

It Goes On The Shelf



It Goes On The Shelf

Published at The Sign of the Purple Mouth by Ned Brooks

4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn GA 30047-4720

nedbrooks@sprynet.com

Website - <http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.htm>

*'And departing, leave behind us
Toothprints in the hands of time.'*

Cover by Brad Foster, WWII cartoon by Heath Robinson

If anyone has tried to reach me and could not, it may be because AT&T, on December 7 2012, simply stole my phone number (which I had had since 1998), and gave it to some 3rd-party purveyor of phone services. This in turn shut down my DSL Net link, which was multiplexed on the same line. I have complained to the FCC, and my congressman, and may try the US Attorney General next, as this is apparently a violation of federal law.

Is this merely some unlikely cyber-glitch? Or is someone displeased with my political opinions? As of Thursday December 20, the land-line has been restored - for voice - and they claim it was a data entry error, in that my number is one digit off from the one they meant to transfer. Because the link was gone for more than 7 days, both AT&T and my ISP say that some further cyber-twiddling is needed to restore my Net link.

The Archjockey of Canterbury and Other Tales by Kent Hollingsworth, The Blood-Horse, Lexington KY 1986, 313pp, index

Who could resist such a title at a thrift-store price? In mint condition but without the dust-jacket. The subtitle is deceptive - some of these accounts may be exaggerated, but all were published as fact in *The Blood-Horse*, a magazine for horse-racing aficionados. The author explains that he found the word *archjockey* in a dictionary (but it's not in my somewhat outdated copy of the OED) before a British jockey named Michael Hole (who was from Canterbury) came to the US and won more than 2000 races.

Pigtopia by Kitty Fitzgerald, Faber & Faber 2005 d/w GBP10.99

The protagonist is a deformed man whose drunken mother has told him all his life that his father was a pig. Probably not a unique situation. But the style of the account is ferocious and engaging.

Peake Studies (vol.13#1, Oct.2012), ed. G. Peter Winnington, 32pp

This issue has, most notably, images of Gormenghast as imagined by Ian Miller. There are also two articles on the death of Sebastian Peake, one by Michael Moorcock.

Last Train to New Zealand by Neal Wilgus, Juxtapedia Press 2007, 40pp, illustrated by Filomeno Martinez

Pump Prime by Neal Wilgus, Juxtapedia Press 2007, 40pp, cover by Filomeno Martinez

Slim volumes of verse – I am not really competent to say how poetical they are, but the content is good! Neal also sent a photocopy of his “La Llorona” story “Cold Case: Rona”, which won the *Oasis Journal* fiction contest for 2012, and some skiffy poems from *The Sovereign*. He inclosed two issues of *The Sovereign*, which calls itself “The World's only Truth Newspaper!”. This odd tabloid is published in New York by Philip J Schrader and has a website – TheSovNews.com. It reminds me a bit of things by the Church of the SubGenius. And later:

Balloon to the Center of the Earth by Neal Wilgus, Juxtopedia Press 2013, 18pp, illustrated by Filomeno Martinez

A funny illustrated story in verse, reprinted from the 1980 *Nyctalops* 15. Juxtopedia and Neal are at the same spatial coordinates: 927 Camino Hermosa, Corrales NM 87048. Neal also sent *Yellow Leaves* #2, published in England, with verse based on the Carcosa Mythos – *atlanteanpublishing @ hotmail.com* – where we learn that the King in Yellow has a wiki:
<http://kinginyellow.wikia.com>

Agog! Terrific Tales, ed. Cat Sparks, Agog! Press 2003, 276pp, wraps

An anthology from Down Under, sent to me by John and Diane Fox. The editor turns up on one of the Yahoo lists, and has a POBox at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales. A nicely made book, with excellent typesetting.

To the Dark Tower by Victor Kelleher, Red Fox 1992, 184pp, wraps, \$A7.95

Also from John & Diane. A “dream fantasy” novel, where the dream intrudes on real life.

