

FUTURE TIMES



2001 World Fantasy Awards

The 2001 World Fantasy Awards were presented during the World Fantasy Convention in Montreal, Canada.

►LIFE ACHIEVEMENT

Philip José Farmer

Frank Frazetta

►NOVEL (tie)

Declare, Tim Powers (Subterranean Press; Morrow 2001)

Galveston, Sean Stewart (Ace)

►NOVELLA

The Man on the Ceiling, Steve Rasnic Tem & Melanie Tem (American Fantasy)

►SHORT FICTION

"The Pottawatomie Giant", Andy Duncan (Sci Fiction 1 Nov 2000)

►ANTHOLOGY

Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora, Sheree R. Thomas, ed. (Warner Aspect)

►COLLECTION

Belulahatchie and Other Stories, Andy Duncan (Golden Gryphon)

►ARTIST

Shaun Tan

►SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL

Tom Shippey (J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century, HarperCollins UK; Houghton Mifflin 2001)

►SPECIAL AWARD, NON-PROFESSIONAL

Bill Sheehan (At The Foot Of The Story Tree: An Inquiry into the Fiction of Peter Straub, Subterranean Press)

October 2001 ASFS Meeting Minutes

Taken by Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

Due to a schedule conflict, the October 7th 2001 meeting was held at The War Room. President Bob Goodfriend called the meeting to order at 2:15pm. There were 14 persons in attendance.

Secretary Lewis Murphy gave the Treasury report for both September and August, with a balance of \$295.68 in the ASFS account. Future Times editor Bill Sides distributed the October issue, and made a plea for more contributions by the membership. Programming Director Chris Lund told those in attendance that intended guest Writer Paul Jenkins was forced to cancel his appearance, due to travel restrictions enforced by the British government in the wake of the September 11th events. Director Lund announced that the November meeting guest would be Kyle Harrison, a computer graphics artist with Blizzard Entertainment who worked on the Final Fantasy feature film. Chris also reminded the membership that he was still working with the Regal Hollywood 24 to obtain special screenings for ASFS members, and reminded the membership of the 10% War Room and 15% Oxford Comics discounts. Publicity Director Jan Sides informed the membership that the Creative

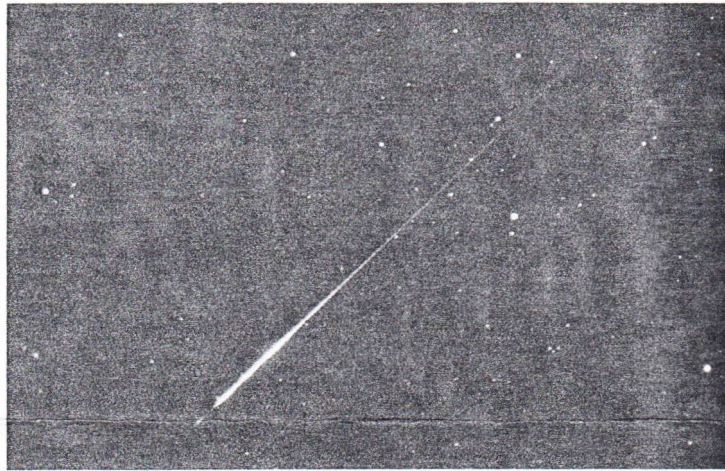
Loading ad is currently running; a PSA is in preparation for cable television; and the ASFS website will soon be up.

In new business, the membership discussed experiences from last month's DragonCon. Bill Sides, Michael Liebmann, Anne Brunsgaard, Lewis Murphy and others shared anecdotes; mostly ones involving Harlan Ellison. Kudos went to Bill & Jan Sides and Chris Lund for hosting an outstanding party at DragonCon. Jan Sides suggested an ASFS group trip to Netherworld Haunted House during October, Lewis Murphy said he would pass the request on to people at Netherworld. Lewis Murphy provided information regarding the first scheduled meeting of the Georgia Science Fiction Association, in case ASFS members were interested. Chris Lund told the membership of a scheduled signing by SF author Keith Hartman at Outwrite Books in November. Michael Liebmann announced an upcoming film event in Cordia. Dawn Goodfriend suggested a food donation for a shelter. Mr. Sheffer announced the Middle Earth Rocketry Club Halloween Party for October 20th, with details to be sent to the ASFS email list. The meeting was adjourned. Chris Stauffer and Chris Fuller joined ASFS following the meeting.

Meteor Storm Sights and Sounds

By Jan Sides

The peak of this year's Leonid Meteor Shower was the early morning of Sunday, November 18th, 2001. A typical meteor fireball, dramatically changes colors along its path and leaves a smoky persistent trail drifting in high-altitude winds. Astrophotographer Jerry Lodriguss reports, "We observed a [zenithal hourly rate] of about 3,600.... It was quite a spectacular storm, with bolides going off like flashbulbs, green and red fireballs and other fainter Leonids in all parts of the sky." His picture shows a fireball meteor and its persistent "smoke" train. Indeed similar sights are astonishingly familiar world-wide to witnesses of this November's fireball-rich Leonid meteor storm.



