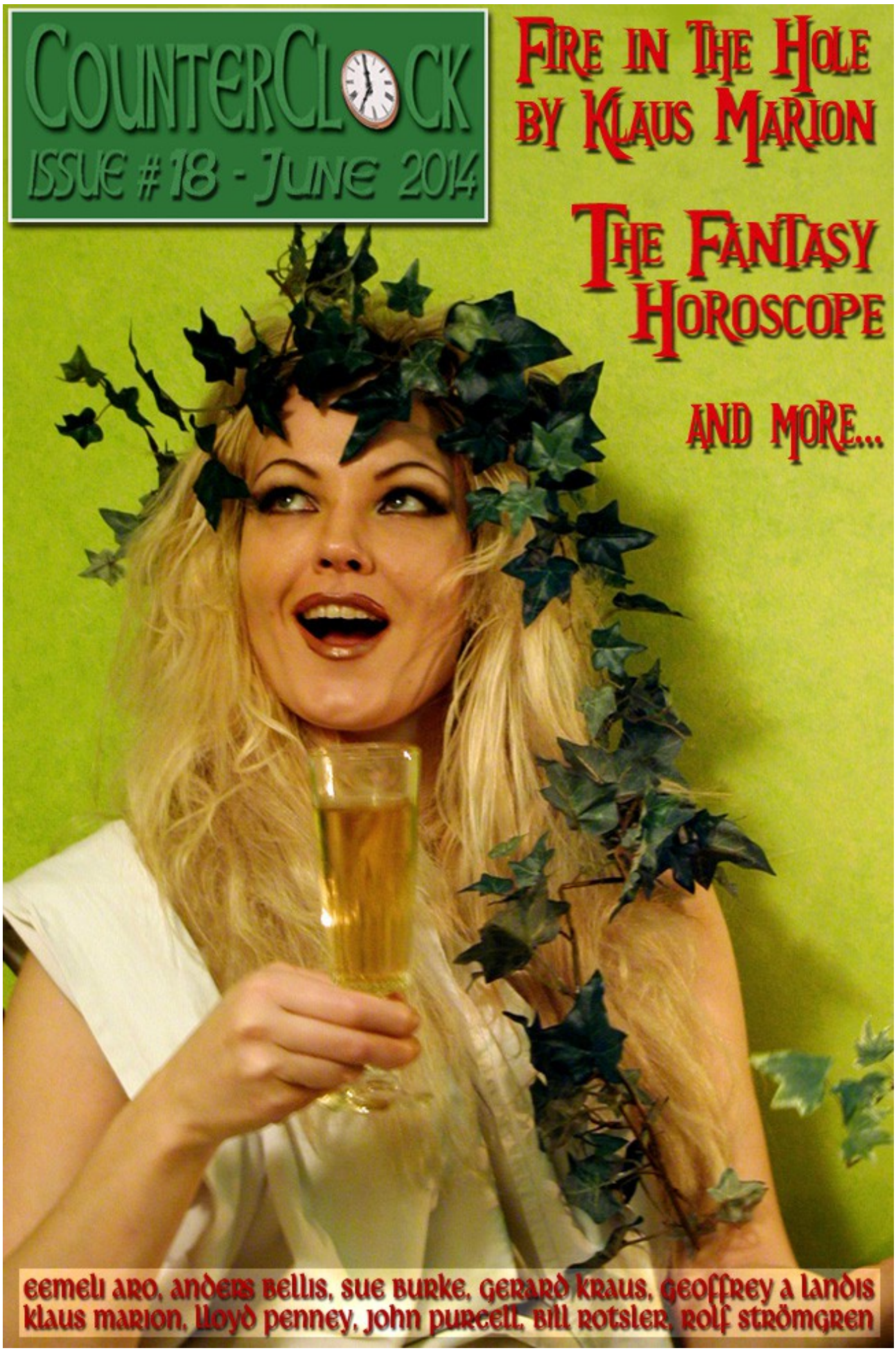
CounterClock

Issue #18 - June 2014

Fire in The Hole
by Klaus Marion

The Fantasy Horoscope

and more...



Eemeli Aro, Anders Bellis, Sue Burke, Gerard Kraus, Geoffrey A Landis
Klaus Marion, Lloyd Penney, John Purcell, Bill Rotsler, Rolf Strömgren

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes,
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-Changes
Don't tell them to grow up and out of it
Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes,
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-Changes
Where's your shame
You've left us up to our necks in it
Time may change us, but we can't trace time
(David Bowie - Changes)

We change. And we keep on changing throughout our lives. Our environment changes as well. A bulldozer runs over the house you lived in as a child, the playground is converted into a parking lot, and so on. Friends and relatives grow apart, or die. Even if we try not to, we change. Those we live with along the way change. It is fortunate we do, because I can recall living through months or years of hell, with only hope, or rather the knowledge, that it will change. And it did. Now I am living good times, but this also will have to change. What tomorrow brings, we do not know.

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.

"He looks like Wolf von Witting, talks like him, but I tell ya, it's not him. It's a pod-person from another planet."

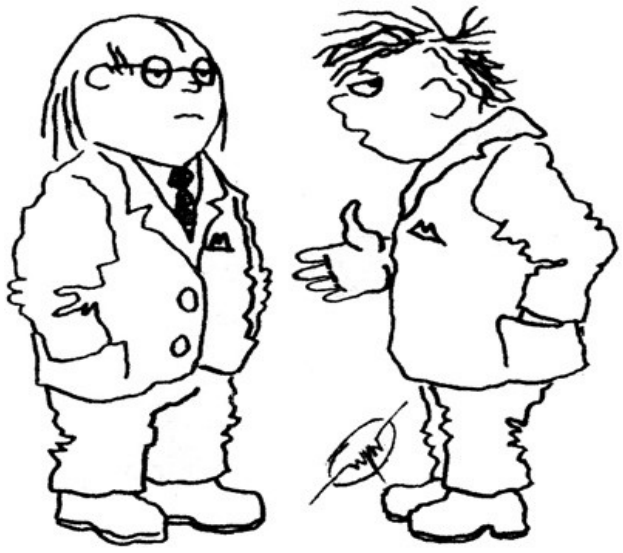


Illustration: Wolf von Witting, 1984

I was with the railway in Sweden for 25 years. I never intended to stay that long, but the first 15 years were good. Then, as we were privatised, half-baked political decisions muddled our former superbly running machinery and the joy of doing something useful and dependable was trashed.
I was terrified of the rather drastic move from one country to another. I did it anyway, knowing that nothing could be worse than keep on running in the same tracks once I knew it would not satisfy me as it once did.
I was lucky and I have been lucky most of my life. I did not have to endure a war. Neither any major earthquake, hurricane, no totalitarian regime, no stretch of starvation, I have never been homeless, I was never tortured, etc
But recently I asked myself this question; "Who am I?" and found that it is not so easily answered.
In context, for example among chess players, I can say that I did play tournaments, I have a chess ranking and it pretty much sums up all you need to know about me in that context. Add to it a short list of tournaments won and some the more interesting games I did play and you can thoroughly wrap up my entire biography as a chess player on two pages. But this is only one aspect of me. Add two pages bushido, one for folk dance and one or two for my military career. Me, the railway man is a longer story. It merits an issue of Clockwise all by itself. As the genealogical research does and me, the poet. But nothing compares to my main interest, SF fandom. This, I feel, is sufficiently covered in this fanzine. I have now in my hand a print of CoClock issues 1-16 in full color (264 pages with cover).
It is most satisfying to behold and a good incentive to keep going. I believe the second volume will take less than 16 issues.
The cover art for the first volume is by courtesy of the artist, Nathanial Castronovo.
http://natetheartist.blogspot.it/
See his impressive Mesh Crafter portfolio.

For once I didn't have to write most of this issue myself. I like that. I like taking it easy, now and then. In particular, while I am brooding...
What will be, will be. Hope you enjoy this ish!

June 1st - 2014 Wolf von Witting

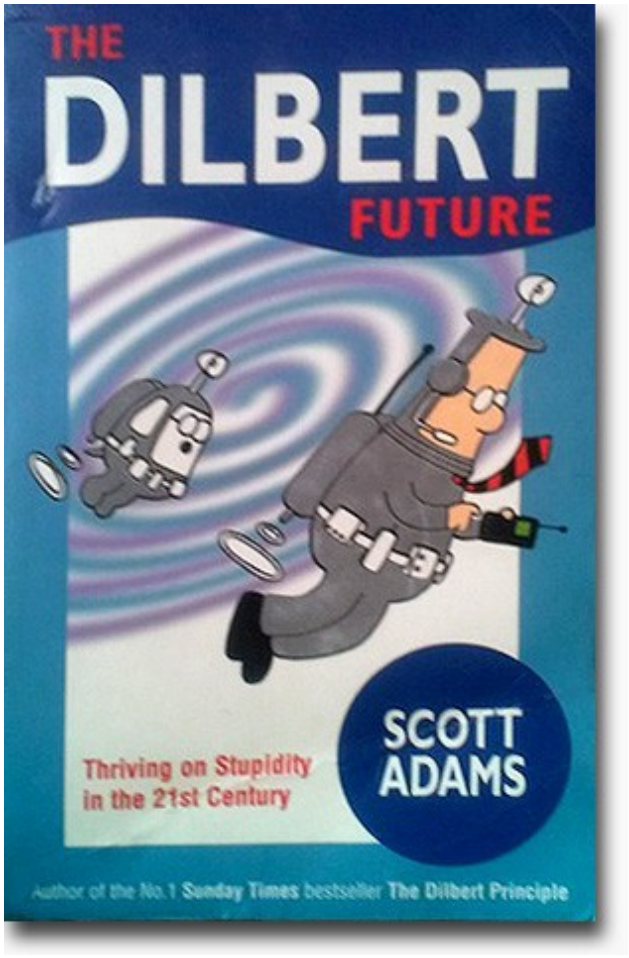
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C🕐MEDY or TRAGEDY?