Boneland by Alan Garner, Fourth Estate 2012, 149pp, £16.99

This is the concluding volume in the “Weirdstone trilogy” - the first two, **The Weirdstone of Brisingamen** and **The Moon of Gomrath**, were published in the 1960s! I liked those at the time – but would I have to reread them to understand this new one? I liked his recent **Thursbitch** a lot. I don't like this one as well – not bad, but it's set in the present and the plot seems to spin its wheels a lot without getting anywhere.

Pictures of Sound by Patrick Feaster, Dust-to-Digital 2012, 144pp illustrated and with a 28-track CD

An elegant aeg hardcover issued without dust-jacket. The subtitle is “One Thousand Years of Educated Audio: 980-1980. I fear that it may be too technical for me – to start with, I never saw the word “educated” before. And getting the CD out of the sleeve required some ingenuity. The first track is from an 18th century barrel organ where the tune is specified by the settings of “cylinders”. The second is from a “sound spectrogram”. After that things get even harder to follow – for one thing, although the 28 tracks on the CD correspond to the 28 chapters, I have to go over and look at the player to see what track it is on. Track 5 is eerie, and corresponds to “Peasant Songs of Great Russia” that were somehow recorded in 1905 as diagrams on graph paper.

Los Cuentos Fantasticos (vol.III #36), ed. Jose Sotres, Editorial Enigma, 50pp, wraps

This pulp facsimile (nowhere identified as such) was kindly sent from Argentina by Juan Carlos Verrecchia. He says they are made in Spain, but Spain is not mentioned anywhere. The only art is the

uncredited cover, and the only ad is the back-cover offer of a list of books by “Weaver Wright” (Forry Ackerman) operating as “Fantasy Focus” out of a PO box in Los Angeles. Large print notices on otherwise blank pages seem to say that this is the first of a series, and that there will be two a month. The colophon is confusing – there are partial addresses in Mexico and Uruguay (and a telephone number in Uruguay, obviously archaic as it is only 6-digit), and a date: July 8, 1948. But the index to Spanish SF pulps by Moises Hasson indicates that this #36 was published in Feb.1952 – the 1948 date must be the date of a mailing permit or some such thing. So are the editor and publisher current or from 1952? Hasson also knew that the cover is by Frank R Paul, originally on the back of the Dec.1941 *Amazing Stories*.

The six stories are from many different sources – an H. G. Wells story from before 1900, an E. E. Evans story “Sa'antha” that Miller/Contento says was in the Sep.1952 *Weird Tales* (!), stories by Lilith Lorraine and Laurejean Ermayne that I can't trace, and one story by Juan Bustillo Oro that may have been written in Spanish, though of the others only two credit a translator, José M. Codó. The Van Vogt story is apparently from the 1948 *Fantasy Book* #2 as the title translates directly.

Ray Palmer & Richard Shaver FOIA printouts and Shaver Mystery pulps

While I was without Net access I tried to clear away things that I had never been able to decide what to do with. Richard Dengrove got FOIA printouts of the FBI files on Ray Palmer (editor of *Amazing Stories* in the 1940) and the author Richard Shaver whose “Shaver Mystery” stories. It was long before my time in fandom, but it apparently got a lot of fans of the time excited. Was the “mystery” why Shaver claimed his stuff was actually true? Or why Palmer (or anyone) would publish such very poor material? What I have on hand as xerox are the 30,000-word *Earth Slaves to Space* in the September 1946 v.20#6 issue; and the June 1947 v.21#6, which seems to have been devoted entirely to Shaver – four stories running to 90,000 words total, Palmer's explication of the Shaver alphabet, and 10 pages by Shaver titled “Proof” in the table of contents and “Proofs” on p.136. And somehow I have come to have the June 1946 pulp itself, and six other with Shaver stories from 1945 to 1948 (though not the September 1946) – I don't collect pulps in general, and don't recall where I got these. All of Shaver's fiction for the pulps is well-indexed by Miller & Contento, but I'm not up on whether all of it is part of the “mystery”.

