe spanning adventure that asks the question; can a single person change the world?

“**Javenny** is a thrilling first-contact story with an unforgettable heroine. An auspicious debut from a major new talent: this is one of the best first novels I've read in years.”

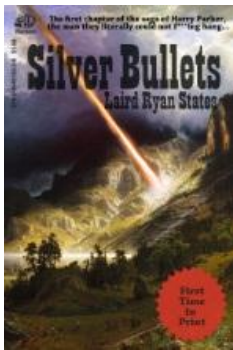
– **Robert J. Sawyer**, Hugo Award-winning author of **Red Planet Blues**.

Jazz Age Cthulhu – *Jennifer Bronze, A.D. Cahill & Orrin Grey* – [Innsmouth Free Press](#) [Available here](#)



Three new novelettes inspired by Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos, set against the background of the Roaring Twenties. Journey to Kansas City, the “Paris of the Plains,” a city of glamor and sin where cults, secret societies and music intermingle. Visit Assam, India, where a British dilettante wakes up one morning covered in bruises and welts, with a dead man in her bed and no memory of what happened in the last 24 hours. Her only clue is a trashed invitation to the exclusive Black Ram Club. Relax on the resort island of Pomptinia, an Italian enclave of wealthy socialites, expats and intellectuals. But beware - the sea conceals dark secrets.

Silver Bullets – *Ryan James States* – Find it at [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.ca](#), & [Lulu.com](#).



Indian Charley fell to earth, cradled inside a stone from the sky. Raised by the Cree, he soon discovered he was not the same as other men. Set apart, he wandered alone for over a hundred summers until the day he met Harry Parker.

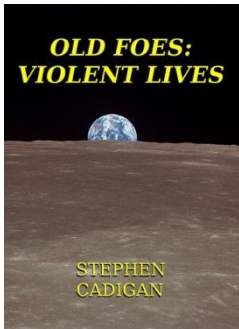
In 1882, the two men meet, forging a friendship that will last to the modern day.

They also finds themselves very much at odds with a sect of immortal religious zealots who offer the undying membership or a very real eternal torment—permanent crucifixion and isolation.

Ryan posted: “Hi Folks, I’m an Edmonton writer who just published the first in what will be a series of Weird Western New Pulp novels... Of course, the book is only now available to be bought. Nobody in the world knows it exists, and that’s the next big step. I need to figure out promotion... Despite the fact that I expect no sales at all for the foreseeable, I am honestly excited in a way that I’ve not been in a long while. The learning curve was steep, and I badly want to do this right.”

(The Graeme – I’ve always been fascinated by an author’s first steps. Mine were a tad abortive. (Publisher: “We don’t like your main character and we don’t think anyone else will either.”) But I understand the dream. Consequently I’m always willing to give a beginning author a boost if I can. Readers of Auroran Lights will just have to get used to a mixture of old pros and rank beginners being presented. There’s room for everybody.)

Old Foes: Violent Lives – *Stephen Cadigan* – [Available here](#)

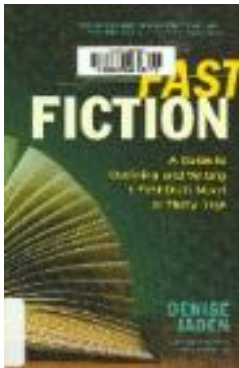


Do you have an enemy that you hate with all of your heart? Terry Mullen does. He is the super-villain the Shackler. His life has become a battle against his old foe, the super-hero Coal Hero. Coal Hero has super-powers, while Terry Mullen has none. How does a normal man have a chance against a more powerful foe? By fighting dirty. By fighting smart. And by using his greatest weapon: his burning hate for Coal Hero.

Coal Hero and his super-heroine girlfriend, Prayer Lady, both have super-strength and are nearly indestructible. But villains have found a way to hurt them, by hurting the ones they love. So the heroes created an "ultimate line" rule. Hurt one of their loved ones, and they will kill you. Neither side should cross that ultimate line. They know better. But will that stop them?

Old Foes: Violent Lives is a standalone story, and also the first in a series of stories about the two old foes Coal Hero and Terry Mullen. It is written by *Stephen Cadigan*, who has also written the comic books **Crazy Gas**, **Durgo Bann**, and **Blood Feather**. At the end of the story, a comic book script is enclosed for what would be the first issue of an **Old Foes: Violent Lives** comic book, which is based on this story.

Fast Fiction – *Denise Jaden* – March 2014 – [New World Library](#) – [Denise website](#)



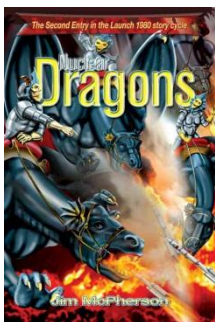
Many of you like to participate in the annual National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) every November. Well, this book, subtitled “A guide to Outlining and Writing a First-Draft Novel in Thirty Days” could be exactly what you need to read. In fact, never mind NaNoWriMo, this book could be the key to increasing your annual output to two or even three novels a year.

Mind you, that’s two or three first drafts. But hey, you could be working on a first draft for one, then spend the next month rewriting a previous first draft, then do another first draft, then... you get the idea, leapfrogging your way to the Nobel prize, or at least greater productivity.

Denise, who lives outside Vancouver, B.C., by the way, completed two first drafts during NaNoWriMo months, both of which, after reworking, were published. **Losing Faith** in 2007, and **Never Enough** in 2012, both put out by Simon & Schuster. Were they genre? I don’t know. That’s not the point. Her success strongly suggests she knows what she’s doing, and her advice could well help you on your way to publication.

I checked this out from my local library. Haven’t read it yet, but browsing through it, I note all manner of “Aha! Why didn’t I think of that?” moments. You should check it out.

Nuclear Dragons – Jim McPherson – Phantacea Publications – www.phantacea.com



“After debating whether to release "Nuclear Dragons" on Kindle or wait until I can combine it with its companion, "Helios on the Moon", I decided to release it solo. I may still (re)combine them at some point in the future. I may also reunite the three mini-novels that make up "The 1000 Days of Disbelief" at as an e-book and (mildly) interactive PDF, but that'll have to wait, too.”

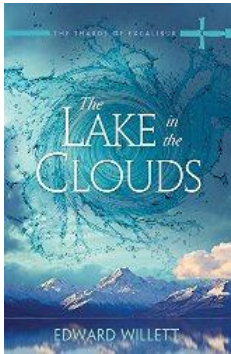
“The easiest way to get a quick read overview of all the Phantacea Mythos publications, with lynx to their various webpages, starts here: [Phantacea Publications](#)”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE (DON'T WE ALL?)

The Kelpie – by *Alyx J. Shaw*

Her short story **The Kelpie** has been accepted by Texas –based Torquere Press for inclusion in their upcoming anthology **Mythologically Torqued**.

Edward Willett posted:



“I guess it is official enough to mention: I've sold another novel to DAW Books--my eighth for that publisher. It's an as-yet untitled science fiction novel which will appear under my own name. (Yay!)”

And “My terrific editor **Matthew Hughes** has returned **The Lake in the Clouds**, Book 3 in my **Shards of Excalibur** YA fantasy series, to me. Nothing major to fix, so one more quick pass and it's off to **Coteau Book**. Publication in May!”

“And in related news, Book 4 now has a new title: it will be called **The Cave in the Sea**, and will be out this fall.”

Second Contact Anthology List of Contents Announced – [Bundoran Press](#)

– Edited by *Hayden Trenholm* and *Michael Rimer*

Second Contact is about what happens fifty years after the first contact with aliens.

Introduction by *Hayden Trenholm*

The Susans Come Home by *Barry King*

Connoisseurs of the Eccentric by *Jetse De Vries*

Soil of Truth by *Nicole Lavigne*

Wash Away on Fiant Lux by *Robin Wyatt Dunn*

Free Radical by *David Tallman*

Between the Worlds by *Jordan Moore*

A Girl and Her Tentacle Monster by *Naomi Libicki*

As Below, So Above by *Matt Moore*

This Beautiful Creature by *Morgan Crooks*

Translator by *Albert Nothlit*

Grief by *Karen Anderson*

Strong Arms Be Our Conscience by *Andrew Barton*

Windigo by *David Yeh*

The Peace of the Worlds by *Jaime Babb*

Get the Message by *Peter Wendt*

Scar Tissue by *Coleen Anderson* and *Rhea Rose*

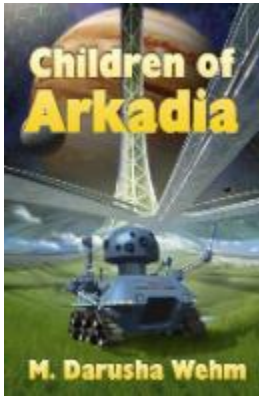
Stitch by *Liz Westbrook-Trenholm*

Look, Don't Touch by *Holly Schofield*

Afterward by *Michael Rimar*

The above are writers from five countries – Canada, the USA, England, Mexico & the Netherlands.

Children of Arkadia – by **M. Darusha Wehm** – Coming soon! (April 2015) [Bundoran Press](#)



Pre-order will be shipped when Available.

Kaus wants nothing more than to be loved while its human counterpart, Raj Patel, believes fervently in freedom. Arkadia, one of four space stations circling Jupiter, was to be a refuge for all who fought the corrupt systems of old Earth, a haven where both humans and Artificial Intelligences could be happy and free.

But the old prejudices and desires are still at play and, no matter how well-meaning its citizens, the children of Arkadia have tough compromises to make.

When the future of humanity is at stake — which will prove more powerful: freedom or happiness? What sacrifices will Kaus, Raj and the rest of Arkadia's residents have to make to survive?

Contagion: Eyre – by **Alison Sinclair** – Coming soon! (April 2015) [Bundoran Press](#)

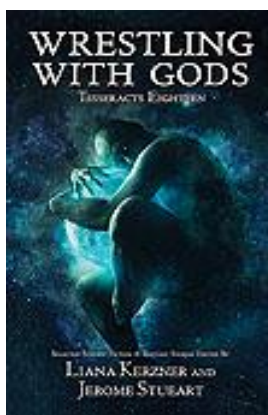


Pre-order will be shipped when Available.

Eyre has survived the collapse of the galactic empire better than most of the lost colonies with a central government, a world trade network, an effective medical system. And a pathological fear of death. When the medical re-contact ship, Waiora, arrives, with its dual mission of finding the plague and stabilizing surviving colonies, its crew is quickly immersed in a religious schism that endangers their mission and threatens their survival. As a mysterious contagion terrorizes the city and incites revolution against the Caducean Order, the Waiorans must choose between the success of their mission and their most deeply held values.

Wrestling with Gods (Tesseract Eighteen) – edited by **liana Kerzner & Jerome Stueart**

– [Edge Publishing](#)



A mechanical Jesus for your shrine, the myths of cuttlefish, a vampire in residential schools, a Muslim woman who wants to get closer, surgically, to her god, the demons of outer space, the downside of Nirvana. The 24 science fiction and fantasy stories and poems included in Tesseract 18: Wrestling with Gods take their faith and religion into the future, into the weird and comic and thought-provoking spaces where science fiction and fantasy has really always gone, struggling with higher powers, gods, the limits of technology, the limits of spiritual experience.

- Cover art by **Dracorubio**
- Introduction: [Jerome Stueart](#)
- Mecha-Jesus by [Derwin Mak](#)
- Come All Ye Faithful by [Robert J. Sawyer](#)
- A Hex, With Bees by [Tony Pi](#)
- The Queen in the Poplar Forest by [S. L. Nickerson](#)
- A Cut and a Prayer by [Janet K. Nicolson](#)
- Under The Iron Rain by [John Park](#)
- The Shadows of Gods by [Mary-Jean Harris](#)

- The Machine by [David Clink](#)
- Burnt Offerings by [Mary Pletsch](#)
- Ascension by [Jennifer Rahn](#)
- The Faith Circus by [Alyxandra Harvey](#)
- The Seven Creations by [Halli Lilburn](#)
- The Rev. Mr. Alline Encounters an Uncommon Light by [John Bell](#)
- The Harsh Light of Morning by [David Jón Fuller](#)
- Summon the Sun by [Carla Richards](#)
- So Loved by [Matthew Hughes](#)
- The Moral of the Story by [J. M. Frey](#)
- Soul Survivor by [Steve Stanton](#)
- Exoplanet IV by [Erling Friis-Baastad](#)
- Chromatophoric Histories of the Sepiidae by [James Bambury](#)
- Ganapati Bappa Moriya by [Savithri Machiraju](#)
- Abominatio by [Jen Laface](#) and [Andrew Czarnietzki](#)
- When Bone Ships Sailed the Stars by [David Fraser](#)
- The Last Man on Earth by [Suzanne M. McNabb](#)
- Where the Scorched Man Walks by [Megan Fennell](#)
- Afterword: [Liana Kerzner](#)

Release Dates:

E-book: February 26, 2015

Exclusive to KINDLE until February 24, 2015

CANADA: March 15, 2015

USA: April 15, 2015

Expiration Date – edited by *Nancy Kilpatrick* – [Edge Publishing](#)



Modern lives seem littered with expiration dates. Packaging tells us when our food will go bad; when we can expect appliances to cease functioning; when contracts for the internet finish! But as annoying as these small expiration dates are, they fade to nothing compared to the larger events: when a species goes extinct; when a body of water evaporates, or dies because the PH balance alters; when giant icebergs break apart and glaciers melt forever, threatening the ecosystem of this planet.