These were the two types of a greek theater play. It did not say that a comedy was something to laugh about and that a tragedy had nothing funny in it. The categories only referred to how the play ended. By this definition, life is always a tragedy, because it always ends in death. Today comedy is something we hope will amuse us from beginning to end.
In this issue I will attempt to raise spirits a little.

Scott Adams is a funny man. Funny sells. And while *The Dilbert Future* may not be as brilliant as *The Dilbert Principle* was, it must have boosted his sales and amused more than a few people.
Comedy is often funny because (or when) there is truth behind the joke.



Adams makes several predictions about the future in his book, but also postulates that the future depends on three *Immutable Laws of Human Nature*: these being 1) stupidity, 2) selfishness and 3) horniness.
First of all, none of the above are laws and secondly, selfishness, while we all are selfish to some degree, is a trait which we can amend. It largely depends on the system of economy. Currently our system promotes only greed and fear of scarcity. But since all fiat-currency based economies and economies based on growth inevitably are bound to collapse, this is something that may change in the future.
However, I completely agree that a holodeck can be the last invention of humankind. Considering how the internet is being used, it is probable that many would lock themselves up in a holodeck and screw themselves to oblivion.
Scott Adams prediction No:6 is so serious and true, that it is not even funny: *"In the future, we will accelerate our successful practice of brainwashing children so they'll be nice to us while we plunder their planet."*
Not only is this planet populated by an increasingly large part of dimwits, but the future holds no natural turn in this tendency. Old and wise people die, kids are being born with no knowledge and get fed exactly the same lies all over the planet.
We are being herded into single mindedness. Not into plurality of mind. It starts at school and goes on through media. The only escape at this time is the internet. But even through nifty inventions such as Facebook we are getting socially aligned. How much do we learn from someone who is the same as we are? Do we not learn more from someone who is different, and is this being different not something we rather should learn to embrace and benefit from?

Prediction No: 10: *"In the future, your clothes will be smarter than you."* Many already carry the device of their own surveillance willingly along with them. And they are addicted to it, because they find it can do so many things. It takes a lifetime (for some) to explore all its possibilities (simply because they never care to test all the functions, and because by the time one has learned them, it is already overdue to update with a new model).
- Are you smarter than a smart-phone?
- Sure you are, because you are reading this. You would not have the time to read it if you were the slave of your mobile phone.

Prediction No:14 *"In the future, kids won't have access to online pornography, because the X-rated Internet sites will be clogged by horny adults who have more patience."*
Patience is growing thin in the general population. We get more and more used to instant gratification. Most kids have lost the patience to read books.
How obvious is it, that reading books is healthy for the brain? Surely there are a lot of readers among CounterClock-readers. Should it not be a widely accepted understanding that reading IS healthy and that patience IS rewarding? Why is it not? Send me your Letters of Comment about this NOW!!! Immediately!

Prediction No:17 *"In the future, technology will become the leading cause of death."* Trust me, we

are a single invention away from this becoming true.
Some of the best predictions come near the end of the book, thus tempting us to read it all (some day).
Predictions No: 64 *"The next 100 years will be a search for better perception instead of better vision."*
And No: 65 *"In the future, science will gradually free us from the optical illusions that restrict our view of reality."* So, you see - Scott Adams is not only funny, but profound as well. Our stupidity is funny and we can laugh about it. Afterwards...

It has also been stated, that intelligent people are more horny than stupid people. I read it somewhere, but can't for the life of me recall where.
Tolstoy said something along the lines of: *"The mind and the flesh are opposites, yet one can not exist without the other."*
Many Russians interpret this as screwing being a basic necessity of existence. It is not.
But it is pleasant. Or at least, it can be and should be, most of the time. Desmond Morris established in his book: "The Naked Ape", which is a zoological study of the human being, that we are the only *animals* who have recreational sexual intercourse.
So, I completely agree with Adams about stupidity and horniness being factors we **always** have to take into account.

FANNIBAL AND THE ELEPHANT:

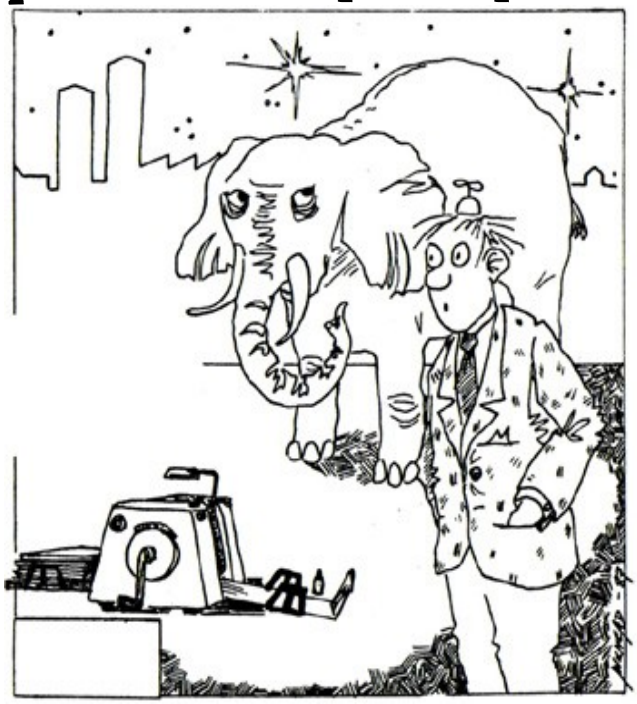


Illustration by Wolf von Witting, 1987

In the previous issue of CounterClock, I told you that Gerfan Klaus Marion had published a collection of satirical sf-fandom-stories. I figured, hey, why not *order and actually read them*?! Which I did...



TALES FR🕗M THE ASIMOV BAR &
ISBN: 978-384 820 4007
N🕗 SPACE HELMETS AT THE BAR!
New tales from the Asimov Basement Bar
ISBN-13: 978-373 224 4294

I am convinced, these books will become classics of Gerfany. Klaus has found a comfortable format, that even the younger fans, with less of an attention span can read. You do not have to read the stories in their printed order. You can read any story you feel like reading first and then jump backwards and forwards, as long as you remember what you have read.
And itt does not really matter if you forget a story either. They are often worth reading twice. Some of the characters are real people and some of them are fictional characters. It is fan-fiction at its best.
Klaus exaggerates, but often he does not need to, because reality has provided examples of madness no one would have thought possible. There was a German sf-club in which its chair was pre-occupied with deciding the colour of robes each member should wear, according to his rank and standing within the organisation. I have found no mentioning of this in his book, but it was the pinnacle of absurdity which I have encountered in sf-fandom.
There were clubs (or at least one), which had a *fine* for non-activity. *"Write 3 pages for the next issue of the club-magazine or pay 3$"*
In retrospect one can laugh about how crazy we were when we were younger, but at age 18-26 all of these matters, concerning sf-fandom were dead serious. And sometimes it takes the keen ear, eye and mind of someone like Klaus Marion, to turn these ridiculous manifestations of small mindedness into comedy.

A not entirely uncommon rite of passage in Gerfany is to seduce someone to consume a beverage which is beyond their strength.
I was once tricked to drink Martian Water, which did indeed look like water from the planet Mars, with

some of its red sand in it. In reality it was a rather strong alcoholic drink, liquor mixed with a thorough shot of tabasco sauce. The result was that I felt like a fire-breathing dragon, to the general amusement of surrounding fans.
I made Klaus the offer to write a lecture for his third volume, and in return I would translate and publish one of his stories in CounterClock. He immediately accepted and thereby also confirmed a suspicion I had. Klaus has *way too much* respect for me, and that is probably why I am not one of the characters in his books. The things I did in Gerfany were also silly, but many of them they *were supposed to be.*
However. I am happy being able to share one of his stories with you and hope not too much of its original flavour is lost in the translation.