So why did the FBI even bother to accumulate files on these two men? There isn't much on Shaver – a 1947 memo summarizing interviews with Shaver and three people (names redacted) who were thought to know him. One never heard of him, and the other two thought he was OK. Shaver himself told the FBI that his stories were based on what he believed to be fact. There also a badly darkened image of a *Milwaukee Journal* clipping from much later (April 1963) noting that Shaver had been president of “Freedom Publishing Co.”, said to have published “pornography”, and had dissolved the firm after an investigation (prompted by a *Saturday Evening Post* article!). Palmer was also involved, and both Palmer and Shaver claimed not to have known that “Freedom Publishing” had published such gems as **Lust Weekend**, **Sin King**, and **Lust Pigs**. Senator Potter called for a committee to investigate! But there is nothing to indicate that Shaver or Palmer were ever charged with anything.

The file on Ray Palmer is much thicker. The redactions however obscure what the point was – the first item is about the story “Diagnosis” by Palmer in the March 1953 *Other Worlds*. It was found to contain no reference to something we are not allowed to know about! This goes on and on – reports of Venusians walking our streets are found to be science-fiction stories. In 1964 Palmer is listed as a victim

of extortion – the complaint had to do with Palmer having bought “Space World Magazine” from “Space Ways Inc.” and found the subscriber list to have been mismanaged. The complaint includes a description of Palmer: “white, male, 52 years, 5', 110 lbs, light brown hair, is hunch-backed”. A large number of heavily redacted pages refer to “flying disks”, but not to Palmer at all. Then in May 1964, Palmer receives an obscene extortion letter with a death threat - \$500 was to be mailed to Larry Smith at 1135 N.Noble, Chicago IL 60622! There seems to be an indication that Larry Smith was one of the subscribers bought with “Space World Magazine” (which is not listed as a published title in the Miller-Contento index). He was to be interviewed – but what came of this is another mystery.

Mahlon Blaine: One-Eyed Visionary by Roland Trenary, Grounded Outlet 2013, 148pp, wraps, \$25

The price is not given on the book itself – I got it from Amazon. Where the recent Brian Hunt book is almost all the pictures that Mahlon Blaine was famous for, this one has an excellent selection of artwork (including many pieces I had never seen even though I have been collecting books with Mahlon Blaine art for decades) but also a great deal of very well-written text about Blaine and his era and career. An amazing accomplishment, considering that Blaine himself was very inventive about his past! He did have a glass eye. My own preference is for the illustrations done in heavy line, but here we see an early piece that looks almost like something by Heath Robinson, and the late pieces that are surreal collages. Don't be put off by the color cover of this book – it is not at all typical! Most fans are more likely to be familiar with the seven Canaveral Press reprints of Edgar Rice Burroughs novels that have dust jackets and interior plates by Mahlon Blaine, but even his plate for a 1949 issue of Stanley Mullen's *The Gorgon* is quite surreal. Roland Trenary promises a second book about Mahlon Blaine.

Airmail envelopes – I needed more and they didn't have them at WalMart. I didn't want to drive any further in search of them, so I ordered them over the Net, from Action Envelope in Amityville NY (site of a famous poltergeist haunting). I have not noticed any spook problems, but the shipment was weird. A stack of 50 9x4 airmail envelopes is only about an inch thick and weighs 6 oz – this was delivered in a cardboard box full of Polish popcorn, measuring 14x6.5x6.5 inches!

The Rosary of the Eastern Star by Rob Morris, John C. W. Bailey, Chicago 1865, 64pp

My Aunt Parkie was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, perhaps because Uncle Oliver was a Mason. This little book, found at a local thrift store, was the start of it. Rob Morris LL.D. (indicating a Doctorate in Law) styled himself a “Masonic writer”, and claims on the title page to have devised this “popular and elegant system of Adoptive Masonry”. The Synopsis is in verse, with instructions to the Lecturer. The rules of the Order are laid out as “Landmarks”. Membership was limited to Master Masons and their wives, widows, sisters, and daughters – but not unmarried ladies under 18, or half-sisters or step-daughters. An initiation is called a “Communication”, and requires at least 5 ladies with as many gentlemen “as may be convenient”. There are, of course, secrets that may not be divulged, and the 5 Chaplets each ends with the significance of a colored Ray – Blue, Yellow, White, Green, and Red. Lasers were not yet available – maybe this inspired Richard Shaver to invent the Deros....

