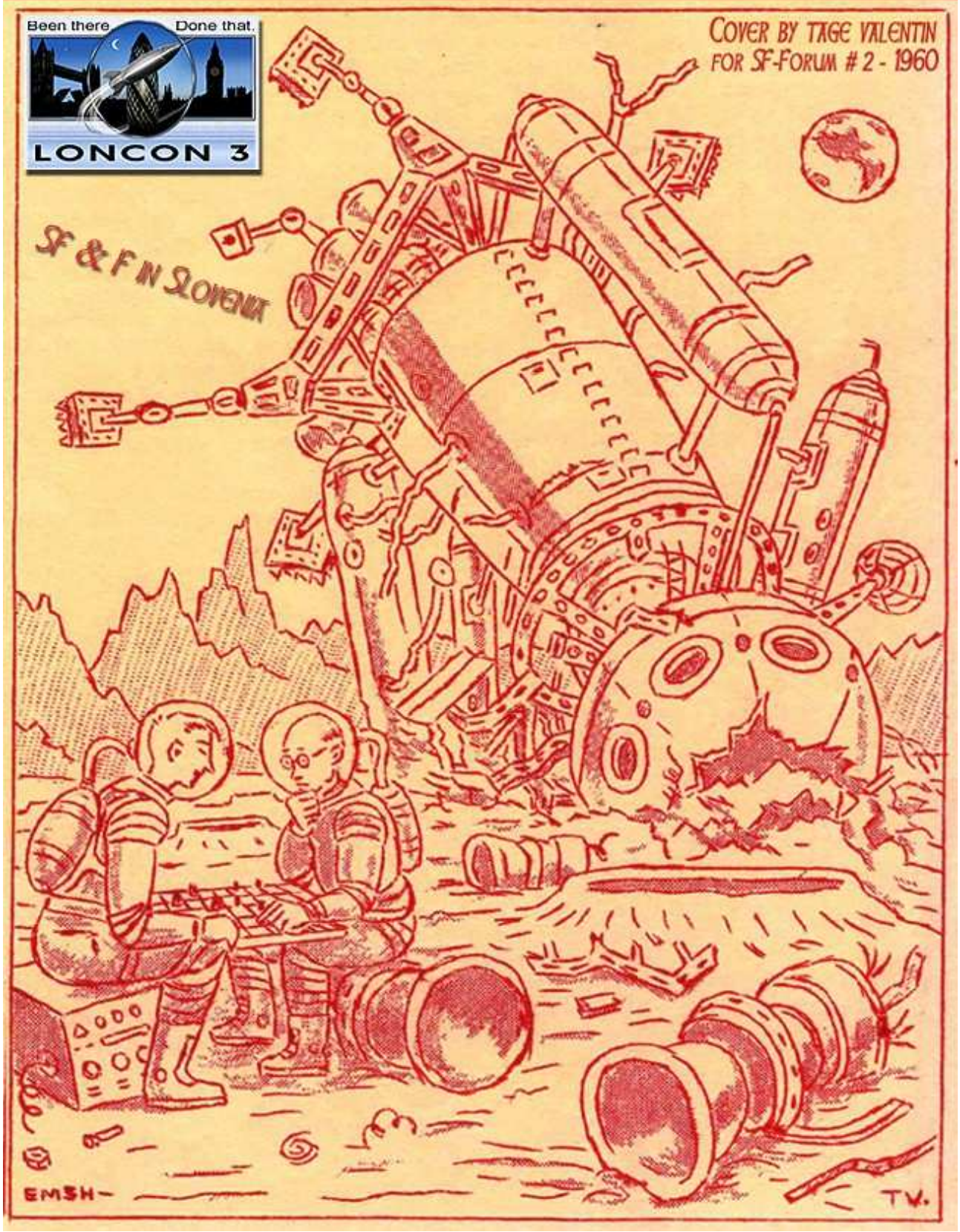
TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT SWEDISH FANDOM

COUNTERCLOCK

ISSUE # 19
SEPT 2014



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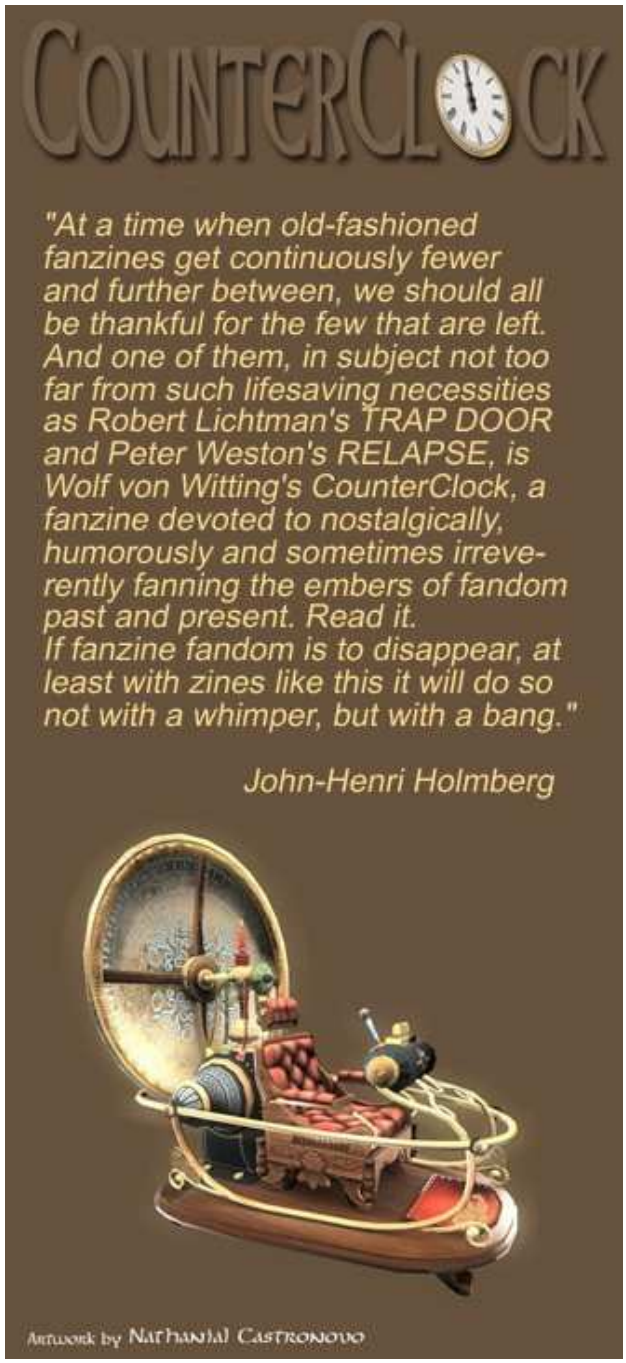
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Bojan Ekselenski (Slovenia) with Cheryl Morgan.

My thanks for help with this issue go to Jacob Palme, Bojan Ekselenski and Nicklas Andersson. Most data I've translated has been gathered and supplied by; John-Henri Holmberg, Hans Persson and Tomas Cronholm (by scans of SF-Forum). Also thank you to Anders Bellis, who at least was thinking about it... Time is a bitch, I know.



Cover of flyer produced for LONCON 3, August 2014

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CounterClock reminds me a little of Ok! Magazine, you know the kind of celebrity gossip magazines which are flooding all the world in various incarnations. Except this is for fandom. - J.W. PIGEON

INRODUCTI🕐N

The Swedish sf-fandom, or Sverifandom, how the Swedish fans themselves refer to it, is a far easier task to overview than its counterpart in Gerfany.
This is not so strange. Even if we include all the Nordic countries into a study, they don't amount to a third of the German population.

Sverifandom was ahead of Gerfany in almost every aspect. They were spared the devastation in the 2nd World War and didn't need to rebuild their country.
In school the Swedes replaced German with English as first foreign language, the Swedish supporters of Hitler's campaign were set to mute and The State Institute for Racial Biology was closed in 1958.
American culture, Coca Cola, Camel, Marlboro and Rock'n Roll music now also conquered the Viking countries. In Sweden a certain type of young male, thought it cool to drive around in petrol-consuming American cars, hitting on girls and taking them for all sorts of rides. They started a trend called *raggare* and when I researched on wikipedia what a raggare would be called in English or German, then I found no other word for it. It's *raggare* in all languages.
Less testosterone driven young men instead started several sf-clubs and began to publish fanzines long before the SFCD got into the gears. It's still a wonder that Gerfany managed to beat the Swedes about running the first convention (But then again, it took a woman to do it).

Over the years, fans in Norway and Sweden have had tight and frequent contact, the Norwegians generally kept themselves better informed about what went on in Sweden, than the other way around. Also fans in Denmark occasionally participated in Swedish fanzine-trade. During the pioneering years (until 1959) and up to a few years after ScanCon 1976, It is fair to speak of Scandinavian fandom as one. Of course, the Danish, Finnish and Norwegian fandoms have their own history, but in their prime one can't get around the fact that Swedish sf-fandom was the main frontier.
However, SF was hardly visible in popular media. Few sci-fi shows were aired on TV and there were no sf-magazines in the shop after HÄPNA! This may be another *personal experience*, but it seemed to me that science fiction was generally frowned upon even worse in Sweden than in Germany.

In this issue, we will also get some enlightenment about SF and fandom in Slovenia, thanks to its no:1 fan Bojan Ekselenski and of course I have to report from LONCON 3, which became just as a surreal experience as I had anticipated.
Well then, I wish you find something interesting in this issue and if so, feel free to comment on it!



Ted Carnell speaking at Festivention 1951, to the left behind him Walt Willis and Sigvard Östlund (left of Walt).

***LONDON – 1951**, was not only recognized as the first truly international European convention. E. J "Ted" Carnell (1912-1972) had the following to say about it:*
"Although the past eight North American Conventions have been called "World" conclaves, to Britain has gone the initial honour of holding the first truly International gathering. Geographical location made it an easier project for the London Committee responsible for the highly successful two-day meeting held in the muralled ballroom of the Royal Hotel over the weekend of May 12 - 13.
Over two hundred delegates from eight countries were able to compare notes and discuss the varying difficulties of their respective countries and make suggestions for each other's mutual advantage.
Speakers at a special session on international fandom were Lyell Crane (Canada); Forrest J. Ackerman (U.S.A.) ; Georges Gallet (France); Ben Abas (Holland); Sigvard Östlund (Sweden); Walter A. Willis (Ireland); Ken Paynter (Australia); Mrs. Ackerman and Lee Jacobs (U.S.A.)."

Help Rob Hansen's THEN archive on Festivention 1951:
to identify unknown fans in old pictures:
http://www.fiawol.org.uk/fanstuff/THEN%20Archive/1951Festivention/Festi01.htm

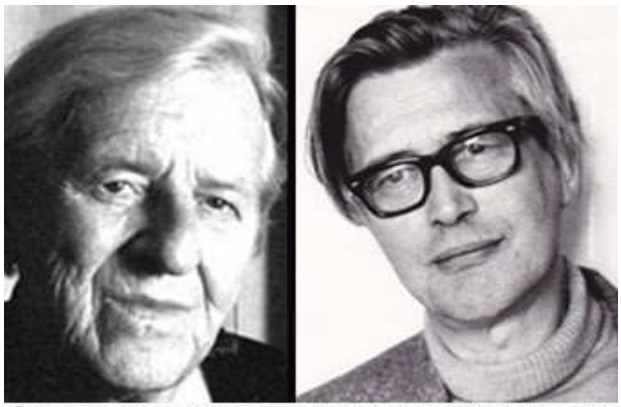
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Sources 4 this ish: VHECKANS ÄVFENTYR 1978-1981
by Ahrvid Engholm & Anders Bellis
FANYTT 1981-1986, ScanCon'76 programbok
Rune Forsgren "Skandinavisk Fanzinebibliografi"
Science Fiction-Forum, SFSF Club-fanzine 1960-2009
Intermission # 7, Sept 2012, Ahrvid Engholm
Hans Persson "SF-Kongresser i Sverige
http://familjen-persson.se/sf-kongresser/index.html

"...when (Alvar) "Skrutte" Appeltofft was rolling all over the floor with laughter in an underground wagon at Blackeberg, as he found the word "rubber" in an sf-magazine (in Stockholm, August 1958), or when Sammy Lundwall, in a Superman costume, was chased by raggare in a park at Hägersten (autumn 1957), or Tage Valentin, the chair of SFSF at the time, got nicked by the police during violent riots in Berzelii Park (January 1961)."
Sture Hällström remembers... (June 2014)

.The Rise of Fandom in Sweden

In the beginning there was Sture Lönnerstrand 1919 - 1999. He had been hooked on science fiction since the 40's. He thought himself to be alone with his passion until he met Roland Adlerberth 1923 - 1993. Together they formed FUTURA, the first pronounced sf-club in the country in 1950. Their third member became Sigvard Östlund, who with his wife participated at Festivention, the 1st International European Convention in London on May 10-13th in 1951.



Sture Lönnerstrand and Roland Adlerberth

Östlund, with his contacts in the USA and the UK, became somewhat of their *international expert*.

Another early force of fandom was Dénis Lindbohm (1927 - 2005), who right after finishing his military service in 1949 encountered Arvid Gyllenberg and formed a club which a few years later in essence became another sf-club, Club Meteor founded 1952.

There had been other early formations, such as the club *Atomic Noah*, formed in 1945. *"The members were very afraid of the recent atomic bombings in Japan and envisioned themselves to build spaceships to take humanity to a new world to save as many as possible in case of a full-scale atomic war."* wrote Ahrvid Engholm in his efanzine Intermission # 7, September 2012.

Another proto-fannish occurrence was the fanzine *Vår Rymd* (Our Space), which around the year 1952 was published with at least seven issues by the southern Swedish Astronomy Club Andromeda. Some of its content can be considered sf.

I will stick with the classic version of how it all began, because even if there were other formations, none of them had any particular impact on what Swedish fandom became. But Sture Lönnerstrand and his friends in FUTURA did have a considerable impact.
I will now quote (translated from Swedish) from an article John-Henri Holmberg published in SF-Forum # 81 (1980, Clubfanzine of SFSF): *"On St Lars str 3 in Jönköping, had Kindberg & Sons in 1953 their family owned book printing company. The owners were Kurt & Karl Gustaf Kindberg, who kept the printing business as a hobby and an extra source of income. Both of the brothers were interested in science fiction and when they heard of FUTURA having been formed in Stockholm, the idea to publish a science fiction-magazine began to take shape which would satisfy both their need to make use of the family business and gratify their own interest in science fiction. K.G.Kindberg left for Stockholm and met with Sture Lönnerstrand at restaurant Reisen in the Old Town.
It became a historical dinner."*

As Lönnerstrand after dinner suggested the name HÄPNA! for the sf-magazine, Kindberg became so enthused that he insisted on buying them both a drink. *"Nej, nu bjuder jag förbaske mig på en grogg!"* Kindberg's famous words which have entered into Sverifandom's collection of legendary quotes.

-The single most important factor, for creating an sf-fandom in Sweden, was the pulp-magazine HÄPNA! (Astound!) appearing monthly over the years 1954 to 1966 (with irregular publishing in its final two years). The (fandom) club column in HÄPNA! was for many years in the hands of Alvar Appeltofft, who aided an evolving fandom in making new contacts.



The cover of HÄPNA # 8 in November 195

HÄPNA! was somewhat paradoxically a product of sf-fans to create sf-fandom. From the very first issue it encouraged fans to form their own sf-clubs. Some of the first to oblige were the college boys Lars-Erik Helin, Gabriel Setterborg and Hans Sidén in Gothenburg, who in March 1954 formed CLUB COSMOS.
1954 also saw the birth of two sf-fanzines, Clloev by Dénis Lindbohm in Malmö and Cosmos Bulletin, the Clubzine of Club Cosmos. Of all early formations, it is only CLUB COSMOS which prevailed until today.
Holmberg's account of early Swedish sf-clubs which spawned all over the country in response to HÄPNA! is great in detail and surely of colossal interest to fan-historians, but I realize how pointless it is to bombard you with names of little consequence.
Swedish fans may want to read his original articles in SF-Forum 81-83, if they haven't done so already.
Without his thorough summary, this issue might have been far more difficult to assemble.

Jacob Palme - A Voice From the Past:

born 1941 was a professor in computer science at Stockholm University 1998-2008. He is the author of several detective novels (in Swedish) and books related to computer science. In the 60's he engaged in public debate with (among other topics) a book which advocated "Free Abortion" (1964). In 1958 he was the chair of the third sf-convention in Sweden, STOCKON 2.

"When I was 11 years old, in the year 1952, I lived in Uppsala, a city 70 kilometers from Stockholm. I got interested in Science Fiction. But at that time there were only about ten SF books translated to Swedish. My interest in SF forced me to learn to read books in English. I wrote a story to the then-time Swedish SF magazine, HÄPNA. This got me into contact with some other people interested in SF. In 1954, we formed a small group of about eight people. We met in Stockholm, in a school building, and talked of various SF related things.

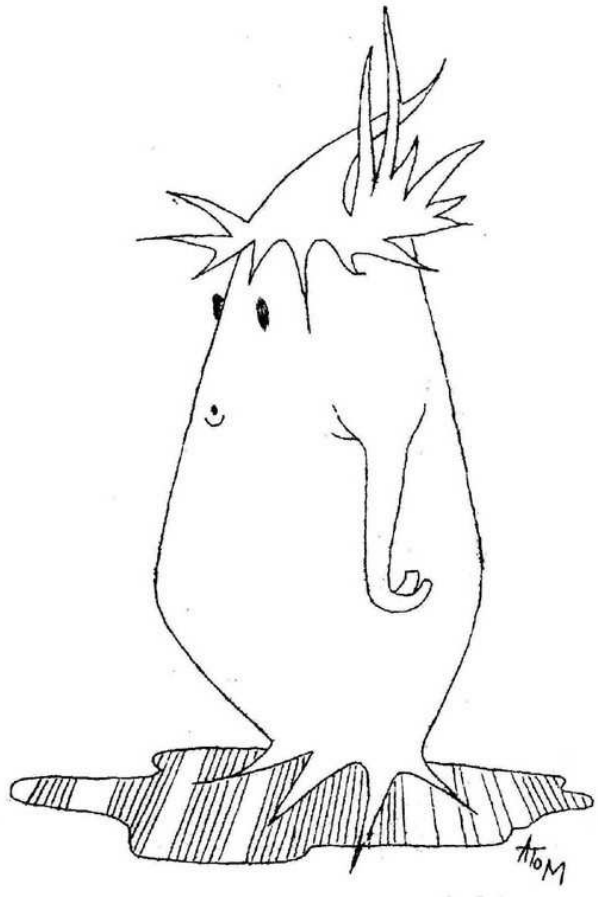
To me, it was at that age (I was 13 years old), a rather intimidating experience, going to such a big city, so far away. First by bike (20 minutes), then travel by train (60 minutes) and tram (20 minutes) to get to the school where our SF-interested group met. But my interest in SF not only got me to learn to read English, but also to go to that big city to meet those few Swedish people interested in SF. This was before fandom got spread to many people who organized meetings like STOCKON. We were just a few people who met because we had that common interest. But for me, the interest in SF was an important step towards adulthood."

David Palme, the son of Jacob Palme may have been influenced by his father. One of his hobbies, is to write fantasy and horror. He has written an impressive number of horror stories. Some of them have been translated to English, see: http://www.palme.nu/horror/

FANAC in Sweden 1954 - 1977

year	fanzines	pages	con	members
1954	6	55		
1955	7	64		
1956	30	410	LUNCON	40
1957	27	376	STOCKON	70
1958	51	817	STOCKON 2	50
1959	48	564	HALMCON	15
1960	33	524	none	
1961	19	221	STOCKON 3	30
1962	24	400	none	
1963	35	384	STOCKON 4	40 + UPPCON 30
1964	52	819	none	
1965	62	1100	STOCKON 5	50
1966	50	792	MALCON 2	40
1967	61	1061	GÖTCON	45
1968	36	668	STOCKON 6	60
1969	37	1254	CON 69	40
1970	19	725	FANCON	120
1971	34	636	GOTHCON	100
1972	32	753	SF 72	175 + 2 cons 60+25
1973	82	1658	SF-Kongressen	180 + 2 cons 50+20
1974	56	1265	FANCON 2	250+
1975	56	1250	SF-Kongressen	325
1976	82	1719	SCANCON 76	475
1977	77	1803	SF-Kongressen	150-250 + MINICON 60

The production of *known* fanzines in Sweden peaked in '58 and was barely exceeded in '64. The record of STOCKON, Stockholm in '57 wasn't beaten until '70.