FIRE IN THE H◴LE by Klaus Marion

My wife gave me the information concisely. "We have been invited by Herbert. On Friday. To a private party in the Asimov Basement Bar. We are going!"
Hm.
Of course, Herbert is a widely renowned sf-fan. But why should we participate in this dreary party, thrown by a half-witted wanker? The conversation of his other guests can usually be hailed as pedestrian at best.
Perhaps because Herbert's parties are renowned for their relaxed atmosphere, for their compelling and charismatic guests and for the exquisite food as well as for the sharp witticism of their host.
The event unfolded accordingly. One celebrity after the other entered Rudi Gerstner's Asimov Bar and Herbert was once again the superstar of the parade.
SF Fans were hanging on his every word when he told about his adventures at Worldcons, where he spent the night chatting with American SF writers in smoke filled bars. Or when he reported from his pioneering efforts of bringing SF to Western Asia.
"And then I had to sing German filksongs all night long in a Karaoke Bar in Tokyo with 200 Japanese SF fans." The female SF fans were lying at his feet.
And then he is not even particularly attractive.
No, he is extremely attractive. And he's got money, success, and he is popular. Everyone knows him.
I *really* hate him.
Late night, around one o'clock Herbert invited to a snack and had slices of pizza delivered for everyone still in the bar.
We sat together in a round alongside adjacently moved tables, while Rudi with a reassuring smile placed the huge slices of pizza in the middle and served the requested beverages. I hauled a piece with plenty of salami onto my plate and seasoned it carefully with a few drops of Tabasco from Rudi's assortment of spice supplements.
Herbert nodded conscientiously.
"I can still recall a convention in Uzbekistan, when we had a fiery Chilisauce. Invigorating! Tabasco is nothing compared to it. Mild!"
Of course. What did you expect? Herbert always knew best. But here he invoked in me the jagged spirit of opposition. In familiarity with picquant flavours, I am a specialist.
So I casually raised an eyebrow.
"Yes, of course. Tabasco has to be applied in ample measure, or the pleasant aroma gets completely lost in the tomato sauce."
I reached again for the Tabasco bottle and coated my slice of pizza with an even layer of the liquid.
Rudi stretched out towards us over the bar.
"Tabasco? That stuff is for beginners. You ought to try the Venusian Firefly. A German pepper and chili-liquor produced for the Basement Bar. Original german invention. Only for **real** men."
Indifferently I gave Rudi an affirmative nod and he placed a bottle of the Venusian Firefly on our table, next to two small glasses, filled to the rim.
Smiling I took a first sip. The buzz around us mellowed and everyone observed us with intense curiosity.
Haaaa!! This Firefly packed a punch and even a seasoned Tabasco-user such as myself felt its sting.
"Careful! Don't overdo it! It's darn hot!"
"Too hot for you?" Herbert smiled charitably.
"No, not at all. It lacks perhaps a bit... flavor. Rudi, may I have some more of your Chili?"
"No sweat!"
Rudi placed another Chili shaker on the table.
Unconcerned I covered the surface of my beverage with a solid layer crushed seeds of Chili.
"Hmmm! Yummy!" With a swift movement I drank the remaining content of my glass.
HAAA! Scorching fire pierced through my mouth, throat and down towards my abdomen, blistering every fiber of my interior. AAAARGH! I got the feeling the Chili rather reduced the average pungency of the drink than strengthening it.
"You want some, Herbert?" I coaxed him hissingly.
His eyes narrowed into cracks as he was thinking. All the present ladies were looking at him. There was no turning back.
"Of course. Gimme some!"
I handed him the full glass and observed his eyes as he swept the beverage with a smile. His pupils contracted to the size of pinheads, and a hoarse cackle escaped his mouth as he grappled for a glass of beer. He emptied it in a single gulp.
His tactical defeat gave me the opportunity to quench some of the terrible burning inside me with a mouthful beer of my own.
Herbert had become as pale as the moon.
"Oh, yes indeed! Nice spicy flavor."
Rudi at the taps, let his voice be heard in the mingle.

"You are drinking it all wrong. You should take a mouthfull and hold it in your mouth for half a minute. Flush it through your teeth, move it around a bit with your tongue to fully savor its aroma and *then* swallow."
Herberts eyes flickered in fear. Gotcha, my friend!
"Of course, let's try it. It can't possibly hurt us, can it Herbert?" He nonchalantly shook his head.
I grabbed the bottle and filled our glasses one more time to the rim.
I smiled graciously as I handed Herbert his glass. We drank it all, keeping the liquid in our mouths for thirty seconds.
Scorching flames do not even begin to describe the feeling. Now it was the FIRE OF HELL incarnate. For a moment I thought the hellish pain could not get any worse. This was the moment before the afterburn went like napalm on fire through my respiratory system. Like a roaring tempest of lava it was filling my throat and cramped my body throughout my gastrointestinal tract. Drops of sweat formed on my forehead and tears came into my eyes. The agony was insufferable. As far as I could make out through the hazes of my barely conscious mind, Herbert was sobbing in despair. In an attempt to soften the volcanic eruptions, he tried to open a bottle of Prosecco with his teeth. His hands were desperately trying to keep his intestines from exploding.
"It... wasn't... hot... at... all... I.. am.. merely... crying... because... I... disagree... with... some... of... the... recent... decisions... made... by... the... board... of... the... SFCD..."
Meanwhile rhythmically stabbing my thigh with a fork to produce a counterpain, In the hope it would allow my lungs to reassume their duty.
"I... agree... completely... It... was... all... very... sad... We... should... be... going... home... now..."
Leaning unsteadily upon each other, we left the Asimov Basement Bar.
Strange; Herbert has not invited me ever again since this day.



Right: Herbert Thiery at HanseCon 15 in Lübeck 1999



Gérard Kraus

Hugo´s Grandchildren…
… was the title of one of the local newspaper articles presenting Luxembourg's Science Fiction & Fantasy Society in the build up to their first big even, the first national Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror convention, LuxCon. The latter took place over two days on 29th & 30th of March 2014 at the 'Schungfabrik' cultural centre in the town of Kayl/Tétange. The former shoe factory, turned local cultural hub, with rehearsal spaces for local bands and choirs, as well as two big rooms for parties, balls, exhibitions and performances, offers a surface of around 1000 square meters in a very nice old-but-new atmosphere.
The idea for LuxCon had sprung from the 2013 International Tabletop Day event, which left many of the core members of SFFS with the desire to investigate if there was a market for a convention like the ones that members had visited during and after their university days. The challenge was launched and organising began. Along the way the organisers learned of a previous fan convention, run by among others Lucien Schilling, Saarcon 5, took place in neighbouring Esch/Alzette in the early Eighties, a find that was quickly used as a popular programme point uniting a number of generations of Luxembourg fans, from the early pioneers, to Claude Peiffer's venture into Perry Rhodan fandom and his fanzine, to SFFS two generation of fans, in their thirties and twenties.
Generations of fans showed up on the weekend, with many parents bringing their children to share or make them discover the objects of their affection. A total of 1431 tickets were sold on both days, which excludes the small army of under 12-year olds, and organisers, participants, vendors and guests, who didn't pay on the door. The convention offered a vendor and artist room with the possibilities to purchase memorabilia, and discuss with creators, a

game room, which offered the opportunity to experience the ludic side of the hobby, through video, board, role-playing and strategy games, and an art gallery featuring the work of new and established local fantastic artists, among them Bertrand Vets, Claris Vaes, and the paper-crafting of Alain Wiltgen. Beyond these, there was a programme of presentations ranging from the mysteries of Easter Island to German fandom, discussions, from the various media of the fantastic (film, graphics, literature, …) to fandom in Luxembourg, to author readings, whose attendance suffered from the perfect weather that the makers had bestowed on us, and workshops.

The organizers were surprised at the amount of people visiting, especially counting the number of people who decided to show up dressed to represent their fandoms, ranging from the geeky T-Shirt to full blown Back to the Future, Ghostbusters, Warhammer Space Marines, and Welcome to Nightvale costumes. Furthermore the distances that some people travelled were astonishing. One couple from Switzerland explained that they had always wanted to visit the Grand Duchy and had found LuxCon the perfect excuse to combine with a visit to the small nation at the heart of Europe.

A personal highlight for the author and many of the initiated fans was a visit from Hugo Gernsback's grandson on Sunday, his presence in Luxembourg due to a young scientist competition sharing its date with LuxCon. Sadly the award named after his grandfather, the father of Science Fiction, awarded to Luxembourg and its inhabitants at the last Montreal Worldcon, for giving the world Hugo Gernsback was away for the weekend, but I'm sure that it along with its namesake would have felt very much at home seeing the many happy faces that the event inspired.

Given that this was a first event and that even with minor promotion and online networking it was turned into a success of this magnitude, it comes as no surprise that the organisers, strengthened in number are already planning the 2015 edition at the end of March. Details can be found here: Science Fiction & Fantasy Society Luxembourg (www.sffs.lu) and LuxCon (www.luxcon.lu).