My French Whore by Gene Wilder, St.Martin's 2007, 179pp, \$18.95

Not a personal memoir, but a novel set in 1918. Mel Brooks gives it a nice blurb. This copy belonged to

the Richland County public library in South Carolina – and was not discarded there but apparently carried off by someone who left it to drift into the Last Chance Thrift Store. The narrator is a Private Peachy – oddly enough, that was also the name of the Michael Caine character in the film version of Kipling's **The Man Who Would Be King**. But this fellow is an Midwest US train conductor whose hobby is community theater. A very plain direct 1st-person account.

Pittsburgh, Forge of the Universe by Frank C. Harper, Comet 1957, 320pp

A silly puff piece by a nitwit. It doesn't appear to have ever been read, but the dust-jacket is gone. The author attributes the alternating-current generating and distribution system to George Westinghouse – Nicola Tesla doesn't even get into the index.



Thomas George Cockcroft (1926-2013), who published an index to the *Weird Fiction Magazines* (including *Weird Tales*) in 1962 as T. G. L. Cockcroft and corresponded with fans all over the world as Tom Cockcroft, passed away April 12, after several years in a rest home. The last thing he sent me was a copy of the original Arkham House book **The Outsider and Others**. There was no note with it, and it may be all that survived the loss of his large collection – it must have been his “working copy”, as the dust jacket is worn and the flaps glued down, and there are comment slips (one of them an old IBM card) between the pages. He was born July 26, 1926 and lived in Lower Hutt, a suburb of Wellington, New Zealand, and had a career with IBM in process control with punched-card decks.

I miss his long airmail letters, often mentioned here in IGOTS. The photograph is one I took at the Australian worldcon in 1975.

The Alluring Art of Margaret Brundage (1900-1976) by Stephen D Korshak and J David Spurlock, Shasta-Phoenix/Vanguard 2013, 164pp, \$39.95

The account of the career of the artist mainly known for *Weird Tales* covers is 9½ by 12 inches and weighs 3½ lbs. It would have been a bit lighter if so many of the page-size illustrations had not been shown more than once. But the color art is well done (as is common now the book was printed in China) and the biographical material is fascinating – she was part of the bohemian culture in Chicago in the 1930s. There should have been an index in place of the repeated color plates! Although Margaret had a daughter-in-law named “Fran”, she was not related to the older illustrator Frances Brundage – both Margaret and Frances were “Brundage” by marriage. Alas, there is text lost from the top of the left-hand column on p.12. Shasta-Phoenix has acknowledged an e-mail about this, perhaps they will issue an errata.

In response to an e-mail, Vanguard explained that the image duplication was to present both published and original art. And sent the text lost from the top left column of p.12: **“When Brundage entered Wright’s office, the United States was in the midst of economic collapse, change and upheaval. While both church and state were”**

Jeffrey Jones (1944-2011) / *The Definitive Reference*, by Patrick Hill, Chad Kolean, Emanuel Maris, and David Spurlock, Vanguard 2013, 175pp, wraps, \$24.95

Chad Kolean sent me this beautiful book - I had scanned old fanzine pages for him. Jeff Jones was an Atlanta fan in the 1960s and had art in the fanzines of the time, including zines that went through the Southern Fandom Press Alliance (SFPA). In time he became a famous artist in the SF field. This book, although not bound in boards, is made with sewn signatures and a separate dust-jacket. It is both an index and an art book. The Index is arranged by category, and then chronologically, with an alphabetical cross-index. There is a foreword by Bernie Wrightson and an afterword by Mike Kaluta. There is one minor error - the p.115 reference to the fanzine *Grymalkin* #1 as having been published in 1971 is wrong. That zine has no colophon date, but it does have artwork by artists who included the date (77) in their signatures on the art.