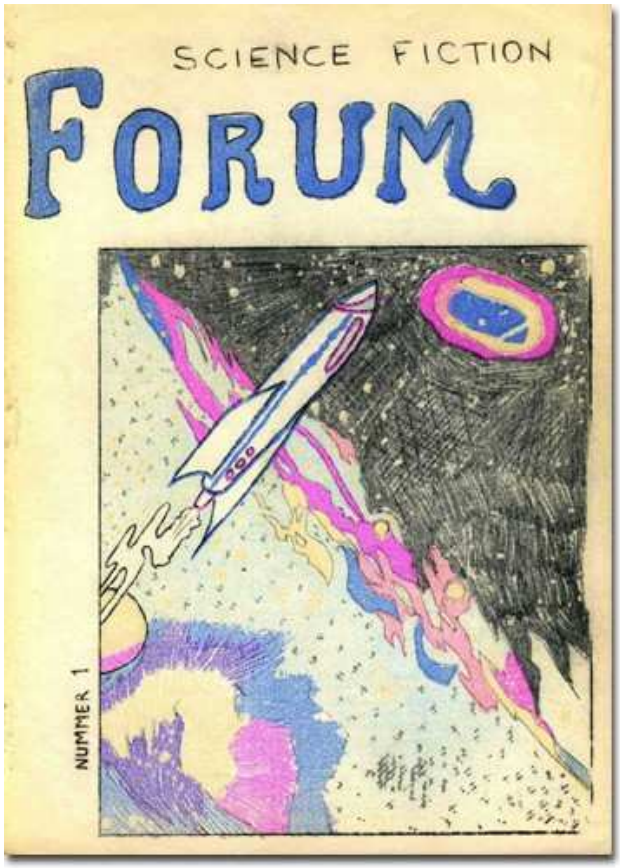


Illustrations by ATom (and Rotsler) appeared frequently in Swedish fanzines throughout the 60's and 70's.

It was Bo Stenfors who first spoke of numbered fandoms in Sweden in his fanzine *Three Fandoms and a Fourth (translated).* Many years later Ahrvid Engholm picked up the idea and wrote an article about it in VHECKANS ÄVFENTYR # 50, Dec 1980. He also concluded that Sverifandom was in its 9th incarnation on the brink to its 10th. He decided to count the peaks in fanzine production as divisors. 1st - 1956, 2nd - 1958, 3rd - 1962 (by number of pages) and so on... This is how we *know* that Ahrvid, Bellis and I belonged to the 9th Swedish fandom.
However, I am quite certain that the explosion of fanac in the 9th and 10th fandom blew everyone and everything away who cared to count. I wish him luck, who tries to determine how many fanzines and how many pages were produced in the years 1979-1989. And luck may not be enough.

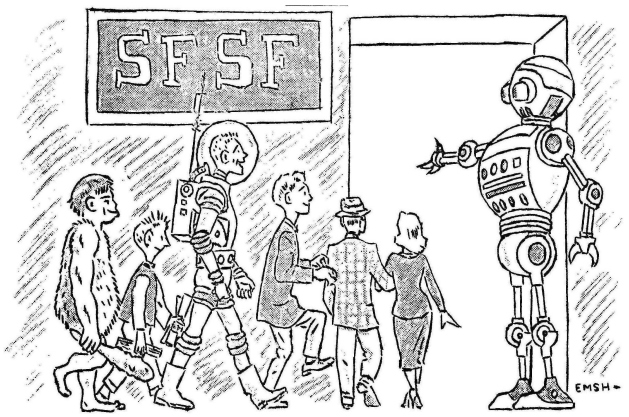
Throughout the 60's Sverifandom experienced a long sequence of ups and downs in fannish activity. More so, if one looks at the smoffing side of it. On the faned side there was a definite upward trend.

SFSF (Scandinavian Society for Science Fiction) was formed late in 1959 and even though their member-ship activity mostly was situated in and around Stockholm, they acquired members all over the Scandinavian countries.



SF-Forum # 1, SFSF's Club-magazine from 1959-60.

Their Club-magazine SF-Forum was initially edited by George Sjöberg (1930 - 2005), who used his two middle names "Tage Valentin" as pseudonym for the drawings he made. *"Even if he achieved herostratic fame, at least in early Swedish fandom, his career was short. He published a dozen fanzines between 1955 and 1960 (Star, Fhan and the first issues of SF-Forum). After having been thrown out from SFSF for his neonazi-political activities, he didn't have any further connection with sf-fandom, as far as I am aware of (Though rumour has it that he was the only Swedish person who owned one of Bradbury's signed and numbered asbestos bound copies of Fahrenheit 451 in its first edition of 200).*
(John-Henri Holmberg, June 7th, 2014)



Lars-Olov Strandberg (member no 7) appears already as letterhack in # 3 of SF-Forum. In May 1962 he becomes secretary of SFSF. Bo Stenfors takes over as editor of SF-Forum and Sam J Lundwall joins the small band of editors (in SF-Forum # 6). But Lundwall is replaced by John-Henri Holmberg from # 9 and in the following issue Holmberg replaces Bo Stenfors. Then came Mats D Linder.

In the 60's number 1 to 46 of SF-Forum saw the light of day. The anniversary issue # 46 for 10 years of SFSF comprised of 216 pages, which I believe is something of a record in Swedish fandom for an individual fanzine. In total SF-Forum had almost 2,500 pages produced in the sixties, which averages more than 50 pages per issue. And it was more than a 3rd of the total Swedish fanzine-output in the 60's.

The 119th and final issue of HÄPNA came in 1966. It was succeeded *by* JULES VERNE-MAGASINET, an in 1969 by Bertil Falk revived and renamed weekly adventure magazine from the 1940's and became from 1971 in the hands of Sam J Lundwall a long running sf-magazine. Although it also had a fandom column, its impact on the development of fandom remained minor. JVM was not found in the shops and could only be received on subscription.
The last issue of JULES VERNE-MAGASINET # 542 came October 2009. Or shall we say, the latest?



Bo Stenfors is best remembered for his skill to produce dangerous curves in his fanzine SEXY VENUS as well as in SF-Forum with stylus and stencils. This one from # 9.

SF-Conventions in Sweden 1956 - 69

The first Swedish sf-convention was held in the far south of the country. Lund is near Malmö.
18-19th August 1956 LunCon, Lund (39 members)
Arr: Utopia SF-Club, Chair: Kjell Pettersson,
At this occasion Dénis Lindbohm atempted to form a union of sf-clubs for Sweden, but the project failed.

STOCKON, price: 5 SEK
23-24 August 1957, Stockholm (65-70)
Arr: Futura, Chair: Leif Helgesson
The second Swedish con was generally regarded as a success. The program consisted of scientific and pseudo-scientific ideas, quizzes, discussions and reading.

STOCKON 2
22-24 August 1958, Stockholm (50+)
Chair: Jacob Palme / Carl H Bierbaum
This convention, arranged by the SF-Union of Scandinavia got sidetracked by the disturbing event of its entire board deciding to resign during the con. It marks the end of the first period of enthusiasm in Swedish fandom.

MALCON, Midsomer 1959
A concocted hoax by Sam J Lundwall and Dénis Lindbohm, supported by a brief note in Häpna! 10/1958 about the Malcon-Circle having been founded for running a convention in 1959. Lundwall visited the latter in his home in Malmö and might even have encountered some other members of the local sf-club (Club Meteor). But it wasn't really a convention.

HALMCON 22-23rd August 1959, Halmstad (15)
Chair: Alvar Appeltofft - *The convention ended with everyone going for a swim on Sunday the 23rd. For this remembered as a unique event.*

1960 - no event

STOCKON 3 - 25 February 1961, Stockholm (30)
Chair: Sam J Lundwall

1962 - no event

STOCKON 4 - 6-7th April 1963 (40)
Chair: Sam J Lundwall

UppCon / Upsala SF-Meeting
17th November 1963 (30)

1964 - no event

STOCKON 5 17-19 April 1965, Stockholm (50)

MALCON 2, 1966 Malmö / Lund (40)
Chair: Leif Andersson
This is the first convention where I can find a GoH mentioned: Sven Christer Swahn (author)

GÖTCON, 25-27th March 1967 Gothenburg (45)
Chair:Ingemar Nilsson

STOCKON 6, 1968, Stockholm (60)

Con 69, 3 days in June 1969 Lund (40)
Arr: LF3, Chair: Bertil Mårtensson
The final event of the 60's is described as a chaotic event without the traditional program-items. Instead it had a number of informal program-items. From the sound of it, I guess it was the first really fannish con in Sweden.

Fandom in Sweden was not an overwhelming number of people in the 50's and 60's. No con gathered more than 70 souls. The character of Swedish fans was with exception of CON 69 mostly *Sercon* serious and constructive.
It wasn't easy, being an sf-fan in Sweden. The books were few and expensive. Many solved the problem by learning the English language. TV-programs being transmitted in their original language with subtitles made it easier to learn.

The memory of the second and the fear of a third World War was still somewhere in the back of most people's heads. Sure, the race between Russians and Americans for the moon, was a real connection to space exploration, but looking into the future was not exactly everyone's cup of tea.



Illustration: Steven Hägg

LIVING IN THE 60's by the Wolf

I can only give an account for the second half, coz in the first half of the 60's I was not living in Sweden.
Apart from the small detail that I was unaware of its existence, I was most certainly also too young to become a member of CLUB COSMOS while I lived in Gothenburg. Not that they wouldn't have accepted me, but it is a good idea to learn how to read first.
Later, as I had acquired the ability to read, we lived closer to LF3 (Lunds Fantasy Fan Förening, formed in 1966). But again... I never knew they were there.

In spite of the race for the moon, in spite of technological advances and in spite of fantastic cinematic achievements such as 2001, the general public kept sneering at science fiction. That was all kid-stuff!
But why? I never understood what was so bad about considering what the future would be like. I could not understand this irrational resistance. We were going to live in that future... It was natural to wonder what it would be like. All the wonders of technology we were going to experience! So the contempt was entirely mutual, as far as I was concerned.

On TV I can recall Roger Moore as *the Saint* Simon Templar as well as *Danger Man* John Drake Patrick McGoohan and best of all, *Raumpatrouille (Orion)*, because I could understand every word of it.
Somewhat later the one Swedish TV-channel also aired *The Addams Family* (at least some episodes).
I wasn't really thinking about it at the time, but years later when watching it again, it occurred to me that Danger Man was interesting, because John Drake didn't even carry a gun. Occasionally he solved a case using his fists, but more often so by using his brain.
The third of September in 1967 was a big day. It was the day when all cars in Sweden went from driving on the left side of the road to the right side.

I was allowed to see King Kong (1933), when it was aired on TV. I actually gasped when saw him for the first time. It was almost as cool as the moon landing to watch.
Most of the 60's rolled by in Beatlemania. We ran across the yard half singing and half yelling lyrics we didn't understand: "*Sh'laffs-yu, yeah, yeah, yeah!*"
My only regret about the 60's is that I was too young and too far away to make it to Woodstock. I consider it one of the most important events during my life time. The people who gathered there were sending a message to history itself. Even if they didn't see it that way themselves. We want peace!

I lived in Gothenburg when GÖTCON'67 was on, but at the time I was still playing with toy space ships.
Around Christmas came an excellent fantasy-series for children, in which an old lady had the misfortune

to suddenly and at inconvenient moments shrink to the size of a tea spoon. 22 episodes - each 10 min.
See Imdb: Gumman som blev liten som en tesked

By the time CON 69 was held in Lund, in the south of Sweden, we had already moved there and me and my brother were already sniffing at sf-books.
But we didn't know there was a con in town. We did not even know there was such a thing as fandom.

Once in 1969, Swedish TV had really put on their *big spender trousers (Swedish idiom, meaning that they were spending a lot of money)* and bought three entire episodes of *The Avengers*. Among them "Mission... Highly Improbable" the episode in which Mr Steed and Miss Peel are shrunk to the size of tea spoons.
Star Trek or Lost in Space? In Sweden? No! Not in the 60's... We had to wait. Time Tunnel, Invaders, Land of the Giants or UFO? No! None of that... this was a country with only one TV channel and it was not exactly the sci-fi-channel either... But it wasn't all that bad. In those days Swedish program for children was still intelligently made. They didn't take us for total idiots. And for this I am grateful!

The first sf-novel I read was not Perry Rhodan. It was *Sven Wernström - Destination Mars.*
It was followed by a number of equally great works by Carl Henner, Karl Zeigfreid (Lionel Fanthorpe) and Murray Leinster.



Ok... so not a whole lot better than Perry Rhodan.

Oh, yeah! Before I forget... On December 5th in 1969, with 26 days remaining of the 60's, the second Swedish TV channel started broadcasting. It stands to reason that TV wasn't the main entertainment of people. It was only occasionally interesting.
And Colours? Sweden transmitted the first colour-program, a fashion-show in 1965, but only a few programs were transmitted in colour in the 60's.
In October 1968 there were 30,000 households in Sweden with colour-TV. From April 1970 colour-transmissions were sent 6 hours per week.
The price of a colour-TV in 1968 was 4,000 SEK, which in Euro today would make roughly 3500, or 4800 USD. The main source, to experience great adventures, remained in books.

THE 70's - WHEN LIFE WAS LONG AND SKIRTS WERE SHORT

So, yeah... it was two channels and colour-TV being the novelty of the early 70's. And in December of 72, when Eugene Cernan was the last man to step onto the surface of the moon, the public eye had long since turned away from moon-travels.
It was the same year that Sam J Lundwall, Anders Palm and Jörgen Peterzén formed the Stockholm Tolkien Society, "Forodrim".
Think about it! It has been 42 years since anyone set foot on the moon. Who would have thought that we wouldn't go any further?
While researching for this issue of CounterClock, it came back to me, that I actually read a science fiction-novel of considerable quality, one which has been overlooked by many. *Kallocain*, a Swedish dystopian classic, written in 1940 by *Karin Boye*. Of course, I was at the age of 11 unable to appreciate its literary quality. I just had to read it, because it was on the shelf among sf-books in the library.
I may have to read it again.

Cars were still moving along the ground on wheels. But seatbelts were introduced into them, early in the decade, but it wasn't until 1975, that we actually had to use them (by law, for the back-seat in 1986).
SPACE 1999 flickered across the TV screens in colour, but it was already silly to watch their primitive computer-technology and black & white monitors.
Little did we suspect how vastly computer science of real life would outperform the predictions in SF. But we thought our calculators with LED-display were pretty awesome, when they first appeared.

Looking back, all the technology they had in SPACE 1999, we have it. We have even **better** technology.
But still no moonbase. Why? Because there is no money in it. If a base on the moon would generate profit, we would have one.

But in terms of science fiction and fandom. This was the decade in which everything would change for us. And change radically.



Bill S Ballinger - The Ultimate Warrior, Vargo Statten and Hans Kneifel (12 adventures with the ORION).

Sverifandom Conventions 1970-79

With the 70's a new era of conventions was introduced by its 6th fandom, namely by John-Henri Holmberg and Mats D Linder and their friends. What they introduced were conventions stretching over 3 days instead of two, pre-printed program- or souvenir booklets and an art exhibition in connection with the convention. Club Cosmos in Gothenburg were in the mix early in the decade, but seemed to suffer from a terrible hangover after AlcoCon 72, while LF3 in Lund contributed with events 1973 and 1978.

FANCON 70, 1-3rd May 1970 Stockholm (120)
Chair: John-Henri Holmberg / Mats D Linder
Arr: WDVF & 6th Fandom

GOTHCON, 20-23rd May 1971, Gothenburg (100)
Arr: Club Cosmos

SF 72, 28 April - 1st May 1972, Stockholm (175)
at Carlton Hotel, Chair: Per Insulander/Ulf Westblom
GoH: John Brunner, Arr: 6th Fandom

ALCOCON, 21-22nd Oktober 1972 (-60)
Arr: Club Cosmos

LOGCON, 9-11th June 1973, Lund (50)
Arr: LF3 (another informal even, similar to CON 69)

FANCON 2, 31 May-3rd June 1974, Stockholm (275)
GoH: Brian W Aldiss, Arr: WDVF & 6th Fandom
Chair: John-Henri Holmberg / Mats D Linder

ScanCon 76, 4-7th July, Stockholm (450+)
GoH: Jack Vance
Chair: John-Henri Holmberg, Per W Insulander
The record attendance of ScanCon 76 wasn't broken until the EuroCon in Stockholm 2011.

Bacon 9-11 June 1978, Lund (>200)
GoH: Bob Shaw, Arr: LF3

Sam J Lundwall arranged four conventions in odd numbered years, which he all simply named SF-Kongressen (the SF-Convention). They all took place at the Hotel Amaranten, which eventually got so crowded that he had to limit their attendance. There is significant disagreement on the number of members for 1977. But according to the report in JVM # 366, the attendance was limited to 300. Yet some 24 people who had travelled from far, without booking in advance, were allowed anyway.

SF-Kongressen, 6-7th October 1973, Stockholm (180)
GoH: Donald A Wollheim, Chair: Anders Palm, JVM

SF-Kongressen, 3-5 October 1975, Stockholm (325)
GoH: Alfred Bester, Chair: Sam J Lundwall, JVM

SF-Kongressen, 8-9 October 1977, Stockholm (324)
GoH: Robert Sheckley, Chair: Sam J Lundwall, JVM

SF-Kongressen, 5-7 October 1979, Stockholm (150+)
GoH: Harry Harrison, Chair: Börje Crona, JVM

These were the big events of the 70's, but there were also a number of smaller conventions held.
Sverre Schriewer had the idea to have an informal (fannish) event aboard the ferries between Stockholm and Mariehamn, an idea picked up again in the 80's. But the first two were ferry-cons were:

BEMCON, August 1972, (25)
BEMCON II, early August 1973, (20)

SFSF had, after buying a book-club in 1975, suddenly become a bigger club than German SFCD and could afford to have their own club-house. This place was situated at Pontonjärgatan in Stockholm where several MiniCons were held and where oldfan Sture Hellström was in charge of the film-program.

MiniCon, 16-18th December 1977, Stockholm (<60)
MiniCon 2, 7-9th April 1978, Stockholm (<70)
MiniCon 3, 13-15 October 1978, Stockholm (<50)
MiniCon 4, April 1979, Stockholm (40)

RosCon, 18-19 August 1979 (25+)
GoH: Forrest J Ackerman, SFSF, Engholm & Bellis

A final MiniCon was held in 1980, before the clubhouse became too expensive for SFSF to keep.
MiniCon 5, 12-13 April 1980, Stockholm (30-40)
GoH: Sven Christer Swahn, Chair: Engholm / Bellis



SF-Kongressen 79 had Science Fiction-Nytt (news), MiniCon and ScanCon had their souvenir booklets.



The SF-Bookshop in Stockholm has deservedly been a successful enterprise. It all started late in 1975 as SFSF bought a science fiction-book club when its publisher had grown weary of it.
The members of this book club were offered to become members of SFSF and could order their books (including foreign sf-literature) through the *new* club. This was a smart move and SFSF got several hundred new members. In 1977 SFSF acquired the shop/club facilities on Pontonjärgatan 45 in Stockholm. That's where and how I found them in 1979.
I got completely the wrong impression. Clearly SFSF was bigger than the SFCD at this time. Because of the book club. And I thought it had always been like this, while it in fact was only in the late 70's.
SFCD had split off from its book club Transgalaxis in the late 50's. Fandom and business does not seem to mingle well. Neither did it for SFSF.
The rent went up and the club could no longer afford to stay at the old address. In the autumn of 1980 the shop was closed. From 1981 the members could again order their books by mail. In 1984 the shop was re-opened at a new address. Working there, were sf-fans, members of SFSF. And they did not even get paid for their work. At the end of the 80's, the sales suddenly increased significantly.
So, the fans working with the shop formed a joint-stock company and bought 1990 the bookshop from SFSF. From there on, they were working for themselves.
1991 they moved the shop to the Old Town in the middle of Stockholm and 1996 they opened the shop on its busiest street. In the new millennium, they have expanded the enterprise with a second shop in Gothenburg and since 2007 with a shop in Malmö.


Jörgen Forsberg, Robert Brown, Michael Svensson

Being sf-fans themselves, they were always able to give customers valuable advice.
When hiring personnel they were not looking for pretty faces, but rather for *total sf-geeks.* The same kind that their customers always have been.
Towards fanzines and conventions they have always been supportive and generous. As far as I am aware they never made any distinction between sf-fans.
I was one of their best customers for many years. Its because and through this shop that I acquired most of my first film-collection (on VHS). I never had the impression that their prices were unfair. Not even when they moved to Västerlånggatan, the busiest shopping street in town, where the rent surely must have been outrageously high.
To me, the SF-Bookshop is evidence that fandom and business *can* mix. I can only hope, that in these times of financial insecurity all over the world, that my friends in the SF-Bookshop can continue with their enterprise. I regret, that I am forced to take my business elsewhere after moving to Italy.

SF-BOKHANDELN in Stockholm has been a good supporter of sf-fandom in the country and one of its essential pillars. Apart from the three in the picture, I would also like to salute all the others who have been part of the shops success. For example Alvar-winner of 1984: *Maths Claesso*n, who often has appeared as their front man and speaker, and Alvar-winner of 1989: *Lennart Uhlin*, who you may even have heard of, being an internationally active fan who has published several fanzines in English language (as far as I am aware of).

If you are a science fiction-fan and if you ever come to Stockholm, you *have to* go there and spend some cash! They are, as I recall, as well stocked on books and film as *Forbidden Planet* in London.
According to the German sf-fan Eckhard D Marwitz, who once entered the shop it is... Someone who quoted him said that he spontaneously exclaimed: "My God! It's bigger than in Hamburg!"