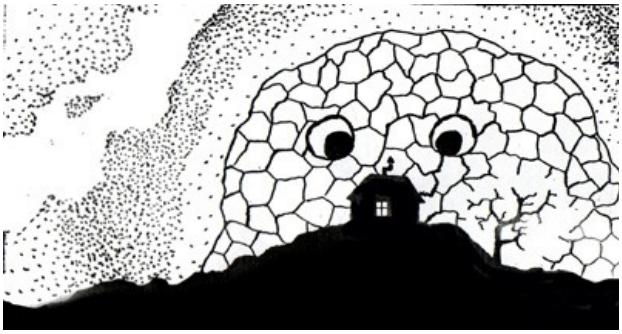


Illustration: Wolf von Witting, 1978



Previously published in TID & RYMD # 15, June 1986

I recently had an informal discussion with **Ronald M Hahn**, friend of H.J.Alpers (+2011) and H.Pukallus. It almost turned into an interview around HEICON'70 and the once very active German left-wingers.

He confirmed what I had suspected all along. Many of them were not particularly interested in politics and much like Ronald M Hahn, simply sided with the people they best got along with.

Pinning this on the board of ideas for future issues.



Fun in small-town Spain

by Sue Burke

Small towns are turning out to be the perfect place in Spain for conventions and festivals for genre literature. The reason is simple: cultural tourism. Spain loves tourists, and not every small town has a beach. But if the town has a cultural center, a library, an auditorium, and a nice park or plaza, it has what it takes to bring writers and fans together. Better yet, the fans will organize the whole thing!

So genre fiction gets a warm welcome, and the town's bars, stores, restaurants, and hotels get customers. In addition, because the events are sponsored by the municipality, all events are open to the public, so new people come and fandom grows. Everyone goes home happy.

Four interesting events are coming up this year, all of them building on past success.

The summer fun starts with the 27th annual **Semana Negra** or "Black Week," dedicated to *noir* fiction, although it shamelessly branches out to all kinds of genres: humor, comics, poetry, investigative journalism, and history. Julio Cortázar will receive a special tribute this year. Nightly concerts will add to the festivities.

Events will be held from July 4 to 13 on the grounds of the old naval shipyard in Gijón, a city on the north Atlantic Coast. The week kicks off with a special train that transports authors from Madrid to Gijón, where they are greeted with music and refreshments. Hundreds of authors will participate in discussions and presentations, including top Spanish science fiction and fantasy authors such as José Carlos Somoza, Juan Miguel Aguilera, Rodolfo Martínez, Eduardo Vaquerizo, and Carmen Moreno. *Noir* authors will include Qiu Xialong, Craig Russell, John Connolly, Dominique Manotti, and Mercedes Rosende, along with a long roster of Spanish writers.

More information (some in English):
http://www.semananegra.org

The 3rd annual **Celsius 232** (which equals Fahrenheit 451) will be held from July 30 to August 2 in Avilés, which is on the Atlantic Coast only 25 kilometers west of Gijón. In truth, it is a spin-off from Semana Negra, but Celsius features a tighter focus on science fiction, fantasy, and horror. A lot of authors come, and not just Spaniards. Patrick Rothfuss and Brandon Sanderson have already been confirmed for this year.

Events include talks, book signings, and – if it's like last year – movies, poetry, theater, and a "fabada" dinner: fabada is a legendary local bean soup, a culinary treasure. Events end with an espicha, a kind of stand-up dinner with lots of drinking, and if that were not enough fun, a costume contest. This year's theme: characters from popular stories and legends.

More information: http://www.celsius232.es/

Fuenlabrada, a town on the outskirts of Madrid, will hold its 2nd annual **Festival de Fantasía de Fuenlabrada** on September 26 to 28. The event leans toward fantasy, but in fact many of Spain's best authors and artists in science fiction and horror as well as fantasy come to talk about their work and topics related to the genre. A special steampunk anthology will be published this year. Last year's events included an all-night concert, martial arts demonstrations, children's activities, theater, and films, along with a tapas dinner.



More information:
http://festival-fantasia-fuenla.blogspot.com



Finally, there's Spain's national convention, held at a different location and with a different host group each year. This year the 32nd **HispaCon/MIRcon** will be organized by Colectivo Urânik in Montcada i Reixac (hence the MIR in MIRcon), a city on the outskirts of Barcelona, from December 6 to 8.
It's too early for a program of events, but the weekend will feature the gala presentation of the Ignotus Awards, which are Spain's equivalent to the Hugos.
More information:
https://www.facebook.com/MIRcon.Uranik

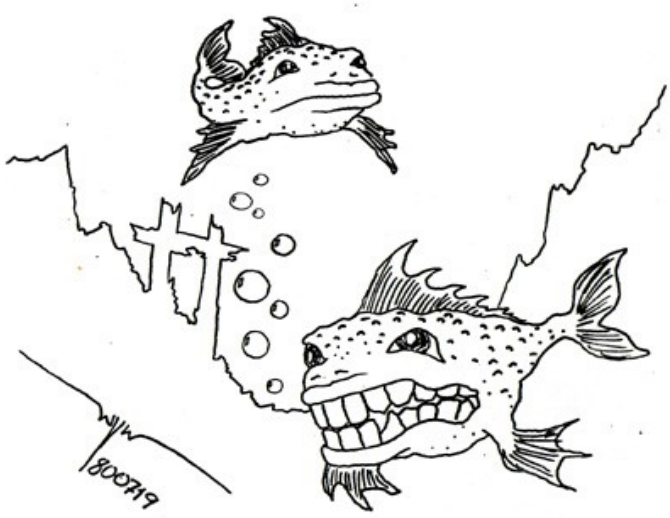


Illustration: Wolf von Witting, 1980

Sue Burke *is a Freelance Writer from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; living in Madrid / Spain. She is the liaison of Asociación Española de Fantasía, Ciencia Ficción y Terror [AEFCFT, the national Spanish Association for SF, Fantasy and Horror] to Eurosmof.*



On Finnish Fandom by Eemeli Aro

Because Finland is small, Finnish fandom is large. Though that may be a bit of a simplification, the fact that there aren't all that many Finns in the world does mean that the few of us that are here tend to want to talk to others as well. That's not to say we're actually talkative (good grief, we're Finns!), but it does mean that we're acutely aware that our small corner of the world isn't all there is to it.
This openness shows up in Finnish fandom in multiple ways. First of all, we're very inclusive; there is no separation between SF, fantasy or horror fans, or between media and literary fans. In fact our "fandom" is just a part of a larger network of fandoms that fluidly encompasses at least board gaming, roleplaying, filk, cosplay, anime, manga, comics fans & artists, as well as authors, film makers, and academic researchers. This is not a situation that came about by itself; we have been doing active outreach and cooperation since the 80s, and continue to do so in various ways.

For the part of fandom that's somewhat literature-centred, our perhaps strongest driving force towards openness is Finncon, our national convention: it's an event with free entry. I believe this has had a huge impact, both externally and internally. Externally, it removes a significant mental barrier from non-fannish fans for participation in fannish activities, and thereby becoming a part of fandom. Internally, it forces us to keep on looking outwards, to keep Finnish fandom open, and inviting; to be inclusive rather than exclusive. Together, these factors have helped our fandom to keep renewing itself, bringing in new and younger members; changing, adapting, accepting.

Another, probably less obvious aspect of Finnish

fandom is how much of it happens outside conventions (of which we have quite a few, in addition to Finncon), some with regularity, others just once a year. To me, the heart of Helsinki fandom is the biweekly pub night or "mafia": if it's a slow night, we'll only be about 20 people hanging out, talking about anything and everything; quite often even about science fiction. Similar events (though not necessarily quite as frequent, or as populous) take place in Espoo, Turku, Tampere and Jyväskylä, as well as elsewhere---and those are just the SF/fantasy fans' meetings that I'm listing. The point here is that there are plenty of non-convention events and gatherings to which someone who's interested can wander in (or, more often, get dragged there by their friend) and, by assimilation, become a part of fandom by no greater effort than occasionally going to drink a pint or two with friends. There are, of course, also regular and semi-regular events for those who'd rather not hang out in pubs, such as meetings in cafes and picnics during the summer.

As a third building block of Finnish fandom I'd count our internal cooperation. There is no single official (or otherwise) organisation for Finnish fandom; rather, we've a collection of mainly city-based societies that discuss and cooperate on projects both great and small. An important factor here is that this includes a number of university societies, which are a significant conduit of new members to all fandoms everywhere. We have a yearly "cooperative meeting" of these societies, at a sauna of course. So far at least we've managed to avoid any significant national schisms, talking through issues rather than dividing over them.

The people in Finnish fandom, then, come from all walks of life, or at least the parts thereof that like to read books. In other words, we're young and old, men and women, gay and straight, rich and poor, and everything in between. In fact, I'd have a hard time differentiating between Finnish "fans" and "people". It can be a bit jarring to come from this assumed normalcy and meet fans from different backgrounds, from situations where gender balance is an issue that needs to be taken into account; for us, it's more likely we'll have a "token male".