Lost Tales (Vol.1) by Lord Dunsany, Pegana Press 2012, 30pp, wraps.

& **The Emperor's Crystal** (Lost Tales Vol.2), 2013, 34pp

These pieces from 1909-1920 (from *The Saturday Review*, *Smart Set* and *Vanity Fair*) were printed with hand-set type by permission of the Dunsany estate, in a limited edition, beautiful booklets. The 2013 book includes a frontispiece by Dunsany that looks rather like one of Tolkien's Middle Earth landscape. No contact data appears in the books, but Google will find the Pegana Press website. Pegana Press also did a broadsheet edition of 120 copies of the poem "Rhymes from a Suburb" by Edward Plunkett (before he inherited the title) - this had appeared in an 1897 issue of *Pall Mall Magazine*.

Plutoes Proclamation on Tobacco by John Taylor (1580-1653), the Hedge-Hog Press no date, wraps, 8pp
Alan Brignull printed this from hand-set type. Partly verse and partly prose, with one full-page illo, it's a screed in praise of the vile weed as by Old Scratch himself. Beautiful printing!

The Adventures of Gremlin by DuPre Jones, Pomegranate 2013, illustrated by Edward Gorey, 112pp, dust-jacket, \$17.95

This is said to be DuPre Jones' only book, alas. Excellent silliness perfectly suited to the Edward Gorey drawings. Gremlin is the lost crown princess of Etoain, found in the bulrushes by a family with a son named Zeppelin. There is a Fairy Godmother, a Knight, a Saracen, pirates, a whale, an angel, and more puns than you can shake a stick at.

Mervyn Peake / Oscar Wilde, Sidgwick & Jackson 1980, 47pp, £4.95

A collection of Oscar Wilde poems with Mervyn Peake art was never published, but this did appear, with a foreword by Maeve Gilmore. Somehow I missed it at the time and just recently paid ten times as much for a mint copy. I have to look hard to find a poem I like and had little familiarity with the verse of Oscar Wilde, but the poems in this book are really excellent - perhaps Peake chose the ones he wanted to illustrate. The illustrations, all in heavy line, are a perfect fit. In the back of the book - perhaps to get a reasonable number of pages - are some facsimiles from Peake's handwritten notes.

Suicide in Brooklyn by S. T. Joshi, Hippocampus Press 2013, 35pp, wraps

The books from this press are priceless - in that they do not put a price on the book.... This booklet

came with Joshi's novel **The Assaults of Chaos**. Rather a bait&switch – Joshi is a famous Lovecraftian, and Lovecraft lived in NY, and the story starts with a Cockney landlady reporting *chanting*. I will not give away the denouement other than to say that Cthulhu does not rise. The mentions of the lock on the apartment door however make no sense at all.

The Assaults of Chaos by S. T. Joshi, Hippocampus Press 2013, 246pp

A novel where Lovecraft himself is the protagonist. The dust jacket by Pete Von Sholly is garish and cluttered with what are apparently meant to be pictures of the characters. I did enjoy reading it – Joshi notes that it is a pastiche based on the works of a number of fantasy writers who inspired HPL, all of whom I have read. I noted only one typo, on p.83, where “talk” was clearly meant to be “tank”.

Jack the Ripper “Light-hearted Friend” by Richard Wallace, Gemini Press 1997, 293pp, Notes, Bibliography, Index, wraps, \$13.00

The cover uses John Tenniel's sword-swinging hero of the poem *Jabberwocky* – the Jabberwock has run away. Richard Wallace is said to be a psychotherapist, who previously published **The Agony of Lewis Carroll** where he claimed that the *Alice* books are covert Victorian smut – here he claims that Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was Jack the Ripper. In exhaustive detail – but it all depends on the idea that Dodgson apparently never wrote anything without constructing the text in such a way that it had several anagrammatic meanings.