When in Sweden... in Stockholm, I always drop by and try to spend some money there. Occasionally I happen to get involved in a conversation with other shoppers. At my latest visit, October 2013, I met a father who was looking for classical Doctor Who adventures, but didn't know what to start with. His boy was hooked on new Doctor Who, but had them all already. I told him that classical Doctor Who was quite different and a bit of *acquired taste*.
Not everyone likes the TV-theatre style, even if the scripts were good. I recommended to start with "The Five Doctors" and "Genesis of the Daleks" and told him to brace his son for a completely different style.
And yes, I always like it, when the shop gets another satisfied customer. WOLF

Awards in Sweden

Sweden has had 150+ different awards for literature and only one of them was specifically for SF-literature. And it was not the Aniara Award.
The very first winner of the Aniara Award did have connection to sf. P.C.Jersild, who received it in 1974, used elements of both sf and fantasy in his work. But none of the 40 winners since then has been particularly related to sf.
On November 15th, 1964, Ingvar Svensson formed the *Swedish Academy for Science Fiction*.
Its purpose was to support and stimulate sf-literature and its fandom. By its winners, one can safely say, that it was a forerunner of the in 1978 introduced Alvar-Award, though the latter by its definition only has been handed out to sf-fans. Never to a pro.

Winners of the Swedish SF Academy Award were:

1963 - Sam J Lundwall
1964 - Dénis Lindbohm
1965 - no award
1966 - Jannick Storm (Denmark)
1967 - John-Henri Holmberg
1968 - Bertil Mårtensson
1969 - Mats D Linder
1970 - Jon Bing (Norway)
1971 - no award
1972 - Hans Arnold (artist & illustrator)
1973 - Göran Bengtson
1974 - Carl Johan Holzhausen
1975 - Tor Åge Bringsvaerd
1976 - Sven Christer Swahn

After 1976 I can find no mentioning of this Award, which probably means it got cancelled in favour of the Alvar.

EuroCon Awards & Comments:

Inger Edelfeldt (author, illustrator, sf-fan) is the most often awarded Swedish fan and author. Between 1987 and 1999, she has received 11 Awards. Among them the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis of 1987 (German Youth-literature Award). However, none of these awards were related to SF.
Ahrvid Engholm's fanzine SF-Journalen received in 1996 the Eurocon Award, best fanzine
Carl Henner (Henrik Nanne), one of Sweden's most prolific sf-writers does not even have any Wikipedia-entry.
John-Henri Holmberg's sf-magazine NOVA SF received in 2009 the Eurocon Award, best magazine
Sam J Lundwall received in 2011 the Eurocon Honorary Award - European Grand Master.
Bertil Mårtensson also received the Eurocon Special Award in 1972 (Trieste).
Sven Christer Swahn (1933-2005) was handed the Astrid Lindgren-Award in 1992.

List of Alvar Winners

Sweden is one of the few countries which has an award for fannish (volunteer) work. It's an amusing coincidence that Alvar was the son of Ellen and Hugo Appeltofft. The Alvar is the most prestigious award within sf in Sweden. An equivalent of the Fan-Hugo. There is no award for authors and editors.
...other than fan-editors. In the 80's and 90's the Alvar was awarded almost exclusively to fan-editors.
'For *Comprehensive and Meaningful Volunteer Work of Lasting Value in Swedish SF-Fandom*.'

1977 - Alvar Appeltofft (posthumously)
1978 - Ahrvid Engholm
1979 - Anders Bellis & Rune Forsgren
1980 - Erik Andersson
1981 - David Nessle
1982 - Mika Tenhovaara
1983 - Kaj Harju
1984 - Maths Claesson
1985 - Lars-Arne Karlsson
1986 - Michael Svensson
1987 - Jan Risheden
1988 - Malte & Martin Andreasson
1989 - Lennart Uhlin
1990 - Ylva Spångberg
1991 - Marcel Quarfood
1992 - Andreas & Carina Björklind
1993 - Holger Eliasson & Chris Loneberg
1994 - Magnus Eriksson
1995 - Lars Olsson (fan & illustrator)
1996 - Tommy Persson
1997 - Hans Persson
1998 - Johan Anglemark
1999 - Lars-Olov Strandberg
2000 - Anna Davour
2001 - Wolf von Witting
2002 - Sten Thaning
2003 - Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf
2004 - Nicolas Krizan (fan-artist & illustrator)
2005 - Britt-Louise Viklund
2006 - Johan Jönsson
2007 - Anders Reuterswärd
2008 – Patrik Centerwall
2009 – Helena Kiel
2010 – Tomas Cronholm
2011 – Jonas Wissting
2012 - Mårten Svantesson
2013 - Louise Rylander

The award itself is a light bulb, decorated with a wire-beanie mounted on a block of wood.
This symbol, representing the sf-fan himself, was designed by Nicolas Krizan (winner '04). With the award comes a modest amount of money and a diploma to hang on the wall.



The original light bulb was transparent. I like green.

Nova SF, the major Swedish mag, has acquired a managing Editor, writes co-Boss Editor, John-Henri Holmberg: "lacking anybody else with even a minimum of editing experience or spelling ability, we had to settle for Ahrvid Engholm." Rush your submissions (Ahrvid recommends sending traditional hard SF, or well-known prose with subtlety / emotion) to [..snip..], [..snip..] Stockholm, for marvellously tactful rejections. John-Henri: "I rather liked it and have passed it on to our new managing Editor." Ahrvid: "John-Henri tossed a small paper plane in my direction, which when I unfolded it proved to be a story by you that he wanted me to reject." [Ansible 40, October 1984]

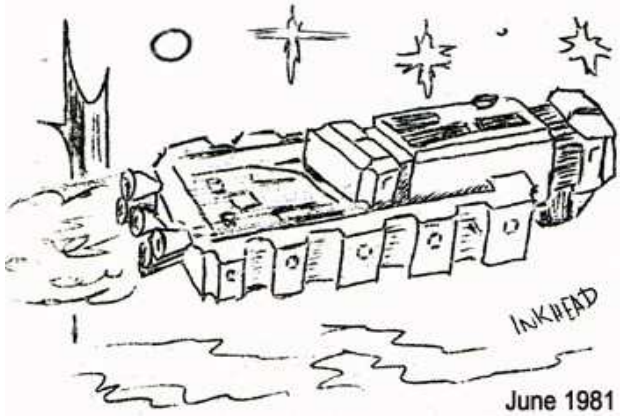
Bertil A G Schalén, Lund - declined nomination for the Alvar Award on the grounds that he felt the prize should go to young upcoming sf-fans. Otherwise he would have won.

SF- & Fantasy Clubs in Sweden

Sture Lönnerstrand's **FUTURA** existed 1950-1957. *A short-lived attempt to revive the club in Stockholm was made in the early 80's.*
Dénis Lindbohm's formation of 1949 was absorbed into **CLUB METEOR** in 1952.
Current status - deceased. R.I.P.
CLUB COSMOS, formed 1954 in Gothenburg
http://clubcosmos.net/
Current status - alive and kicking!
SFSF, formed in 1959
http://esseffesseff.wordpress.com/
Current status - alive and kicking!
LF3, Lund formed in 1966.
Current status - mothballed.
Forodrim, Stockholm Tolkien Society, formed 1972.
http://forodrim.org/
Current status - alive, singing, dancing and kicking!
Ennorath, Uppsala Tolkien Society, formed 1973
http://www.ennorath.nu/
Current status - as the above
Sigma Terra Corps, formed 1976
http://www.sigmatc.se/
Current status - defunct and mothballed
(if you navigate the website and receive a 404 error, it may be that the link still contains the old address: www.sigmatc.a.se/ (remove the "a." - find the page)
SFF / Stocksunds Fanzine Förening
formed in 1978 by Anders Åkerlind
last mailing # 158 on 8th June 2010
Antipoden, Helsingborg, formed February 1980
http://antipoden.se/historik.htm *(see also VÄ#58b)*
Current status - in suspended animation.
Mithlond, Gothenburg's Tolkien Society, 1981
http://mithlond.se/
Current status - alive
Upsalafandom
http://upsala.fandom.se/
Current status - alive and smoffing
Linköpings SFF, formed 1988
http://www.lysator.liu.se/lsff/
Current status - alive and smoffing
West Coast Trekkers, formed 1996
http://www.trekkers.se/
Current status - alive and proud to be a teenager.
Stockholm Trekkers, formed 1997
http://www.stockholmtrekkers.a.se/
Current status - alive
Angmar, Malmö Tolkien Society
http://www.angmar.nu/
Current status - alive
Caras Galadhon, Lund's Tolkien Society
http://www.carasgaladhon.se/
Current status - alive
Gefle Science Fiction, Gävle, recently hatched
http://www.geflescifi.se/
Current status - discovering life

The Flood of Fanzines in the 80's.

Several lines favourable to sf-fandom converged in the late 70's. The well organized conventions by John-Henri Holmberg, Mats D Linder, Per Insulander and their friends, of which ScanCon 76 was the crown achievement, as well as Sam J Lundwall's SF-Kongressen revitalized fandom.
Starwars, which premiered late in 1977, moved the genre into popular culture with space opera.
Anders Åkerlind started SFF in 1978 (Stocksunds Fanzine Association), which soon became all of Sverifandom's Fanzine association. Having a common distributor for the fanzines significantly reduced the cost for postage. SFF survived for 32 years.
Ahrvid Engholm and Anders Bellis started their weekly newszine Vheckans Ävfentyr and at college, I was in 1979 approached by Kaj Harju and Nils Blomquist, who asked me if I was familiar with these characters Engholm or Bellis. By then Sigma TC had already been introduced to the blend.
In Hallstahammar (roughly 20km west of Västerås), lived Mika Tenhovaara, who started publishing an excellent fanzine known as ALHASH (acronym for Arnold Layne Had A Strange Hobby). What I personally recall from ALHASH, was that Mika appeared to be a big fan of not only Pink Floyd, but foremost of Led Zeppelin. ALHASH appeared with some 200 issues and became one of the most important Swedish fanzines of its time. Tenhovaara was the kind of person who had an effect on people around him, so with him the fandom Hallstahammar rose up, shone its light on Sverifandom for the duration of his stay there and declined as he left.
At college in Borås (some 50km east of Gothenburg) at this time, were several sf-fans who went into fanzine-publishing, John Sören Pettersson, Marcel Quarfood, Chris Schander, Cecilia Moberg and Helene Sjölander are some of the names I recall from their side. I'm not sure the Borås SF Association survived long beyond their college years.
From Nybro came dittographed crudzines by Jonas Söderblad and Lars Larsson (aka Lars von Laserstråhle, in English: *von Laserbeam*). In Saltsjöbaden part of the municipal Nacka (South-East Stockholm), we produced both dittographed and mimeographed crudzines. And occasionally an okay one.
But it appeared to be Ahrvid and Bellis at the epicenter of the fandom universe we lived in, and they had a habit to most unquestionably decide what was good and what was not. What was fannish and what was fake-fannish. Drinking tea was fannish, coffee was not. Mimeo was fannish, ditto was not, etc.
Neither was photocopy or offset. Perhaps this is why some of the older fanzine-publishers quit.
Leif E Eurén's *Fanzine-Press* was a fanzine review zine, which Stieg Larsson (chair of SFSF) liked so much that he wanted to make it an official SFSF-publication (VÄ#7/79).



My illustrations were okay, but my fanzines were really not good. Funny... sometimes. Being silly - this I did well.

In retrospect, it is quite surprising to find that Roger Sjölander, though he surely must have been nominated several times, never got an Alvar. While younger than most, he was an excellent faned.
Kaj Harju also made some excellent mimeographed fanzines. He was eventually proclaimed as *the King of Sverifandom*, king Kaj Harju. Jestingly, of course.
From Fisksätra came also SUMMA, the fanzine of Mats D Linder. Summa (the sum, or Σ, is also the Greek letter Sigma, but this was sheer coincidence. It had nothing to do with Sigma TC, was launched long before we existed and had an entirely different caliber) came not very often but was always well written and edited.



Dittographed fanzines had the pleasant smell of alcohol.

The boom of the 80's centered around fans born 1959 - 1961. The slightly older ones, Kristian Primel, Torbjörn Wärnheim, Leif E Eurén, Karl M Wärneryd, Stieg Larsson, Bo Pettersson, Bo K Eriksson and Anders Reuterswärd were never caught up in our collective madness and one can call it something of a wonder that Reuterswärd endured through these crazy times.
Perhaps he, just as BAGS, Bertil AG Schalén, went gafia for a while, just to return for a new period of fanac. I guess most of us have had a period of gafia to recharge our batteries and reset our brains.

The Flood of Conventions 1980-1989

Following a number of extremely well organized cons in the 70's, Sverifandom gained considerable momentum. The boom of the 1980's in fandom was not limited to a vast output of fanzines.
On the doorway between the end of one era and the beginning of another, had Sverifans in the year 1980 no less than five conventions. Coming to an end, was the time in which SFSF could afford to have a clubhouse, where small conventions could be held. The last of them, MiniCon 5, was held in April (see: page 9) And beginning, was the long run of *Salt Sea Conventions with* the disastrous Nasacon in January of 1980 (see CounterClock # 15, page 16).

SerCon, 29-31 August 1980, Stockholm (90)
(Report in VÄ # 74, Bellis)
Chair: Michael Petersen, with Nils Segerdahl

AlcoCon 2, 1-2nd November, Gothenburg (125)
GoH: Tanith Lee, Arr: Club Cosmos

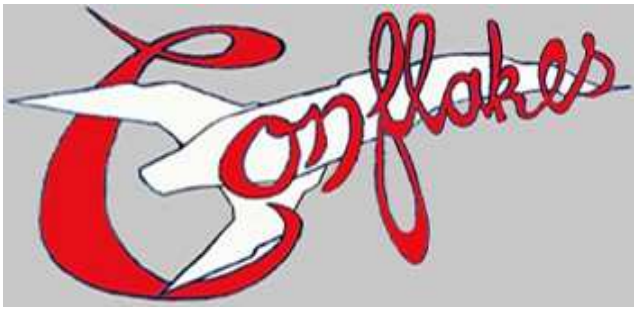
SpaceCon 80, 23rd November 1980 (70)
GoH: SJL, JHH, Olof Möller, Anders S Fröberg, Kalle Wetterlund, Arr: Anders Palm, Lars Junell & co

Following the enormous discharge of cons in 1980, the year 1981 *only* saw two conventions.

RegnCon, 2-3rd May 1981, Borås (60)
GoH: Sam J Lundwall (Report in Fanytt # 94)
Arr: Borås SFF

RADIO FUTURA & RADIO SIGMA TC

In 1980-1981 Stockholm-fandom experienced an attempt at revival of FUTURA. They also managed to get a weekly spot on local radio. But after a few months, they felt a weekly one-hour-program was too much work and so Sigma TC was offered a monthly program. Our composer of electronic music provided us with a professional jingle and a number of shows were brilliantly scripted by Ahrvid Engholm. One which particularly stuck in mind was:
"The Adventure of Captain Quark and Major Meson", in which Quark (voice: Engholm) and Meson (voice: Anders Carlsson are being sent (by the Earth's president: me) to investigate a problem with the giant clockwork at the Earth's core.
With a crashing sound (as I dropped half of Ahrvids domestic cutlery into a metal bowl) they drill their way through the Earth's crust, only to find that apparently someone had forgotten to wind the clock, which caused all time on the planet Earth to behave crazy. Quark and Meson simply rewind the clock (an old style mechanical alarm clock) then return to the Earth's surface after a job well done.
The program ended with a beautiful piece by Ralph Lundsten:"Morning of Creation" ...and some advertising for our following convention.



NasaCon IIjr, 27-28th June 1981, Saltsjöbaden (20)
GoH: Anders Palm
Arr: Sigma TC, Chair: Wolf von Witting
Villa Caprifol, a beautiful house on the outskirts of the Stockholm suburb Fisksätra, was at the disposal for all associations in Fisksätra. It was the perfect location for a small informal summer convention. As a tradition a game of Meteor ball (very similar to softball) was introduced at the first event. Villa Caprifol was the main location for the convention from 1981 to 1986.

Possible Spin-Off: In the summer of 1981, a book package from Sweden arrived at the Central Library of Wellington, New Zealand. It were the books from our panel "Worst SF of all time."



From the left: me, Mats D Linder, John-Henri Holmberg

In spite of the panel being conceived in the image of Fahrenheit 451, we could not bring ourselves to burn the books. Instead, we sent them as far away as possible. To New Zealand.
Years later, we discovered an sf-archive had been started in Wellington, New Zealand in the early 80's. If we had anything to do with it, then we are happy that our intent was misinterpreted.

NaSaCon III, 3-4th July 1982, Saltsjöbaden (60)
GoH: Mika H Tenhovaara
It was a common mix up in the world of mundane to think of sf-fans as UFO-believers. Christer Nordin, from UFO Sweden was a man who, just like Fox Mulder, wanted to believe. But in all the years he had been investigating sightings and claims of sightings, he had never come across any genuinely compelling encounter. But he had uncovered numerous fakes, which he gave the convention a thrilling lecture about.

NaSaCon IV, 2-3rd July 1983, Saltsjöbaden (60)
GoH: Mats D Linder
Arr: Sigma TC, Chair: Wolf von Witting

NasaCon V, 30 June - 1 July 1984, Saltsjöbaden (65)
GoH: Lars-Olov Strandberg, Arr: Sigma TC
NasaCon V introduced the 1st Peanut Race, which I had the privilege of winning. The trophy was a ticket to the movie: Indiana Jones & the Temple of Doom.
Also introduced: traditional Vogon poetry reading.

NasaCon VI, 6-7th July 1985, Saltsjöbaden (70)
GoH: Per W Insulander



NasaCon VI had the most amazing banquet cakes with live-sized Marsipans of marzipan. This fantastic cake decoration was made by a member of the Stockholm Tolkien Society FORODRIM and supplied through the convention chief of kitchen Carina Agebratt, who was a good friend of forodrimite Hamfast Gamgee.



Unfortunately it came during the con to a fall-out between Carina and Ahrvid, assuring no Nasacon banquet ever again could compare to the ones Forodrim were having...

NasaCon VII, 5-6th July 1986, Saltsjöbaden (80)
GoH: Jörgen Peterzén, Arr: Sigma TC



Villa Caprifol had a balcony over its entrance from which Åke Jonsson, Åke EB Jonsson, Inge RL Larsson and KG Löfvander here watch the meteor ball game.



Lars-Olov Strandberg was traditionally the umpire and a random Sverifandom team always had difficulty against...



Team Sigma TC, which most often won the encounters. Kurt Karneus, me, Sonja Johansson and Ahrvid in view.

NasaCon VII also introduced frozen Methane Ice-Hockey, which was a table ice-hockey game, later resulting in the Interplanetary Hockey-League, which playful Sigma TC-members kept playing until the end of the 80's. Villa Caprifol was lost to financial interests. The municipal was in need of more money and a Montessori kindergarten moved in after us.

MORE SWEDISH CONVENTIONS OF THE 80's:

KingCon, 28-31 May 1982 on Viking Lines ferry Viking Song from Stockholm to Helsinki (37)
GoH: Harry Harrison, Arr: Sam J Lundwall
Ten years after Sverre Schriewers BEMCONs in the 70's, the idea of having a con on a ferry was picked up again.

Kaj Harju, aided by members of both SFSF and Sigma TC aimed at running slightly bigger and more serious conventions. Together they arranged three SWECON three times. All three in different locations of Stockholm.
In 1983 it was held at the same place where in 2011 the Eurocon was held.
In 1985 it was Hotel Continental in Stockholm.

SWECON 82 - 19-21st November 1982 (220)
GoH: Bertil Mårtensson, Eskil Block
FGoH: David Nessle, Erik Andersson

SWECON 83 - 2-4th December 1983 (160)
GoH: Bertil Mårtensson. Sten Andersson

SWECON 85 - 16-18th August 1985 (300+)
GoH: Christopher Priest
FGoH: John-Henri Holmberg, Bertil Mårtensson and Mats D Linder.

But Stockholm was not the only location where cons were held in the 80's. Gothenburg had 6 and Lund 2. In the mid 80's returned fanac after 22 years also to Upsala, thanks to Johan Anglemark (among others).

GalCon, 17-18th September 1983, Lidköping (30+)
Not to be confused with Linköping! Different town.
GoH: Börje Crona

GöCon, 4-6th May 1984, Gothenburg (60)
GoH: John-Henri Holmberg
Chair: Lotta Rönn / Glenn Peterson

GöCon 2, 3-5th May 1985, Gothenburg (75)
GoH: Sven Christer Swahn
Chair: Lotta Rönn / Glenn Peterson

AutumnCon / Göstacon (Upsala SF-meet II) 1985
4-5th October 1985 (41)
GoH: Ferdinand Fitzschkloff (Gunnar Gällmo)
FGoH: Martin Andreasson
Chair: Johan Anglemark

GöCon 3, 2-4th May 1986, Gothenburg (70)
GoH: Alasdair Gray

LunCon 2, 8-10th August 1986, Lund (50)
GoH: Bertil Mårtensson, Sven Christer Swahn

LunCon 3, 22-23rd May 1987, Lund (60-75)
GoH: David Brin

ConGenial, 4-6th December 1987, Gothenburg (60)
GoH: Anders Bellis *(list continues on page 23)*

FLASHBACKS



Illustration: Wolf von Witting, 1980

INFINITESIMALCON, 31st April (aka 1st May) 1980
GoH: Holger Eliasson, Arr: Ahrvid Engholm
The idea was to do everything that was done at a regular convention, but briefly and concisely. The first rehearsal round clocked the convention at 11 and ½ minutes.
After the second attempt, the time was pressed to 6 ½ minutes. 9 Fans attended.