Recently, I've gotten myself rather interested in exporting some of the above aspects of Finnish fandom outside our borders, and in prompting more cooperation between people from different fandoms, in particular folks from different European countries. But more on that later. :)

Fox has announced a Simpsons/Family Guy crossover. In other news; Wal Mart has announced a chocolate mousse/poop crossover. (John E Thelin)

About the author:
Eemeli first got into fandom by being probably the only Finn to ever have chaired a British convention (Picocon; it's rather small). When he came back to Finland, Eemeli figured that helping to run Finncon would be a nice way of meeting people. He also got Åcon (English-language hotel con in Mariehamn) off the ground and chaired the first one, but had to miss it on account of his wife giving birth to twins at the time. At the moment he's the Loncon 3 Head of Hospitality, and he's the chair of the Helsinki in 2017 Worldcon bid. When not organizing conventions, he should be finishing his dissertation on an autonomous group of underwater robots, but may also be found building furniture or taking care of his kids and/or aquariums.

Best quote from Andy Hoopers fanzine FLAG # 15:
(published May 2014, only available on paper)
"These days, one of the functions I don't particularly need on my phone is the phone."

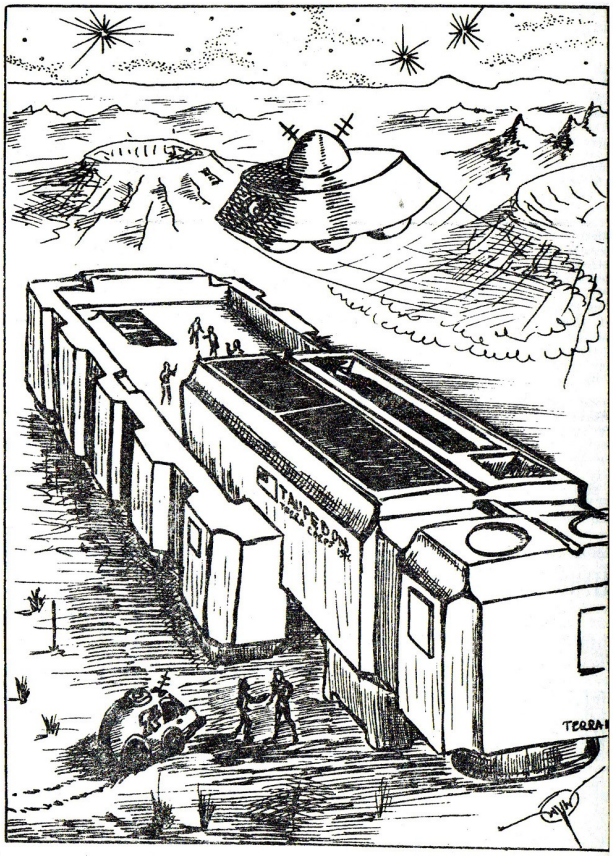


Illustration by Wolf von Witting

COUNTERCL🕗CK supports the EUROCON bids Barcelona in 2016 and Dortmund in 2017

Congratulations to Curt Phillips for winning TAFF!

THE 9th ANNUAL ATHENS SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL

by Anders Bellis

Some of you might recall that in my contribution to CounterClock #15, I wrote about the sudden and rather unexpected discovery of a full-fledged fandom in Greece. And an astonishingly active fandom, at that. It turned out that The Science Fiction Society of Athens, ALEF, among all its other activities, such as the publication of a quarterly science fiction magazine, conventions, weekly meetings, writers' workshops, and so forth, also organises an annual science fiction film festival. This is what I wrote about it then, at that time only having heard of it:

"This year also saw the 8th incarnation of the Athens Science Fiction & Fantasy Film Festival - SFF Rated - running from the 10th to the 17th of April. Just seeing a programme booklet from the event impresses me and of the shorts screened at this yearly festival, ALEF releases a selection on DVDs. (And I have to add that of last year's feature films, the big draw was, not surprisingly, the restored version of Fritz Lang's Metropolis.)"

Now, I have to admit that when about to attend my first science fiction & fantasy film festival in Athens in March, I was certainly full of expectations, but did not expect anything very different from ALEF's ordinary film screenings for members every other Sunday evening, taking place in a borrowed facility where the films are screened on the society's home cinema system.



The bar in The Cine Mikrokosmos Film Centre.

Well, as I approached the address given for the festival on foot, I slowly realised that I was in for something entirely different. Because it turned out that, as I suspected, I had been there before - at the Cine Mikrokosmos Film Centre, that is. A very large, professional cinema indeed, where I have, through the years, seen a number of films nominated for the Academy Award.



Director and producer Kostas Metaxas, Australia

I was quite flabbergasted to realise that this film festival, called SFF Rated and organised by a small number of ALEF members, and a number of gophers during the seven day event as such, is a public film festival which this year featured 58 films from the United States of America, Canada, France, England, Greece, and so forth (a number of them short subjects, of course), a so called mystery screening, and on top of that the director and producer Kostas Metaxas from Australia and the director and producer Lucy Phillips from the United States of America being interviewed on stage in front of the audience before the screenings of their respective feature films - The Awakening and Abducted - and staying for a Q&A afterwards. The blockbuster sneak preview this year was Divergent, which was the last feature film being screened before the awards ceremony ended the proceedings.



Director and producer Lucy Phillphs, USA



Bags full of science fiction books, given to the festival by bookshops to be handed out as raffle prizes.

Apart from the awards ceremony, a few evenings also saw raffles, with prizes ranging from bags full of science fiction books to play stations to the most intriguing emergency boxes, four of which were on display in the foyer of the cinema. Twice lucky, since it was at first not apparent that my number and colour (75, red) had been drawn and I had to insist on a double check to verify this state of affairs, I turned out to be the winner of an emergency box, thus being asked to pick one of the four. I chose the one containing the necessary equipment for dealing with zombies, but there are also boxes for dealing with vampires and werewolves, and for performing exorcisms. Should you be in need of one of these emergency boxes, it is possible to order and buy them from abroad. See relevant links below!



Vampire Emergency Box.

SFF Rated, the annual Athens Science Fiction & Fantasy Film Festival, is a quite extraordinary event. Personally I have never heard of a science fiction society anywhere in the world staging an annual, public science fiction & fantasy film festival on such a massive scale (or staging one at all, for that matter) and in 2015 SFF Rated celebrates its tenth anniversary. You could do a lot worse than planning a holiday in Athens in March next year, and combine it with SFF Rated 2015. See link to the festival's home page below!



My Zombie Emergency Box.

And by the way, there is a bar in the cinema, which also makes the festival akin to something like a convention. So see you there!
-- Anders Bellis



Here I am with my prize from the lottery.



Director and producer Lucy Phillips with the chairman of SFF Rated, Alékos Papadópoulos

LINKS

SFF Rated:
http://sffrated.wordpress.com/sff-rated-2014/

In Case Of (Emergency boxes):
http://www.in-case-of.com/

https://www.facebook.com/incaseofcomp/posts/10202555849551272



This year's programme booklet and the DVD collections featuring the Greek shorts so far issued.

How NOT To Write A Book by Me

The Art of parading words has so many aspects, that I could not possibly cover them all in a single article. You would do well in reading a book or two on the subject, if you have not done so already.
There exist no absolute rules about how you should write. There are methods however, which have proven to be more or less successful and it does not hurt to take advice from people who have had success. I have consistently *failed* to publish, and can at best give you advice on traps not to head for.
Among my guides were *How to Write Science Fiction* by Brian Stableford, *Writing A Screenplay* by John Costello and *If You Want To Write* by Brenda Ueland. Also *The King's English* by H.W. and F.G.Fowler is relevant work, even if it is not about publishing, but more about writing well, whatever it is you write. There are plenty more of these kind of publications. It does not really matter which ones you read. The above are merely a selection which show different angles of writing.

I wrote, and finished, my first book when I was 18. I thank the Gods it was never published. I would have been embarrassed for the rest of my life.
And even though I invested in an electrical typewriter it did not improve my diction very much. After a while I also bought myself an electronic typewriter and while the crap I wrote had a more appealing appearance, it was still crap. Today, we can make our crap look even better with the aid of computers.

In sf-fandom fanzines provided an excellent function to advance our writing towards a professional level. The feedback we received from letters of comment, sometimes made us aware of our current standard.
I can't see that any modern technology has been able to truly replace the fanzine. Blogs, mailing lists and social media does not fulfill the same function unless the mailing list in question is specifically for this purpose.

My fanzine [CoClock] was primarily launched for the purpose of improving my writing. Not for publishing a book. But it helps to have an *audience*.
As *Carl Johan de Geer* pointed out at WasaCon'97 in Stockholm, reading aloud to an audience is highly beneficial. While you read something aloud to an audience, you can hear yourself what sounds good and what needs an improvement. Read to your family and friends.