Parabolas of Science Fiction edited by Brian Attebery and Veronica Hollinger, Wesleyan University Press, 312pp, Notes, Bibliography, Index, wraps

I complained about the pseudo-mathematical title and cover graphics – so they sent me a review copy.... The introduction does attempt to justify the “parabola”, beyond the common notion that the “arc” of a story might be compared to the quasi-parabolic path of a projectile under the influence of gravity.

First they claim that these “parabolas” represent the combination of setting, character, and action that define a story. Not too bad an analogy – the equation:

$$y = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

does have three variables, and does include all possible parabolas. Then they point out that, near the origin, the parabola resembles the ellipse but has values increasing without limit instead of being a closed loop, so that parabolas take us from the known to the unknown. I suppose they could have noted that a parabolic mirror focuses parallel light.... I had not known that *parable* and *parabola* share a common Greek root that meant “comparison” or “relationship”!

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs, Quirk 2011, 382pp, photos, \$17.99

A fantasy illustrated with very odd “found” photographs. Apparently the plot was written to fit the pictures! I found the trade paperback at a local thrift store and liked it so well that I ordered the hardcover. The paperback offers a preview of a sequel, **Hollow City**, to appear in 2014.

Mahlon Blaine's Sindbad by Roland Trenary, Grounded Outlet 2013, 60pp, wraps

In 1936 the Illustrated Editions Company published **The Adventures of Sindbad the Sailor** by Laurence Housman with art by Mahlon Blaine. There is also a reprint by World Publishing Company, apparently

from the same plates. Here Roland Trenary has taken just the artwork from that book and added his own verse, which seems – the typography is eccentric – to be in iambic octometer. This paperback is over twice the page-size of the old book and an excellent job has been done with the art.

The Very Best of Barry N. Malzberg, Nonstop Press 2013, 308pp, wraps, \$14.95

This appeared in the mail with neither invoice nor notice that it is a review copy. I could not find any evidence that I had ordered it – so Thanks, Luis Ortiz! Barry Malzberg is a name that I know pertains to an SF writer – but not one I am very familiar with. Six of the 37 stories are from *The Magazine of F&SF*, so I quite likely read them. But the names of who wrote what does not stick with me as it did 40 years ago. I wonder if his parents realized that the initials “BNM” are the middle of the third row on the “qwerty” keyboard layout devised by Christopher Latham Sholes 138 years ago.

The only artwork is the cover, one of those cyber-abstracts that seem to have replaced an actual picture of something. Superimposed is the image of a pair of eyeglasses – rather like mine except that I have to have bifocals. The introduction by Joe Wrzos notes that Malzberg started writing SF as “K. M. O'Donnell”.

The first story, either “Galaxy Called Rome” or “A Galaxy Called Rome”, depending on where you look, admits to being only notes for a novella that could not be written. That is annoying enough to make me wonder whether other apparent problems with the text are bad editing or intentional irritants. What am I to make of the phrase “...the extension of fission to include progressively, heavier gases”? As far as my slight knowledge of physics goes, *fusion* is what is done with gases. And what is that comma after “progressively” for, when it is clear that “progressively” modifies “heavier”? Understanding of this piece seems to require an unlikely familiarity with Ridgefield Park NJ.

The second story, “Agony Column”, seems to confirm the use of typographical errors as a literary device, and is tragically funny – the protagonist imagines that politicians and editors will pay some attention to his writing.

I am an old man and will never read all these books.... I will try one more at random: “Le Croix”. This is interesting if unevenly poetic, and seems to have abandoned typos as a literary device – the appearance of two close-quotes where one open-quote is called for (on p.199) must be a genuine typesetting glitch.

When I ordered the 2014 Edward Gorey calendar, I came across these two irresistible items -

Saint Melissa the Mottled by Edward Gorey, Bloomsbury 2012, 46pp, illustrated by the author, \$12.00

Melissa the Mottled was canonized on the basis of many documented miracles – all catastrophic.

The Unrest-Cure by Saki (H. H. Munro), NYRB 2013, 164pp, illustrated by Edward Gorey, wraps \$14.95

A selection from five of his short-story collections. I must have read them all long ago, but it was fun to read them again, and the Gorey artwork suits them perfectly.