INFRACON 1 and 2, on Sunday 8th January 1981
Chair: David Nessle, GoH: Mika Tenhovaara
Also present: Ahrvid Engholm, Karin Kruse +1
Infracon, which was held in Hallstahammar was a con held within a second. The duration according to Ahrvid was actually ½ a second. The con-chair David Nessle greeted everyone present with "Hello"(in Swedish it is only one syllable), while the GoH held his Thank You speech: "Thank You!" (also a single syllable word in Swedish: "Tack!") and Ahrvid held a lecture on the question whether the feminists in Swedish fandom have had any impact on it. This lecture was also a single word: "No!" The banquet of Infracon consisted of a glass of water in which they dipped their finger, to lick it off after the convention.
This record is in no danger of being broken. The only language in which it might be possible is Chinese.

LOST IN TIME - Not only the BBC has lost valuable video footage (such as Dr Who). I've been searching through VÄ for notes on exactly when, but so far it has eluded me, if it was in the summer of 1979 or 1980. Perhaps this is less important than *what* we did. I got my hands on a betamax video camera over a few days, and used this opportunity to shoot a documentary with the help of Ahrvid Engholm and Anders Bellis;"They Call Us Faans!" Ahrvid designed a classic space travel rocket which we had moving by stop-motion-technique all over the blue elevator door in our basement. Ray Harryhausen would have been pale with awe and envy. After the introduction, Ahrvid, Bellis and I explained exactly what it meant to be an sf-fan. Sad to say, the production was lost in 1981. We tried to pass it on to a TV-producer.
I guess he found a better use for the tape. (WvW)

THE FEUDS by Wolf, quoting JHH a lot.

Feuds. Of course we had them, we were young, full of energy and living in a parallel universe called fandom. I will give it a page, no more.

John-Henri Holmberg wrote a long piece in; *Notes on the Career and Accusations of Ahrvid Engholm.* Once on the internet, it never goes away completely. But John-Henri writes about Ahrvid more accurately than anyone else: "*Ahrvid Engholm is for many reasons the one most difficult both to portray and to give a balanced account of; he, to a larger extent than anyone else, is the Janus figure of Swedish fandom.*"

Indeed. JHH Continues: "*Engholm is multi-talented: an accomplished writer, a quite decent artist, with a good sense of layout and a good ear for the Swedish language. He immediately came to occupy a dominant position among newer fans and in late 1978 became the first recipient of the Alvar Appeltofft Memorial Award, instigated in 1977 to commemorate the recently deceased most famous Swedish actifan of the 1950s."* [...snip, snip...]

"Vheckans Ävfentyr ran constant campaigns in order to force its editors' will upon other fans. The fanzine campaigned to impeach the board of the Stockholm-based Scandinavian SF Society, which Engholm and Bellis viewed as too directed towards sf rather than fandom itself (...snip... one charge made by the VÄ editors was that the club 'discriminated' male members by allowing the all-female subgroup Feminac exclusive access to the club premises one evening per week; all members had access most other evenings). They also disliked the editor appointed to publish the SSFS member fanzine, and so campaigned to have him replaced by Engholm's and Bellis' editor of choice. Virtually all the fans active on the SSFS board during 1979 and 1980 resigned in disgust at the constant squabble, which was by no means limited to fanzines but also went on vocally and daily at the club's premises."

I remember this. I was there and I said nothing.

As I mentioned in CounterClock # 17, how the VÄ editors split up, also JHH wrote about it, but I skip to the next part: *"This first break with Anders Bellis was not final, and no drawn out feud followed. Engholm's first really serious bout with other fans instead occurred in late 1984, when he noted that the very active Tony Eriksson had started to discuss comics in his fanzine. Since Engholm disliked comics, and considered them neither fannish nor sf, it was obviously unfannish to write about them in fanzines; when Eriksson despite having this pointed out to him refused to stop writing about comics, Engholm launched a campaign to drive Eriksson out of Swedish fandom. The feud against Tony Eriksson continued unabated for three years and included such highly dramatic moments as when Engholm in front of an audience of close to a hundred fans tried physically to prevent Eriksson from completing the talk he was giving at the 1985 Swecon convention in Stockholm, a talk explicitly okayed by the convention chairman Kaj Harju, the latter a fact which not surprisingly led Engholm to begin making Kaj Harju as well as numerous other fans secondary targets of his attacks. That the Eriksson feud petered out in 1987 was not due to Engholm tiring of his efforts, but rather to the fact that he found even more pressing targets."*

Seriously. John-Henri's notes could easily fill more than this page. And he was not ranting, as I often tend to do.

But this is how I remember Tony Eriksson:



Magnus and Tony Eriksson at an early Nasacon (1981?).

So what, if he wrote about Comics? the SFCD city group of Berlin was virtually identical with INCOS, Berlin's comic-fandom. We all read comics once upon a time. SF-fan David Nessle was an accomplished creator of comics. Judge Dredd (1995) was IMO even passable as an sf-film.

We were a forceful and unstoppable boom generation. Pity, we let all that petty squabble get the best of us. We would have needed a considerable amount of seasoned BNF's, cutting us down to size every time we were out of line. But Swedish fandom was young and without similar experiences. We were not aware of how harmful our own pride would be to our own cause. Nobody gave it much thought.

The rift between Ahrvid and Sigma TC caused me to go GAFIA for a few years. Between 1991 and 1995 my contact with fandom was limited. Very locally (Fisksätra) we kept seeing each other and it happened that I ran into fans at the SF-Bookshop, but that was the limit of it. My first era of fandom was behind me. It was fun, intense and it was chaotic. It was the best of times and the worst of times.

Going GAFIA for a while can be healthy. I learned some important things while away. *"It isn't important who started a quarrel, it's important who finishes it!"*

Upon returning, I decided very quickly to end any quarrel I have had with fellow fans. Namely the one with Ahrvid.

And since then we have avoided to start a new one.

Ahrvid is not entirely impossible to get along with. But I am not familiar with anyone who shares that assessment.

Maybe because most people feel their own intellectual pride is important. Mine is not. I do not need to be right, I do not need to convince anyone.

I don't like it when he is drunk. When he is I prefer to keep a distance, but otherwise we have no cause for discord.

Actually, I don't like to be around **anyone** who is drunk.

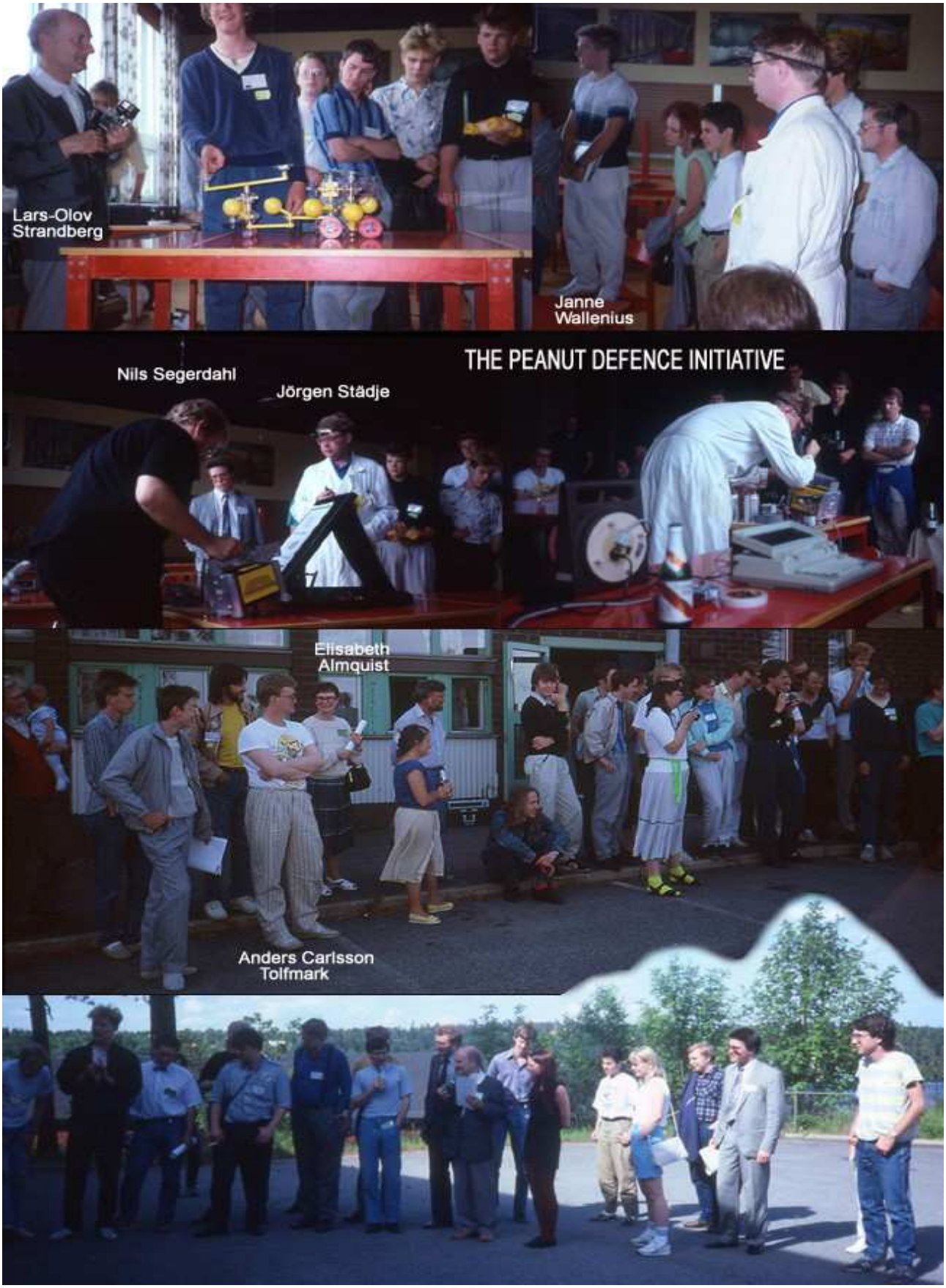
But it appears Swedish widely has learned to cope with alcohol problems. Nothing I've seen in recent years gives me any reason to think otherwise.

I have no idea if Swedish fandom currently has any feuds. It doesn't seem like it. I believe they have learned to avoid them.

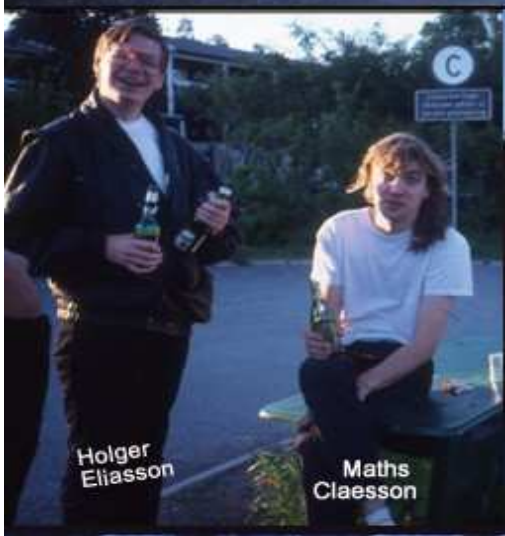
- -

After a 3rd rewriting of the page, it still doesn't feel good. We just don't like talking about those days, anyone of us.


Anders Holmström
Michael Pargman
Sam J Lundwall
Kjell Borgström
Anders Reuterswärd
Ahrvid Engholm
Siv Tapper
Bellis
EDM
Anders Pemer
Bellis
JHH
NASACON 8
Dan Eriksson


Lars-Olov Strandberg
Janne Wallenius
THE PEANUT DEFENCE INITIATIVE
Nils Segerdahl
Jörgen Städje
Elisabeth Almquist
Anders Carlsson Tolfmark


launch of the rocket loaf...


Holger
Eliasson
Maths
Claesson


Marcel
Quarfood


KG Löfvander
Anders Palm
Sam J Lundwall


barkeeper
Dan Eriksson
barkeeper
Jan Johansson
Eckhard
D Marwitz
Fredric
von Witting
(hiding in pram)
Sonja
Johansson
Wolf
Ahrvid
grey detective
Susanne Bengtson
UTGÅNG
Vicki
Schalin


KG
Löfvander
Ylva
Spångberg
Susan
Hende
Jan Risheden
Ahrvid
Jenny
Thorpman
Janne Wallenius
Wolf
A.Perner
Olof Almqvist
Åke EB Jonsson
Jörgen
Städje

NasaCon 8, 4-5th July 1987, Saltsjöbaden (90)
GoH: Hans Arnold, Arr: Sigma TC
This was the year in which Jörgen Städje and Nils Segerdahl "killed" the Great Peanut Race by putting on a show so elaborate and so advanced, that no one could follow it, except themselves.

NasaCon 9, 2-3rd July 1988, Saltsjöbaden (85)
GoH: Øyvind Myhre, S.Stenudd & Klaus Johansen
Arr: Sigma TC

NasaCon 10, 1-2 July 1989, Saltsjöbaden (75)
GoH: Sam J Lundwall, Arr: Sigma TC

NasaCon 10, 1-2 July 1989, Stockholm (25-70)
GoH: Horst Schröder, Sten Andersson, C J de Geer
FGoH: Tom Ölander, Arr: Ahrvid Engholm

Two Nacka-Salstjöbaden's Convention 10 were held in 1989. One in Saltsjöbaden and one in Stockholm. Though the split was a sad fact, we recognize both conventions as legitimate.

NasaCon 11, 6-8 July 1990, Nacka (120)
GoH: Brian W Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Arr: Sigma TC
Guests: Sam J Lundwall, Anders Palm

This was the last NasaCon until the year 2000. Ahrvid patented and copyright-protected the name, so Sigma TC would be unable to use it. Why? We let him. First of all, because if he was willing to spend the money for it, we would not stand in his way. Secondly, he did have a point. While we were perfectly capable of running a convention without his assistance, it was his ideas which made the convention a fun and worthwhile event. After the fall-out with Ahrvid the fun ended. We were all tired.
But other forces in Sverifandom were stirring ahead...

Upsala SF-meeting III, 15-16th October 1988 (55)
GoH: Egil Stenseth

Fantastika, 18-20th August 1989, Stockholm (90)
GoH: Iain Banks, Bertil Mårtensson
FGoH: Martin Tudor, Arr: SFSF

Conkurs, 17-19th November 1989, Gothenburg (40)
GoH: Lennart Uhlin,
Chair: Janne Wallenius/ Susan Hende
Arr: Siv Tapper, Glenn Petersen, Lotta Eriksson

Upsala SF-meeting IV, 13-15th October 1990 (55)
GoH: Eirik Swendgaard, Chair: Robert Brown

In the 2nd half of the 80's NasaCon 7-9 and 11 in 1990 were the biggest Swedish conventions. The informal summer-con peaked at # 8 and then rapidly went into decline. So did most fanac in Sverifandom as the number of and the intensity of the feuds among fans increased.
The following year marks, again, the end of one era and the beginning of another. The main reason for any light at the end of the tunnel was a new sf-club formed in the university town of Linköping.

Conventions in Sweden 1991-1997

STOCKON 7, 11-13th January 1991, Stockholm (30)
GoH: Mika Tenhovaara

COSMICA, 3-5 May 1991, Gothenburg (30)
GoH: Hans Nordström
FGoH: Susan Hende, Mats Henricsson

CONFUSE 91, 14-16th June 1991, Linköping (62)
GoH: Brian Stableford
Chair: Andreas Björklind, Arr: Linköpings SFF

CONFUSE 92, 12-14th June 1992, Linköping (64)
GoH: Ian McDonald, John-Henri Holmberg
FGoH: Mika Tenhovaara
Chair: Andreas Björklind, Arr: Linköpings SFF

FANTASTIKA 92, 14-16th August 1992 (250)
GoH: Terry Pratchett, Lars Gustafsson
Arr: Johan Anglemark, Anders Bellis, Robert Brown
Maths Claesson,, Jörgen Forsberg, Gunnar Gällmo
Kaj Harju, Anders Holmström, Gunilla Jonsson
Michael Petersén, Anders Reuterswärd
Lars-Olov Strandberg, Michael Svensson, Lennart Uhlin
Catharina Wrååk, Elisabeth Salmson Wrååk

CONFUSE 93, 11-13th June 1993, Linköping (73)
GoH: Nancy Kress, Arr: Linköpings SFF

CONSCIENCE, 13-15 August 1993, Stockholm (60)
GoH: Jerry Pournelle, Mike Jittlow, Jacob Palme
and Ralph Lundsten, Chair: Jörgen Städje
Arr: Ahrvid Engholm, Rolf Strömgren, Nils Segerdahl
Thord Nilson, Lennart Regebro, Magnus Odelius
Henning Croona, Anna Schömer, Aunver, C.Nordquist

Swedish fandom had overdosed on fannish cons in the 80's. One could blame individuals, but one could also blame alcohol. Going for more serious, sober events with serious-constructive program-items was a good choice. But the number of members at the conventions had already declined to the level of the 60's (with exception for FANTASTIKA). CONFUSE in Linköping was a good con, gaining momentum. But in 1994, everyone was tired. Two conventions were planned that year and both got cancelled.

1994 marked an all-time low for a second reason. On Wednesday, 28th September, en route from Stockholm to Tallinn, the MS Estonia capsized and sunk in the Baltic Sea and 852 lives were lost. It affected a lot of people. On Sigma TC's part, the son of Elizabeth Almquist was among the drowned. Elizabeth had been the secretary of the club for most of the 80's and she was on the committee of NasaCon 1981-1988. After the disaster, she completely lost her *Joie de vivre.* We only met once again, after the disaster. Three or four months later, she was dead.

Östan om Sol, 16-18th June 1995, Stockholm
GoH: Robert Jordan, Stephan Grundy (230-250)
Chair: Ylva Spångberg
This was the first pronounced fantasy-convention.

Arr: Johan Anglemark, Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf, Helena Löfgren, Per Lundberg, Jörgen Peterzén, Erik Rågvik, Olle Sahlin, Nils Segerdahl, Eva Spångberg

CONSCIENCE / BALTCON 95, 4-6 August 1995
Stockholm (80), GoH: Norman Spinrad
Guest: N. Lee Wood, Ralph Lundsten
Arr/chair: Ahrvid Engholm
This convention was unusual for Sweden in the way that 38 members, almost 50% were foreigners.

CONFUSE 96, 14-16th June 1996, Linköping (65)
GoH: Peter F. Hamilton, Guest: Jane Routley
Chair: Hans Persson, Arr: Linköpings SFF

Upsala SF-Meeting V, 15-17th November 1996 (58)
GoH: David Nessle, Chair: Johan Anglemark
Arr: Magnus Eriksson, Jessica & Tony Elgenstierna, Karin Kruse, Kristin Thorrud, Jan Nyström, Torbjörn Ragnesjö

WASACON, 14-15th June 1997, Stockholm (65)
GoH: Annika Lidne, FGoH: Carina Björklind
Arr: SFSF

NAVIGATOR 97/SaltsjöCon XIV, 1-3rd August 1997
Saltsjöbaden (42), GoH: Eckhard D Marwitz
Chair: Wolf von Witting, Arr: Sigma TC

KONFEKT 97, 17-19th October 1997, Uppsala (71)
GoH: Sven Christer Swahn
FGoH: Johan Schimanski, Chair: Johan Anglemark

At this point some things occurred, which led to further development. Former Sigma TC members kept meeting, simply because we had so many interests in common. In the autumn of 1996, my friends forced me out on the internet and I immediately started thinking how it could be useful. I found contact in England. In January of 1997, three of us, Jonas Holmberg, Jan Johansson and I went to London to see the new Star Trek film First Contact AND to make our First Contact with British fans. Fiona Anderson suggested we should come around the time for the "Tun" pubmeeting. So we did. The day after the "Tun" we were invited to a second pub meeting. At some point I realized that everyone around the table, except the three of us from Sweden, were involved in WorldCon schemes.
At some point of the evening, Dave Clements looked at me and asked; 'So, when are **you** going to run your first Worldcon?'
'No way!' I replied, meaning it.
'What you actually mean, is **not yet**!' Clements retorted.
A seed was sown.

Back in Stockholm I started to think about it. It was an impossible task, of course. The way things were in Sweden, we could never pull it off. But the younger Sigma TC generation kept pressing for a new con, and so we went ahead with SaltsjöCon XIV.
On the program was a debate about running bigger cons in Sweden. Herman Ellingsen from Norway very soberly pointed out, that as long as Swedish fandom had these quarrels going on, nothing could change. He was right, of course. I gave it some more thought. Besides, I had already met Ahrvid Engholm at WASACON and felt that awful feeling in my stomach. We used to be friends.

"It is not important who started a quarrel, it is important who ends it!" We pay so much attention to truth. What is truth? Truth is what we believe it is. And sometimes it is more important what other people than me, perceive to be the truth. Am I without fault? No, not at all.
So, I apologized to Ahrvid, for not having supported him, when he needed it the most. Some did not understand why I did that. Perhaps now they do. We all get older and wiser. We all change. Everyone deserves a 2nd chance, even I.