I have only one rejection slip. From Sam J Lundwall. He did not destroy my ego, but rather ecouraged me to improve my writing. One day, when I feel that I have improved to the point when I feel qualified to bother a publisher again, I will be prepared for more rejection slips. Stephen R Donaldson received forty rejections before his *Chronicles of Thomas Covenant* were published, J.R.R. Tolkien endured well over one hundred rejections for the *Lord of the Rings,* and are we not happy that he didn't give up?
So, as long as you stay somewhere between these two, remember you may have done worse than Stephen Donaldson, but you still succeeded sooner than Tolkien.

And what's the hurry? Many writers were old when they got published at last. J.R.R.Tolkien, Raymond Chandler and I will be, for sure...
Kafka was dead when "The Trial" came.
But do not kill yourself, just to get some attention to your book. I hear one guy did that. He finally got the attention. But the book was a really, really bad one.
Occasionally I read Michael Swanwick's blog, which

is mainly about writing. From there I have learned the importance of improving upon ones writing. You can improve all your life. And it does you good.
When you finished a piece of writing, ask yourself, "Is this the best I can do?"

Put it in a drawer for a year, while you do all you can to imrpove upon your writing. If it still holds up after a year, then it is *perhaps* really good. When you keep a satisfactory level, most of the time *you know it*. You already got it confirmed in some way. You no longer need to keep stuff in a drawer for a year.
If you write a novel based on real events, remember that it is only based on real events. Inger Edelfeldt once said to me:*"It is more important to make it a good book, than all of it being entirely true."*

I had lots of wonderful theories on how to produce a bestseller. Then came J.K.Rowling and ruined them all with *Harry Potter*. Apparently it is totally random what becomes a bestseller. It is not quality of writing, such as Umberto Eco's *Name of the Rose*, it is not the quality of being funny such as Douglas Adams' *Hitchhikers Guide* and not sensationalism such as Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code,* it is not new and original and right in time as William Gibson's *Neuromancer*. Harry Potter has **none of that**.
At the opposite end of the spectrum, Roberto Quaglia's book *The Myth...* has all of that and still is no bestseller. WTF?! Do people even know what they want?

Clearly there are too many people writing. There are too many titles being published these days. Being a writer is not the problem anymore. Being *read* is.
So, you finally got published! Fine! Anyone read your book other than your family and closest friends? Got more than 300 readers? Then you have beaten me.
The problem is not that your writing is no good, it can be. It can be excellent. The problem is that there are too many *good* books out there.

It was not always like that. When K.H Scheer and Walter Ernsting created Perry Rhodan, there were very few German SF-writers. I recently tried to re-read Perry Rhodan from issue 500 and forward.
I am still at it. Number 500 was written by Scheer. My spontaneous reaction to re-reading it was, *I would have sacked him immediately from the team of authors*, based on his efforts in # 500.
Fortunately it was followed up by a far superior story in # 501 written by William Voltz, or else I may have quit my attempt to re-read right there and then.
The following two H.G.Ewers and Clark Darlton (the pen-name of Walter Ernsting) held the standard of writing that I remember. That is how far I got, so far.
With Perry Rhodan. It was good entertainment, for a teenager.

But, if you compare yourself to a dime-novel-writer of the past, you are not going to hold up very far in present time. But, of course, you already knew that. And you are working on a *masterpiece*.

So am I. I have been working on it for years.
Decades, actually. I might never finish it. Anything can happen, but it is the road which is interesting, not the goal. Had I published years ago, I might have been content. A bunch of writers are famous only for one book. J.D. Salinger, Daniel Keyes, Mary Shelley, Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift... Sure, they all wrote more than one, but it's *that one,* and you know which one is yours. The other stuff... People do not remember, or care to know.

I do not know, if I get there in the end. But I had a lot of fun along the way. I learned many things. Like most others, I would like to leave something behind, which was worth the effort. The clock is ticking, I should get on with it, before my number comes up.
Yet, I feel no panic. It was all meant to be. Perhaps I get there, perhaps I do not. Sometimes I can envy those who did it, while they were young. Like Emily Brontë, I am a big fan of hers. Strangely, because it is a book for women, is it not? But it was the first book I read in English language. I totally failed to understand half of it. But it is so much like life, I totally fail to understand half of it. Yet, I savoured every minute of it. Every line, every paragraph, page and chapter. I love my books. Those which I kept.

Should you thence linger round our ruins, under that benign sky: watch the moths fluttering among the pages of fanzines and pulp-magazines, listen to the soft wind breathing through the broken shelves; and you may wonder how any one could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth.



Are you tired of being a scorpio all of the time? Have you ever wanted to be a virgin, but got cancer instead? Then the Fantasy Horoscope is the right choice for you. Being a geek, you must be in possession of a 12-sided die. Roll it and read your fate. Or go after the month in which you are born. No matter how you pick your sign. Destiny will pick the right prediction for you. This method is as scientificly solid as any horoscope.



Beware! Your kind of people are about to become extinct. Hang out with green alligators, long-necked geese and humpty backed camels. Try to stay in their company should they walk off two by two. Noah

is back, and he looks a lot like Russell Crowe.
You also ought to remind your friends never to play leapfrog with a unicorn.



You are likely to produce an abundance of bovine feces, as you frequently lose yourself in the labyrinth of life. If you were less stubborn, you could aim for an acting career. Beefed-up characters are popular in the action genre. Or have your testicles removed, relocate to India and become a Holy Cow.



You like to imitate successful people, because you believe their success will rub off on you. But their success remains a mystery, because you have not realized that no one can be successful on his own merits alone. We all need partners and good friends to aid us in our endeavors. Then in success, we also have to remember their contribution to our good fortune and show them gratitude.



Rudi Gerstner, a typical Basilisk once told me about an Irish sailor entering the Asimov Basement Bar with a steering wheel in his trousers. He commented on this and the sailor explained: "Yeah! It's driving me nuts!" Should you be at loss and need directions, go to the Asimov Basement Bar.



Your home is likely to be plagued with brownies and piskies late in the week. Handy tip: if they steal your shoes, leave them a bowl of milk overnight, and they will come back with the soles repaired. If you are a damsel in distress, don't count on the knight, he's likely to be delayed because his shoes were stolen by piskies. Today is a good day to rescue yourself.
(Prediction by Geoffrey A Landis)



The world is your oyster; unfortunately, you do not have enough clams to do anything about it and you will have limited success with the opposite gender as long as you keep smelling maritime life. Invest in a fragrance of volatile currency. It is a most powerful aphrodisiac. (Partly predicted by Lucy Huntzinger)



All the clever things you hear, and all the clever things you say, are not going to change anything as long as you do not act. We are all full of good intentions, but most of us feel we do not have any strength to change wrong to right. You are a dragon at heart, so take the lead. Others will follow.



Don't put your faith in the queen of hearts. The knave of wands will never do you wrong. Don't be greedy; leave when you're ahead. Bar the door and don't leave your house, next week. If you do need to leave your house, remember to carry two small coins at all times, since you may need them to pay the ferryman. (Prediction by Geoffrey A Landis)



Prediction is partly cloudy, with a chance of dragons. Clear with sparkling fairies in the evening. A gold treasure will come to you this week, but you should be wary: it may be fairy gold and someone you bout with will carry a hidden dagger. Be vigilent, especially when an enemy concedes to you. Don't turn your back. (Prediction by Geoffrey A Landis)



You are the life of the party and you are always horny. Avoid bachelor parties at all cost. They may pack you in a crate or roll you in a carpet and send you to Vietnam. And even though the war is over it can still be something of a problem, at best. On the bright side is, that you may find a decent brothel in neighbouring Thailand.



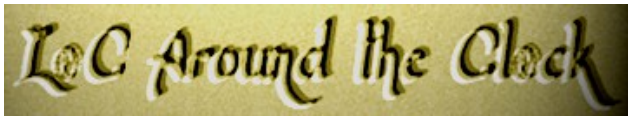
All the problems you have been through made you grow. You are not afraid to lose your head, because you know it would only be replaced by three new ones. You are closely related to the dragon, but you

gain strength from defeats. So keep fighting, you are ultimately a born winner. As long as you do not quit.



You are a complicated bugger and impossible to predict. How can you live with yourself? You are unwilling to take any advice, so why should I bother giving you any? The only thing you do well, is sitting around at fountains in parks, throwing up. And there is no money in it. Well, not much anyway. The coins in the fountain are mostly of foreign or outdated currency. A penny for your thoughts! If you have any.

Comment: Geoffrey A Landis also pointed out that our regular zodiac and constellations already are based on classical mythology and thereby fantastical already. The Unicorn is the constellation of Monoceros. Hydra, Draco and Centaurus are already constellations, but not in the zodiac. You have to imagine this is the zodiac of an entirely different planet.



John Purcell,
Texas, USA 15 Mar 2014

I have been meaning to write a letter of comment on your zine, Wolf, but things have been busy around here in recent months. Now a window of opportunity has opened, so I am taking advantage of the situation. Obviously.