The Book of the Sword by Richard F. Burton (1821-1890), Dover 1987, 297pp, illustrated, wraps \$12.95
Sir Richard Francis Burton published this in 1884, the first of a proposed set of three books that he did not live to complete. The Dover edition is a facsimile. Burton was a much better writer than many of the typerrhetic authors of his time, so that this is pleasant to read. There are 293 line drawings with no artist credit – perhaps he did them himself. He had apparently seen some very exotic variations on what we think of as a “sword”!

The Sketch was a 9½x12½-inch saddle-bound magazine on coated paper, published in London for many years. What I have here are nine issues dated 1932 through 1939, about 65 pages each and obviously financed by ads. It sold for a shilling. A fascinating look at a lost world....

1932

- Ladies gauntlets (a long-sleeve glove) are offered in various leathers and colors, including “n—”.
- 1932 cars apparently lacked gas gauges – Hobson would sell you one, automatic, no moving parts!
- Mickey Mouse, that ubiquitous rodent, is on the cover of *Dean's Splendid Annual*.
- An assembly of haggis (I had never seen one) is called a “pooch”.
- Shakespeare's Othello is performed with an all-male cast – why they do not say.
- L. P. Hartley (who 20 years later would have **The Travelling Grave** from Arkham House) reviews novels.
- On the same page are three photos of Lord Dunsany and his clay figurines! They are hideous.

1936

- “Kitchen-Bathroom”, a painting by William G Hutchison, shown at the Royal Academy and printed full-page. The artist included himself standing just outside, while inside a naked lady is climbing into the tub. Was this an actual feature of homes at the time? It would save on plumbing but.... The full-color painting can be seen online.
- A society photo (one of many) of a woman who married Prince Otto von Bismarck (son of the Iron Chancellor), and an ad for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin – no mention of Herr Hitler.

1937

- A page of Thurber cartoons, from a gallery showing
- No ads for TV sets, but a large television studio at Alexandra Palace
- A power lawn-mower that seems to go on rollers rather than wheels
- Cats, cameras, cars and cigarettes – but not one typewriter!
- Marlene Dietrich in lederhosen – from behind
- A Barbara Cartland short story, and a watercolor by Queen Victoria

1938

- A curious photo of ladies golfing in Egypt, with the Great Pyramid and a camel in the background

1939

- An ad for officer's uniforms, and a cartoon about blackout curtains....
- A snarky humor column about that fellow Adolf
- Air-raid shelters, evacuations to the country, gas masks
- A Heath Robinson cartoon of a German cannon crew – I think it will just fit the scanner!
(see back cover)
- And another, of an unlikely way to serve tea on the battlefield
- And a full-page color back-cover glamor ad for a cigarette called – the Craven “A”....

The Short Fiction of Flann O'Brien, ed. Neil Murphy & Keith Hopper, Dalkey Archive Press 2013, 159pp, wraps, \$14.50

“Flann O'Brien” was a pseudonym of Brian O’Nolan (1911-1966) – and he had several others, most notably “Myles na Gopaleen”. I remember that his novels such as **At Swim-Two-Birds** and **The Third Policeman** were often mentioned in fanzines, and I see I have accumulated copies of five of them – that I never got around to reading. The short fiction here seems to me to be generally silly. His unfinished

novel "Slattery's Sago Saga" is also included - it is also quite silly: in a plot to prevent more Irish from leaving Ireland in another potato famine, Ireland is to be planted in the more nutritious sago palm, and as it takes 20 years for these to produce sago, in the meantime sago flour will be supplied to Ireland by the oil tankers of a Texas billionaire. I can see why it was never finished.... O'Nolan may have appeared in *Amazing Stories Quarterly* (Winter 1932) as "John Shamus O'Donnell" with a story called "Naval Control" - the provenance is uncertain, but that is reprinted here. The title does not seem to fit the story, which has to do with the misadventures of a battery-powered robot made to replace the narrator's lost love, but it does match the other tales in silliness.