From the micro to the macro in terms of expirations, we are faced with the one termination with which we are all too familiar— the up-close-and-personal end of life for each of us and for the ones we love. It's the personal that terrifies us most because it feels the most real.

Nancy Kilpatrick has gathered together twenty-five original stories by *Kelley Armstrong*; *Nancy Holder* & *Erin Underwood*; *Steve and Melanie Tem*; *Lois Gresh*; *Gar and Judy Reeves-Stevens*; *Daniel Sernine*; *Paul Kane*; *Sephera Giron*; *Kathryn Ptacek*; *Steve Vernon* and others to look at the what-if's of our expiring future.

Release Dates:

E-book: March 1, 2015

Exclusive to KINDLE until April 12, 2015

CANADA: April 15, 2015

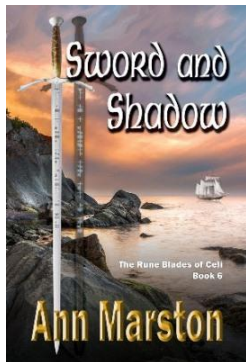
USA: May 15, 2015



In the upcoming Spring 2015 issue:

- **Krista Wallace**, winner of the 2014 Raven Cover Story Contest, with ‘**The Inner Light**’, and runner up **Anna Belkine** with ‘**The Ravens**’, to go with the marvelous cover by **Tais Teng**.
- Women you don’t want to mess with: the seemingly normal and unassuming Jane from **Laura Kostur’s** ‘**Super**’, and the entrancing subject of ‘**The Naked Woman**’ by **Theric Jepson**.
- ‘**The Manufacturing of Sorrow**’, ‘**Beauty Takes Care of Itself**’, and a handful of breathtaking 50 word stories by **Bob Thurber**.
- Warm your heart at ‘**The Love Offices**’ by Kirsty **Favell**, and step into another world **with FJ Bergmann’s** ‘**Opening Doors**’.
- Poetry and poetic short fiction by **Kate Austin** and **Tobi Cogswell**.
- Television at its worst with **Sue Pieters**.
- Two mini horror stories to send shivers down your spine: **Ev Bishop’s** ‘**Not All Magic is Nice**’, and ‘**Bite**’, another five-page comic by the talented **Kris Sayer**.
- The next verses of **Allaigna’s Song** by **JM Landels**.

Sword and Shadow – by **Ann Marston** – Five Rivers Publishing – [Available here](#)



Book 6 of **Ann Marston’s** epic series **The Rune Blades of Celi**. Will be released March 1st.

The tale continues generations after the initial **Kingmaker’s Sword**, and now the bold Celae have lived in exile, banished from their enchanted isle of Celi by the Somber Riders, whose leader, a dark sorcerer, cast an evil spell no trespasser can survive. But a glorious legend promises victory for the exiles. Two twins — princes of royal blood and secret birth — will take the Celae back home.

This is a beautifully drawn tale, with characters who rise off the page, a perfect novel for a cold winter’s cuddle in your favourite chair, or a summer haunt in the shade of a whispering tree.

The cover is by Five Rivers’ artistic director, **Jeff Minkevics**. Now available for pre-order.

MAGAZINES (WHERE THEY KEEP THE HIGH EXPLOSIVES)

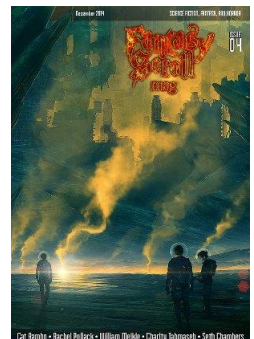
Fantasy Scroll Magazine – (#4) December 2014 – [Find it here](#)

Editorial

- **Issue 4 Introduction** – by **Iulian Ionescu**

Fiction

- **Circus in the Bloodwarm Rain** – by **Cat Rambo**
- **Forever** – by **Rachael Pollack**
- **The Dragonmaster’s Ghost** – by **Henry Szabranski**
- **Restart** – by **William Reid**
- **Feeling All Right** – by **Richard Zwicker**



- **Universe In A Teacup** – by *Seth Chambers*
- **Skipping Stones** -- by *Erin Cole*
- **Incriminating Evidence** – by *Charity Tahmaseb*
- **Posthumous** – by *James B. Willard*
- **Your Cities** – by *Anaea Lay*
- **Seaside Sirens, 1848** – by *Anna Zumbro*
- **#Dragonspit** – by *William Meikle*

Non-Fiction

- **Interview with Author and Editor** – by *Cat Rambo*
- **Interview with Author** – by *Charity Tahmaseb*
- **Interview with Author** – by *William Meikle*
- **Interview with Award Winning Editor** – by *Lynne Thomas*
- **Artist Spotlight: Kuldar Leement**
- **Book Review: Half a King (Joe Abercrombie)**
- **Movie Review: Interstellar (Christopher Nolan)**
- **Game: “The Edge” by Awaken Realms**

Fantasy Scroll Magazine is a bi-monthly* publication featuring science fiction, fantasy, horror, and paranormal short-fiction. Besides our regular issues, we also publish one annual anthology containing all original stories from the previous year.

The magazine is published by [Fantasy Scroll Press, LLC](#), and it's a sister site of **Fantasy Scroll**, a [fiction writing blog](#) that publishes tips, information, and resources for writers.

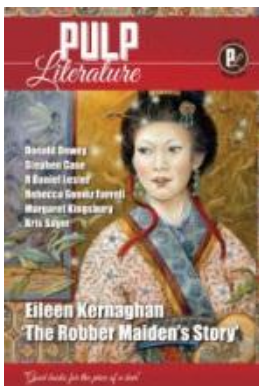
Both projects are the brain prodigies of [Julian Ionescu](#), a.k.a. yours truly. I am a science fiction and fantasy writer and I enjoy to give back to the community. As an aspiring writer, I was faced with the difficulties of making my works known to the world, so I decided to donate a portion of my time, money, and sweat to help others have an easier ride.

By launching this science fiction and fantasy magazine, I hope to give voice to some new, talented writers, and publish excellent stories that will stand the test of time.

*) During 2014, FSM operated as a quarterly magazine, but starting with 2015 it has become a bi-monthly publication.

Pulp Literature Magazine (#5) Winter 2015 – [Pulp Literature Mag](#)

- We dare you to be held captive by *Eileen Kernaghan*'s ‘**The Robber Maiden's Story**’, and then try to escape alongside the intrepid Stella Ryman as she attempts a jailbreak in **The Four Digit Puzzle** by *Mel Anastasiou*.



- Next, travel by boat and by bus to places you'd rather not go, with the fantastical ‘**Polycarp on the Sea**’ by *Stephen Case* and the gritty detective Finley in ‘**The Pledge**’ by *Donald Dewey*.

- Three pulp poems by *Mark J Mitchell* will prepare you for the cruel transformations of ‘**Thlush-a-lum**’ by *Rebecca Gomez Farrell* and ‘**Some Say the World Will End in Fire**’ by *R Daniel Lester*.

- These are followed by a few stories of wishing for more, in ‘**A Discussion of Keats’s Negative Capability**’ by *Susan Pieters* and *Margaret Kingsbury’s* ‘**The Longing is Green when Branches are Trees**’.
- A treat lies in store as we publish the winners of the first annual Hummingbird Prize for Flash Fiction, followed by the short, sharp horror cartoon ‘**Bait**’ by *Kris Sayer*.
- For dessert, we hope you’ve saved room for the next installment of *Allaigna’s Song*. It’s the perfect way to round out a good family feast.
- All this beneath a beautiful new cover entitled “**Fondly Remembered Magic**” by our first cover artist *Melissa Mary Duncan*.

On Spec Magazine (#98) Vol. 26 #3, Fall 2014 – [On Spec](#)



Features the following articles:

Fiction

- **Chance Encounters** – by *Janet K. Nicolson*
- **A Primer on the Ins and Outs of Building Bliss** – by *Brent Knowles*
- **Walk the Dinosaur** – by *Jayme Allen*
- **Sunchild Blues** – by *Al Onia*
- **Downtime** – by *Melanie Martila*
- **A Little Leavening** – by *Allan Weiss*

Non-Fiction

- **The Future of On Spec and the Challenges We Face** – by *Dianne L. Walton*
- **Harlan Ellison is Alive and Well and Living in California** – Editorial by *Dianne L. Walton*
- **Jeff Ward artist interview** – by *Cat McDonald*
- **A Chance encounter with Janet K. Nicolson** – interview by *Roberta Laurie*

Feature

- **Cajun Style** – poem by *Lynne M. McLean*

Clarkesworld Magazine (#101) February 2015 – [Clarkesworld Magazine](#)

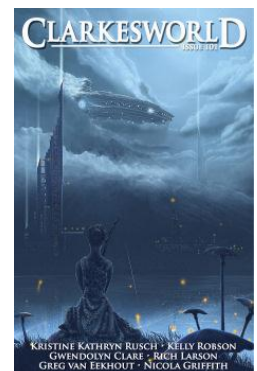
Kelly Robson My SF story *The Three Resurrections of Jessica Churchill* is up at Clarkesworld. The CanCon is strong with this one. Perhaps one of the few SF stories set in Prince George, BC.

FICTION

- **The Last Surviving Gondola Widow** – by Kristine Kathryn Rusch
- **Indelible** – by Gwendolyn Clare
- **The Three Resurrections of Jessica Churchill** – by *Kelly Robson*
- **Meshed** – by *Rich Larson*
- **The Osteomancer's Son** – by *Greg van Eekhout*
- **It Takes Two** – by *Nicola Griffith*

NON-FICTION

- **What in the World Do They Want, Anyway? The Myth of the Friendly Alien** – by *Mark Cole*



- **A Little Paranoia: A Conversation with Liza Groen Trombi** – by *Alvaro Zino Amaro*
- **The Spurred Storyteller: A Conversation With Tang Fei** – by *Ken Liu*
- **Another Word: YA is the New Black** – by *Dawn Metcalf*
- **Editor's Desk: The Next Hundred** – by *Neil Clarke*

PODCASTS

- **The Last Surviving Gondola Widow** – by *Kristine Kathryn Rusch* read by *Kate Baker*

ART

- **Lady and the Ship** – by *Atilgan Asikuzun*

BIZARRE BAZAAR: THE DREAMQUEST OF ASPIRING AUTHORS

FIVE RIVERS PUBLISHING OPEN TO UNSOLICITED SUBMISSIONS

This only happens once a year during the first two weeks of February (presumably ends February 14th).

Email your query letter along with a synopsis and first 30 pages of the manuscript to [Submissions](#), in DOC or DOCX format, Times New Roman 12 pt typeface, double-spaced, 1" margins. Do not under any circumstances use any of Word's built-in formatting for chapters, headers, etc. We will only strip it out, and having to do so will make us cranky. Be sure to include your full (real) name, mailing address, and email address in your query letter.

Every effort is made to respond within two to six weeks, although it may occasionally take longer. No hard copy submissions can be accommodated: hard copy submissions will be returned unopened.

Do not send ZIP files. Do not send PDF files.

There are no reading fees required.

We seek novels that are solidly plotted and character driven, with an emphasis on Canadian culture and settings, although not necessarily, in the following categories:

- Fantasy: We tend to favour cultural and historical fantasies that reflect Canadian mores, although borrowing from other cultures is part of our multicultural nature. Examples would include *The Tattooed Witch*, *The Runner and the Wizard*, and *From Mountains of Ice*.
- Science fiction: We're looking for original concepts from a Canadian perspective. An excellent example would be *North by 2000+*, as well as 88.
- Horror and Paranormal: Again, we're looking for original concepts from a Canadian perspective, with solid narrative and characterization. It would be wise not to send us a clone of any of the current trends out there. Surprise us. Engage us. Works such as Caitlin Sweet's *The Pattern Scars* are the sort of horror that capture our interest.
- Speculative: We are absolutely keen about authors who push the borders of fiction and concepts, though again we are looking for a Canadian perspective, insight or flavour. Examples would include: *Black Wine*, and *Indigo Time*.

We also publish mystery, historical, YA and mainstream, should readers of Auroran Lights happen to have one of those genres in their bottom drawer.