The next step was to call Carolina Gomez-Lagerlöf (SFSF) and Johan Anglemark (Uppsala) as well as Hans Persson (Linköpings SFF). Together we represented the sum of all conrunning groups in Sweden at the time. I said, 'Let's decide to choose a national convention.' We came to the conclusion that it ought to run very much on the same system as how the Eurocons were chosen and Johan Anglemark felt it was best to leave the decision to the general fan-population (to be discussed at the following convention in Uppsala, October'97.
In Uppsala it was decided that the following CONFUSE in Linköping would become the first SweCon (the name originating from Kaj Harju's cons in the 80's (run with both SFSF and Sigma TC-members).

Talking with Ahrvid again, I had already started thinking ahead 2-3 years. I was thinking big, as always. Except, I had learned to keep my mouth shut.

SWECON LAUNCHED 1998

CONFUSE 98, 26-28th June 1998 Linköping (68-80)
GoH: Paul McAuley
Guests: Niklas Krog, Jane Routley,
Annika Johansson, Arr: Linköping SFF

In 1998 I worked in OPS at INTUITION, the Eastercon In Manchester. I also got valuable insight into how the SFT-NRW in Germany were run. That year they could boast with having run the biggest sf-literature-convention in Gerfany ever. But back in Sweden cons were still run like Knitting Societies, meaning every member of the committee were sitting together, listening to every detail every one else had to deal with. A very tiresome procedure.

SaltsjöCon XV, 1-2nd August 1998, Saltsjöbaden (50)
GoH: Mke Cheater, Maths Claesson, Arr: Sigma TC

Konfekt 98, Upsala SF-Meeting VII, 16-18th October 1998
GoH: Jörgen Peterzén, FGoH: Sven Holmström
Arr: Uppsalafandom

JUnicon, 18-20th June 1999, Nacka (100)
GoH: Hans Arnold, Bertil Mårtensson
FGoH: Martin Easterbrook, Arr: SFSF & Sigma TC

At JUnicon was also Vincent Docherty, who gave me another chunk of wisdom to chew on. Upcoming was our bid for SWECON 2000 and we had *competition* from the Linköping smofs. 'Do you want to crush them, or do you like them?' he asked. 'I like them.' Who doesn't? They're all good, decent fans. 'Then why not collaborate instead of competing? Try to make it a win-win situation for both.
It's kinda obvious when someone says it, isn't it?

THE LONG LIST OF SWECONS

1998 CONFUSE, Linköping (68-80), GoH Paul McAuley

1999 SWECON 99, 15-17th October, Uppsala (120)
GoH: Michael Swanwick, FGoH: L-O.Strandberg

2000 NASACON, 7-9th July, Stockholm (225+)
GoH: Brian Stableford, John-Henri Holmberg
Arr: Sigma TC & Stockholm Trekkers
(see CounterClock # 8)

I had aimed considerably higher, even though I didn't tell many about it. Everyone on the team felt they would go again, if I would have another go. Curiously enough, at the time when I felt the most broken and when I realized that we wouldn't even break even, fans came to me and said that the convention had been successful.
Thanks to SCANDIC HOTEL, who hosted the event and thanks to the SF-Bookshop, the deficit was cut to zero in the aftermath of it. Even better, during the convention itself, a representative of the Stockholm Center of Culture, came to ask why the convention wasn't being held in their locale(s). This is how the SWECON in the following years came to move right smack in the middle of Stockholm.
SF-Fandom in Sweden was definitely out of the shadows.

2001 FANTASTIKA, 15-17th June, Stockholm (250)
GoH: Robin Hobb, Robert Rankin, Pierre Christin, Karolina Bjällerstedt Mickos, FGoH: Ben Roimola
Arr: SFSF & Sigma TC

2002 CONFUSE, 14-16th June, Linköping (76)
GoH: China Miéville, Gwyneth Jones

2003 UPSALA SF-Meet X, 15-17th August (141)
GoH: Alastair Reynolds, Ken McLeod
FGoH: P.C.Jörgensen

2004 SWECON, 20-22 August, Stockholm (300+?)
GoH: Tim Russ, M John Harrison
FGoH: Dave Lally, Arr: Stockholm Trekkers

2005 CONCEIVE, 17-19th June, Gothenburg (60-81)
GoH: Charles Stross, Erik Granström

2006 IMAGICON, 13-15th October, Stockholm (170)
GoH: Joe Haldeman, Geoff Ryman
FGoH: Martin Andreasson

2007 CONVICTION, 15-17th June, Gothenburg (65-75)
GoH: Richard Morgan, John Ajvide Lindqvist

2008 CONFUSE, 13-15th June, Linköping (95)
GoH: Cory Doctorow, Adam Roberts
Arr: Linköpings SFF

2009 IMAGICON 2, 16-18th October, Stockholm (180)
GoH: Liz Williams, Graham Joyce
FGoH: Jörgen Forsberg

2010 CONDENSE, 18-20th June, Gothenburg (84)
GoH: Justina Robson, Nene Ormes
Arr: P.Bengtsson, H.Kiel, G.Petersen, K.Lindblom



2011 EUROCON, 17-19th July, Stockholm (750)
GoH: Elizabeth Bear, Ian McDonald
John-Henri Holmberg, FGoH: Jukka Halme

Sverifandom finally broke the record of Scancon 76. After all these years and after considerable ups and downs.
I don't have exact numbers, but it appears the EUROCON meant a healthy injection of new fans to its fandom.

2012 KONTRAST, 5-7th October, Uppsala
GoH: Sara Bergmark Elfgren, Mats Strandberg
Joe Abercrombie, Peter Watts, Kelly Link
FGoH: Niels Dalgaard

2013 Fantastika, 18-20th October, Nacka
GoH: Jo Walton, Lavie Tidhar, Karin Tidbeck
FGoH: Johan Anglemark, Arr: SFSF

2014 Steampunkfestivalen, 27-29th June, Gävle
GoH: Cory Doctorow, Mike Perschon
Miriam Rosenberg Rocek, Chris Wooding

2015 CONFUSE, August, Linköping
GoH: Madeline Ashby, Arr: Linköpings SFF



Illustration: Håkan Ackegård, 1975



REARVIEW MIRROR

I am aware, that this endless listing of conventions is boring. Had I known, when I started, how much space it would fill, I might not have done it at all. But strolling along Memory Lane, even when those memories are not entirely my own, helps to gather a perspective on the whole.
There was the first enthusiasm of fandom, the sober small cons of society's outsiders in the 60's, a period of professional smooth running cons in the 70's, the wild 80's, the hangover in the 90's and then a period of healing and new growth up to the current boom after the EUROCON.
But Sverifandom has not really been faring a whole lot different from Gerfany. Where are we at today?
Faneds appear to be in suspended animation. There is a wave of mere consumers joining the ranks.
Steampunk is the new fashion.

It's ironic, because when I was in charge of the steam engine running on our railway in the summers after the 100 year Anniversary of our railroad, no sf-fans where showing (1993-1999). Now it's fashion.
Retro is fashion.
Fans are still looking over distances in time and space, but the preferred perspective is backward.
Because, honestly, the look forward in time, even over a short distance, is pretty scary.

Many of our friends are dead and forgotten. How often do we recall the fandom-poet Kjell Borgström? The always cheerful KG Löfvander? Kurt Karneus, Elizabeth Almquist, Torkel Franzén or...

Kjell Rynefors, father of four. Born in 1948, active member of Club Cosmos and regular contributor to its fanzine COSMOS BULLETIN.
He also got published in JVM and NOVA SF.
On the New Years Eve of 1986/87 their family house caught fire. His wife Ingrid with their oldest son (14) ran outside to alert the fire department.
Their daughter (12) jumped from a window on the second floor. Kjell returned into the house in an attempt to save their two youngest (5 and 7).
He never made it back out.
Undoubtedly this event qualifies as the darkest hour ever, in the History of Sverifandom.

Fandom forgets even faster than the rest of society. And there is nothing to remind us. There is only the internet, which doesn't have much of a memory beyond what *everyone* already knows. Beyond *popular* knowledge.

After NASACON 2000 - I planned the next step. Two or three more Saltsjö-Conventions and then... But time and change are relentless. Political decisions made my work situation increasingly difficult. I sat over a bogie which derailed because the rotten sleepers underneath it slid apart. We were just starting from the station and had at best a speed of 5km/h, which was incredibly lucky. Had we come from the other direction (into the station), we would have derailed at approximately 40 km/h.

The drawbridge across Danviken in Stockholm was built in the late 19th century. Its dispensation for traffic safety expired in 2007. I don't know how the current situation is, but last time I checked, in 2013, my former colleagues were still driving across that bridge. This is only the tip of the ice berg.

Faulty and worn out equipment does no longer get changed when needed, but after it breaks. To me, it is of no consolation what so ever, if someone I worked along for decades dies, because of the need to save money. I could no longer for my conscience justify working there any more. The job, in my last years was no longer for the tax payer, but for the profit of French bosses, which I would never see. Now, my former colleagues have new bosses. But the song remains the same.

In September 2007 I left Sweden and moved to Italy. I do not miss my former job. Most of my friends in Fisksätra have moved away.
What do I miss most of all from Sweden? Yeah, you may have guessed it already. I miss its sf-fandom.
I am sure they don't miss me half has much as I miss them, but it really doesn't matter.

Living in Italy has changed me. Again. In spite of all the trends, I am looking forward in time. The time we have lived in has been the best of times. I believe it will follow the most interesting of times....

Dr. INKHEADS ADVICE to Sverifandom

You need to encourage creativity in your ranks.
An sf-fan isn't merely interested in time & space, but also has the desire to participate in its design. Why not start a Fandom Yearbook? SAAM could host it and the Alvar winners are all qualified to edit it.
More or less.
Be generous with awards. Best short-story, best convention report (actually, there already **is** such an award), best fanzine or blog, illustrator, etc You could restart SFF. Make it digital. Pdf-files cost nothing. It is easy to add pictures. Photos.
About awards, or recognition of work. It is not about money. It is about that moment in the spot-light. A diploma to hang on the wall is sometimes all it takes.
ALWAYS have a FGoH and have better variation on it. It doesn't need to be the same people all the time.
It was nice to see Jörgen Forsberg got the honour once, he deserved it. A lot of people deserve it. And everyone has a story to tell. Connect to your own history. You rarely need to stretch very far.
How come, for example that Inge R.L.arsson never was FGoH in Gothenburg? I find that odd.



Illustration: Sven O Gripsborn, 1966

Invite a ghost from the past!
Dig up Karl M Wärneryd or Rudy der Hagopian (if they're still alive).

Alas, Leonard Borgzinner is already dead. He died in 1990 (age 33) and hardly anyone noticed...
At least he has a Wikipedia-entry also in English:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_Borgzinner

FLASHBACKS 2 the piano

Kjell Waltman from Gothenburg, was a fan who also could play the piano. Ahrvid managed to talk him into giving sf-fans a taste of ragtime at NasaCon VII. See his (Waltman's) page with sound:
http://www.ragtime.nu/waltman.htm

There was a piano in Villa Caprifol 1986, but being a municipal service locale, we were also required to have a second locale for the bar. The Bar was situated within the suburb Fisksätra itself, where all streets looked more or less the same, but only distinguished themselves by having different fish names. And ragtime music sounds much better in the bar than anywhere else.
So Ahrvid friskily found four forceful volunteers, among them Michael Pargman, if memory serves.
He sent them to carry the piano up to the bar. They had just disappeared out of sight as I arrived by bicycle at Villa Caprifol. Ahrvid laid out his plans and it occurred to me, that it may not be as easy to find the bar, as the four piano-gophers imagined.
I better show them the way, I thought, and hurried after them on the bike. I took the route the piano most likely would have taken, if any one carrier would have known his way around Fisksätra.
I didn't see them. I arrived at the bar. They were not outside. They were not inside. They were nowhere in sight. Four sf-fans had in fact gone lost in Fisksätra, carrying a piano. It took me about 15 minutes to find them (with the bike). They were still roaming the streets with the piano. The entertainer was not with them, so he was unable to cheer them up.
But it was a beautiful summer's day to get lost on, may haps even with a piano. I'm sure Michael Pargman forever treasures this fandom-memory.

* * *

For six years, 1981-1987, George Bobjörk and I always hauled trolleys of empty refund-bottles after the convention and until 01:00 to 02:00 AM in the morning. And every time when we looked at each other, we agreed that we must be crazy.
But before we had finished complaining and said good night to each other, it was kind of a tradition to finish with the same sentence:
"Let's do it again next year!"

Jan Wallenius 1968 -

Swedish TV had a show based on the American "The 64,000$ Question". In the mid 80's the prize sum in Sweden was 48,000 SEK. Jan Wallenius got a shot at it, answering questions on the topic of particle-physics. We were all hooked on TV at the time, and we had all noticed "Janne", because he was a really nice young person.
We (our family, as we for once all sat gathered around the TV) were all hoping he would pass all the way and win the big final question. And he did!
He got the nickname *particle-Janne* in all of Sweden.
It just so happened, that Jan Wallenius also was an sf-fan.
At NasaCon 8, particle-Janne returned for the fandom-version of the competition (See page 22).
At NasaCon he competed on the topic Jules Verne which he originally wanted to compete in on TV, but TV felt Jules Verne was not interesting enough for the viewers, so *Janne* went for his second passion instead, particle physics. Of course Janne also won the 48 SEK at Nasacon.
In the 90's Janne moved to Estonia and attempted to start up a Swedish language Estonian sf-magazine.
He had contributions from a significant line-up of Swedish fans, Maths Claesson, Andreas & Carina Björklind, Mika Tenhovaara, Holger Eliasson, Marcel Quarfood, Martin & Malte Andreason, John Annas.
And even though Philip K Dick, Harlan Ellison and Nancy Kress were thrown into the mix, to me the magazine ANIARA seemed more like a highly advanced Swedish fanzine. But that's just because I always saw my fellow fans as fans and never as pro. I have no problem to accept Sam J Lundwall, John-Henri Holmberg, Bertil Mårtensson, etc as pro's, but they also, were once... only fans. ANIARA only ever saw two issues. One in 1994 and the other in 1995. But it was a nice try.

Today, Janne is the CEO of LeadCold Reactors.
It is cutting edge technology in nuclear energy, Generation IV reactors, which possibly could introduce new, and most of all safer and environmental friendlier energy than any technology already in use, including solar panels and wind and hydro-generators.

Amelia Andersdotter 1987 -

We met first time at CONFUSE 2008, meaning she was only 21 then. But, oh, so opinionated. But not in a bad way. One could safely say that while she may be an insignificant nobody within the ranks of sf-fandom, she's everything but insignificant in real life.
Feel free to read her wikipedia-entry in English.
In short. She went into politics and got elected into the European Parliament on behalf of the Swedish Pirate Party. Stopping ACTA, was one of the first accomplishments for which she has been greatly admired. She is generally a pain in the ass for the financial establishment, and so far we trust that she will continue to have a positive effect on the future of our children. She has a good sense for what is just and fair. She is not yet corrupted by money or power and I sincerely hope she will continue on the path she has chosen. I, for one, trust her.

SF-Fans and translators

Erik Andersson 1962 -

The 1980 Alvar-winner is chiefly known for having executed the new translation of Lord of the Rings into Swedish. This after the first translation by Åke Ohlmarks had received a lot of criticism.
What Ohlmarks did well, was translating the names.
But Erik has also published a handful of other books, creations entirely of his own mind. None very sf...

Ylva Spångberg 1961 -

The 1990 Alvar-winner. Has translated the fantasy works of David Eddings into Swedish. She has been an active part of Swedish fandom since the late 70's.
In 1995, she was chair of, and instrumental in running the convention Östan om Sol (East of the Sun).
In 2014 she is GoH at Shamrokon, the EUROCON in Dublin.

Roland Adlerberth 1923 - 1993

Translated, among others, Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein and Phillip K Dick (Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep) into Swedish. In his 30 active years, he translated almost 400 titles (also from German, French and Danish).

Gunnar Gällmo 1946 -

Author, translator and sf-fan. Has written under the pen-name Ferdinand Fitzschkloff. Translated, among others E.C.Tubb, Arthur C Clarke, Isaac Asimov and C.S.Lewis into Swedish. He is regularly encountered at Swedish sf-conventions. Still.

Olle Sahlin 1956 -

Translator, photographer, sf- and fantasy-fan. Was a member of the great Forodrim- and Sigma TC-presence in the Stockholm suburb of Fisksätra.
Constant like the Northern Star. He is still there.
Translated at least nine of Terry Pratchetts books but also Stephen Donaldson and many others.

Lena Karlin 1957 -

Translator and author of children's books. Was in charge of the art show at Scancon 76. Has been present in Sverifandom through all the years, but never made much fuzz about herself.
She has translated Dan Brown, Val McDermid and the Bored of the Rings parody by Beard & Kenney.

Other sf-fans who also have been busy as translators; Anders Bellis, Rickard Berghorn, Börje Crona, Bertil Falk, Torkel Franzén, John-Henri Holmberg, Molle Kanmert Sjölander, Inge R L Larsson, Mats D Linder, Sam J Lundwall and Jan Risheden. This is probably an incomplete list.



THE MUNDANE PROLOG: I got married in Moscow in 1994. My wife already had a daughter and I already had a son. They were OUR children. Just because we divorced seven years later, doesn't mean that I felt any different about my step-daughter (or parents-in-law, for that matter) and this was my first trip to LONDON since 2003.
Tatjana, who I introduce as my daughter, lives in London. But it is okay to cut the first syllable (step-), because her REAL father always introduces her as his girlfriend (he is joking, of course). The closer the convention came in time, the more I realized that I could not prioritize the con over my daughter. So, I let her spend as much time as she wanted with the "old man" and leftover time I had for LONCON (which I was sure would be enough).

LONCON 3, August 2014

Tanja was REALLY happy to see me. It was obvious. We had after many years of not speaking found each other again. The reason for not speaking was not that we had a quarrel, but because I do not force myself upon my kids. If I do not hear from them, I just suppose they are doing well and don't miss me.
Yeah, okay... so I was wrong. That's not a first.
Perhaps one ought to check in at least once every year to make sure they don't want one around. If you have any kids you may understand, that every now and then, the best thing you can do, is to leave them alone. I will never and have never refused to answer queries and give as much assistance as I am able.
Both of my kids have been successful on their own and done so well that I have to be proud of them.
"This world rewards assholes and elbows!" and Tanja, a tough businesswoman on the outside, definitely has the elbows to make it in a rat-race such as London and in spite of a globally downward spiralling economy make a fortune. I recall when she once told me, that she would earn more than I ever did. So she did. But instead of commenting; *"I told you so!"* I had to ask why she didn't say that and what my response was, when she made that rather bold statement, long time ago.
She could not remember my answer (I said; Time will tell!), she could only recall that I didn't put her down. And even though I estimated her chances of succeeding in this task to 1% or less, I am glad I didn't give her the odds.
She would only have beaten them.



Tanja and the Cyberman at LONCON 3

I was already checking out the consite on Wednesday. My primary objectives for LONCON 3 were:
1) to have dinner with Melinda Snodgrass
2) to have a beer (or something) with Curt Phillips
Secondary objectives:
3) to promote CounterClock with my flyers
4) talking to as many of my FB-friends, who I had not yet met IRL, as possible.
And all this without offending all the people I already know.

For German fans I really prefer to go to Gerfany and for Swedish fans to Sweden. I mean, I really like them. But I just speak too many languages and it makes me dizzy at big events such as this, switching between them. I had one nice round of beer with Thomas Recktenwald and Hans-Ulrich Boetcher (who I recognize since Marburg'78, but who also was in Kleve'77) and I did find the German delegation around Eckhard D Marwitz's table.
Arno Behrend was pleased to find that I already support the Dortmund bid for EuroCon in 2017. I would very much like to be in Lübeck late in October when the 30th Hanse-Con goes down. It is really a small convention where you have plenty of time to spend with everyone who is there.
Quite the opposite of LONCON 3, which I experienced as a vastly stressful event with more than 10,000 members.
Not a problem to run into people I know, but a problem to

find specific people I was looking for, such as Curt Phillips.

But I did manage to deliver the first issue of AIKAKONE (The Time Machine) back into Finnish hands. This fanzine from 1981 might be a rarity among collectors in Finland, but in Italy it risks ending up among recycled paper, should I unexpectedly depart from worldly affairs.
I suppose Vesa Sisättö was pleased. A little bit.

It was also very nice to see the Helsinki WorldCon Bid being backed up by Swedish fans at LONCON. I don't know if the Finns actually *need* any Swedish help, but it most certainly can't hurt.



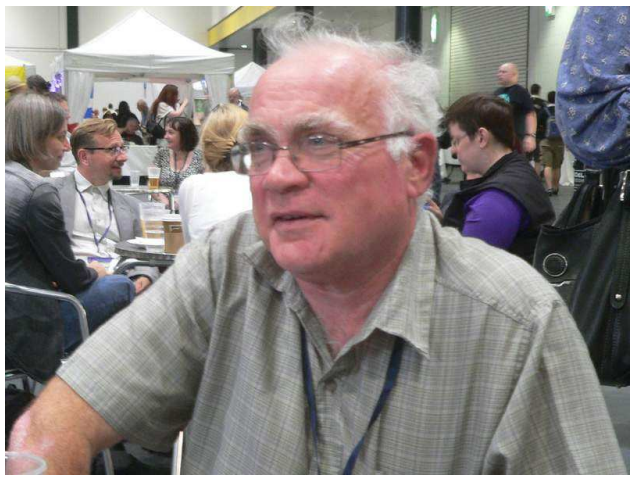
Jim Walker and Catherine Crockett (right)

I always enjoy running into Jim Walker at conventions. He is a calm and relaxed man with intelligent conversation. At our table gathered also a number of fanzine fans, some which I only knew by name. Randy Byers, co-editor of the excellent fanzine CHUNGA. In these days I consider fanzines on paper a total luxury. It's up there with Stilton Cheese, Prosciutto di Cividale and Dom Perignon.
So much more a pleasure to meet Ron Gemmell and receive EAT THAT DUCK # 5.



