

FUTURE TIMES

Poul Anderson, 1926-2001

Poul Anderson, SFWA Grand Master and one of the most prolific and highly-honored writers in the genre's history, died at his home in Orinda, California near midnight on July 31st.

Anderson's career began with the story "Tomorrow's Children" (with F.N. Waldrop) published in *Astounding* in 1947, and took off in 1953 with the publication of two of his most famous novels, *Three Hearts and Three Lions* and *Brain Wave*. Soon he began writing his Technic History series, about a galaxy dominated by the Polesotechnic League of traders, and featuring merchant prince Nicholas van Rijn. This series led into a second sequence involving the successor Terran Empire, served by agent Dominic Flandry.

Other well-known series included the Time Patrol tales of agents preventing the corruption of history, the History of Rustum sequence, and the Hoka stories, written with Gordon R. Dickson. The Last Viking and King of Ys novel series were fantasies, the latter co-written with wife Karen Anderson. Notable stand-alone novels included *Tau Zero*, about a relativistic spaceship gone out of control, racing ahead in time to the end of the Uni-

verse and beyond, and *The Boat of a Million Years*, regarding immortals increasingly estranged from Earth. His latest novel, *Genesis*, won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best novel last month.

Anderson earned many other awards during his career including seven Hugos and three Nebulas (all for short work), the Gandalf Grand Master award for his fantasy, and the SFWA Grand Master award for his science fiction. He was inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 2000. He was also SFWA's President from 1972-1973.

Poul Anderson was the father-in-law of noted SF author Greg Bear, who married his daughter Astrid. Also surviving him are a brother, John, and two grandchildren, Erik and Alexandra. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to: SFWA Emergency Medical Fund
c/o Chuck Rothman, SFWA Treasurer
1436 Altamont Avenue
PMB 292
Schenectady, NY 12303-2977

Source: SFWA Online Update, © 2001

July 2001 ASFS Meeting Minutes

Taken by Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

The July meeting of The Atlanta Science Fiction Society was called to order by President Bob Goodfriend at 2:19 p.m. on July 1st. There were 16 people in attendance.

Treasurer Jayne Rogers reported a balance of \$171.68 in the club account.

Chris Lund was elected Programming Director by acclamation, and reported on his plans for upcoming events. In October, Paul Jenkins, writer of *Witchblade*, *Hulk*, *Spiderman* and *Wolverine* comics will be the guest speaker. In November, *Blizzard* animator Kyle Harrison will be a speaker. And in December, a 'Toys for Tots' activity is planned. Chris also reported that ASFS maintains its 15% membership discount at Oxford Comics, and members also now receive a 10% discount at The WarRoom. Chris also stated that an arrangement could be worked out with the Regal Hollywood 24 Cinema for members to attend special screenings of SF films. He announced that an Internet poll had been set up on the

Yahoo email list site to vote for which area cinema would be preferred by the membership.

Treasurer Jayne Rogers reported that \$35 was available to defray the costs of a room party at SciFi Summer. The membership voted to use an additional \$20 from club funds for the party. Lewis Murphy reminded the membership of the ASFS recruiting table at the convention, and asked for volunteers to assist in maintaining the table. Jan Sides asked about selling Misha Merlin books at the convention, the idea was tabled due to a possible conflict with dealers.

Outgoing Programming Director Ted Skirvin spoke about the August meeting's Trivia Contest, which will be his last activity as P.D.. Contestants were decided upon, and Ted's direct email address given to send questions and answers.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by a group discussion of the *Buffy: The Vampire Slayer* season finale. Several members also attended a screening of *A.I.* following the meeting.