(The Graeme – This is very short notice, but if you happen to have a completed novel and are wondering where to send it... write that query and synopsis and send it off with the first 30 pages! Do it now!)

FANTASY SCROLL MAGAZINE OPEN TO SUBMISSIONS – [Find it here](#)

Our magazine publishes speculative fiction. We are not a literary fiction zine. We publish fantasy, science fiction, and horror stories, and we are pretty much open to all sub-genres or combinations thereof.

We are not a market for erotica and we won't accept anything that is unnecessarily gory, but we will publish stories that test the boundaries and stretch the imagination outside of the usual.

We do not favor one genre over the other. We are simply looking for great stories. Period.

If you are ready to submit your story please see our [submission guidelines](#).

If you want to read even more about how our magazine started, please check our [Issue 0](#) where our [Editor-in-Chief, *Iulian Ionescu*](#), talks about what Fantasy Scroll Magazine is all about.

If you want to learn more about the types of stories that we are looking for, read our [science fiction guidelines page](#), and our [fantasy guidelines page](#).

What Is Our Mission?

Do we publish everything? Certainly not. It's a misconception that a new publication will have lower standards just to get started. Our mindset could not be further from the truth.

- **High Quality** – we are looking for well written speculative fiction. In other words we are looking for a great story.
- **Entertaining** – We want the readers to enjoy your stories. They should be taken on a journey to places they have never imagined and return to reality filled with satisfaction.
- **Thought-Provoking** – Last, but not least, we are also looking to publish stories that give a different perspective on various aspects of life, stories that make the readers raise a brow and go '*Hmmm... that's an interesting thought.*'

Fiction Submission Guidelines

To submit fiction to Fantasy Scroll Mag, please read the instructions below. Once you are familiar with these guidelines you can jump to our [story submission form](#).

What Are We Looking For?

Fantasy Scroll Mag is seeking original science fiction, fantasy, and horror stories, regardless of sub-genre. We want great stories and grand characters!

Here are the lengths we currently accept:

Microfiction: < 500 words

Flash Fiction: 500 – 1500 words

Short Stories: 1500 – 5000 words

At this point we are not accepting any stories longer than 5,000 words, so please only submit word counts within the specified limits.

Reprints

We do accept reprints as long as the rights have currently reverted to the author. Please specify if your work is a reprint and provide us with the information about the original publisher. We prefer reprints that are not currently available for free online. However, on a case by case basis, we might accept reprints that are available online, but we are probably not going to accept something that was published very recently. If you are in doubt, submit and we will respond promptly.

Simultaneous Submissions

We do accept simultaneous submissions, but if your story is accepted elsewhere, please do us the courtesy and let us know right away.

Multiple Submissions

We do not accept multiple submissions. Please wait until we respond to one piece before you send another. Do not re-submit the same piece, unless we specifically ask for it.

Payment

Fantasy Scroll Mag pays 1 cent per word for original fiction, with a minimum \$5 for microfiction and \$10 for flash fiction and short stories, respectively. Our goal for the future is to become a pro market and provide pro payments. At this point we are running a Kickstarter Campaign to help bridge that dream (information to follow). For reprints, we pay 1 cent per word with no minimums.

Formatting

We accept stories formatted in the [standard manuscript format](#). Summary:

Font: Times New Roman or Courier New, 12 pt

Paragraph: Indented, double spaced

Margins: 1 inch all around

We are not extremely strict on the format, but please, please: no more double space after the period. It's not needed.

Make sure you include your contact information in the header of the story. If your story is a reprint or a simultaneous submission, please include that information in the cover letter.

Submitting

To submit your story, we will ask for your name, email, story title, word count, story genre (fantasy, science fiction, horror, other), the story file, and an optional cover letter. We accept files in the following formats: **.doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt**. We strongly recommend you to name your file as follows: **[Name]_[Title].doc**. **We prefer .doc and .docx files, because we use Track Changes to do our edits.** The cover letter is optional, but if you do include one, add a short bio (up to 200 words). If your story is accepted we will create an author page for you where the bio will be displayed. To submit the story (after you read everything else below!) go to our [story submission form](#).

Response Times

We are doing our best to respond to everyone within 60 days. Most likely we will respond much faster. When you submit a story you will receive a receipt confirmation to your email. If you do not receive a confirmation

within 48 hours please send us an email right away at queries (at) fantasyscrollmag (dot) com. If 60 days had passed and you haven't heard from us, please query us at the same email address.

What we do NOT publish

Sexual themes and stories with strong sexual content are acceptable, but Fantasy Scroll Mag is not a market for erotica, so use your judgment.

We accept horror stories, but we will not publish anything of a particularly high gory nature, especially for no apparent reason.

No stories about child abuse and/or child sexual abuse.

Watch the language: we are not prudes, but a story filled with curse words just for the shock effect is not something we are looking for. Again, use your judgment.

No "vignettes" or slice-of-life type of stories. Whereas we understand their value, we do not want to publish them. Make sure your stories have a plot.

No poetry.

Rights

We purchase one-time, non-exclusive electronic rights for the stories (the "Work") we accept. If your story is a reprint, we purchase non-exclusive electronic reprint rights. We do not claim serial rights; related stories are not considered serials. However, serials, once begun, must continue to completion.

"Electronic rights" include permanent archival rights. Contributors are sometimes obliged to withdraw archived works in order to fulfill contractual obligations with print publishers. That's perfectly okay. However, we make withdrawals only after the fact; we probably will not agree to limited archival rights, e.g. a week, month, year or whatever.

The Author grants the Publisher non-exclusive worldwide English Anthology rights to republish the Work or cause the Work to be republished in any book or anthology consisting of material at least 80% of which previously appeared in Fantasy Scroll Mag, and which includes works by more than three contributors. Publication in this anthology is not guaranteed. Authors may withdraw their Work from the anthology if their refusal is given in writing within 30 days of being notified of acceptance in the anthology.

All Works published in Fantasy Scroll Mag remain the property of the original author(s). All work bought must be published within one year, or all rights revert to the author.

Contract Template: [\(sample contract\)](#)

Additional Notes

Do not query for stories, just send them to us and you will receive an answer.

Before sending us your story, make sure it is in the best shape. There's nothing that turns us off faster than tipoez... See what I mean?

If you got down here, you are one of the good ones. Now you can safely go to [our story submission form](#) and amaze us with your stories!

Good Luck!

Art Submission Guidelines

To submit art to Fantasy Scroll Mag, please read the instructions below. Once you are familiar with these guidelines you can jump to our [art submission form](#).

What Do We Want?

We are looking for interesting art that complements the type of stories we publish: speculative in the science fiction, fantasy, or horror genres. We publish four times a year so we need four covers and a few images for each issue.

Since we publish speculative fiction, your art should be a match to the stories we like. We are talking about robots and dragons, castles and spaceships, swords and lasers. Anything goes; the weirder the better.

Formatting

We accept most PC-compatible file formats, such as: .jpg, .tif, .gif, .png, .pdf. Please make your submissions in 72 dpi with dimensions of maximum 800 width by 600 height. If your art is accepted, we will require a file with 200 dpi resolution. Your file should not exceed 2MB in size. Files who do not follow these rules are automatically deleted by the system.

Payments & Rights

We pay a flat \$15 for each cover image we accept and \$10 for any other images. We purchase First Serial rights and electronic rights. 6 months after purchase, most rights return to the author, but we retain the right to continue selling back issues of the magazine, the right to archive your art, and anthology rights.

How To Submit

We have a dedicated [art submission form](#) that you can use.

Non-Fiction Submission Guidelines

To submit non-fiction to Fantasy Scroll Mag, please read the instructions below. Once you are familiar with these guidelines you can jump to our [non-fiction submission form](#).

What are we looking for?

We want interesting articles that are related to science fiction, fantasy, horror, and paranormal. These could include relevant book and movie reviews, analysis of the publishing business, descriptions of conferences, and so on.

What are we most likely to accept?

We love to read, but we obviously can't read everything under the sun, so one thing that we are mostly interested in are book reviews. However, we do not want overly critical book reviews; we don't want to hear why you hated a book, we want to hear why you loved a book. And the same goes for movie reviews.

We are also somewhat science geeks, so we'd love to read some articles related to science.

What we don't want?

Interviews – we are conducting our own interviews for the magazine. If you are an agent or a writer and want to suggest us an interview, please contact us.

Rants about anything – we don't care about them, we won't publish them.

Direct attacks of people or ideas.

Alternative awards or why you think awards were wrongly awarded.

Payments & Rights

We pay a flat \$10 per published article. We purchase First Serial rights and electronic rights. 6 months after purchase, most rights return to the author, but we retain the right to continue selling back issues of the magazine, the right to archive your articles, and anthology rights.

Length & Format Considerations

We prefer articles that are at most 1,000 words, but we will accept articles up to 2,000 words. Please do not send anything longer than that. Submit your articles in standard format.

How To Submit

We have a dedicated [non-fiction submission form](#) that you can use.

Support

For now, Fantasy Scroll Mag is a token payment market and all content is posted for free. We hope that sometime in the near future we will be able to pay pro-rates, but until then, we are working hard at building this magazine from the ground up.

Read about the various ways you can [support us](#).

Any donations from you will help us grow faster and better. Thank you!

THE PLAYGROUND OF LOST TOYS ANTHOLOGY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

Editors: *Colleen Anderson* and *Ursula Pflug* – [Lost Toys Anthology](#)

“Usually at least once in a person’s childhood we lose an object that at the time is invaluable and irreplaceable to us, although it is worthless to others. Many people remember that lost article for the rest of their lives. Whether it was a lucky pocketknife, a transparent plastic bracelet given to you by your father, a toy you had longed for and never expected to receive, but there it was under the tree on Christmas... it makes no difference what it was. If we describe it to others and explain why it was so important, even those who love us smile indulgently because to them it sounds like a trivial thing to lose. Kid stuff. But it is not. Those who forget about this object have lost a valuable, perhaps even crucial memory. Because something central to our younger self resided in that thing. When we lost it, for whatever reason, a part of us shifted permanently.” – Jonathan Carroll

GUIDELINES:

Our childhood toys embodied our emotions. We just knew our favourite doll loved us, and that our toy soldier was as brave as we would be if given the chance.

A child easily attributes magical powers, personality or secrets to a coloured stone or a twisted stick, but don’t we continue to do so as adults, just in different ways? Certain objects accrue power from the home or the landscape, absorbing our dreams and wishes, and the elemental energies that lie buried in a sandbox, hidden in the closet, or in the bole of a tree.

Stories should touch on wonder, mystery, dread, awe: the delight when a strange toy appears, or loss when a cherished plaything is broken. A tale might, for example, explore the classroom ritual of show and tell, or the lost and found box in the corner of the gym in the moon colony.

Toys are often gendered so that beloved hockey stick might belong to a girl and the flying figure skates to a boy. Dolls reflect not just societal notions about gender but also about diversity; Mattel, for example didn't issue a black Barbie till the late 60's and then amidst controversy. These tensions can all be rich sources of speculative inspiration!

What if there was a Matryoshka doll where each smaller container held mysteries to the seven wonders of the world, or a toy spaceship that entered other dimensions? Imagine a paper fan that controls the wind, a whistle that calls back the dead, a Chinese tiger hand puppet that protects. While these suggestions are fantastical, we also want stories about "normal" toys in science fictional or fantastic settings. Additionally, the toy itself needs to appear or disappear, to be "lost" or "found." This need not be the core of the story arc, but it should be an element.

Speculative subgenres from steampunk to magic realism will be considered. Excessive gore will be a hard sell. Sex is okay, if it's integral to the story. Tales that are multi-faceted and go beyond a simple nostalgic trip down memory's lane will have a better chance.

We also look to make this volume dynamic in its scope of stories and storytellers, so encourage submissions from Francophone, Culturally Diverse (persons of colour), New-generation (18-30 years-of-age), QUILTBAG (LGBT), and Disabled writers (the publisher has a mandate to publish diversity). At least 90% of the authors must be Canadian (or pay taxes in Canada); we can consider only a small percentage from other locales.

SUBMISSION LENGTH:

Original, unpublished prose up to 5,000. Slightly longer are okay but query for longer lengths. No reprints, no multiple submissions. Canadian spelling. Please follow standard manuscript format. If you don't know what that is google William Shunn's manuscript format. If we reject your story before the deadline, you're welcome to send another.

PAYMENT: .05/word

SUBMISSION PERIOD: Feb. 1, 2015-Apr. 30, 2015 (midnight PST)

RIGHTS: English World rights, one-year exclusive print and digital, non-exclusive reprint rights

PUBLICATION DATE: Nov. 2015 (tentative)

CLOUDSCAPE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: **"EPIC CANADIANA" COVER GALLERY**

Epic Canadiana #2, Cloudscape's second anthology of Canadian superheroes, will be coming out later this year, and we want it to include a gallery of fake superhero comic book covers. If you're interested in being a part of Cloudscape's latest anthology, send in your design!