Randy Byers, co-editor of CHUNGA at LONCON 3

The fanzine fans at LONCON didn't really have a natural place to gather and so I had to scan badges and strain my internal face-recognition-software. It didn't always work so well. But I did recognize Rob Hansen, even though it had been at least 15 years since we last met.
Anders Bellis and John-Henri Holmberg were easy to find, because they often turned up in the smoking-area.



Ron Gemmell went to LONCON dressed as Ron Gemmell

At our table was also Lucy Huntzinger, who I have come to know through FB. Her contribution to EAT THAT DUCK # 5 is an article *"Pining for the Fjords"* which clues you in with some of her experiences in Norway and Sweden.



Lucy Huntzinger, a cosmopolitan sf-fan.

I guess LONCON was experienced in countless different ways, with up to 20 parallel program-items. We all missed most of what was offered.

I only had one big wish. To have dinner with Melinda Snodgrass, screenwriter, author and many other things.
She wrote the script to the Star Trek-The Next Generation episode "The Measure of a Man", which I still consider one of the best tv-series-episodes ever made. In second place I put "The Body" a Buffy, the Vampire-slayer-episode and 3rd comes the absolutely brilliant Dr-Who-episode "Blink".

Melinda, who I also have come to know through FB, granted me the pleasure of having dinner with her. What we talked about I will not disclose here, but she referred to her best friend George, who (at one time) I got the feeling I was supposed to know who it was... So, I asked.
George R.R.Martin, yes, of course I knew who the author

of the highly successful series Game of Thrones is. Who doesn't? I am not sure it is entirely a blessing, being so famous and being recognized wherever you go. You can't go ten steps down the road before someone is asking for an autograph. It may be fun for a while... But in the long run I suspect it is just a pain in the posterior.



Michael Swanwick, less crowded at LONCON 3

Michael Swanwick was GoH in Uppsala 1999 where we first met. He freely gives away valuable advice on writing in his blog: http://floggingbabel.blogspot.it/

When neither Bellis, nor John-Henri were smoking, there was always Ronald Kotkiewicz in the smoking-area, an old US fan, who has been around for a while. He had *friendly* written all over his face and we talked about one of our favourite topics we had in common, which wasn't sf.



Ron Kotkiewicz in London 2014

It was American fans I was looking for. The ones I would not meet at a EuroCon or November at NovaCon. So I did run into some dignities such as Ben Yalow (the famous bow tie) and Kevin Standlee with Cheryl Morgan. Before Kevin said anything I had no idea that smofs and faneds not always were on the same page.
But in my book, Kevin is a smof and Cheryl a faned. And I am both. Now that I'm on the topic of WordCon chairs... it comes to mind that I also met Martin Easterbrook, who seemed to be in a bit of a hurry, and Kees van Thorn, who I had a brief chat with. In German.

Can't say that I'm a big fan of cosplay and I am unlikely to be seen in a costume myself. Other than dressed as me.
But I read the news, and I was sorry to read that the comedian Rick Mayall had died in June. Born in 1958, he was only one (and ½) year older than me.



THE YOUNG ONES, the loss to British comedy made me add a black stripe to my badge.

Among the European fans I noticed; my favourite Polish couple, Radoslaw Kot and Kinga Kowalewska, the latter a big Game of Thrones-fan. Dalibor Perkovic, a Croatian fan who I first met in Zagreb 2012, and the Croatian fans around him, reminded me of how happily I would go to a Croatian convention again. Jan van't Ent, the former OE of DAPPER (the most European APA since EURAPA).
Peter de Weerdt , from Antwerp (Belgium) was doing a great job in registration. Ian Watson and Cristina Macía were promoting the EuroCon bid for Barcelona in 2016.

Among the filkers I happened to run into Rhodri James, who I had not seen since Manchester 1998, as well as Valerie Housden, though I couldn't remember her name in that particular moment. It's still good to see them.
Chris Malme, the Minstrel I met only briefly on my way out on Wednesday... there were still five days, I was sure we would see each other again.

Other than LONCON I had a full week to experience London again. And it is amazing how fast a full week is passing by. Tanja took me to the cinema to see a science fiction-film, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY based on the Marvel comic from 2008. Holy crap! It got 8.6 on IMDb, who the f--k is voting there? Complete imbeciles?
Now don't get me wrong, the cinematic experience was excellent. Because of the cinema itself. It had sofa's and big comfy leather armchairs. They served Taco's, sweets and Prosecco (never had sparkling wine at the movies before) and whatever your heart desires, except popcorn. I guess popcorn is too much of a bother to clean up afterwards. The film itself was an average action-flick with a few good jokes in it. I fell asleep in the comfy chair. When Tanja woke me up, because of my snoring, I spotted the evil villain dead ahead and immediately knew I had missed absolutely nothing of the plot.
The environment of this rather luxurious cinema made me

look at the film in a more positive way than I would have, if I had watched it at home. I like music of the 70's, so I was digging most of the music. In particular REDBONE and Come And Get Your Love.



Edward James in a 7th Doctor outfit with Tanja as the companion. Both giving an authentic impression.

My daughter joined me at the convention on Sunday. We could not stay for very long, though. Unfortunately.

But there was one more important round of beer to be had. With Jonathan Cowie, UK, and Roberto Quaglia, Italy. Come to think of it, Tero Ykspetäjä, Finland and at least half of Ahrvid Engholm, Sweden, were present as well, the latter not exactly in prime shape.



Jonathan Cowie at LONCON 3

I decided to let Roberto, who quickly found a conversation topic in common with Tanja, to explore their common denominators, a practice I felt beneficial to both of them, while I focused on talking to Jonathan and Tero.



Tero Ykspetäjä reported on Finnish conventions in CounterClock # 10, page 7

I don't think there is anyone in fandom today who I have a more immediate understanding with than Roberto.
Perhaps partially because we're both Italians now, him living in Bucarest, Romania and me virtually on earshot from Trieste. Well... half an hour by train, anyway.



Roberto Quaglia and Tanja at LONCON 3

Upon leaving LONCON, it happened what I dread about big conventions. I ran into Greg Benford and his wife. I didn't even know they were there, or else I would have invited them for a drink, to thank for the contribution to CounterClock # 16, if nothing else.
But Tanja had to leave and I felt I couldn't stay, even though she would have let me. And having mentioned her proudly at dinner with Melinda, I felt compelled to introduce her to Melinda as we passed them at a table in ExCel. George was there as well. Not crowded, for once.
And being on the way out, it was a last chance to give Tanja an impression of what I am doing at conventions like this. Though I really have to apologize to Greg for the interruption. A consolation is, that Greg, being the veteran he is, may have some understanding.

When I on our way out clarified with Tanja whose hands she just shook, she decided not to wash hers for a week.



NOT MY CUP OF TEA

THIS IS MY FAVOURITE COFFEE MUG. I USE IT EVERY DAY. HERE'S MY CUP...
It's from CONFUSE in Linköping 2008. It celebrated 10 years of SWECON and 20 years of Linköpings SF Club. I like fans, fannish and sercon. I like faneds and smofs and filkers. I love fandom. But I still don't like big conventions like LONCON.
It is too much and unnecessarily expensive. It's just not my kind of event. Almost every smaller con is.

I love the art of Chris Foss. It's been flabbergasting me since I was in my teens. Now I was at a con where he was GoH. Didn't have time to see him. Didn't find Curt Phillips among the 10,000. Spotted several people I like. Spotted several people I like to talk with. Briefly. Not enough time.

I hardly dare to look in the list of members who I would have loved to talk to, but didn't see. Ulrika O'Brien, for one. And John Purcell... who else... let's see. Dave Weingart was there? Tim & Annie Walker, Hermann and Claudia Ritter!!?? WTF!? Where??? Murray Moore!!? Krztplmpf [...unarticulated swearword...]. And Jean-Claude Dunyach
Strangely enough I seemed to run into every active Swedish fan that I know. At some point.

I met Sten Thaning in the street. He on his way out, me on my way in. Tomas Cronholm I briefly spotted on Wednesday. Anders Reuterswärd, yes... and Ylva Spångberg, Lennart Uhlin, yes... Fine! Apparently we already know each other well enough, because they never hang around... long. Andreas and Anna Davour OTOH were upbeat. So was Britt-Louise Viklund. Always cheerful. Spotted Johan Anglemark, working with the Finns. And also... was it Anders Wahlbom? Dirk M Weger is a tall German fan, living in Finland and also working with the Finns.
The German side was not quite as well represented as the Swedish. Now that I rehash my memory, I recall also Dieter Schmidt and Christoph Lühr and the ever alongside EDM present Matthew Kunkel. Think I saw the fanzine-fan Florian Breitsameter. Actually... I am quite sure I did.
[...browsing the list of members...] What!!? Hardy Kettlitz was there!!? This Berlin-resident sf-fan has created some very good electronic music, in the style (and quite at the level of) Tangerine Dream.

From Italy Elisabetta Vernier was there? Didn't see her. Neither Selene Verri (who lives in France). But I did speak to Giulia Iannuzzi, who is just from my neighbourhood (Trieste). And... last but not least, I should mention that one of the most cosmopolitan Britons *of course* was there! Wilf James, who one could encounter at Swedish cons, speaking Swedish and at German cons speaking German. Okay, so maybe... If I had spent more time at the con during the five days it spanned, so maybe I would have run into more of the people I know. It is not the fault of the organisation. As far as I can tell, the con itself was running smoothly. It just *breaks my heart* to read the list of attending members. All the people I didn't find the time to talk with. Aaaargh!! Sue Burke and Bill Burns were there too!?
I have to stop reading the list **right now!!!**



No, definitely not my cup of tea.

SF&F IN SLOVENIA

1. ABOUT WRITERS AND THEIR WORKS

Slovene SF and fantasy has had a long and rich tradition, reaching back to mid-19th century. Themes were in line with the spirit of the epoch, inspired by the fantastic or utopian. The first work of Slovene SF&F, Mikromega (1851) was written by Simon Jenko (1835-1869), and followed two decades later by Andrej Volkar's »Dijak v Luni« (Student in the Moon, 1861). A couple of years later, Josip Stritar (1836-1923) published his story »Deveta dežela« (Ninth Land). Anton Mahnic's novel "Indija Koromandija" was published in 1884 and reprinted in 1889. In 1888, well-known Slovene author Janez Trdina (1830-1905) published his story »Razodetje« (Uncovering). Ivan Tavčar (1851-1923) published in 1891 his novel 4000 (Four thousand), which was often reprinted in years to come (1902, 1926, 1954, 1966).
»Arheološko predavanje leta 5000« (A Lecture on Archeology in Year 5000) by Ivan Toporiš was published in 1892, influenced by some recent discoveries, as well as »Pogubni malik sveta« (Devastating world idol), a book by Simon Šubic, published a year later. The year of 1883 produced one of the most important novels of Slovene literature, »Abadon« by Janez Mencinger (1838-1912). Appropriately designated by the author as a »fairy tale for old people«, the novel has a utopian streak and actually reflects the Europe and Slovenia of that time. Josip Jaklič published his story "Pantheon" in the same year.

A several year's calm was broken, on the eve of WWI, by Etbin Kristan's »Pertinčarjevo pomlajevanje« (The Rejuvenation of Pertinchar, 1914). The novel tells of man's dream of rejuvenation, and through it, of his advancement and experience, wisdom and folly. In 1992, Ivo Šorli (1877-1958) published his story »V deželi Čirimurcev« (In the Land of Chirimuries). Damir Feigel, unjustly neglected and forgotten, published his first work, »Pasja dlaka« (Dog's Hair) in 1926. A prolific and funny writer, dubbed by later generations as Slovene Jules Verne, in the search of a new and different man, he was strongly inspired by the fantastic traits which we find in all of his work »Na skrivnostnih tleh« (In Mysterious Lands, 1929); »Čudno oko« (Strange Eye, 1930); »Kolumb« (Columbus, 1932); »Čarovnik brez dovoljenja« (Magician without Permit, 1933); »Okoli sveta/8« (Around the World/8, 1935); »Supervitalin« (1939). His contemporaries are Radivoj Rehar, Vladimir Levstik, Pavel Breznik with novels »Temna zvezda« (Dark Star) and »Marsovske skrivnosti« (The Mysteries of Mars), Metod Jenko and Anton Novčan.

Probably the best novel of that time is »Alamut« (published 1938, 1958) by Vladimir Bartol (1903-1967), whose action takes place in the far-away Iran of mid-11th century, a somewhat unusual setting for the epoch. The hero is a boy named Ibn Tahir, groomed, together with some other boys, by a self-styled superman in the eagle-city of Alamut, for his political and ideologic schemes. The novel is a sophisticated account of some totalitarian societies in Europe of his time. Alamut was until now translated in more than ten languages. In English was translated in 2004, by Michael Biggins. The novel inspired also the creators of the video game Assassin's Creed.

After WWII, Matej Bor, a renowned author, write the SF novel »Vesolje v akvariju« (Space in the Aquarium, 1955). A few years later, Vid Pečjak (b. 1926) came up with undisputable the best SF novel for children, »Drejček in trije marsovčki« (Drejchek and Three Little Martians, 1961). The novel tells us in an ingenious way what happened when little Drejček met three little Martians. Later on he also wrote »Pobegli robot« (Runaway Robot, 1976); »Adam in Eva na planetu starcev« (Adam and Eve on the Planet of the Olders, 1972); »Roboti so med nami« (Robots are Among Us, 1974); »Kam je izginila Ema Lauš« (Where Has Ema Laush Vanished, 1980); »Beg med zvezde« (Escape to the Stars, 2004); »Doktor živih in mrtvih« (Doctor of Living and Dead, 2004); »Aleks in robot Janez« (Alex and Robot Janez, 2007); »Zadnji odpor: Iskanje lepe Helene« (Last Resistance: Searching for a Beautiful Helene, 2007) and »Kataklizma: Selenino maščevanje« (Cataclysm: Selena's Revenge, 2010). Last two books are ecological SF novels. In his works Pečjak use his professional experience as psychologist. He deals mostly with man's psyche and reactions in unusual environment, most often in relation with cybernetics.

One should also mention Gregor Strniša, with his poems and radio plays »Mavrična krila« (Rainbow Wings, 1973) and »Steklenica vode« (A Bottle of Watter, 1974). Franjo Puncer (1934-1994) introduced in his novels and stories some Lemian themes, which was quite novel in Slovenia: namely, pointing at man's follies and errors through accounts of long journeys. His works are »Pregnani iz raja« (Exiled from Eden, 1970); »Izgubljeni človek« (Lost Man, 1978); »Časovna vrv« (Time Rope, 1993); »Wemarus« (1994); »Opna« (Membrane, 1995).

Miha Remec (b. 1928) is certainly the best and the most prolific writer, master of style, whose works »Votlina« (Cave, 1972, published 1977); »Prepoznavanje ali bele vdove črni čas« (Recognition, or White Widows Dark Hours, 1980); »Iksion ali beg iz prikazovalnice« (Iksion, or Escape from the Displayroom, 1981); »Kuga plastionska« (The Plastion Plague, 1982); »Mana« (Mana, 1985); »Lovec in nečista hči« (Hunter and Unclean Daughter, short novels published as a single book, 1987); »Zelena zaveza« (Green Convenant, 1989); »Zapiski odposlanca Zemlje« (Journals of Earth's Envoy, 1991) and »Astralni svetilniki« (Astral Lighthouses, 1993); »Iksia ali slovo živostrojnega človeka« (Iksia or Farewell of Livingmachine Man, 2001); »Iks ali velika samota Noetove barke« (Iks or Big Solitude of Noah's Ark, 2006); »Omarnik« (Wardrobeman, 2006); »Ostrostrelka ali Romanje v Tibetijo« (Sniperwoman or Pilgrimage to Tibetija, 2008); »Mitrejin koder ali časovna struna v Petoviono« (Mitreja's Curlyhair or Time String to Petoviona, 2011) are strongly inspired by the tradition of utopian and distopian novels, and some of them are quite comfortable in the company of Zamiatin's We and Orwell's 1984.

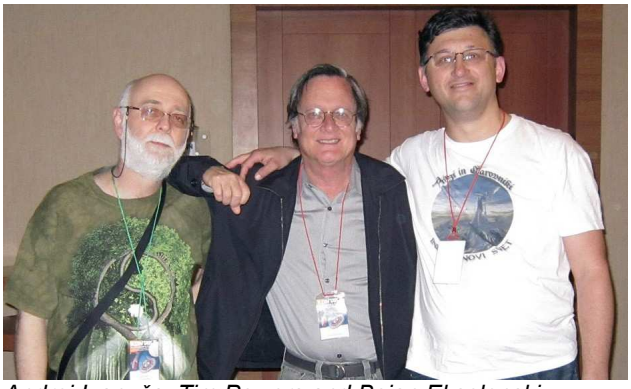
In the same league as Remec is France Tomšič (b. 1925), with dis-utopian works »Zrcalo« (Looking Glass, 1992) and »Potop« (Deluge, 1994). Boris Grabnar contributed to SF/F as author of TV play scripts, radio plays and futuristic novels »Vojna tajna« (Top Secret, 1970); »Tretje življenje« (Third Life, 1980, together with Vid Pečjak); »Leto 2000 – in potem?« (Year 2000 – and then?, 1982). Other authors worth mentioning are: Marjan Tomšič, Branimir Žgajner,

Ivan Sivec, Brane Dolinar.



Dr Vid Pecjak is legendary within SF in Slovenia

The most important representative of the generation born after WWII is Branko Gradišnik (b. 1951). Novels »Čas« (Time, 1977) and »Zemlja Zemlja Zemlja« (Earth Earth Earth, 1981) witness to his mastery of style and novel treatment of standard SF themes. He is primarily interested in time in all its forms and appearances, in its slightest details, as time, just like Gradišnik himself, moves in all directions. Almost the same can be said about about Samo Kuščer (1952), whose two collections of stories, »Sabi« (Sabi, 1983), and »Žalostni virtuoz« (Melancholy Virtuoso, 1989), deal with philosphic, moral and social issues, complemented with distinguished and attractive style. Certainly not a rare combination, but with Gradišnik and Kuščer it becomes a very original approach. Bojan Meserko (b. 1957), their contemporary, is most noted for his original ideas and style, often experimental and innovative, yet never an obstacle to a reader. He drew attention with his first book of stories »Igra in agonija« (Play and Agony, 1983), for its original ideas and treatment of the genre. His novel »Sanjališče« (Dreamingland, 1995), distincly original and fresh reading, is already being translated for Anglo-America readers. In the meantime, he published stories (around 120) in various media – radio, reviews, magazines, fanzines, etc. However, his greatest success came with, »Dobrodošli na planet Zemlja« (Welcome to Planet Earth, 1994), animated film by Oscar-winning Dušan Vukotić, of Zagreb, Croatia. The film, based on Meserko's novella »Kmečka idila« (Peasant Idyll), was shown at many international festivals and won several awards for its originality. Other important authors are: Boris Čerin, Marjetka Jeršak, Zvone Jirasek, Franci Cerar. The most important critics of SF&F in Slovenia are Boris Grabnar, Branko Gradišnik, Žiga Leskovšek and Drago Bajt, whose articles and books are major contributions to the development of SF/F in Slovenia. However, only Drago Bajt has so far collected his articles and published them as »Ljudje, zvezde, svetovi, vesolja« (Peoples, Stars, Worlds, Universes, 1982).



Andrej Ivanuša, Tim Powers and Bojan Ekselenski.

2. New dawn of Slovenian SF & F

Now comes the new generation of writers. Among them are: Nejc Gazvoda with novels “Sanjajo tisti, ki preveč spijo” (Dreamers are Those Who Sleep Too Much, 2007) and “V petek so sporočili, da bo v nedeljo konec sveta” (They Say in Friday That in Sunday Will be the End of the World, 2009), Aleš Oblak with book “Hiša dobrih gospodov” (House of Good Gentlemen, 2011), Martin Vavpotič with book “Čez veliko zahodno morje” (Over Great West Sea, 2005), and he write on English. Mara R. Sirako, with over 1200 pages thick novel in three books “Dangober – Spopad pri Opozorilniku (Dangober – Battle at the Alertbeacon, 2009).

Andrej Ivanuša writes many novels and stories. He wrote “Čudovita potovanja zajca Rona” (The Wonderful Journey of Rono Rabbit, 2006) for kids, “Rheia” (Spaceship Rheia, 2009), “Vilindar” (Fairy Town Vilindar, 2009), an epic poem based on Slovene mythology and “Svetodrev, prva legenda iz gozda Tokara” (Svetodrev, The First Legend from Tokara Forest, 2011).