The main thing I want to say is thank you for the extensive fan-historical background of Swedish Fandom. The names are familiar - Ahrvid Engholms, Anders Bellis, Sam Lundwall, and John-Henri Holmberg - although I have never met any of them face-to-face, but your article about what happened in the 1970s and 1980s was fascinating reading. Thank you for that, even though the subject matter is painful remembrance. I think we all have had our falling outs with close friends over our lifetimes; sometimes amends can be made, other times they can't. Your closing comment "Some people don't change at all. On the outside. And I always like to meet a ghosts from the past, even if they do not appreciate meeting me to the same extent" certainly rings true with me. I believe it is a good thing to remember where one has come from because we are products of our lives; for good or ill, there is a reason why we are the way we are. And I'd better get off this existentialist line of thinking before I make myself throw up.

There is a lot of other interesting reading in this issue, but being unfamiliar with the people and events, I have nothing of import to say. However, I do thank you for providing the Soundtrack of this issue. I have downloaded it and have done a bit of listening already. Staffan's music is wonderful, and you're right: if he had promoted himself more aggressively, Staffan may have had a successful career in the music industry. I am also a musician - twenty-some years ago I was a professional jazz musician, which meant I didn't make much money (when I did, that is) but I did play a lot - with hopes of recording some of my tunes once I get more equipment. I already have a four-track recorder, tapes, some microphones and cables, but I need to acquire a mixer and other necessary ingredients to produce a proper demo. With luck, I may come into some money later this year so I can make the needed purchases to get this done.

I think I shall stop here. Many thanks for posting the zine, and maybe someday we will meet each other at a world convention. Take care of yourself.
All the best, John Purcell

ED: *Thanks, John. I hope to bring more about Swedish fandom in future Issues. There are many stories to tell, which I totally missed out on, having encountered it no sooner than the late 70's. I am happy you liked Staffan's music. For many of us, his music gave us the impression that fandom had EVERYTHING. Well, everything we were interested in.*
Doesn't the four-track recorder have a built-in mixer? The only four-track recorder I ever saw (Staffan's) had one.

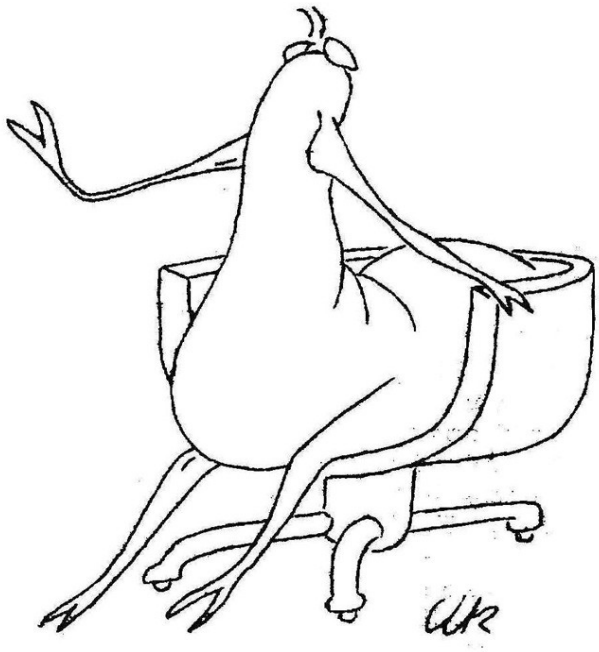


Illustration: Bill Rotsler 1926-1997

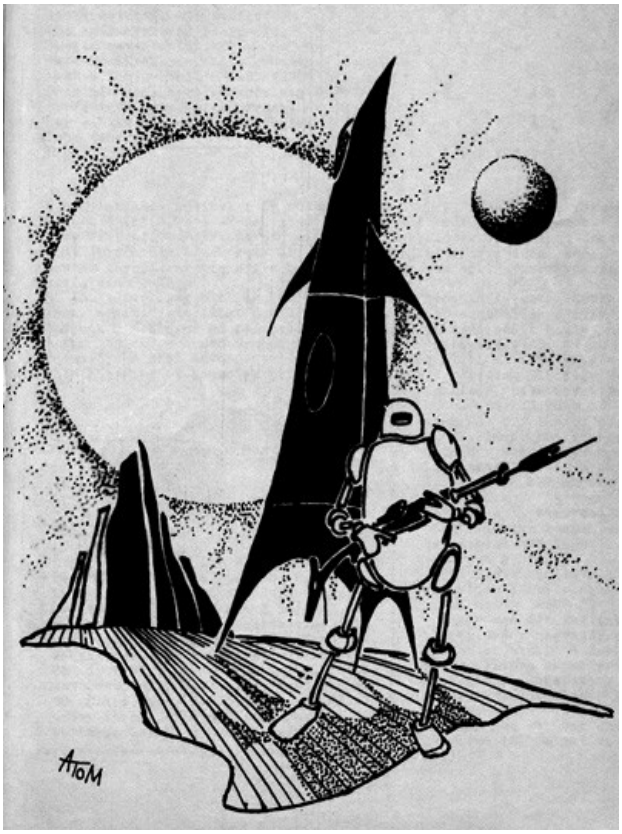


Illustration: Arthur Thomson, ATom 1927-1990

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2, 15th Mar 2013

I've been on a bit of a writing break while I continue to hunt for work, but now that it's the weekend, time presents itself for a much-needed break. Here are some comments on CounterClock 17.

We all have our fannish origins, and I think most of us got into fandom when it wasn't all that cool to join up, but when we needed friends more than anything else. I grew up in a small town of about 15,000, so there wasn't much support for something called science fiction fandom…it was sports or nothing, and so I was involved in basically nothing. It took our family to move as far west as possible to the city of Victoria, British Columbia before I found anything resembling fandom. I think that for myself, to more involved in doing things in fandom gave me more enjoyment, which is why we were on the committee of our local convention for 30 years before retiring a few years ago.

So few movies did I see in 2013…the only two I can think of were the first Hobbit movie and the second reboot Star Trek movie. These two movies had a common theme, I noticed…characters in both movies fall from great heights and land, get up and brush themselves off, and these are falls that would kill mere mortals like us. I guess I've gotten tougher to entertain, or maybe I have a tougher time of suspending my disbelief.

The locol…while Crimea decides on whether to separate from Ukraine and join Russia or become an independent nation, and Scotland decides on whether to separate from Britain/England and become independent, the province of Québec is again trying to make the same decision here. In my humble opinion, there's a lot to lose in separating, but then, whenever the separatists are in power in that province, they campaign to become the world's newest banana republic. Many of their policies range from questionable to outright racist, but there is a distinct probability that they will win the day this time.

My loc…the Web hit its 25th birthday, but it still has its growing pains. As it gets more complex, so does its software, and our computers seem to get older and slower faster. Looks like we are going to need a new computer soon, but we're not sure how we're going to afford that. I hope that I will have some work soon, but nothing is guaranteed, and it's out of my control. I got a fresh lens for my glasses, and my vision is about as good as it's every been.

Looks like I am done, and have done my page of comments. Thanks for another great zine, and we wish you an immanent spring!
Yours, Lloyd Penney.

ED: *Thx, Lloyd. Even though some countries split and others unite, it generally appears to be political play out of reach for common mortal men. It's a big, big world and I believe democracy would fare much better with more and smaller countries. Let Quebec splitt off, and the Venetian Republic, Friuli, Scotland, Wales, Bavaria, everyone!*
We could still have open borders and economic co-operations.
The Hobbit, yeah. I have not seen the second reel yet, and I expect to see the whole story when The Hobbit comes as a dvd-box with all three parts in it.

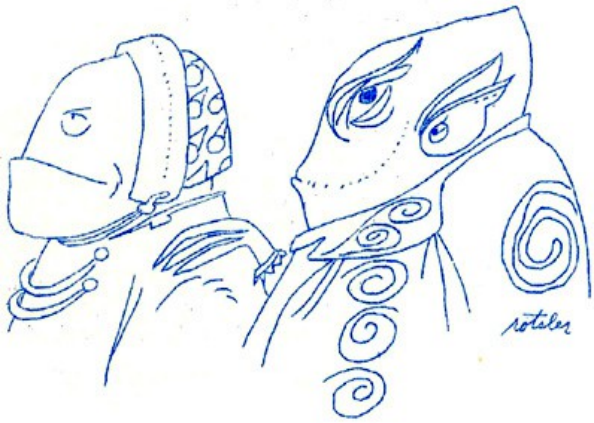


Illustration: Bill Rotsler 1926-1997

Rolf Strömgren
Stockholm, Sweden, 27 November 2013

You were wondering about my comment on your poetry and lyrics. This time I it was me who wasn't expressing myself particularly clear. :-)

You wrote: "all of my _boring_ poetry and lyrics, which probably no one is going to read anyway." Of course, it is prudent to be humble, but you practically bury yourself in the Jante law. Chance is you underestimate yourself and your works in a quite destructive sense. This is something I would like you to think about carefully. Even more so, if you think like this in all aspects of your being. If you go to far in the humbleness of the Jante law, we all lose from it.