The deadline for all covers is **May 1st**. Send all submissions and questions to [Bevan Thomas](#). Anyone who lives in or has lived in Canada is free to submit.

What We Want

A cover of a Canadian comic that never existed. The image should include a title, cover price, and all the other things required for a comic cover. The hypothetical comic could be from any appropriate time period – modify the general look and price accordingly (such as a comic supposedly from the 1960s having a 10 c price).

The cover image must include at least one hero or villain. The characters featured on the cover could be already established members of the Epic Canadiana “world” or could be entirely new characters. They could also be historical Canadian figures (such as a crime-fighting Prime Minister Mackenzie King). Either the cover should be depicting a place somewhere in Canada or the characters themselves should be Canadian (or both).

Page Format

The page should be 300 dpi. It should be in black-and-white (gray shades are acceptable).

1. **Full Bleed Size:** 7 inches wide x 10.5 inches high.

These are the dimensions that the page files you send to us **MUST** be.

2. **Trimmed Size:** 6.75 x 10.25

This is the size that your comic will be after it has been printed and trimmed.

3. **Live Area:** 6.25 x 9.75

GUEST ARTICLES, MINI-ESSAYS, & OTHER FROTH

I thought **Note:** Articles, essays, & reviews eagerly sought. 1000 words maximum. Unpaid work, but lots of egoboo.

SUCCINCT ADVICE

By Matthew Hughes

(Reprinted with Permission from [Matthew Hughes](#))

Advice we would give to young folks setting out to write SF.

1. You think it's your story because you're writing it; in fact, it's the characters' story, and you're just writing it for them. In other words, start with the characters' situations and needs, and your story will stay centred.
2. If you know what your story's about, at the thematic level, well below plot, you'll know how it has to end, and you won't get lost in the plotting. Forex, a love story ends with the lovers united forever or tragically separated, a revenge story ends with the hero taking or forsaking revenge, a quest adventure ends with the hero reaching the goal or discovering, through the life-changing events of the journey, that the goal is not the true grail.
3. Conflict is the universal tool of fiction writing. Every story is built around a conflict, posed as a dramatic question and ultimately answered by the climax; every scene is built around a lesser conflict, the answer to which is yes, no, or not yet. Infodumps and lengthy scenic descriptions, as perpetrated by people who think the attraction of a story is its setting or world-building, are just travel writing. Conflict — character vs character, character vs environment, character vs him/herself — is what makes story.
4. Every story begins with an initiating incident. Something happens that is out of the ordinary for the character's normal situation, no matter how extraordinary that situation might seem to us. From then on, the story is about how the character deals with the conflict that started with that plot point. Smart

writers, especially those trying to interest agents and editors in their first saleable work, put that incident on page one and work in the setting and the backstory as the action continually moves forward. In other words, start your story where the story starts. Or in the words of Louis Lamour: have your hero in trouble on page one.

On Dialogue

As with character, so with dialogue — it is not actual speech. You edit out the nonessentials — the you knows, the likes, the ers and ums.

It's also not a matter of lengthy set piece speeches — convert lengthy stuff to indirect dialogue (ie, narrative paraphrasing). Especially if you want to convey something about the character that he would not blurt out about himself. When a character can't say what he wants to say, you've got a nice bit of conflictedness. Cut away from the dialogue to show detail of action, setting, and character.

Stylize your characters' ways of speaking — a character may speak in short bursts, or may repeat certain catch phrases, or use fanciful constructions, or rhetorical questions — you pick what fits the character.

Dialogue is always part of a scene, and what is at the heart of every scene? Conflict. Every dialogue is a conflict, overt or subtle, inner or outer.

Dialogue tags

Simple: he said, she asked, he told her, she wanted to know. Don't use grumbled, hissed, stated, expostulated, purred.

Adverbial: he said, sadly. Don't do this. The emotional tone of the line should be clear from the words themselves and the situation of the characters.

Accompanying action: "Give me that," he said, his hand closing around the barrel of the gun.

Cueing action: She closed her eyes, and said, "I can't bear this."

Contradicting action: "You want a drink?" he said, but he didn't move the bottle more than an inch toward me.

"I'm glad to see you," I lied.

Writing from within the POV character's sensorium

I've mentioned before that you can get a stronger identification between the reader and the point-of-view character if you describe setting and events from within the character's sensorium — i.e., how things feel to the character's sense of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.

A lot of beginners write from outside the character, standing back and describing everything as if they were seeing it on a screen, relying almost exclusively on how things look, with occasional sound cues. It's an easy way to get lots of words down. It can also be a hard habit to break.

So here's an exercise: have your point-of-view character awaken in complete darkness, with no idea of where he/she is. Then have him/her explore that environment with the other senses. Don't put down any descriptor that involves sight or that the character does not experience directly.

Something like this:

At first, I wasn't sure I was awake. Blackness was absolute. I could see nothing but splashes and dots of color thrown up by my own optic nerves.

I was lying face down on something cold and hard. I levered myself up, felt grit rub against my knees. I groped around me with both hands, my fingertips finding a rough level surface. Concrete, I thought. I reached as far as I could in all directions without moving, found nothing but more floor.

I rested on my heels and listened. Nothing but the high-pitched whine of silence. But I felt a cold stir on the back of my neck, a whisper of air moving the fine hairs. I shivered. I wet a finger and held it above my head, felt a chill on one side. The movement of air was from my left. I listened for a fan, but heard nothing.

While my hand was elevated, I felt for a ceiling. For all I knew, I might be in some low crawl space, with more concrete to bruise my head if I stood up. Hands aloft, I slowly rose from my knees, but there was nothing above me but more cold air.

I faced the direction that the air current was coming from. Could be a vent, could be an ill-fitting door, a cracked window. Slowly, arms out in front of me, I took a step, then another, and a third. I stopped and listened again, heard nothing. But I could feel the current of air cooling my face.

LETTERS OF EXCORIATION

(The Graeme – Aha! I finally found the “lost” file of letters that should have been printed in the last issue. Here they are.)

From: Nina Munteanu – (November 4/2015)

Another awesome issue, Graeme! When are you putting it up on your site? I want to share it with my students.

(The Graeme – I try to post it to the CSFFA site < **Prix Aurora Awards** > the day I complete a given issue, and to my archive site < **Cd. SF Zine Archive** > within another day or so. It also gets posted to the efanzines site < **efanzines** >.)

From: Gregg Chamberlain – (November 5/2014)

Very much enjoy reading the zine... hearkens me back to when I subscribed to and looked forward to receiving CANAR.

(The Graeme – CANAR? I probably know what that is but I can't remember. Getting old I guess.)

From: Susan Pieters – (November 7/2014)

Just a note of thanks for all the lovely press you gave us on your Aurora website newsletter. It is very much appreciated. We do a lot of hard work to make the magazine the best we can, and when someone recognizes that effort it boosts us.

Hope to run into you again at VCON or elsewhere.

(The Graeme – *Well, that's what **Auroran Lights** is all about; boosting genre activity be it professional or fannish. Magazines, in particular, often operate on a narrow margin. So, though I cover all magazines that are markets for Canadian writers, I want to focus on Canadian magazines as much as possible.*

I will be at VCON 40. I'll be hosting three Writers workshops again. And presenting both the Faned and the Elron Awards. Otherwise I'll just be taking it easy at the con. For sure I'll drop by the Pulp Literature Table (I assume you'll be present in the Dealers room) and hope to run into you and the other editors in the hospitality suite. Who knows? I might be at the Creative Ink Festival too. Though I lurk mostly in my den, I do occasionally crawl out into the sunlight once and a while...)

From: Victor Schwartzman – (November 9/2014)

Nice issue, love the cover. Tons of information.

So. You're writing a novel! I'm up to 45000 words. Should we have coffee and compare notes?

(The Graeme – *Ah, you refer to Jean-Pierre Normand's wonderful "Robotter on Mars" cover. I'll be using another of his works in an issue or two.*

I confess I've stalled on the novel while trying to get the hang of preparing this zine on a routine monthly basis. Not to mention developing a routine for my weekly 2,500 word fanzine review column for Amazing Stories. And a bunch of other writing stuff. Once I figure out how to banish writers block once and for all I'll get back to the novel and maybe then we can meet. Always willing to compare notes. Hah! The joke is on you! My notes are unreadable, even to me...)

And more recent letters:

From: Ron Friedman – (January 10/2015)

Thanks for mentioning my story, and for all the other tips. ☺

(The Graeme – *You are welcome!*)

From: Melissa Mary Duncan – (January 10/2015)

Thank you! Blush. I know that you asked me but it did not seem real till I saw it.

(The Graeme – *I love your art! Feel free to send more pieces to me at [The Graeme](#) to put on the cover. So far I have a number of submissions from Lynne-Taylor Fahnstalk and Jean-Pierre Normand. I'd like to rotate covers in sequence between the three of you. And do the same for other Canadian genre artists if they send me material. The more the merrier!*)

From: Robert Runté – (January 10/2015)

Have to say, this is starting to evolve into a pretty comprehensive publication. I like the market section particularly. Number of projects I hadn't known about before.

It's probably too late to include for the Feb issue, but I should mention that Five Rivers Publishing is open to unsolicited book length manuscripts the first two weeks of February each year. We are generally closed to

unsolicited manuscripts but we leave the door open that tiny crack each year to stay true to our roots (of publishing new Canadian voices) and to give writers we don't know a chance.

We also publish mystery, historical, YA and mainstream, should readers of Auroran Lights happen to have one of those genres in their bottom drawer.

Anyway, thought I should mention our open submissions period on off chance Feb issue could get out to people in time.

(The Graeme – *It certainly is too late to start from scratch, unless there are any veterans of the NaNoWriMo out there who are feeling extraordinarily ambitious. But, as you say, if they have a completed manuscript hiding in their bottom drawer, a couple of day's work can prepare a timely submission.)*

Thanks for what looks to be the new Canadian **Locus**.

(The Graeme – *Thank you for the compliment, but I certainly don't compare to the experienced journalists who put that esteemed genre industry-tradezine together. I just be a fan drifting the web hoping to net some useful or interesting factoids. My only real service is to put together a capsule of information that many pros don't have the time to research themselves. So I'm not entirely useless methinks despite what my former employers are wont to say.)*

From: [Hayden Trenholm](#) – (January 10/2015)

Thanks for that. I have some **Bundoran Press** books coming out in April – how can I get them mentioned in the next newsletter?

(The Graeme – *Well, you could send the info to me at [The Graeme](#). I did manage to get some on info on my own, hopefully concerning the items you are referring to.)*

It was nice to see the excerpt from my blog – though the link was to [Nina Munteanu's](#) blog. Not that I mind – she's a friend and can use the exposure.

(The Graeme – *Arrgh! So much for my proof reading skills. YOUR blog can be found at [Hayden Trenholm.](#)*)

From: [Lynda Williams](#) – (February 7/2015)

Congratulations on a great issue! You've really brought the Auroran Lights to life. I only just got around to reading it and wanted to let you know. I am rapidly getting a grip on my personal email after a lapse and look forward to reading the next one and sending news and articles for your consideration. Cheers.

(The Graeme – *Thanks for the kind words. But, I really must say, you're getting a grip on your personal emails? Zounds! I really must try that someday. Could prove very useful. As it is I tend to hover around the "mail box 99% full" mark... Looking forward to what news and articles you send me.)*

P.S. you have me as being from Alberta in the list of board members. I live in Burnaby, B.C. Just for future reference. No worries.

(The Graeme – *Double arrgh! Yet more proof of my proofless reading skills. It has been corrected!)*

FANDOM SECTION – BLAME EVERYBODY!



FANDOM RAMPANT

FANNISH NEWS & OTHER ALARUMS

TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) 2015 – [TAFF Ballot](#)

(The Graeme – The following duplicates the two page ballot to be filled out and mailed in its entirety.)

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in the 1950s for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of fandom. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, each vote being accompanied by a small minimum donation. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote?

Voting in the 2015 race is open to anyone active in fandom before April 2013 who donates at least £2.00 (GBP) or \$3.00 (USD) to TAFF (larger donations are gratefully accepted). Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote is counted per person, and you must give your name to the administrators. You may change your vote at any time prior to the deadline. Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **23:59 on Tuesday 7th April 2015 (British Summer Time aka UTC+1)**.