A few skygazers even discovered that some bright Leonid fireballs made faint, gentle, hissing sounds, a surprising effect only recently appreciated and understood. Accounts of fireball meteors making noise have long been viewed with skepticism, particularly because sounds were reportedly heard just as the meteor was seen overhead. But light travels much faster than sound so, like delayed thunder from a distant lightning stroke, a meteor produced sound should only be heard long after the meteor

streak was seen. For example, in 1719 astronomer Edmund Halley collected accounts of a widely-observed fireball over England. Many witnesses, "[heard] it hiss as it went along, as if it had been very near at hand." Yet his own research proved the meteor was at least "60 English miles" high. Sound takes about five minutes to travel such a distance, while light can do it in a fraction of a millisecond. Halley

could think of no way for sky watchers to simultaneously hear and see the meteor. Baffled, he finally dismissed the reports as "pure fantasy" — a view that held sway for centuries. Yet just last month scores of people heard the Leonids. The sounds weren't rumbling sonic booms or the loud crack of a distant explosion arriving long after the meteor's flash had come and gone. Rather, these were exotic, delicate

noises, heard while the meteor was in full view. Scientists call them "electroponic meteor sounds." An explanation supported by laboratory tests is that turbulent plasma created by the meteor's passage generates very low frequency radio waves. Traveling at light speed, the radio waves reach the ground simultaneously with visible light where they are strong enough to induce oscillating currents and audible vibrations in common objects like grass, leaves, wire-frame glasses, and perhaps even dry, frizzy hair.

ASFS Officer Roll Call

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Mundane Science

CSS Hunley Revisited By Bill Downs

The waterlogged and very fragile wooden box that housed the ship's compass has been successfully removed from the hull. The box measured 26x26x16 cm and was made of a soft wood, possibly pine. A gimbal, or pivoting ring, inside the box would have allowed the compass swing freely and stabilize at a level position. Archaeologists found the compass concreted to the forward bulkhead. The glass was intact but the interior and the mechanism were very degraded. If they are able to free the compass, archaeologists might be able to determine what direction it was last pointing in. It will be interesting to study the compass to determine how well it worked in the iron shell of the Hunley.

Excavations have uncovered a vertical steering rod, similar to an airplane joystick, in the front of the hull. It is connected thru a pipe at the crew's feet to the back of the ship. Moving only side-to-side, it is thought that this is how the rudder was steered instead of a wheel, as was depicted in earlier drawings of the submarine. It will take more work to fully understand how the steering rod is connected to the rudder, if in fact it is. But, it does seem like an elegant utilization of limited space.

Other artifacts they have found are a metal file, 30x2 cm, some canteen stoppers, and a length of iron chain. Speculation is that the chain is a spare to be used in case the chain around the propulsion gears broke. What the excavations have not found is any glass or iron from the blowout eyepiece in the front tower. If the eyepiece was damaged during or after the attack on the Housatonic, it could have contributed to the sinking. Some of Lt. George Dixon's re-

mains and his shoes are still in the forward part of the central compartment.

Scientists have come to the conclusion that the Hunley held only eight men when she sank on that fateful night. "There's just no room for another man. We have excavated every place where remains could be, and we came up with eight sets of remains," said Dr. Robert Neyland, Project Director. One surprise is that crew ages range from the mid-40's to the 19-year-old teenager working the bellows under the snorkel box. It is increasingly likely that the few records of who was on that final voyage are wrong. They can put a name and face on each set of remains, but the only way to identify them, except for Lt. Dixon, may be personal effects still to be found on board.

One way the Hunley was not as advanced as it could have been was the flood compartments. It has been confirmed that they were not sealed off from the crew compartment. If the submarine had been run over by the USS Canandaigua, as some have theorized, or rocked severely by the sinking Housatonic, water may have poured out of the flood compartments into the crew compartment. This would have robbed it of its near positive buoyancy, leaving it stranded beneath the surface, unable to rise. The limited amount of air made anoxia - oxygen deprivation sickness - almost inevitable.

The Hunley still holds secrets. Secrets about those final minutes. Who were the seven men aboard with Lt. Dixon? In what other ways was it ahead of its time? Hopefully time will see all these questions answered.

Classics Corner

Book Review by Bill Downs

Against The Odds by Elizabeth Moon

Wait! Wait! Stop the presses! I think I understand what happened.

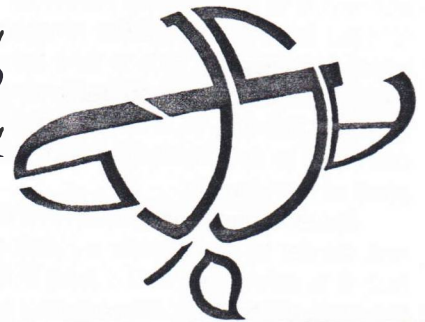
Elizabeth Moon originally wrote a book called 'Change the Odds' (well, she could have). An evil sorcerer came by and saw that the book was very good. He cast a spell and split it into two books; 'Change of Command' and 'Against the Odds'. He hoped that her readers would be frustrated by 'Change of Command' and not look for 'Against the Odds'. I have to admit that I was tempted but thought that any book following 'Change of Command' could only be better. I was right.

If you read 'Change of Command', do read 'Against the Odds'. It will make sense and you will be much happier. 'Against the Odds' does stand alone. But, like many books in a series, it reads better if you know what went on before. Elizabeth Moon is back and the world is happy again.

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 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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