I mentioned the postmodernists, because they are famous for deconstructing lyrics and not to acknowledge the authors primary intentions. In this case, I ought to set a deconstruction gang on your statements, to prove that you are wrong and that the lyrics infact are good. "Deconstruction gang" is a variation of "demolition gang", guys who are busy wrecking a building or tearing up a street. So, yeah, it was mentioned jestingly, but certainly not at your expense.

Speaking of music, do you have any idea what kind of music sf-fans like? Since we like things which from a mainstream-point-of-view are independent and different, so perhaps the taste in music is thereafter?

I like all kind of music, everything from heavy Black Sabbath, to Tom Waits, The Residents, Japanese and Chinese music, Gregorian chorales, chanting Romanian ladies..

Around Tom Waits some kind of cult following has been formed in recent years. even though a lady of my acquaintances said that "the man can't sing!", The Residents are somewhat peculiar. You'll find examples on Youtube. For both performers, one ought to patiently listen to an entire album to get some perspective on them.

Once I listened to an album with Chinese folk music just about when I was falling asleep. I dreamed I was walking along a road in the Chinese countryside, with loads of Chinese people standing alongside the road. They all had their faces turned towards me and smiled brightly. The warmth of their smiles felt like a warm touch in my face. It was quite an experience.

There is an piece of classical Japanese folk music (Japon eterno Arion Estereo Hispavox CH 715) which fits incredibly well, while one reads **At The Mountains of Madness** by HP Lovecraft. It was a wonderfully intense experience. I don't know if it is available now. My old cassette player doesn't function anymore.

It appears Staffan MN is still going strong. It would be nice to hear all of his old work again. Could you make an interview with him, like "One Infinity Later"?

ED: *I talked with Staffan before publishing his music, of course. Somehow he is still the same and of course he is not. No more than I am. I was thinking of doing a series of interviews. I pin the idea to the mental board of ideas.*

As for music particular to sf-fans. I don't think there is any particular genre, even if German fandom was heavy into electronic music á la Tangerine Dream, Klaus Schulze, etc for a very long time.

I believe all intelligent people like more than one kind of music and really have a broad perspective... Your story reminds me of a piece of Chinese or Japanese music (I do not know which) I recorded from Swedish radio when I was in my teens. It first sounded to me like a prolonged cruel torture and killing of a cat.

One morning I placed the casette recorder in front of the door to my sister's room. To wake her up. I had it at a high volume, to make sure. She woke up, alright. Ready for a prolonged cruel torture and killing of me. By the time I had already learned to appreciate these alien sounds.
*I can't for the life of me understand why she was so upset. It was really **good** music!*

*The Residents... I gave it a shot and... yes, I understand exactly what you mean. I call it **acquired taste** music.*
There is a lot of that. Arabic, Indian, Aborigine... which brings me to another story, once told to me by Stefan Kayat, I think...

Two Irishmen, a Scot and an Australian are sitting around a camp fire, playing their traditional music. The Australian brought a didgeri-douze. They take turns playing and after having listened to the Australian for a while, the Scotsman gets up and says: "Just didgeri-don't!"
(You have to do it with the proper accent.)

And finally, about being humble. Yes, you are right. I am overdoing it sometimes. It has become a habit. And yes, I am considering to revise my approach. Somewhat.
Really, I am giving it a lot of thought.

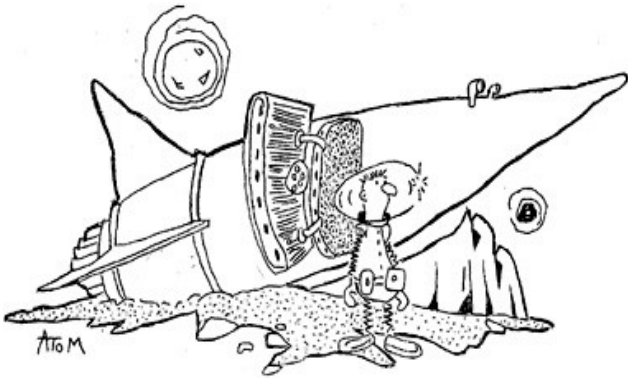


Illustration: Arthur Thomson, ATom 1927-1990

COUNTERCL🕘CK
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EUR🕘PEAN EVENT CALENDER:

THE FINAL COLONIACON - Germany
6-8th June 2014, Cologne
Now, after more than 30 years of running SF-Cons in Cologne, the team behind it has decided this one to become the last (language German).
http://www.coloniacon.eu/

FANTASTICON 2014, Denmark
14-15th June 2014, Copenhagen
http://fantasticon.dk/

Oldiecon in Wetzlar 20/6-22/6-2014
Hotel Bürgerhof (Konrad-Adenauer-Promenade 20) and in Phantastische Bibliothek (Turmstraße 20).
Info: Gustav Gaisbauer, email: gaisbauer-at-edfc.de

SWECON 2014 - STEAMPUNKFESTIVAL
27-29th June 2014, Gävle, Sweden
http://steampunkfestival.se/

FESTIVAL FANTAZIE - Czech Republic
27th June - 6th July 2014 - Chotěboř
http://festivalfantazie.cz/

FINNCON 2014
Jyväskylä, July 11-13th
http://2014.finncon.org/

SFCD-CON 2014 - SCHLOSSCON 2
Annual Convention of the SFCD e.V.
Schwerin, July 11-13th
http://www.schlosscon.de/

SF FESTIVAL - Romania
14-20th July 2014 - Rasnov / Brasov
http://www.fiction.ro/science-fiction-festival/science-fiction-festival-romania-2014/

30th of July to 2nd of August 2014
Celsius 232, Avilés/Spain
http://www.celsius232.es/

LONCON 3 - 72nd World SF-Con
14-18th August 2014
ExCeL. London DockLands
http://www.loncon3.org/

shamrokon
THE DUBLIN EUROCON 2014
22-24 AUGUST 2014
DoubleTree by Hilton, Dublin - Burlington Road
www.shamrokon.ie

Polcon - National Polish Convention
4-7th September 2014, Bielsko-Biala
Language: Polish

ELSTERCON 12 - Leipzig, Germany
19-21th September 2014

2nd Festival de Fantasía de Fuenlabrada
26-28th September, Fuenlabrada, Madrid / Spain
http://festival-fantasia-fuenla.blogspot.com

FilkContinental, 3-5th October 2014
Musik-Haus Jugendherberge Wernigerode/Harz
http://www.filkcontinental.de/2014/

Buchmesse Convent 2014
Frankfurt, Germany, date tba
Link: www.buchmessecon.info

BRISTOL-CON - Bristol, UK
18th October 2014, Doubletree Hotel
http://www.bristolcon.org/

HanseCon 30 - Gerfany
23-27th October 2014, Lübeck
small fannish convention (in German language)

UTOPIALES - France
tba November - Nantes
http://www.utopiales.org/

MIRCon/HispaCon 32, 6-8 December
Montcada i Reixac / Barcelona / Spain
https://www.facebook.com/MIRcon.Uranik

2015

EUROCON 2015 - Russia
23-26th April 2015, St.Petersburg

EUROCON 2016 - Barcelona

I know... I have not updated the calender very much, but I guess next year is not yet on people's minds. Not much.
Last page of this issue contains a collection of badges from my early fandom days. Also, my first era of fanac 1976-1990. Next back-cover (ish # 19), will have badges from my 2nd era of fanac.

That would be all for now. Fannishly, Wolf


Internationaler Science Fiction Congress
am 12.-14. August 1977
in der Stadthalle in Kleve/Ndh.
Conausweis (gültig für alle drei Tage)
Teilnehmer:
Wolf von Witting
Name
PRC TERRA KORPS - 13300 SALTSJÖBADEN SCHWEDEN
Club / Herkunftsort
(Bitte ausfüllen und sichtbar tragen)
Bei Vorlage dieser Karte erhält man an der Kasse die Kinoeintrittskarte(n)
pg-SFG "Fallow's Inn"
NASA-CON VI
Nacka-Saltsjöbadens SF-Kongress 1985 (Stockholm / Sweden)
SFCD-Con in Marburg 27-28th July 1978
WOLF VON WITTING
sfcd
SFSF
MINICON 4
30:e mars - 1:a april 1979
Wolf von Witting
SKANDINAVISK FÖRENING FÖR SCIENCE FICTION
Festival der Fantastik
SFCD-Con & EUROCON Mönchengladbach 1982
Colonia Con
WOLF VON WITTING
SFCD-Con in Cologne 1989
SCIENCE FICTION KONGRESSEN
6-7 OKTOBER 1979
Arrangör: Jules Verne-Magasinet
Wolf von Witting
Nr 185
Amaranten Hotel, Kungsholmsgatan 31, Stockholm. Den 6—7 okt.