Donations:

TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money, material for auction and other relevant donations; such generosity has sustained the Fund for more than 50 years. TAFF is fandom's longest-running travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes – give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates:

Each candidate has posted a bond of £15, (or in this case a rough equivalent in Euros) promising – barring unforeseen circumstances – to travel, if elected, to the 2015 Worldcon in Spokane, Washington, USA (Sasquan, 19th August to 23rd August, 2015). Each candidate has three nominators on their side of the Atlantic and two on the other, each of whom has personally contacted the administrators with their nomination. Each candidate has also provided a platform of up to 101 words (published overleaf). **Anyone active in SF fandom can run for TAFF as long as they fulfil these criteria for the relevant race; contact your administrator about future races!**



Voting System:

TAFF uses a preference voting system similar to the system used in voting for the Hugo Awards, for instance. Voters should rank candidates in order of preference (where a rank of 1 is the voter's first preference); where relevant, this allows for the lowest-ranked candidates to be eliminated from the race and those votes redistributed according to the next ranking until one candidate has a clear majority. However, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the #1 rank votes on both sides of the Atlantic to win. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Votes will be counted according to a voter's contact address, not where they send their

ballot. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either side of the Atlantic for the purpose of this rule.

“Hold Over Funds”:

This choice, like “No Award” in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, should you feel none of the candidates deserve your support. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement: if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no trip will be held this year.

“No Preference”:

For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

How to Vote:

Either send a copy of this form with a cheque, or pay via PayPal. The minimum donation to vote is \$3 (USD) or £2 (GBP) or 3 Euros. Cheques should be made payable to “Curt Phillips” (for checks in USD) or to “TAFF” (for cheques in GBP or Euros). PayPal donations should be made to the email addresses below **indicating your contact details and your ranked voting preferences in the comments' section.** If you do not fill in the comments section, your vote may not be counted!

Send your signed and completed ballot form and donation to:

Europe: *Jim Mowatt* – cheques payable to TAFF
273 The Rowans, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6ZA
Or Paypal using email jim [at] umor.co.uk

North America: *Curt Phillips* – Cheques payable to Curt Phillips 19310 Pleasant View Dr. Abingdon, VA 24211

Or Paypal using email absarka_prime [at] Comcast.net

Enclosed is as my contribution to TAFF – minimum \$3 (USD) £2 (GBP) or 3 Euros

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide the name and contact details of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or one of their nominators) who is known to the administrators and who can vouch for you being an active fan, eligible to vote.

Active fan known to an administrator:

Signature:

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone reproducing this form should substitute their name here: **Jim Mowatt**

2015 Ballot, Europe to North America

Nina Horvath

Whatever can happen, does happen. So why not an Austrian for TAFF? – Nina Horvath is a science-fiction fan and an award winning author. She has been to conventions in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Slovakia and the Ukraine so far, but is eager to travel further. She has already written con reports quite often and will do so again with pleasure. She is eager to take up the honourable task to represent Europe's fandom in North America in a very serious way – but nevertheless hopes to find enough time for her favourite activity: Socializing with other fans over a beer.

Nominated by: David Hartwell, David Lally, Gloria McMillan, Mihaela Marija Perković, Cristian Tamas

Wolf von Witting

Has TAFF ever had a more pan-European candidate? German-Swedish-Scottish, born in Finland, married in Moscow, living in Italy. Touched by the Wand Contact 1974. First convention 1977 in Kleve, Germany. Touched by the 2nd Wand, called Fanac, in 1978 causing me over the years to produce more than 200 fanzines in three languages.

With my quarterly fanzine CounterClock I never stop striving to improve on my writing. As fan-illustrator, Atom and Rotsler have been paragons. I smuffed, filked and dabbled in fan-history. I know no greater honour than to follow in the footsteps of Walt Willis. Travel report guaranteed.

Nominated by: Arnie Katz, Ronald M Hahn, John-Henri Holmberg, Lloyd Penney, Chris O' Shea,

Please rank candidates with 1, 2, etc. where 1 is your first preference:

<input type="checkbox"/> Nina Horvath	<input type="checkbox"/> Wolf von Witting
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Over Funds	<input type="checkbox"/> No Preference

Name:

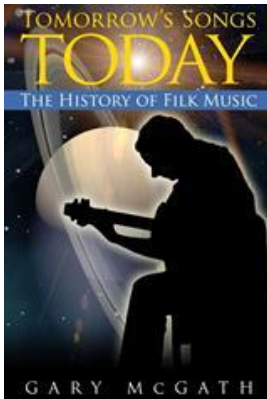
Address:

Email/phone:

TAFF may contact you regarding your ballot or to send out newsletters. We do not publish your data or pass it to any other organization.

“TOMORROW’S SONGS TODAY: History of Filk Music” released – by *Gary McGath*

The [PDF](#) version available Now. [Tomorrow's Songs Today](#)

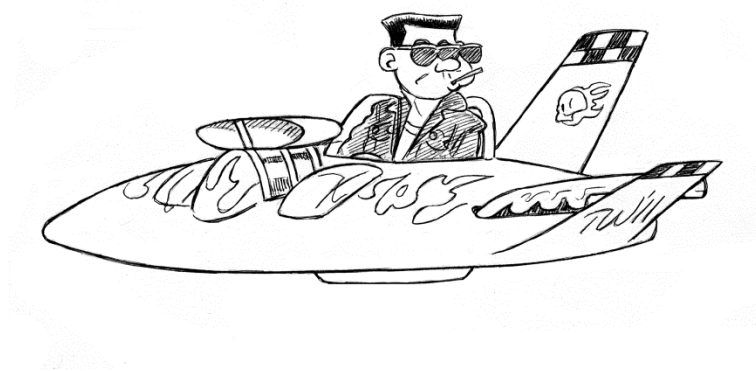


Who first published recorded filk? (It wasn't Leslie.)
Where did the word "filk" come from?
When and where was the first filk convention, and who organized it?
What was the original tune for "Mary O'Meara"?
How did Off Centaur Publications rise and fall?
How did the Pegasus Awards and the Filk Hall of Fame originate?
Why do you see so many dandelion symbols associated with filk?

You'll find the answers to these and many more questions – well, at least my answers, based on a lot of research – in **Tomorrow's Songs Today: The History of Filk Music**, available for immediate download as a free e-book!

It's been a long effort, and I owe thanks to many, many people. Terri Wells' editing and Matt Leger's cover have made it a much better product than it would have been otherwise. Beyond that, I don't want to fill this post with the huge list of acknowledgments, so just download the book and read them for yourself.

The limited print edition will follow. It's mostly to provide the promised rewards for my IndieGoGo supporters, but I'll be making some copies available for sale. It's rather expensive to produce a small run of a book and have it look good, so I have to apologize for the rather high price I'll need to set. There will also be a few tote bags available.



CANADIAN FANZINES & OTHER LOST CAUSES

As Reviewed in Amazing Stories Magazine's "The Clubhouse" Column.

By R. Graeme Cameron

"The Clubhouse" <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/> every Friday.

Fanzines reviewed: **Broken Toys** (#33), **Coronal Mass Ejection** (#4), **Ecdysis** (#4), **Swill** (#25).

(Please note: Zine reviews are prepared a week or more in advance of publication of this column and may not necessarily include the latest issue available, but the link to multiple issues given at the bottom of each review probably does.)

BROKEN TOYS (#33) – December 2014 - [Find it here](#)

Faned: **Taral Wayne**. Canadian Perzine.

Close to being a Curmudgeon zine. **Taral** fancies himself a genuine curmudgeon but is constantly betrayed by bursts of enthusiasm for this or that.



A large sum of money tucked into his roller (which Taral needs to assist his walking) fell out and disappeared. Taral manages to cope: “A few years ago I would have raged like an infuriated Chihuahua... But I get a pension now... It’s not the end of the world. I have food and there are no bills left unpaid, so I’ll just do without Caviar and Champagne this month.”

Arguably of greater concern to him, being a well-known fan artist, is the consequence of his preferred technique. He draws in pencil, then scans the finished work to distribute electronically. The scanner picks up every faint erasure and forces him to use “the paint tool or erasure to remove unwanted blurs, blemishes and blights by hand, and that takes anywhere from half an hour to an hour per piece.” That’s dedication for you!

This issue a typical fannish zine in that it runs on “soonest” time. It was meant to be the Halloween issue but came out late. This is no big deal. It is quite traditional, at least in fan publishing.

A delightful inclusion is the Canadian portion of **Jim Mowatt’s** TAFF (Trans Atlantic Trip Fund) report. He’s surprised to find aspects of Canadian life previously unfamiliar to him: “**Catherine [Crockett]** has given me something called Canadian Tire currency for the TAFF auction. It looks very much like real money, and I hear there are places that do accept it as currency. All most peculiar.” Don’t know why this comes as a surprise. I hear there are places in London that will accept Scottish Bank notes...

I particularly liked Mowatt’s comment “**Jim Caughran** and **Murray Moore** are sitting together. There’s a delightful air of ‘pair of naughty school boys’ about them. You feel that at any time they would be making rude gestures behind your back or constructing ink bombs to throw at the swotty kids in the front row.” Hmm. I’ve met Murray several times. Didn’t strike me this way. Must be Jim’s influence...

One of the strengths of the zine is its lengthy letter column (including **Lloyd Penney**), not least for Taral’s interesting responses, such as:

“I’ve puzzled by Dune’s popularity myself. I saw it as a hash of old pulp formulas that turns into hippydippy, **Philip K. Dick** shit at the end. At one point I considered whether or not the long novel was a concealed history of science-fiction, showing its evolution from sword-buckling adventure, to technocratic puzzle-solving, to druggy psychedelia, to environmental correctness. But nobody seems to see any merit in my thesis. But I have

always been fond of the Foundation Trilogy. Obviously, not for the fine writing style or brilliantly realized characters, but for something that seemed like a grand sweep of Gibbonesque history when I first read it at the age of 19 or 20. I could not recommend it to a contemporary 20-year-old.”

Broken Toys worth reading? – Definitely. Taral is a legendary fixture in Canadian zine publishing (going back to the 1970S) and has been nominated for a fan art Hugo at least eleven times! In Broken Toys you get the benefit of his decades of fannish experience and his sharp, edgy observations. Always fascinating.

(Find multiple issues of Taral Zines & [Broken Toys here](#))

CORONAL MASS EJECTION (#4) – [Find it here](#)

Faned: **Kent Pollard**. Canadian Perzine.



This is even more “soonest” than is typical for a fanzine. As Kent explains: “This was originally to be published in a fanzine in 2011 that has slowly become defunct.”

Uhhm, yeah. In my proposed 21st issue of a zine which I published on behalf of the West Coast SF Association and the VCON convention, titled “WCSFAzine.” I intended to review VCON 36 but got bogged down describing the last gasp appearance of the “Sex Life of Godzilla” lecture featuring myself, **Stan G. Hyde**, and artist Guest of Honour **Jean-Pierre Normand**. I wanted to source a video recording of the lecture but couldn’t make out any of the words as they were overlaid by the noise of someone playing the spoons, or at least that’s what the audio track sounded like. Turns out it was the clattering of blades in a sword-fight demonstration held in the next room. Sigh. Never did finish that issue.

As an aside, I won the “Fan Achievement (Fanzine)” Aurora Award for WCSFAzine in 2010. It ceased publication the following year. This happens with award-winning zines surprisingly often. Something you faneds should consider when lusting for this or that award...

Anyway, apologies to Kent.

First thing to note, his layout looks better than mine. I’m notorious for bare bones, merely plugging art into column space where available. Kent took the trouble to treat the cover as a set piece, a visual whole, with Kari-Ann Anderson’s splendid steampunk art dominating the cover and catching the eye.

I also note that interior text is mostly single column, but in one instance art is placed in the centre of the page, splitting the text into double columns for the height of the art and then resuming single column. This adds variety to the visual appeal. Something I admit I would never do. Which is why you should study zines other than mine if you want to develop your layout skills.

CME #4 is in the tradition of a con report (here covering the May 2011 Keycon in Winnipeg), a very specialized form of con report, namely a fan fund winner’s trip report, in this case CUFF, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, which promotes Canada-wide fen contact by sending an eastern fan to a western convention one year, and vice versa the next. The idea is that the CUFF winner shills like crazy for Canadian fandom, then writes up a report of his exciting adventures to inspire people to run in the following year’s CUFF election.

As CUFF winner, Kent took part in a panel with former CUFF winners **Lyndie S. Bright** and **LeAmber Kensley** to explain and explore the nature of CUFF: “Sadly, the only person to turn up just wanted to know what CUFF

was, and after a very brief description, he felt he knew all he needed to and moved on... leaving the three of us with some quiet time for conversation amongst ourselves about CUFF and fandom...”

As a former CUFF winner I am familiar with the problem. Panels about CUFF generate no interest and are not worth doing. What DOES work is to meet and mingle with fans on a one-to-one basis and enthusiastically chat up the fund. Spread the word. Don’t lecture. Converse.

A special CUFF auction featuring material and services donated by pros like **Robert J. Sawyer** and **Julie E. Czerneda** raised \$370.00 for CUFF, so kudos to Kent for organizing that.