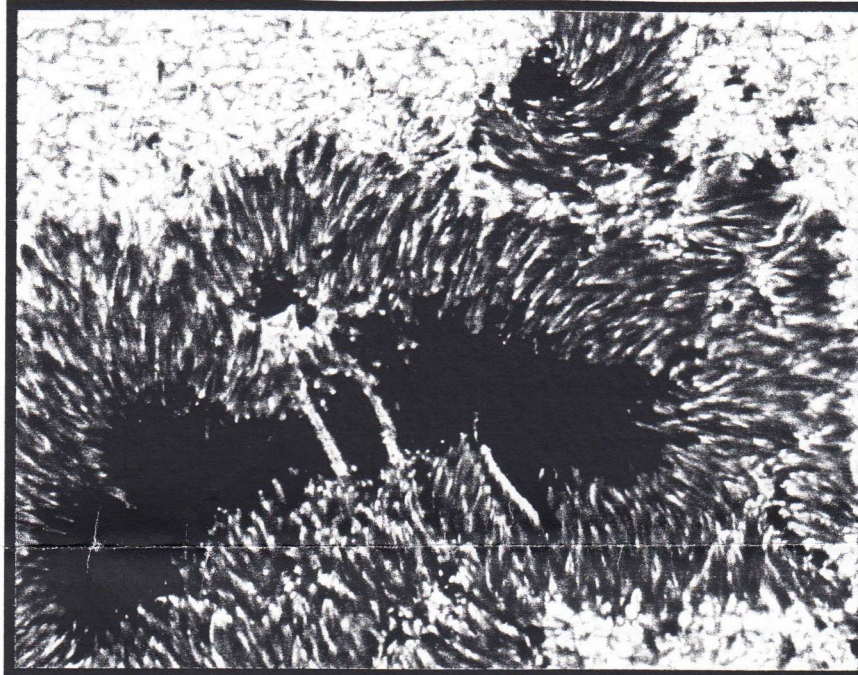
Light Bridges on the Sun

By Jan Sides

Bridges the length of a planet can form on the Sun in a matter of hours. Known as light bridges, these structures may form as

large sunspot groups decay. Above, one of the sharpest photographs of the Sun ever taken shows two such light bridges. The 5000-kilometer long bridges connect moderately dark penumbral regions across the cool abyss of two dark sunspot umbrae. Visible are bright,

bubbling granules outside the sunspot. Sunspots themselves are a slightly less luminous regions depressed by magnetic fields and are relatively cool – about 4,000 degrees compared to the 6,000 degrees Celsius of the surrounding solar surface.



Currently, we are in a period of increased solar activity which peaks every eleven years.

The impressive details on this recently re-release picture from the Swedish Solar Vacuum Telescope were made possible by new adaptive optics that correct for the blurring of the Earth's atmosphere. What eventually be-

came of the light bridges? As days progressed, the bridge region expanded to fill the void as the sunspots moved apart and decayed.

Credit: G. Scarmer, L. Rouppe van der Voort (KVA) et al., SVST

ASFS Officer Roll Call

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Classics Corner—Partners in Necessity

Book Review by Bill Downs

(Spoiler Warning: This discussion contains information that you might not want to know if you have not read the book)

'Partners In Necessity' contains 3 books: 'Conflict of Honors', 'Agent of Change', and 'Carpe Diem'. I ordered the omnibus edition on the basis of a note that there was an introduction by Anne McCaffrey. She called them part of her 'comfort' shelf. Books that get reread frequently; when she is depressed & needs a pickup, when she wants to snarl in frustration at the diabolical Department, when she wants to smile at two lifemates finding each other. I agree wholeheartedly. Lee and Miller give us a ripping good adventure. But, space opera isn't just a good adventure. Good space opera is more than nifty science, the clash of customs, and the evolution of ideas, interesting planets, cool tech, and new powers. It's also about the characters. You care about the characters in good space opera, and want to read about their further adventures, and their families' adventures, and even about the villains. These stories are very good space opera.

'Conflict of Honors' introduces us to the Liaden universe. We meet Shan, captain and master trader of the ship *Dutiful Passage*. He is also the former First Speaker of Clan Korval. Priscilla, having been abandoned by her shipmates, comes looking for a job. It turns out that her former ship had taken advantage of Shan in a business deal, diminishing his melant'i and requiring him to seek balance. Priscilla has her own agenda and past. She has to deal with her reappearing 'talents' and how they mesh with the other Liaden. She has to rediscover herself so she can appreciate her love for Shan.