Workshop about speculative literature in Trubar's house of literature (Ljubljana)

Amedeja M. Ličen is the SF screenwriter, novelist and author of the satirical anti-utopia “Nasvidenje, Veličastni svet” (Goodbye, Magnificent World, 2008), Tanja Mencin with serial “Varuhi” (Guardians) in four books “Viharna princesa” (Stormy Princess, 2011), “Enajsterica” (Eleventh, 2011), “Kriki usod” (Destinies Shouts, 2011), “Potovanje k cilju” (A Journey to the Goal, 2012), Mariša Ogriz, Vesna Lemaić, Barbara Kokalj, Dušan Dim, Blažič

Mateja, David Benjamin, Nika Maj with ten part serial for kids “Tianov čudežni svet” (Tian’s Magic World), Sarah Jerebic, Vili Ravnjak. I must mentioned the young authors, like Uroš Topić and Tea Gale. Both are young – only 16, 17 years old.

Most active is Bojan Ekselenski, the author of an authentic Slovene fantasy epic novel “Vitezi in Čarovniki” (Knights & Wizards), he published three classic book from it until now “Vitezi in Čarovniki: Indigo otroci” (Knights & Wizards: Indigo Children, 2007) and “Vitezi in Čarovniki: Indigo novi svet” (Knights & Wizards: Indigo New World, 2011), and Vitezi in Čarovniki: Votlina skrivnosti (Knights & Wizards: The cave of secret). This year will be published one of the greatest book in slovenian language – Vitezi in Čarovniki: Vzpon indigo otrok (Knights & Wizards: The rise of indigo childs) on 1000 pages. Bojan Ekselenski is self publisher for E-book. He has published 6 books: All of novel of Knights & Wizards saga with two extra novells – Vitezi in Čarovniki: Zadnji boj Zeolije (Knights & Wizards: The last battle of Zeolia) and Vitezi in Čarovniki: Duhovi Aldeverga (Knights & Wizards: The ghosts of Aldeverg).

According to Pika Kofol's The Guide to Science Fiction (vodnik-zf.info) which is an online encyclopedia of Slovenian science fiction and fantasy content in various media, analytic sources, links, authors' opinions on the genre and current events in the field, there is 219 authors (49 woman, 170 man) and 229 publications (books, novels, scenarios, etc.) in Slovene language.

3. ABOUT ANTHOLOGIES & TRANSLATIONS

Several anthologies and collections of SF/F have been published: »Strah me je« (I'm Afraid, 1962), »Ne zakrivaj mi neba« (Don't Shleter the Sky from Me, 1964), »Srečni planet« (Happy Planet, 1970); »Od Bradburyja do Vonneguta« (From Bradbury to Vonnegut, 1978), »Prodajalna svetov« (Shopping for Worlds, 1978); »Terra« (1989); »Blodnjak 1« (Maze 1, 1992) and sequel »Blodnjak 2« (1993); »Trgovina s pregreho« (1994), »Daleč so zvezde« (Far Away are the Stars, 1994), including works by such prominent international writers as: Clarke, Asimov, Lem, Wyndham, Anderson, Matheson, Joan Vinge, McIntyre, Le Guin, Ballard, Wilhelm, Varley, Knight, as well as Slovene writers Zvone Jirasek, Matjaž Šinkovec, F. Cerar, M. Škvarča, B. Meserko, M. Remec, V. Pečjak, and F. Puncer.
In recent years, the most read and into Slovenian language translated author is George R. R. Martin with his novels; “A Song of Ice and Fire”. We also have many other translations, among them Susan Collins and other authors.

4. ABOUT SF & F CLUBS

Around 1980 there were three fan clubs in Slovenia: Konstelacija from Celje, Nova from Ljubljana and Sekcija za spekulativno umetnost (Section for Speculative Arts), Ljubljana. All three dissolved after several years of activity. Nova published its fanzine »Nova« (7 issues), Sekcija za spekulativno umetnost published »Občasnik« (Periodic, 6 issues). However, the most serious undertaking in SF&F fanzine/review publishing was Marjan Škvarča's and Bojan Meserko's »Blodnjak« (Maze) in the late illustrations by Slovene authors and other SF/F topics. All in all, there were 13 issues of Blodnjak, whose topicality, quality of contributions and originality, according to many critics, made it the foremost SF&F publication in the former Yugoslavia. In late 1991, the last issue of Blodnjak appeared in the form of review/fanzine, to be replaced by a book-size collection, now published by Meserko's private publishing company, entirely dedicated to SF&F.

In 1998 was founded society Gil-galad in Ljubljana, which is a non-profit association of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien fans. The association's objective is primarily gathering fans of J. R. R. Tolkien, publishing their articles, drawings and poems in the house magazine “Sijoča zvezda” (Shining Star) and spread the popularity of Tolkien fantasy literature. In the summer they organize several workshops in various subjects, once a year they prepare the annual meeting with role-playing.



Slovenian writers at Otherworlds (Celje, 2012)

In 2005 the SF-fan society Prizma was founded, which issued 12 numbers of the fanzine Neskončnost (Infinity) until 2009. Then their activity vanished for a while, but started up again this year.
In 2011, the four authors of the SF&F Ruža Barić (aka Mara R. Sirako) Amedeja M. Ličen, Bojan Ekselenski and Andrej Ivanuša founded the society Zvezdni prah (Stardust), the Author's Society of Speculative Arts. In 2008 Bojan Ekselenski began publishing a Fanzine for Fantasy, Science Fiction, Horror, and the World Drugotnost (Otherworld) named “Jašubeg en Jered” (means News from Otherworld in imaginary fairy language of his book), which became a society magazine and so far was published 22 numbers in five years. The most recent issue was published in May this year.

After the disintegration of Yugoslavia SF&F fast die out in Slovenia due to conflicts among participants and loss of market. Even before this speculative art was marginalized, in fact, did not even considered as an art. Recently, some new authors try to transform and re-establish it.
In the year 2013 started a new con in Ljubljana, NMN. We hope, that this con will not become a one- or two-year-fly.



CROSSOVER

A FAN-FICTION BY WOLF VON WITTING

I stepped off the train at Frankfurt (Main) in early autumn. Nobody was expecting me and nobody was in place to greet me. Immediately and involuntarily I tried to envision the legendary first encounter between the first German sf-fan, Herbert Häußler and Forrest J Ackerman, which took place on one of these platforms some 60 years earlier. What had changed around the *Hauptbahnhof* since then?
Apart from both of them being dead by now. I could not say. The train brakes were still squealing intolerably. The voice on speaker was still male and repeated the same kind of announcements. "Please, stand back at platform 2, for the incoming train from so-and-so to so-and-so." and in German only.

I had taken a few steps down the platform, when I abruptly grinded to a halt. There was this man in black, standing on the platform. Not the FBI type of man, but the mysterious shady type. He looked wickedly familiar though. I get that a lot, because I have met a lot of people in my life through work, hobby and living in many different places. Once I could swear I saw Dustin Hoffmann swimming in the Adriatic Sea. He was playing with a child in the water. As I swam closer, I noticed they spoke perfect Italian, so I concluded it wasn't Dustin Hoffmann after all. But this guy, wearing all black garments with many pockets, had too many features reminding me of BAGS, so I couldn't help it. I had to step up to him and ask; "Bertil A.G. Schalén?"
Then I noticed the silver pentagram in a chain around his neck. What a dead giveaway! Of course it was him. He looked at me, not recognizing me, but answered in English with a foreign accent.
"Excuse me? Have we met before?"
My, oh my! It must have been some thirty years ago, at SWECON in Stockholm. He had not changed very much.
"BAGS! What the frak are you doing here?"
For a moment he took of his sunglasses. His face had already changed to one who was searching through the database of his memory. Excluding who I could not be and narrowing down the number of possible candidates. He needed almost fifteen seconds for the operation with furrowed brows, but then his face lightened up and he returned the dark spectacles to their place on his nose.
"Wolf von Witting" he said.
"Correct!" I confirmed. "Want a cigar? It so happens, I got a pair." reaching into my pocket. He waved a declining gesture with his hand.
"What are the chances of a Swedish guy and an Italian to meet each other here?"
"I am not really Italian." I said.
"I know!"
We chatted for a while and then we decided that since we both would be in and around Frankfurt for a while, we could make a joint excursion to one of Gerfany's most prominent epicenters.



I suggested for us to visit either the 'Phantastische Bibliothek' in Wetzlar or the Asimov Basement Bar, which basically was as far away, but in the opposite direction. We finally agreed to meet again at Rudi Gerstner's bar in the evening two days later.
"I do not carry a mobile phone, so just send me a message on Facebook, if there is any problem." I said before we parted.

* * *

It was late Friday afternoon as I descended the stairs to the Asimov Basement Bar. The door was open and a gush of stuffy, smoke filled air slapped me in the face at the entrance. It was an unusually crowded evening. I spotted a sardined Klaus Frick, desperately trying to keep his brimful pint from spilling. With a chuckle I recognized the music playing as the Star Wars cantina theme. How very appropriate! Krischan, the artist at the back wall (still working on an almost live sized representation of a dragon) had laid aside his brushes for a while and tried to keep an unaware Frank Ausenstein from smearing a dragon paw with his left shoulder.
Rudi Gerstner was taking orders and had entreated a pretty all blue painted lady for assistance behind the counter. She answered to the name Bettina.
Right there, at the counter I spotted BAGS glaring down her austere décolletage, revealing little unless she was bending forward. Which she often to his

delight tended to do. In front of him.
"Miss, another pint here, for my friend!" he said to her as he caught sight of me.
We shook hands and somebody used the few seconds BAGS was standing to snatch his stool.
We both stood glaring for a while.
It wasn't long until a significant part of the guests suddenly seemed to drift off. Apparently there was an all night screening of all three parts of The Hobbit at the local cinema. BAGS and I even got a small table for ourselves.
"I can't bear to see the Hobbit in German language." I said.
"I can't bear to see the Hobbit in any language." BAGS said. "Not all three in one night, at least."
"So, how is fandom doing in south Sweden?" I asked him in Swedish.
"Well, you know... Bertil and I..." he was referring to the fan and sf-author Bertil Mårtensson and I suddenly realized that all the fans I knew connected to the town of Lund were named Bertil, and they were all three the only people I knew personally by that name, Bertil Mårtensson, Bertil Falk (sf-fan, editor and journalist) and Bertil A.G.Schalén.
"Mårtensson." I commented.
"Yes, we do not mingle much. We are busy with our own stuff."
The music had shifted to one of the rare Tangerine Dream pieces which was not entirely instrumental. *Bent Cold Sidewalk*.
"I would introduce you to some people, " I said. "But I can't see Klaus Marion here this evening. But... That... for example!" I pointed at an sf-fan who greeted us cheerfully in passing us on his way to order more beer.
"That was Johannes Unnewehr. And over there..." I pointed at Klaus Frick who was still crowded with Perry Rhodan-fans.
"That is Klaus N Frick!"
"What does the N stand for?"
"No idea!"
"Klaus No-idea Frick?"
"He is the chief editor of Perry Rhodan." I explained.
"Klaus Nefarious Frick?" BAGS raised both eyebrows.
"Not at all, he is really an okay-kind-of-guy!"
"Klaus Nightingale Frick then!"
Tangerine Dream reached the part with lyrics; *Bent cold sidewalk, open the gates! I may be late, but I can no longer wait...*
"And over there..." I was going to point out the Krischan of German fandom, who was just an as brilliant illustrator and artist as the Swedish Nicolas Krizan, but Christian (Seipp aka Holl), or simply 'Krischan!' to everyone, had disappeared.
"Never mind!"
Halfway into the third pint, BAGS suddenly lowered his voice and almost whispered.
"There is a spectre in here. I can feel it. Actually, there may be more than one."
Knowing BAGS, and his special interests, I understood immediately what he was talking about.
He was talking about ghosts.
He reached into his pocket and retracted his hand holding a set of goggles I hadn't seen before. Could he see otherwise invisible things with them?
"Where?"
"There are several strong manifestations moving between the remaining guests. They can see us, but we can't see them. They try to avoid overlapping with a human, because you would feel a chill in the intersecting tissue."
Bettina, who had been dismissed from her temporary duty behind the counter suddenly shuddered, as she seemed to feel a cold invisible touch. She placed a jacket over her bare blue shoulders.
Unnewehr stared in disbelief at his beer glass when out of nowhere it suddenly got fern frost.
"You may be right!" I conceded after observing them.
"What can we do?"
"We could talk to them. We stay until everyone has gone home. I throw a mojo for us both to be able to see and hear them properly."
"I doubt Rudi Gerstner is going to let us stay the night." I said.
"Near closing time, after the Last Orders call, we hide in the loo, behind the doors." BAGS whispered again. "Do not lock the door, just leave it ajar."
"Yeah, otherwise he would *know* there is someone inside. I am not that stupid, you know."
I made my third pint last as long as possible.
"So, when is Klaus Nocturnal Frick going to leave?" BAGS asked impatiently, as one after the other appeared to drop off, except the chief editor of Perry Rhodan. To make things worse, from BAGS point of view, Klaus came over to our table.



"Hello Wolf! Good to see you here again!" he said in his very particular German dialect.
"Hello Klaus! I have already mentioned you to my

friend from Sweden here. May I introduce you to Bertil A.G. Schalén?" I answered in German and Klaus and BAGS shook hands. My Swedish friend began to exercise his limited German vocabulary.
"Rudi, noch eine Runde Bier, bitte!" said Klaus who had noticed that our glasses were nearly empty.
Rudi Gerstner confirmed and added that it was last orders for the evening.
"Is it possible to cast a mojo for three?" I asked BAGS in Swedish and hurried to assure Klaus that I had said something completely different. BAGS only nodded.
I realized that it would be impossible to sneak off to the lavatory without anyone noticing it as long as Klaus Frick was at our table. The only sensible course of action was to confide in him. At first he laughed and shrugged it off as a joke, but after a while he became aware that we were being dead serious. To our astonishment he made things even easier for us. He turned to Rudi and said:
"You can go upstairs. We lock the door and turn off the lights when we leave."
"I didn't know we could do that!" I said flabbergasted.
"Well, he knows you and me, and this is not the first time that Rudi has retired before his last guest did. It depends a lot on who it is, but if your name is Klaus you are implicitly trusted in this place."
I concluded that there was one more Klaus who had this privilege.
As Johannes Unnewehr took the last empty seat at our table, BAGS and I sighed simultaneously. Don't get me wrong, he is a terrific guy. A very nice person. But it's the explaining of something inexplicable which I perceive as the backbreaker. Klaus N Frick on the other hand knew how to make things easy.
"Wanna experience something cool? Hang around a bit, and you may yet be... thrilled!"
"You got a surprise?" said Johannes, smiling expectantly as if it was his birthday. He pushed his glasses up his nose with the left index finger. How come he didn't have more grey hair? It was all still dark, short and in perfect order as if he visited a hair stylist at least weekly (on Friday afternoons).
"Want me to turn off the music?" said Rudi before turning in, a towel over his shoulder.
I recognized the CD Rudi had put into the player, it was one I had cooked for him. I already knew what song would come next.
"Yeah, turn off...!" said Klaus.
"No, wait!" I insisted to let it run.
"Good night!" Rudi disappeared upstairs and the four of us were alone in the Basement Bar.
Everyone recognized the next song. It was Ray Parker jr and the lyrics were all too familiar.
If there's something strange in your neighborhood.
Who ya gonna call?
BAGS and Klaus looked at each other in disbelief for a few seconds before bursting into laughter.
Johannes Unnewehr only looked bewildered, not understanding what was funny about the music, but never the less he joined in as everyone in unison sang: "Ghostbusters!"
If there's something weird and it don't look good.
Who ya gonna call?
The four of us: "Ghostbusters!"



BAGS suddenly had a concerned face. He didn't smile anymore.
"Wait, wait! Turn it off, turn it off!"
Klaus hurried over to the counter and turned off the music. On his way he must have rushed through a spirit being and when he looked at us, it seemed like someone had been walking over his grave.
"They are gathering! There are more of them now." BAGS said in Swedish and I translated it into German.
"More of who? More of what?" Unnewehr's bewilderment had grown.

(Interruption for advertisements... - stay tuned.)

"Mojo-time. Now!" I suggested and BAGS just nodded, standing up. He moved to the open area which generally was considered the dance floor. It sometimes happened, that sf-fans danced. Even more often so, when I was the DJ of the Asimov Basement Bar. Now he gave us a sign to gather around him. Then he brought forth a piece of chalk from a small plastic bag in one of his many pockets. He drew a huge pentagram on the floor and then an octagon around us. He told us to all stand within the octagon, but not to step on the pentagram.
"What date is it today?"

"It's the 13th!" Klaus said.
"Friday the 13th!" said Unnewehr with a voice foreboding calamity.
BAGS was writing letters in an alphabet I had never seen before.
"Rudi is not going to like that!" Klaus said, looking at the amount of writing BAGS scribbled onto the floor. I guess he felt responsible.
But BAGS kept on scribbling and indicated me to move to a different spot as the writing approached my right foot. He finished the chalk and found another one in the same pocket and plastic bag, where the first had been.
"What's this?" asked Johannes Unnewehr referring to the writing on the floor.
I had no idea.

Finally, BAGS stood up and recited something in a strange foreign language. I recognized fragments of it. It was sumerian. "Eshedû en Ninhursag ilaha du nudimmud, oê enlâ Ereshkig ur matâr." He placed a small plastic telescope goblet in the middle of the pentagram and as his voice approached a dramatic peak a flash of light shot straight up from the goblet and thick smoke engulfed us for a few seconds, smelling decidedly of sulphur. Yet the plastic goblet didn't melt.
"I know, it's kinda silly. The puff of smoke doesn't do anything at all." BAGS admitted.
"It's a bit childish. For effects only. But there would be an awkward silence otherwise, while we wait for something to happen."
As the smoke dispersed, we saw the Asimov Basement Bar was full of people again. Dead people. More and more of them were coming in straight through the closed door.

* * *

"I mean, he looks alive, but I *know* he is dead. He looks more alive than I ever saw him!" I was referring to Dieter Sachse, who I noticed first. He was standing next to... Walter Ernsting, who looked exactly the way I remember him from BÄRCON 1980 in Berlin.
And next to Ernsting stood another man who looked strangely familiar. I knew him too. Somehow.
And they were all looking at us.
Klaus and Johannes were both as speechless as I was.
I pointed at the familiar looking man and said... "That is...hm... that is..."
"Forry Ackerman!" Klaus filled it in for me.
Forry smiled at being recognized and suddenly burst into song: *"Ich bin von Kopf bis fuss auf Perry eingestellt. Nur das ist meine Welt und sonst garnichts!"*
Unnewehr fumbled for a chair. "I... have to... sit down."
"I don't believe it!" said Klaus.
BAGS spotted a small grumpy man behind the counter. "Isn't that Hugo Gernsback!?"
"Indeed, it is!" Forry interrupted his song. "He is serving ethereal beer."
A man introducing himself as Günther M Schelwokat approached Klaus N Frick and said in German: "I would like to shake your hand, if I could. But, alas, our hands would pass straight through each other. You are doing a darn fine job as my successor, Klaus."
"You can see me now?" A young man asked, blocking my view of Forry, Dieter Sachse and Walt Ernsting. "I never doubted for a second we would see each other again!" It was Joachim Henke.



For a split second I had the urge to give him a big hug, but then I remembered it wouldn't work here.
"Why didn't you tell me!?"
"Tell you what!?"
"That you had a weak heart and could die young."
"I didn't give it much thought, honestly!" Joachim scratched the back of his metaphysical head. "I was as surprised as everyone else."
BAGS took the opportunity to have a chat with Hugo Gernsback. His broken German was a strain on him and it was relaxing to have a chat in English for a change. There were no Swedish ghosts in the room.
"I beg your pardon!" said Forry to Johannes Unnewehr. "It was I who accidentally frosted your beer earlier this evening. I really didn't mean to do that."

"No problem, Sir!"
"It is people like Walter and I who have very strong emanations coming from our spiritual bodies. We can't help it. That gentleman in black sensed us immediately as we came into the bar." He tilted his head for a second towards BAGS.
I started to recognize more and more of the people in the bar. Julian Parr and Anne Steul were sitting at the table we had been at before. They were in company of two men whose faces were unknown to me.
"Have you met your father?" I asked Joachim.
"He is not here!" he answered.
"What do you mean? He should be here..."
"If I may explain," interrupted Forry Ackerman. "There are only sf-fans here. People who in their hearts loved science fiction. His father... as I have come to understand, was a swashbuckler-fan."
"A what!?" said Unnewehr.
"Privateers, piracy, Störtebeker and that kind of stuff! Swashbucklers in the Caribbean were his passion.
My, oh my! Who would have thought that Art Rapp was right after all!? Of all the religions in the world, the smallest confessions proved to be correct."
"You mean Roscoeism!" I added contemplating.
"An educated man!" Forry noticed.
"Are you saying that ALL other spirits you meet... ALL of them are science fiction fans? And no person who was not an sf-fan comes to... uh... the afterlife?"
"Ever since I died, I have only met people again who I really wanted to meet!" said Dieter Sachse.
"Which is strange... because in life I would have hoped to meet more women. That Bettina who was here earlier this evening. She was really a piece of work! I so wanted to lay my hands on her."
"You did, mein lieber Dieter! You did!" said Walter Ernsting.
"Not like that!" Dieter protested.