To give you an idea how much fun Kent experienced, at one point he did something which an old fuddy like me would never think of doing. He ran out to a dollar store and a second-hand clothes store to put together a steampunk costume consisting of: army boots, ratty knee-length leather coat, top hat, goggles, red broom handle, copper pot handle, and a slinky. Can’t quite picture it, and I see no mention of receiving a costume award, but I bet it was rather striking.

As a 25 year veteran book seller, he took part in many panels on subjects other than CUFF, including one about “Grants for Writers.” Of particular interest, he quotes **Chadwick Ginther** as saying: “...grant juries tend to see ‘research trip’ as equivalent to ‘paid vacation’ and suggested substituting ‘location scouting.’” Wise words.

Coronal Mass Ejection worth reading? – Yes. Because it promotes CUFF. But also because it is a good example of a con report fulfilling its role, i.e. revealing everything neat and nifty about a convention and the people involved. While this is of value to participants as a memory-lane souvenir, more importantly it conveys the flavour of the con to people who did not attend, and thus adds to fandom-wide enthusiasm for conventions in general. This is why con reports are valuable and worth doing.

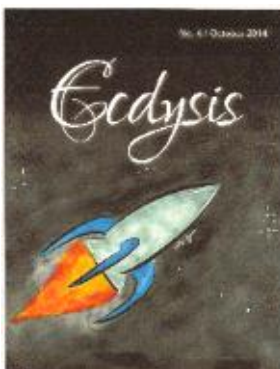
If you are contemplating launching your own zine, writing a con report is a good beginning, a first-hand experience article jumpstarting your creative juices, secure in the knowledge that many fen, being inveterate congoers, are ALWAYS interested in reading con reports. Besides, fits with the standard advice of “write about what you know.”

No **Lloyd Penney** loc because no letter of comment column. This is understandable, the issue being in the nature of a sudden impulse to publish that which was never published by a certain twit of a faned...

(Multiple issues of [Coronal Mass Ejection here](#))

ECDYSIS (#4) – October 2014 - [Find it here](#)

Faned: **Jonathan Crowe**. Canadian Serconzine.



“Sercon” as in serious constructive, meaning a scholarly zine. ECDYSIS is a fanzine aimed at fans of SF&F literature, as opposed to targeting fannish fans of fandom. In effect, a throwback to the early zines of the 1930s.

Is this a good thing? It is if you love SF&F.

For instance, in his editorial Jonathan tackles one of fandom’s eternal (and pointless) debates: “The problem here is a too-narrow definition of genre. Trying to define science fiction and fantasy is a tremendous waste of time that we nevertheless persist in indulging in. ‘*This* is science fiction; *that* is really fantasy; and *that* is actually

mainstream and I don't know why we're discussing it here."

He points out that "Fantasy is allowed to be subtle" and "Science Fiction is allowed to be literary." I agree.

I personally rely on the famous dictum "Science Fiction is what I point at and call science fiction." Good enough for me. End of debate.

Tamara Vardomskaya attended the 2014 Clarion SF&F writers workshop. Some of the advice she received surprised her (and me). Many writers' guides stress cutting first drafts to the bone to get rid of all the extraneous stuff. Tamara was advised "You need to expand this... more detail... Let the story breathe..." And as for the ending of one of her stories submitted, an ending everyone including herself hated, an ending which she wrote for the sake of clarity, she was told to "Cut it. Leave it ambiguous. Not everything has to be explained and solved and revealed. Clarity sometimes makes things worse."

The story in question, "**Acrobatic Duality**," was picked up by Tor.com before the workshop had even finished. Tamara's first professional sale. I believe this answers the age-old question as to whether workshops serve any practical purpose.

Jonathan reviews **Karl Schroeder's** novel "**LOCKSTEP, and the Problem of Non-FTL Interstellar Civilization**." (FTL = Faster Than Light.) I'm not going to give away the solution, but I agree with Jonathan that Schroeder's concept is both original and brilliant.

Tamara throws in a couple of reviews, one quite playful, the other deeply analytical. On the lighter side, **Jennifer Seeley** (who does all the art for ECDYSIS) contributes four sketch/doodles she created on her Ipad while attending authors readings at assorted conventions. A unique pastime I do believe, with delightful results.

The loc column consists of but one letter, sent in by – you guessed it – **Lloyd Penney**.

Ecdysis worth reading? – If you are an SF&F fan uninterested in SF&F literature, no. But if you love SF&F literature as I do, absolutely! Borders on semi-pro territory this fanzine does. If that is to your taste, ECDYSIS is a must read.

(Multiple issues of [Ecdysis here](#))

SWILL (#25) – Autumn 2014 - [Find it here](#)

Faned: **Neil Williams**. Canadian Perzine.



This is very much a Curmudgeon zine in that it is written by perhaps the most iconoclastic fan in zinedom. Poor lad can't help it, what with carrying on a tradition he first established in the 1980s and has now renewed with his reborn SWILL.



Let me quote from his editorial (though bear in mind he is temporising here): "In March 26th, 2014 I decided that in keeping with the unannounced theme-arc of SWILL 2014 – that of norm violation and attacking sacred cows – that the Autumn issue would be an anti-Ellison issue. On October 10, 2014, **Harlan Ellison** ® suffered a stroke, which was announced in the media on October 12th. Even I, the evil anti-fan editor, did consider changing the planned autumn 'trash Ellison' issue, due to his illness. However, as the updates continue to come in, it would appear that Ellison is recovering well, that his mind has been unaffected, and that his physiotherapy is making progress – and, he is

already writing again. As this is the situation, and, after all, as this is SWILL, there is no longer any concern, on my part, that I am kicking-someone-when-they-are-already-down. This is not as mean spirited as it sounds...”

Neil goes on to admit he admires much of Ellison’s writings, but finds Harlan’s attitude toward fans, indeed, entire generations of fans, to be reprehensible and without merit. Coming from someone who is “anti-fan” himself, this is interesting. I would say Neil considers Ellison to be “too much” of a curmudgeon.

Frequent guest editorialist **Lester Rainsford** (the title of his regular column is “**Pissing on an Old Pile of Amazings**”) carries on the theme, writing:

“Do you know that there is one person in the world who ever got ripped off by other people?... one person with the guts and the clear-headed orneriness to declare that he got ripped off and oppressed by the Man right in public?... one person in the whole entire world who has held on to Artistic Integrity when all the luddite know-nothing philistines have sold out to mammon and convenience?... and moreover has declared that he has been hard done by, and deserves the greatest of praise and respect thereby, to right the wrongs done to him?”

“Yes, Lester's modest column is so underappreciated.”

“But to hear Harlan Ellison talk about this, he is even worse done by.”

Neil and Lester and Harlan at their best (or worst?) are kindred spirits. Certainly none of them pull any punches. Not ever.

The letter of comment column features a single participant. Needless to say, **Lloyd Penney**.

Swill worth reading? – Hell, yes! If, that is, like me, you find over-the-top editorializing exhilarating and exciting. That’s why I like Ellison in full fury. Even when he’s wrong he’s vastly entertaining and guaranteed to shake you out of your doldrums. Neil and Lester likewise.

On the other hand, SWILL is definitely an acquired taste and not for everyone. If you have high blood pressure reading SWILL could give you apoplexy. So beware.

One thing’s for sure. Never a dull issue. Not one.

(Find multiple issues of [Swill here](#))

You can find a fantastic collection of zines at: [Efanazines](#)

You can find a quite good selection of Canadian zines at: [Canadian SF Fanzine Archive](#)

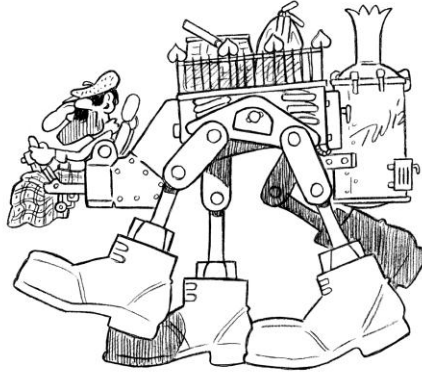
PERSONALITIES ON PARADE

Garth Spencer – the first recipient of an Aurora Award for Fan Achievement (at VCON 14 in 1986 “for editing of The Maple Leaf Rag and dedication to Canadian Fandom”) is perilously close to publishing his first fanzine in more than a year. It will be titled **The Art of Garthness**, which leads me to believe it will be very much in the nature of a perzine (personal fanzine).

FAN AWARDS (YES, THEY EXIST!)

REMINDER: 2015 FAN ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD VOTING DEADLINE

Saturday, March 14 2015 is the deadline for voting in the 2015 FAAn awards to be presented at Corflu 32 in England. These awards celebrate SF&F fanzine fandom under the categories “Best Genzine,” “Best Perzine,” “Best Fan Writing,” “Best Fan Art,” “Best Fanzine Cover” and “Best Letterhack.” The two-page ballot, with complete details and instructions, can be [downloaded from the Corflu website](#)



GUEST ARTICLES, MINI-ESSAYS, & OTHER ARGUMENTS

Note: Articles, essays, & reviews eagerly sought. 1,000 words maximum. Unpaid work, but lots of egoboo.

WHY DO I SUCK AT WRITING REVIEWS?

By R. Graeme Cameron

My regular weekly column for Amazing Stories ground to a halt in December. Apart from health reasons, I was beginning to run out of ideas, at least in terms of writing about the material on hand in my den. What to do?

I realized “The Clubhouse,” Amazing’s traditional fanzine review column, was up for grabs. I contacted editor Steve Davidson and he jumped on me and tied me down before I could change my mind. Eager he was.

But WHY write a fanzine review column? For WHOM? And to what PURPOSE?

For me the answers are obvious. No sense in preaching to the converted. I have no intention of writing the column for the benefit of other faneds. Instead I am reaching out to all the fen who regularly check out Amazing Stories because of their love of SF&F, but have never even heard of fanzines, much less read any. I seek new converts, want to inspire them to “pub their own ish.”

Trouble is, isn’t there a steep learning curve they have to get through first? The hurdle of amassing enough fannish lore and history to properly appreciate how fanzines originated and what they actually are? History, slang, famous myths and personalities and all the rest of the baggage before they can even begin to understand?

Nope.

It is my contention you don't need to know a thing about fandom in order to appreciate fanzines.

Fanzines are individual examples of a unique field of amateur literature. In and of itself a fanzine can be amusing, entertaining, and intellectually stimulating. Even the worst of fanzines often feature something of interest. Best of all, anyone can publish a fanzine. There are no professional standards (except in the minds of elitists). What counts is enthusiasm and the desire to share that enthusiasm. That's all it takes.

Of course, as you publish more and more issues, and read more and more products of other people's enthusiasm, you begin to pick up useful tips and techniques on technical aspects such as layout, editing, topic focus, visual appeal, and so on. That comes with time and experience. Learning experience.

Further, as you immerse yourself in zinedom, you begin to develop an awareness of the history and culture of traditional fandom, maybe even zoom in on areas of particular interest. Eventually you know as much as the average faned, maybe more. That's one of the perks of the culture. It is also the cart. You should start with the horse. With pubbing your ish.

However, there is no point in taking up horses if you think the "sport" is dull and boring, obsolete twentieth century junk, and old granddad stuff (which emphasizing the history tends to suggest).

Truth is fanzines are fun. Fanzines are exciting. Fanzines are a heck of a hobby, and one that connects you with numerous other people who share your enthusiasm. This is the message I hope to convey to casual readers of the column. And also that fanzines are contemporary, up-to-date, focused on the present, and are in fact what they used to call a "happening." In the moment. What's happening NOW. Not dead at all, much less a fossil. One has only to consider the sheer number of zines published every month to realize this is true.

Consequently my emphasis will be on zinedom as it currently exists. I will avoid as much as possible questions like "Isn't fandom dead? Aren't modern fans nonfans? Aren't modern zines a sad remnant of past glories? Aren't modern fan unworthy of fandom? Aren't we trufen in the last throes of decay and extinction? Why aren't modern fan worshipping us? Isn't modern fandom a pile of garbage?"

Such questions, while fodder for amusing editorials, are just a tad negative and contribute an impression among some fan that traditional fandom and fanzines are "owned" by an exclusive enclave of elitist snobs best ignored and avoided. While such individuals exist, they are far from the majority. On the contrary, most faneds have in common a great sense of humor, a keen interest in myriad topics, and a desire to communicate. People well worth getting to know.

My zine reviews will be upbeat, positive, light and breezy. A quick read full of interesting quotes. Everything designed to make the casual reader think "Hey! This stuff is great. I should look into it further."

After all, fanzine publishing is essentially a hobby. No one is going to be attracted to a hobby unless it looks like fun.

In my columns I review three or four contemporary fanzines, each provided with a link to the actual zine in question (so the reader can check out the whole of the issue) as well as a link to the entire run of the zine (if available). This way the reader can thoroughly explore a particular fan publication if they have a mind to. Or not. Depends on what strikes their fancy.