'Agent of Change' introduces us to Val Con, Shan's brother and future leader of Clan Korval, and Miri. Val Con has crossed the nefarious Department while Miri has to fight her way past the Juntavas. They meet up with one of Val Con's foster brothers, Edger. Edger and his clutch brothers are of the T'carais. Val Con fights to regain control of his mind while he & Miri fight to just stay alive. Miri is an interesting character. She is an unemployed half terran-half Liaden bodyguard/mercenary who gets accidentally lifemated to Val Con and has 'Talents' of her own. She spends the better part of two books deciding if she can be mated to a sometimes less than sane, Val Con, for the rest of her life.

Few authors can compare to Lee and Miller's skill at bringing characters to life. One would think that there is a time portal to the future through which they have been watching and recording the lives of the Liadens for years. Even after twelve years, the quality of the writing stands far above most of today's work and on a par with the 'Classics.' The smallest details, the most minor of bit characters, end up being vitally important to the understanding of the complex web of melant'i that defines and explains Liaden actions. We watch the courtships, conflicts, and cultural imperatives that shaped Shan and Val Con. I have ordered 'Plan B' and 'Pilot's Choice' and look forward to 'I Dare' next year. Definitely a classic. Definitely worth reading again.

You can check them out at www.korval.com/liad.htm.

Partners In Necessity by Sharon Lee & Steve Miller
Published by Meisha-Merlin Press (<http://www.meishamerlin.com>)

Upcoming Area Conventions

August 2001

Aug 30-Sept 3: Millennium Philcon/59th World SF Convention- PA Convention Center/Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. GoH: Greg Bear, Stephen Youll, Gardner Dozois. TM: Esther Friesner. Many others in attendance. Memberships: \$170 attending, \$40 supporting. Info.: PO Box 310, Huntington, PA 19006-0310; phil2001@netaxs.com; Web- www.milphil.org *Note: The vote for 2004, and the Charlotte WorldCon Bid, will be at this convention. You must be at least a supporting member of Philcon to vote.*

Aug 31-Sept 3: DragonCon- Hyatt Regency Hotel/Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA. GoH: Harlan Ellison, Anthony Daniels, and hundreds more. Memberships: \$60 until 8/15, then \$75. Info.: PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 30321-9998; 770/909-0115; dragoncon@dragoncon.org; Web- www.dragoncon.org *Note: ASFS has a semi-private (by invitation) room party planned.*

September 2001

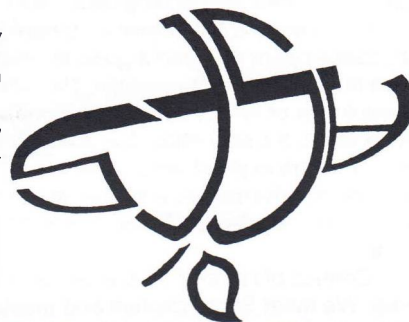
Sept. 7-8: Outside Con 14- Camp Marymount, Fairview, TN. Fee: \$25 until 9/1, then \$35. (Camping Relaxation) Info.: outsidebob@cs.com; Web- www.telalink.net/~badger/outside.html

Sept. 21-23: Anime Weekend Atlanta 7- Sheraton Gateway Hotel & Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta, GA. GoH: Mari Iijima, Tiffany Grant, Jessica Calvello, and many more. Memberships: \$25 until 8/31. (Anime) Info.: PO Box 13544, Atlanta, GA 30324-0544; 404/364-9773; awaweb@awa-con.com; gwaters@crl.com; Web- www.awa-con.com

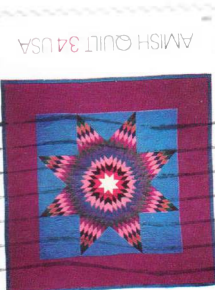
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
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Future Times



WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT AT FUTURE TIMES

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About Future Times

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Submissions, questions or comments may be mailed to:

ASFS ONLINE

ASFS maintains an E-mail mailing list hosted by Yahoo! Groups. Anyone who is interested may join by directing their web browser to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS>

Beyond the mailing list, our YAHOOgroups site has a calendar which lists our upcoming club and local SF events, as well as a new database for SF VHS and DVD offerings for our monthly Movie Night. Any member of the ASFS news list may view and add to these. This site is also where member polls are originated and voted on.

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