A new apparition appeared coming through the door of the Asimov Basement Bar. For the first time I noticed that they all had a faint glow around them and that the new arrival had a slightly different glow, more into the turquoise. He went straight for the counter of the bar, making a half circle around Klaus, Johannes and me, but went straight through Walter Ernsting and behind the bar straight through Hugo Gernsback at the keg of ethereal beer. None of the present ghosts seemed to notice him, but they noticed that the four of us all were staring at something. Following this something with our eyes.
The new arrival didn't take any notice of us at first. But he noticed the surprise in BAGS eyes as he passed him on the opposite side of the counter and then he noticed the three of us. Still in the octagon on the dance floor.
"What are y'all gawking at?" he yelled at us.
"Ca... ca... can't you see him!?" I stuttered to Forry, Walter and Dieter.
"No!"
"You mean, you can't see them?" BAGS asked the new arrival in his broken German.
"See who!?"
"Then you are not a science fiction-fan!" Frick concluded.
"Damn right, I'm not!!" scoffed the ghost. "But I have always been a passionate drinker!"
The following silence was total until BAGS left the bar and joined us on the floor again.
"Two volunteers, please! One ghost and one living!?" He looked at Joachim Henke, who was standing right next to Johannes Unnewehr.
"You two will do nicely! Please, go and take a quick look on the street, what is going on there and then come back to report immediately. I explain as you return." And as the two Joe's moved hesitantly he added; "C'mon! Shoo!! Presto!"
They were outside for two or three minutes.
As they returned, Johannes Unnewehr was looking around in bewilderment.
"What? Everyone has left?"
"No," said BAGS. "But the spell wore off for you."
"So Henke is still here?"
"Right beside you. As before. Now..." he turned to Henke. "What did you see?"
"Nothing! Nobody! There was no one outside."
"So, you saw nothing. And what about you?" BAGS now turned to Unnewehr.
"There were hundreds of people in the street. But they didn't seem to see each other. Some of them passed straight through each other."
"Yes. That is how it works. When you die, you end up with being able to see only other people of your own *kind*. This way we create our own heaven or hell. Think about it! Would you like to spend eternity with other people who are just like you?"
Now Klaus came with a bucket of water and a broom to clean the floor.
"How come, this isn't common knowledge?" I asked BAGS in Swedish.
"Well... " he said, adjusting his goggles as Frick and Unnewehr just started sweeping.
"When the signs on the floor are gone, you will forget all that happened here tonight! All that was related to ghosts anyway. But, don't worry, our ghost friends will remember the encounter. Henke will be able to tell you all about it, when you get here."
"So I won't be able to tell the story, you say!?"
"Sorry! No." said BAGS.
"One last question. If there had been a hidden camera in the bar, filming. What would have stuck to the tape?"
"Only the living, and our voices."
"Will you also forget it all?"

"No, the pentagram keeps me whole." He dangled the silver necklace for a second.
"Aha!" The chalk writings on the floor were already smeared unrecognizable.
Quite intentionally I managed to stumble and knock my knee at a nearby chair upon which it followed something which sounded like a series of cursing and swearing in Italian, starting with: "Porca miseria" but in effect adding a small explanatory resume to what I felt was difficult to deduct from merely the recorded voices.
As we all looked at each other in bewilderment, not understanding why we were standing in the middle of the floor in the Asimov Basement Bar long after all the other guests have left, the mp3-player/recorder in my pocket was still running. Later, much later, I learned by listening to it, that BAGS confusion was an act. I just wonder if he will try to deny that any of this happened, or if he will surrender the truth and confirm it. We may see... In the next LoCol.

24th of August 2014 - News from Shamrokon, the EuroCon in Dublin: The Barcelona bid for EuroCon in 2016 has just won! CounterClock congratulates!!!

Fantasy Horoscope

Pick any sign. Destiny will pick the right prediction for you.
This method is as scientificly solid as any horoscope.
There is no such thing as coincidence.

Unicorn

A month to be careful. You are going to encounter the partner of your dreams in the near future. Actually, both of them, which can make things a little complicated. Dream less often or use a dreamcatcher.

Minotaur

Lot of fun ahead. Get lost in France or in space. You still wont find what you're looking for. But at least you have a change of scenery. When bored, go to a convention. There they all are, the people with stars in their eyes.

Doppelganger

Of course, the future is full of surprise. You will change gender twice in the following week. You will step into old chewing gum and spread it all over a valuable carpet.
Your insurance is not going to cover it. Surprised?

Griffin

People have difficulty coming to terms with change, but you know all currency will collapse within two years and take precautions accordingly. Prepare for three months of perfect chaos. At least. Better still. Find a remote spot far away from civilization, and build your... ah... right... no such spot left on the planet.

Basilisk

Would you happen to recall where you spend the night? Try to back-trace your steps, because if you don't find him or her, you will never see your LONCON WorldCon-badge again. You left it on the night table.

Mermaid

Rather confusing, this life. Focus on your novel. The paragraph you wrote before you read this prediction is total crap. Rewrite it. Better rewrite the entire chapter.
On the bottom of the bin you find an important paper.

Dragon

Die! No...! Did you roast and eat that duck? Then write a letter of comment. But if you hesitate, lightning strikes your house and a surge of electricity will fry your computer. It just happened to me, but I just happened to have a spare replacement unit. A must, since I still use 3rd gen Pentium.

Manticora

"Than" is a word you most certainly can't start a sentence with. But you might as well pick up smoking. You are going to be hit by an ambulance, after surviving a multiple crash on the German Autobahn near Würzburg. Weird alignment of the planets for you, or I might be reading it wrong...

Centaur

Think, if it doesn't hurt too much! Do you believe in wombles? They believe in you. Trust me, they do. They also believe in the Moomins. So what, if you're a halfling?
You can still enjoy life to the fullest.

Satyr

Infact, you should never give up and never surrender if you are on a Galaxy Quest. But I can recommend fried Octopus, if you are at an Italian Folk Festivity. I can recommend the Merlot or better still, a bottle Refosco.

Hydra

They don't make fanzines quite as they used to, the fans. They're blogging and chatting on Facebook and sending emails on mailing-lists. More and more the *need* to make a fanzine is lost. And pdf-fanzines aren't quite as good to have as the ones on paper, are they? But, **you** are not like everyone else. Think it over! Why not pubbing **your** ish?

Gargoyle

Do you wonder why this horoscope is phrased a bit odd here and there? It's because the first word of every prediction, when read, is supposed to add up to my favourite quote by the philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell.

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value. *(Albert Einstein)*



Illustration Nicklas Andersson

Alas, poor Yoda! I knew him, Han.

This issue didn't turn out quite the way I had expected. No, one in Swedish fandom found the time or energy to write a few words about their memories of fandom.
Well, no one except Jacob Palme, who has been GAFIA for the past 50 years.
I thought I knew them. I actually expected some of them to send me something. But, ok... I understand. They have work and families and other obligations. When they were making fanzines they still went to school, college or...
whatever. There is of course also the possibility that no one ever really liked me, but always avoided to tell me just that. I don't know. I really don't know.
And yes, I guess I am feeling a bit disappointed. I thought fandom meant something to them, at least at some point in their lives. They still go to conventions.
There were several with good intentions. Had I kicked them a bit, or had I postponed the deadline, then they might have come around *in time.*
But that's the thing about deadlines. The stuff that doesn't make it, doesn't make it... and so... I can't rely on things which may or not may appear in time. Sorry!

So IMHO, this issue is not half as good as I estimated it to become when I started. On the bright side...
Near the end, several illustrators popped up. One of them, Nicklas Andersson has delivered enough to fill up with ten or more picture pages. But I prefer to spread them out over several upcoming issues.

If there will be any comments on this issue, and things that *should have been* in this issue, then I might put together a #19 ½, but don't count on it. Fanac is not a priority among sf-fans in Sweden anymore.
I have heard several individuals claim that fanzine-fandom is dead in Sweden. I guess they were right. **It is dead.**
And rigor mortis has occurred. Not much stirs in terms of writing anymore. Not in Sweden.
Except of course for Johan Anglemark, who wrote for EAT THAT DUCK # 5 and Anders Bellis who frequently does contribute to the contents of this fanzine.



Illustration: Lars "Lon" Olsson

Lars "Lon" Olsson used to be a regular contributor to fanzines in Sweden. He works at the Royal Library in Stockholm and he is still creating his toons. I think I just snatch one right off his timeline on FB and present it here as an example. I ask for permission later, or just let him read this and subsequently sue me. My guess is he will not do that. But "Lon" was/is a well known cartoonist in fandom. Very much like Teddy Harvia and his "wingnuts".
Unfortunately I don't have any Nicolas Krizan to show you. And Chris Loneberg is another Swedish fan-illustrator who might feature future issues of CounterClock.

Men of the feather, brush and the pen still create some excellent artwork tp parade words about. Even in Sweden.

So, forgive me if this issue doesn't fulfill your expectations. I think we can agree on that.
At least I am done with fandom histories for my own part. This was the last one I *needed* to get off my chest.

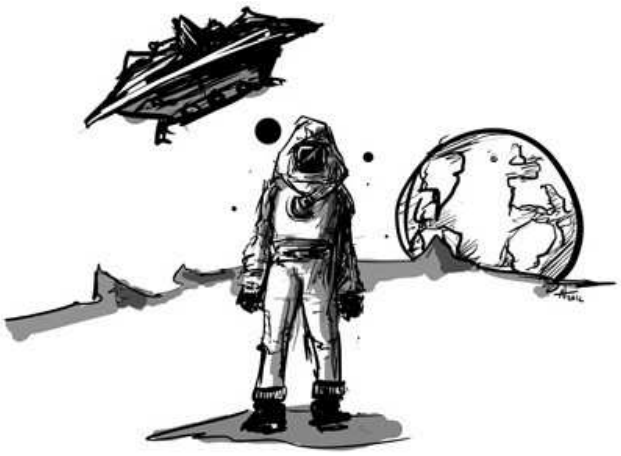


Illustration: Nicklas Andersson



Illustration: Nicklas Andersson

I am not an octopus. I just keep writing on several projects simultaneously these days. Once in the flow of it, it feels like an addiction. *I have to* write more.
And research is fun, when you make progress with it.
Already started on CLOCKWISE 2015, which will become the most researched publication I ever made. Over the years I have spent many hours at the Royal Library, the Royal Archive and the Military Archive in Stockholm.
After 35 years it is time to (again) sum up my conclusions as far as I have made any. This is a lifetime project.
I could go on forever and gather more data. Fortunately I am not alone on that project.

Next issue:

CounterClock # 20 will be the first CoClock-Convention. A fictional convention in a fictional convention center with fictional and real people. Might be difficult sometimes to say what is what. But I hope it will be entertaining enough.
Let me know if you wish to participate.
You'll need the floorplan and the program. If you would like to hold a lecture, let me know the topic.
It doesn't matter where you live. This will be a convention you can attend without having to travel. And yes, I admit it, I got the idea from Andy Hooper.



RACING FOR TAFF 2015

THE TRANS-ATLANTIC FAN FUND

I hereby announce my intention to stand a candidate for TAFF next year. I want to kill the myth that TAFF is a British-US-American thing only. Of course *they* have a lot of votes, so it is up to the candidates to reach out to them. And I will support the Helsinki bid for 2017, not only because I was born in Finland.

Furthermore I like to propose that future westbound TAFF-winners get to choose between the Eastercon and Eurocon, which ever they prefer. And I am sure Barcelona would welcome a TAFF-winner.
I would like to see a Canadian in the next westbound race. I'd say it is time for a Canadian to win. I'm truly amazed it has never happened before.

Even though I hope to get some votes from Sweden, Germany and Italy, I do not wish to rely on those votes. I would hate to think the Americans don't want to see me in Spokane. To me, the American votes are more important than the European.

The nomination phase begins in October, I believe. I already have a 1st and 2nd choice of the five I need to nominate me. No names mentioned here though.
From Europe I would like the spread of nominations reflect the fact that I have been part of fandom in many countries in Europe. TAFF never had a more pan-European candidate, German-Swedish, with some Scottish and Danish blood in my veins, born in Finland, married in Russia, living in Italy.

No honour would be greater than to follow in the footsteps of Walt Willis, exactly 50 years after Terry Carr.

One thing I have NEVER been good at though, is at making a campaign. I am going to need advice on that.
What I am fairly good at though, and what I safely can promise, is that I wont be going GAFIA after I have returned home, and that I equipped with my camera will be able to deliver a thorough travel-report with both pictures and words. I think you can excpect something along the lines of this issue of CounterClock (in volume).

I also hope that I as candidate, can popularize the TAFF voting in Europe. Nothing is impossible. A Croatian fan, Mihaela Marija Perkovic, demonstrated it by winning GUFF 2013.
The Finns show it by bidding for WorldCon. So, I feel it is my turn to display similar '*sisu'*.
Hope to be seeing you in Spokane!

Fannishly,

Wolf von Witting

LoC Around the Clock

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

CC18…life is full of change, but as we age, adjusting to those changes gets tougher, and we can get pretty cranky. Why do things have to change, and not stay the same, the way I'm used to? We have to remember that the older among us has its chance to change the world, and younger ones are now getting their chance, and some of those changes are pretty radical. I have just turned 55, and I've had my cranky times, and I have decided to make the effort to embrace some new things. With new interests come new friends, and some pretty good times lately, and I feel younger. If it means leaving fandom, or at least the parts of fandom I am familiar with, for newer interests, so be it.

I like Scott Adams' Dilbert strip, but I feel many of the strips would be funnier if they weren't so true. I've worked all my life in an office of some kind, and I think Dilbert is created mostly by people who share their office horror stories with the artist. Adams' predictions are also too true. Funny in some ways, depressing in others. We have become the tools, the cogs of industry, and we are worked to failure, and when we fail we are discarded, and another cog is put in our place.

Hugo's Grandchildren…as he is now having great-grandchildren, I would have to wonder what he'd think about this this Fandom thing at which he was the midwife at its birth. There are times I think he'd despair, and wash his hands of the whole thing. Our obsession with popular culture may be our downfall.

In my youth, I did try my hand at writing SF short stories. I got some rejection slips, and in some cases, I got no response at all. Some of it, I still have, but have no illusions about whether or not I will ever get it published. There are few opportunities here to get anything published professionally, so I will say my time is long past. Also, to be honest, the SF field has changed so much, and I haven't been able to read anything new in over ten years, I do not know the field any more.

The locol…I haven't been to a movie since my last letter. Yvonne saw The Grand Budapest Hotel with her sister, but there's been no time, and no money. That has changed, since both Yvonne and I now have full-time jobs, and our financial recovery is now on. My comments on Québec are now moot, with the province kicking the separatists out of office, and electing a strong federalist government. We actually had to get that new computer, and that's what I'm working on right now, with Windows 7 and a much faster chip visibly getting things done faster.

Clockwise 2014…you probably remember that we worked with the local filkers in the Toronto area stage the con suites for FilKONtario for ten years. We rarely went downstairs, not being filkers ourselves, but we did make some good friends with folks like Talis Kimberley, Juliane Honisch, and Kathy Droege. If you ever get a chance to see Ju and Kathy again, please say hello to them for me.

Time to wrap it up, I have to get ready for work in the morning. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

WolfEd: There is progress, stagnation and decay. I do agree that *progress* not always is a good thing.
Ill conceived changes are sometimes introduced under the false flag of progress. Privatization, for example. Bad idea.

Sometimes changes sneak upon us, sometimes they are forced upon us. But no matter if we hope for them or not, we can not completely escape them. The only sensible course of action is to adapt. And with adapt I am not saying that we should accept every change at face value.

I don't want machines to completely replace the human being. So I do not buy anything from machines, I have myself checked in and out by human beings (at a border), I go to a human, where there is one. I do not want cash to be entirely replaced by the credit card. So I use cash. As much as I can. I use the credit card as little as I am *forced* to.
I don't reject ALL technology. Only the technology that I don't trust. I don't trust cell phones, but I like digital camera and I use a PC, but not a GPS. I adapt.

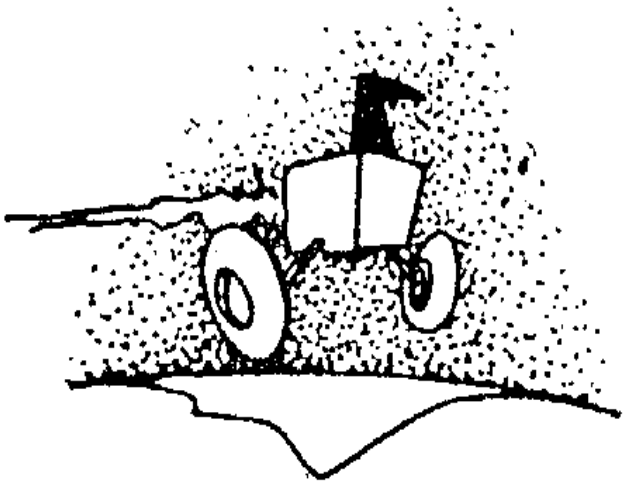
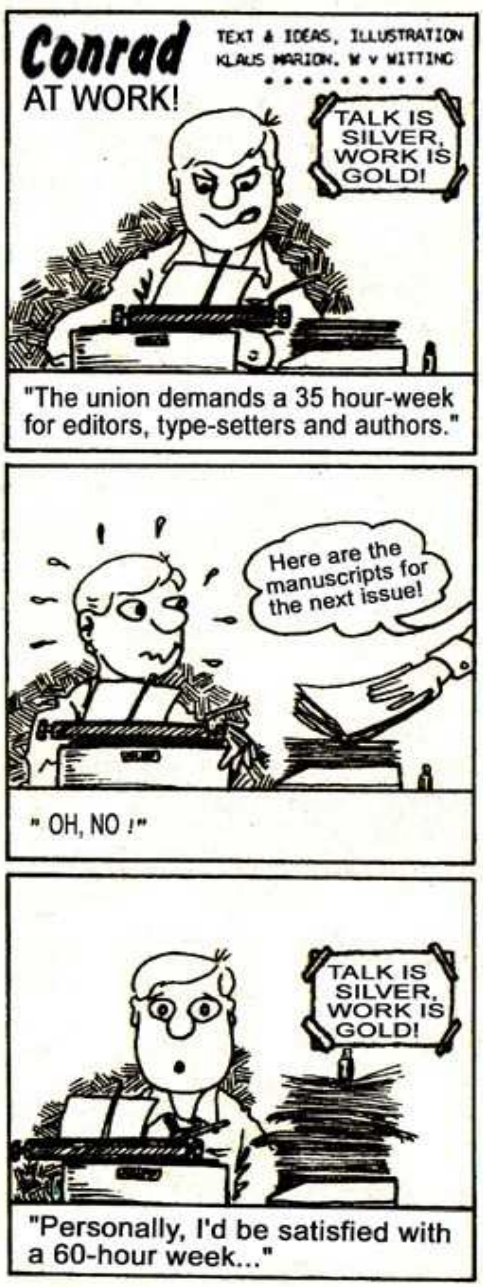


Illustration ATom 1927-1990



LAST WORDS:

September 1st - and I've been fiddling on this issue for so long, I just look forward to get it off my hands. With so many illos, it skews easily at the smallest alteration... at least in the primitive program I am using for it.

What else? The World is at the edge of a greater war, have you noticed? It appears to me most people pay no attention what-so-ever to what is going on in the world.
No data has been published from the black box on the air liner shot down over Ukraine. Why not? The accusations against Russia are allowed to stand. Somebody wants a war? Ebola is spreading in countries where oil deposits have been discovered. Coincidence?
Interesting times we live in, indeed!

EUROPEAN EVENT UPDATE:

The third London WorldCon is now history. It was the biggest WorldCon ever in Europe, but the convention-year of 2014 is far from over. Personally, I have to make an appearance at NovaCon in Nottingham, since Steve Green has requested me to participate in a panel on European fandom. Can't say no. I'd be delighted!

ELSTERCON 12 - Leipzig, Germany
19-21th September 2014
http://www.fksfl.de/

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/

BuCon, Buchmesse Convent 2014
Frankfurt, Germany, 10-11th October
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
GoH: Miriam Pharo
small fannish convention (in German language)

NOVACON 44, Park Inn Hotel
Nottingham, 14-16th November
GoH: John Gibbin, Kari Spelling
http://www.novacon.org.uk/

UTOPIALES - France
29th October - 3rd November - Nantes
http://www.utopiales.org/

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

2015

THE CONVENTION-Year 2015 will be listed in the December issue of CounterClock.

Let's hope that the world and fandom can hold together for another couple of years. I sincerely hope so.
But I am worried about how things are going. Can't help it. We have so many disasters heading our way (see CC#11) and nothing much seems to have been done about any of the coming calamities. Except... it's boiling under the surface of it all and a war might just be what the some need to avoid us from discovering they are bancrupt.

That would be all for now. Fannishly, Wolf


Swecon/ConFuse 2008
Wolf von Witting
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SWECON 2004
LIBRARY PASS
jUniCon9
STAFF
18-20 jUn
Wolf von Witting
Intuition
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253
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FANTASTIKA
2003
10. SCIENCE FICTION TAGE NRW
SCIENCE FICTION IN UND AUS DEUTSCHLAND
FAN-EHRENGAST
WOLF VON WITTING
21.-22. MÄRZ 1998 IM HARENBERG CITY-CENTER, DORTMUND
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FANTASTIKA
2001
NASACON
2000
SWEDEN
SigmaTC
Stockholm Trekkers
STAFF
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99
TRINITY
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AREA49
epilog
SWECON
UPSALA:1999
Wolf von
Witting
Saltsjöbaden