The final review in each column comes under the heading "AND FROM THE VAULTS." This be a nod to zines from the distant past. Don't intend to deliver a history lecture so much as convey the idea zines have ALWAYS been fun.

In short, my review column is not meant to be a “news” column. I want it to be a reasonably entertaining guide to “what’s out there,” a guide with the hidden agenda of convincing people the hobby is so cool they should look into it further and maybe even get involved.

For too long I’ve been emphasizing the cart. I’m switching to the horse. After all, isn’t that what horse racing is all about?

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

Source: Canadian Convention Network - <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianConventionNetwork>

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

February 13-15, 2015 - Tsukino-Con - <http://www.tsukinocon.com/>

February 27 to March 1, 2015 - GottaCon - <http://www.gottacon.com/>

March 5-8, 2015 - Vancoufur - <http://vancoufur.ca/>

March 6-8, 2015 - Vancouver Web Fest - <http://www.vancouverwebfest.com/>

March 14-15, 2015 - Terminal City Tabletop Convention - <http://www.terminalcitytabletop.com/>

May 23-24, 2015 - VanCAF - <http://www.vancaf.com/>

May 23-31, 2015 - NorthWest Fan Fest - <http://northwestfanfest.com/>

July 11, 2015 - MiniComi - <http://minicomivancouver.org/>

July 17-19, 2015 - Anime Evolution - <http://www.animeevolution.com/>

Oct 2-4, 2015 - VCON 40 - <http://www.vcon.ca/>

ALBERTA:

March 7, 2015 - Tsurucon - <http://www.tsurucon.net/>

April 16-19, 2015 - Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo - <http://www.calgaryexpo.com/>

May 8-10, 2015 - Fur-Eh! - <http://www.fureh.ca/index.html>

May 30-31, 2015 - Eek! Comic & Pop Culture Fest - <http://theeek.com/>

June (TBA), 2015 - Medicine Hat Fan Round Up - <http://www.mhfanroundup.com/>

June 13, 2015 - Nishikaze - <http://www.nishikaze.ca/>

August 7-9, 2015 - Animethon - <http://www.animethon.org/>

August 14-16, 2015 – When Words Collide - <http://www.whenwordscollide.org/>

September 25-27, 2015 - Edmonton Comic & Entertainment Expo - <http://edmontonexpo.com/>

SASKATCHEWAN:

April 11-12, 2015 - Otakupalooza - <http://www.otakupalooza.com/>

April 25-26, 2015 - Fan Expo Regina - <http://www.fanexporegina.com/>

June 13-14 2015 - Saskatoon Blitz - <http://www.saskblitz.com/>

MANITOBA:

February 22 2015 - Central Canada Comic Con(C4) - <http://www.c4con.com/>

February 28-Mar 1 2015 – Winterfest Ai-Kon - <http://www.ai-kon.org/>

ONTARIO:

February 27 – Mar 1 2015 - Gryphoncon - <http://www.gryphoncon.org/info.php>

March 13-15 2015 - Furnal Equinox - <http://furnalequinox.com/>

March 20-22 2015 - Toronto ComiCon(MTAC/MTCC) - <http://www.comicontoronto.com/>

March 27-29 2015 - Ottawa Geek Market - <http://geekmarket.ca/>

April 10-12 2015 - Ad Astra - <http://www.ad-astra.org/>

April 12 2015 - GTA Comic Con - <http://www.gtacomicon.com/>

April 16-19, 2015 - FilKONtario 25 - www.filkontario.ca.

April 24-26 2015 - Shock Stock - <http://www.grimbrothers.com/>

April 25-26 2015 - Northern Ontario Expo - <http://northernontarioexpo.com/index.php?page=home>

May 8-10 2015 - Ottawa Comiccon - <http://www.ottawacomicon.com/>

May 9-10 2015 - Toronto Comic Arts Festival(TCAF) - <http://torontocomics.com/>

May 15-17 2015 - CanGames - <http://www.cangames.ca/>

May 22-24 2015 - Anime North - <http://animenorth.com/live/>

June 5-7 2015 - Niagara Falls Comic Con - / <http://niagarafallscmiccon.com>

June 6 2015 - Stage Select Gaming Expo - <http://stageselect.ca/>

June 19-21 2015 - Faery Fest's Enchanted Ground - <http://www.faeryfest.com/>

June 26-28 2015 - Oxford Renaissance Festival - <http://oxfordrenfest.ca/>

July 2015 - Atomic Lollipop - <http://www.atomiclollipop.com/>

July 17-19 2015 - TFcon - <http://www.tfcon.ca/>

July 24-26 2015 - ConBravo - <http://conbravo.com/>

August 1-3 2015 - The Pirate Festival - <http://www.thepiratefestival.com/>

August 20-24 2015 - Camp Feral - <http://campferal.org/>

August 21-23 2015 - Kita-Kon - <http://www.kita-kon.org/>

August 27 2015 - Cornwall Tiny Con (CoTiCon) - <http://www.coticon.com>

September 3-6 2015 - Fan Expo Canada - <http://www.fanexpocanada.com/>

September 16-20 2015 - Ottawa International Animation Festival(OIAF)
- <http://www.animationfestival.ca/>

September 19 2015 - Royal Medieval Faire - <http://www.royalmedievalfaire.org/>

October 3-4 2015 - Hamilton Comic Con - <http://www.hammertowncomiccon.com/>

October 18 2015 - Forest City Comicon - <https://www.facebook.com/ForestCityComicon>

October 30 – Nov 1 2015 - Can-Con - <http://www.can-con.org/>

NEW BRUNSWICK:

May 15-16 2015 - (East Coast Comic Expo ECCE) - <http://eastcoastcomicexpo.com/index.html>

June 26-28 2015 - Animaritime - <http://www.animaritime.org/>

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR:

April 24-26 2015 - Scifi on the Rock - <http://www.scifiontherock.com/index.php>

September 25-27 2015 - Atlanti-Con - <http://www.atlanti-con.com/default.aspx>

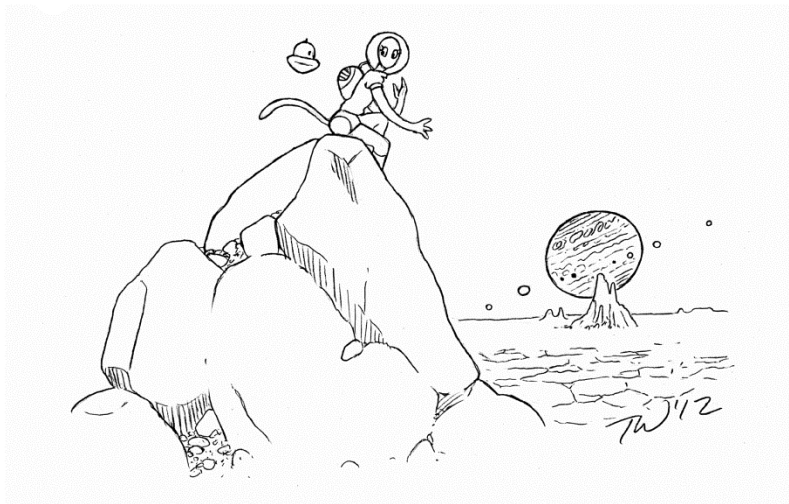
WORLD:

August 19-23, 2015 - Sasquan/73rd World Science Fiction Convention, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA. Guests: David Gerrold, Leslie Turek, Tom Smith, Vonda McIntyre, Brad Foster. For more information, www.sasquan.org.

NEWS: Tynecon III: The Corflu (Corflu 2015) will raise its attending membership rate on March 1 to £60 (US \$100). Current rate is £50 (US\$85). [Corflu website](#). (Corflu! The convention for fanzine fans. This year in England.)

After March 15 no full attending memberships will be available. Only Corflu 32 day membership rates at the door for £15 for Friday and £20 for Saturday.

Sunday participation requires full membership. No day membership will be sold due to need to provide catering numbers in advance for the Sunday Closing Ceremony lunch buffet.



OOK! OOK! SLOBBER DROOL! (FANNISH LETTERS OF COMMENT)

(The Graeme – *Aha! I finally found the “lost” file of letters that should have been printed in the last issue. Here they are.)*

From: Jenni Merrifield – (November 4/2014)

Wonderful as always Graeme.

Caught another error though: Dates for VCON 40 are Oct 2-4 (not Oct 1-3), 2015. :-)

(The Graeme – *Triple arrgh! Corrected!)*

From: Dale Speirs – (November 6/2014)

You mentioned a university that was going to digitize its fanzine collection. As I reported in OPUNTIA #285 (available at efanzines.com or fanac.org), the University of Calgary Library is going one better with the Bob Gibson SF Collection. He was a Canadian palaeofan who died in 2001 at the age of 92. His son donated Bob's collection to the U of C, which contained not only the usual books and zines but homemade anthologies of SF stories clipped from mundane magazines such as MACLEAN'S and STAR WEEKLY that no one could duplicate today.

The UCL is writing special software that can cross-correlate stories and compare them to establish trends that would be missed simply by reading them and relying on human memory. The Library is actually using the Gibson Collection, not just archiving it.

(The Graeme – *Fantastic! But what I want to know is – does his collection include all the fanzines he received over the years, or just the professional magazines?)*

When Words Collide 2014 was a successful readercon in Calgary this past August, and I enjoyed it immensely (written up in OPUNTIA #282). Not a Klingon in sight; just readers, writers, publishers, and editors all having a good time mixing. It is a small convention of about 600 people, compared to the 2014 Calgary Comic Expo which had a mob of 65,000. Details about the 2015 convention are at: www.whenwordscollide.org.

(The Graeme – *From all accounts I've heard it is a wonderful literary convention. However, I still cherish fan-run conventions open to both genre professionals and ALL types of genre fans including gamers, costumers, role-players, model-makers, and so on. Not many such conventions left, but fortunately VCON remains. Even better, the people who run it are determined to keep it the way it is. I heartily approve.*)

From: Dave Haren – (November 7/2014)

I'm still paying attention to your Amazing columns. Keep up the good work. You might want to check out Les Vampires 1915 silent movie serials in 10 parts at archive.org.

(The Graeme – *I'm a completist when it comes to genre films. I probably will.*)

I mostly read **Auroran Lights** for the fan related stuff. Still there's a lot of interesting material. I'm reading a couple of things from the self-publishing portal at project Gutenberg. This is an exercise in restraint. The phonetic impact of misspelled words means you can puzzle out the meanings but it grates the nerves. Anyone who thinks editors are just parasites on the valiant storyteller needs to read some of this stuff.

“There,” “their” and “they're” may sound alike and no spellchecker will call them out as an error.

Of course I'm spoiled by the modern methods, the olde tyme stuff was not bothered by the hobgoblins of consistency.

I blame the educational system which is a shame. **TimeRippers** is a good story so far but I have a horrible urge to correct all of the misused word versions. Maybe I should contact the author and offer to help.

(The Graeme – *I wouldn't bother. It isn't just self-published books that suffer from lack of editing. Some professional publishers seem not to employ proof readers. I suspect it all boils down to financial concerns over costs of production. Publishing still a risky business. Like it or not, the onus is on the author these days to contribute as perfect a manuscript as possible. But then, wasn't that always the case?*)

Anyway I appreciate your efforts on behalf of SF.

(The Graeme – *Thank you. I'm expecting fen to erect a bronze statue of me in the SF Hall of Fame. Or, failing that, to put up a dart board with my picture on it, possibly next to the exit.*)

From: Lloyd Penney – (November 8/2014)

I'm doing it again...time rarely allows these days for a sit-down at the computer and get a pile of locs out, and sometimes, I fall two issues behind on some titles. Such is the current case with Auroran Lights. I have issues 12 and 13 here, and it's time to get caught up.

12...Believe me, I'd like nothing better than return to Vancouver for a VCon, but money never allows, and I suspect that it never will. Nice to wish, though.

Ann Methe's passing was indeed a shock. With the end of Con*cept, we lost a lot of close contacts, and we haven't been to Montréal in quite a while. We've all lost something valuable with Ann's leaving. May we all be able to leave such a legacy and impact on the people around us.

(The Graeme – *I was privileged to meet and talk with Ann at VCON 36 in 2011. At least she lives on in the memory of those who knew and appreciated her. A legacy well earned.*)

I am not sure, I think I might be due a nominee pin, but I will rely on the Aurora management to keep track of these things. I do not know when the CanVention will be back Toronto-way, but perhaps I could pick it up then. Perhaps I might make it onto the ballot again, and perhaps I will participate again. A high tea? Now, that will get me there.

(The Graeme – *As I understand it, a nominee gets his or her pin but once, no matter how many times nominated. Otherwise I'd be wearing more than a dozen and be a bit of a burden on CSFFA finances. Do you have no pin at all? You're certainly entitled to one if that is the case. Let me know and I'll see what I can do.*)

As I roll my eyes on speculation as to who my parents might have been, I am pleased to say that I am still hacking away on all the fanzines I get. Some days, I just can't seem to keep up, but for the most part, they are still fun. After a number of years of 300+ letters per annum, I won't come close this year, but I am at least still above 200.

(The Graeme – *You are the modern Harry Warner Jr., and like him have achieved a unique status; that a fanzine, no matter where published, just isn't a legitimate fanzine unless it has received at least one letter of comment from you.*

*You've no doubt noticed that in virtually all my reviews of fanzines I mention whether or not it has a LoC from **Lloyd Penney**. This is partly a running gag of sorts, but mainly it is my not-so-subtle effort at hinting that a good way to start out contributing to zines is simply to send them letters of comment just as you do. You set a good, not to say amazing, example of fanac at its best.)*

We did indeed vend our wares at Genrecon in Guelph in October. A nice little convention, full of talented and fun-loving people. I didn't share their interests (gaming, comics, anime, Doctor Who), but that's less of a factor when you want to sell your goods, and we did sell our share. Nice convention, and we will consider going back. There are other small conventions we may go to, and also small craft shows we are looking into as well.

(The Graeme – *Conventions spawn fans. Fans spawn conventions. A great energy-exchange system.*)

13...I knew Rusty Hevelin to see him, and he me. We often talked at Mike Glicksohn's annual birthday party, and at the odd Worldcon we were both at, or even at a few Michigan conventions. It's good to see that his collection will be preserved, but it is a shame that it won't be easily accessed by other fanzine fans, the way the Eaton Collection has things set up.

(The Graeme – *I never met Rusty, but I did speak to Mike at Primemedia Con in Toronto. I showed him an early version of my Canadian Fancyclopedia with its preliminary list of Canadian fanzines from the 1930s on. Thrilled me to my very marrow when Mike, a Hugo-winning faned, commented "Jeez, I never knew there were so many." Possibly he was merely being kind and encouraging, but his words had me walking on air for the rest of the con. I remain grateful)*

Upcoming conventions...Yvonne and I will be attending SFCOntario 5, but only in the evenings. They have the misfortune of being up against the premiere of the Toronto International Book Fair, otherwise called INSPIRE!. That's where we will be spending our days.

I am sure you have heard from Rob Sawyer and others about the sudden passing of Canadian SF film maker Michael Lennick. A shame, a very talented guy with a great portfolio of films, and a pedigree going back some time in Canadian entertainment.

I cannot think of what else to put in here, so off it goes to you, just after your dinner time. Thanks for these two issues, and keep them coming, but more fan news, okay? ☺

(The Graeme – *Trying my best to gather fan news. Getting a little better I think.*)

And now more recent letters:

From: Ned Brooks – (January 10/2015)

Happy New Year! Glad to hear you are recovering from the Dread Mohocus - my brother seemed to have something similar and is now in Intensive Care.

(The Graeme – *Dang! I hope he has recovered by now!*)

But I doubt that the Germans used "chorine" gas in WWI.... Did they feed beans to chorus girls and line them up to fart downwind?

(The Graeme – *My spell-checker let me down. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.*)

From: Brad Foster – (January 10/2015)

Nice to have a little something in an issue again, I think it's been since issue #5, about three years back, since I had a contribution there. My records show you still have two fillos left from the last ones I sent, so will hold off until you have found homes for those before sending anything more.

(The Graeme – *Yes, I believe I have "Samuel" and "Zounds" as yet unused. This is an "all Taral" issue. However I will indeed find a home for your pieces, possibly in my next issue of Space Cadet which I haven't written yet and has long been overdue. Of course I see your art cropping up in zines all over the world. I stand in awe of both your talent and your output.*)

And yes, I have indeed found something of interest in the new issue. Am always looking for work, but even more so recently, with a number of bills and such to cover from the past year. So will be tracking down some of the publishers you listed this issue to see if I can find anything that actually offers money for art.

(The Graeme – *Many do, just not a heck of cash. But every bit helps.*)

Not to say that I won't still keep doing the free fannish stuff, but finding someone who can pay helps with the bills here. I've asked, and the electric and water companies have no interest at all in setting up a "service-for-fillos" type payment exchange, darn them!

From: Gregg Chamberlain – (January 12/2015)

Good issue... and what I found most interesting for me was towards the end in the Fan Activity section with the calendar listing of all the fan-related conventions scheduled at present for B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Reminds me of when I was first introduced to fandom, not that I could afford either the time or the money to travel anywhere, but I would sit and read in the 'zines about all these conventions (most of them south of the border... but also quite a few in Canada) and dream of the days when I might be able to attend a few.

Lately, I had been under the impression that the convention scene was slowly metamorphosing into the bloated entity known as the ComCon (commercial convention), and the fan-friendly local cons were dying out.

The calendar printed in **Auroran Lights**, though, gives me hope that the local con scene is still alive and kicking and will remain viable.

(The Graeme – As I mentioned before, generic fan-run cons are disappearing, but there are lots of specific-interest cons sprouting up. Whenever and wherever fen enthusiasm reaches critical mass I suspect. That's a good thing methinks.)

Now I just dream of having the time to attend.

(The Graeme – Now that I'm retired, I have less time than ever. Plus I'm on a fixed pension income and have little ready cash to even contemplate travel to far-flung conventions. I suspect more and more people find themselves in the same boat as time goes on and inflation mounts. This could lead to a renaissance of con reports enabling impoverished fen to "attend" conventions vicariously. One can hope.)

From: Ed Beauregard – (January 17/2015)

The very first group that came to mind as possible perpetrators of the chlorine incident at the Furry convention was PETA. The very word "fur" is like a red flag to them, and in many previous attacks on their targets they have shown a total disregard for injuring or killing people.

(The Graeme – I've heard disturbing things about them. You may well be correct to consider them likely suspects. On the other hand, could be an ignorant "prank" gone wrong. We'll probably never know.)

From: Eric Mayer – (January 18/2015)

Wanted to acknowledge the latest **Auroran Lights**. I don't know how you can produce such a massive zine so frequently but more power to you.

(The Graeme – But I don't, of course. Most of the material is copied from press releases and announcements. Very little is original on my part. Where I put in hours and hours of effort is in massaging everything into a consistent format that, hopefully, is relatively easy to read.)

Admittedly, since I rarely read sf, am not Canadian, and don't write sf, 98% is of no practical value to me whatsoever, but still it was fascinating to browse through all those paying Canadian sf markets.

(The Graeme – Only some of the markets are Canadian zines or publishers. While I hope to emphasize them, many if not most of the market prospects are actually American concerns, albeit ones willing to pay Canadian contributors. Few Canadian authors can afford to pass on publishing prospects outside Canada. On the other hand, there's a far greater number of small press publishers in Canada than there used to be. Progress!)

Amazing. Well, okay, not including Amazing.

(The Graeme – *But I do include Amazing. I write for them, after all.*)

Rotten about your flu. Just read that the flu shots available here in the US missed the mark this year and are effective for less than 25% of what's around.

I reckon you may have a very popular publication on your hands here. Good luck.

(The Graeme – *Thank you. I probably need it.*)

From: Lloyd Penney – (January 21/2015)

It's been a while, but with the new year comes a concerted effort to get caught up with the pile of fanzines in the e-mail or on eFanzines.com. Auroran Lights 14 is next up, and I've been looking forward to it.

I am pretty resistant to the flu, but I am sure I've got Yvonne's cold. I know I sent you a loc on issue 13, but that may have disappeared with some of the other locs. Let me know if you'd like me to find it and re-send it.

(The Graeme – *No need! I found it! As printed above.*)

In 2014, I admit I was down about the Auroras. It looked like the pros had found a way to win the fan awards, I was fed up, and it looked like my failure to nominate and vote contributed to the Fan Publication Aurora not being given out again. I won't make that mistake again. I will definitely nominate this year, and I hope I can persuade Yvonne, and others, to participate this year.

(The Graeme – *On the one hand, there's pros still behaving as fans, at least in spirit. On the other hand, the Aurora fan awards are no longer restricted to the traditional fan concepts of yore, i.e. publishing paper fanzines, writing for paper fanzines, drawing art for paper fanzines, etc. Today the Auroras embrace SF&F fans in general, most of whom have never even heard of fanzines, but do understand blogs and other modern things I'm probably completely unaware of because I'm an old curmudgeon very set in my ways. The Auroras evolve with the times. The current fan awards are for the tens of thousands of general genre fans out there, not just for the few dozen narrow-interest "traditional" fans who are now, at best, a tiny minority "niche" fandom. But this is not a bad thing.*

I'm a general interest fan. I love SF&F books, magazines, illustrations, games, collectibles, films, conventions and even, to some extent, costumes. I see nothing wrong with the Auroras catering to ALL fans.

But at the same time, as you know, I'm extremely gung ho on traditional fandom and fanzines. Hence my establishing the "Faned" awards (This will be the 5th year running) to promote traditional fanzine fandom.

In short, I don't see a conflict between "Traditional" and "General" fandoms. They co-exist within the SF&F genre and both are worth promoting the heck out of. That be my belief.)

It looks like only VCon, When Words Collide and SFContario have become the only cons interested in staging the CanVention. Could a package of information be put together to help other conventions stage the Convention? So many other cons in Canada are mostly media cons; VCon seems to be a balance between literary and media, and Ad Astra is the same, but they haven't staged a Convention since the 80s. You mention Keycon, but I've never been to that convention.

(The Graeme – *I'm not actively involved, but I do know other members of the board devote considerable effort into expanding the number of candidate conventions willing to host Canvention and the Aurora awards. Trouble is, the vast majority of SF&F conventions don't have a literary focus, as they tend to be narrow-interest cons devoted to, say, comics, or gaming, or anime, or, as you point out, media. And the medium-sized cons with balanced programs seem to be experiencing difficulty attracting newcomers to con committees these days, so they often make do with less. In short, an ongoing challenge to find willing hosts. But hey, we've managed so far. We'll keep on trucking, adapting as needed. A package of information could be useful, but it's usually one-on-one conversation that seals the bargain.*)

I didn't know that D.F. McCourt, the editor of AE, lives in Etobicoke! Maybe I should relay that information to Ad Astra and SFContario; he might be a good panelist if he isn't doing panels at those cons already.

Bravo to Art Widner for his unique FAPA status. You've got to be tough to be 97 and still be travelling to cons, and doing lots of fannish stuff.

(The Graeme – *I like to think that it is precisely BECAUSE he still travels to cons and does fannish stuff that gives him the energy and will to keep on enjoying life. There's nothing like a second childhood, I tells yah. I'm certaqinly enjoying mine.*)

The links to the FAAn ballot...could you pass that along to Felicity Walker? She asked me to find a good link for that to go into BCSFAzine 500.

(The Graeme – *Shoot! Forgot to do that. Will try shortly, as soon as I've recovered from this all-nighter putting together this issue so that it comes out no later than February 10th. Will shortly be posting this off in all directions whether the world is ready for it or not.*

Sigh. Don't think I dare fall asleep. Probably have consumed too much coffee to fall asleep anyway. Have an appointment I absolutely must keep, an 11:30 AM appointment for a cat-scan to check out my lungs, to be immediately followed by a battery of breathing tests hooked up to assorted tubing and mysteriously beeping and blinking machines. Done this before. Hopefully the results no worse than last time. Wish me luck.)

Take care, my best to Alyx, and see you next Cameronzine.

COLOPHON

Auroran Lights Issue # 15, February 2015, Volume 4 #2, Whole number 15, is the official E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, a federally registered non-profit society with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual Canvention and Prix Aurora Awards.

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INFORMATION:

For most complete and latest info go to: < [Aurora Awards](#) >

What is CSFFA?

CSFFA is a federally incorporated non-profit society which exists to promote quality Canadian speculative fiction and the fan activity that surrounds it.

Who can join CSFFA?

Membership in CSFFA costs \$10 per calendar year and entitles members to both nominate and vote.

Membership is open to all Canadians, whether citizens or Permanent Residents, and whether living in Canada or abroad.

Note: Easiest way to join is to attend Convention and/or register at: < [Aurora Awards](#) >

Don't forget to explore your fannish heritage! Check out < [Cd. SF Zine Archive](#) > to browse numerous Canadian fanzines from 1937 to the present (including a complete run of Auroran Lights), peruse the Canadian Fancyclopedia for fannish legends & lore, and find out the history of Canada's SF clubs and organizations.

Also many thanks to Bill Burns at < [efanzines](#) > for hosting AL as well.

Note: Anyone (even non-members) may submit information, short articles and mini-essays of 500 words or less, letters of comment, art fillos and/or cover art to the Editor at < [The Graeme](#) >