Lovecraft's Pillow and Other Strange Stories by Kenneth W Faig Jr., Hippocampus Press 2013, 234pp, wraps

Ken Faig had sent me his self-published editions of these stories so they were mentioned here before. This volume includes both the **Tales of the Lovecraft Collectors** and eight more stories, including the title story. Excellent tales, based on a deep knowledge of H. P. Lovecraft's writings and life. See the Hippocampus website to order:

<http://www.hippocampuspress.com/>

She Walks in Darkness by Evangeline Walton, Tachyon Press 2013, 177pp, \$14.95

And with a good photo and a beautiful Tom Canty cover. The introduction is by Paul di Filippo and the afterword by Douglas Anderson. There is apparently quite an archive of unpublished fiction by this author - hard to understand when what was published is so good. This one is rather Lovecraftian, set in an Italian villa built over the ruins of an Etruscan temple that archeologists should not have been meddling with.... See -

www.tachyonpublications.com

The Match (No.112, Fall 2013), ed. Fred Woodsworth (PO Box 3012, Tucson AZ 35702), 72pp

Beautifully typeset offset printing by Fred himself, 7x9½ inches and saddle-stapled. It can be obtained only by contribution in cash or stamps - Fred has neither phone nor computer nor any use for checks.

The Boxes by William Sleator, Dutton 1998, 196pp, \$15.99

Ends with the protagonists all vanishing through a gateway into another dimension, so perhaps there is meant to be a sequel. The conspiracy in the plot is asinine, but the characters are well done and the description of the alien culture is inventive - and perhaps a heretical parody of the Catholic church!

The Crooked Hinge (ills.Nicholson) - John Dickson Carr - Mystery Library/University of California/Publishers Inc. 1976, 283pp

The dust jacket illustration is strikingly hideous, and there is a nice photo of the author on the back. This is one of the mysteries featuring the detective Gideon Fell, and I'm told it's one of the great "locked room" mysteries. This academic edition is enhanced with an introduction and commentary by Robert E Briney, and a 7-page Checklist of the books of John Dickson Carr and his pseudonym Carter Dickson.

This is one of the books on shelves in the basement, hardcovers that did not seem to be SF, things found here and there over the last 50 years. I have been sorting them to see if they were worth keeping or

selling. In the process of trying to see what dealers think this near-mint copy might be worth, I found that all of the descriptions ascribe the interior illustrations to a man named “Connor”, instead of the name “Nicholason” found on the title page of my copy.

The Resurrections by Simon Louvish, Four Wall Eight Windows 1994, 215pp, \$18.95

An alternate history set in the late 1960s, where Mussolini still rules Italy and Adolf Hitler is an ex-senator from Illinois, father of the presidential candidate Rudolph Hitler, who is supported by George Wallace and Gerald L. K. Smith. The story is told in what seem to be diary excerpts by various people – all of whom write in the same chatty style. I was curious just when this history diverges from what most of us remember – apparently WWI was the same but Hitler fails in Germany in the 1930s and flees to the US, so that WWII never occurs in this timeline.

Mussolini – His Part in My Downfall by Spike Milligan, Book Club Associates 1978, 288pp, photos

This is the 4th volume of Milligan's “War Biography” - a fine (if book club) copy found at the thrift store. The author insists that it is all a true account of his experiences in WWII – but of course he was a Goon, of the Goon Show Goons, and remembers a great deal of great silliness. I can't read much of it at a time – but it's easier than listening to the Goon Show. I suppose I will shelve it with the autobiographies.

The Nobodies by N. E. Bode, HarperCollins 2005, 292pp, illustrated by Peter Ferguson

As you might suspect, the Bode name is a pseudonym – the copyright is ascribed to Julianna Baggott. It seems to me it would have been funnier if they had spelled it “Bodé”.... The author's previous book was **The Anybodies**. The illustrations are quite good. The plot is a bit like what Daniel Pinkwater used to do – very inventive light fantasy.

Diane and John Fox down in the Antipodes send three books:

Walkers on the Sky by David Lake, Fontana 1978, 222pp and a map, 85p

This is said have been a DAW book in 1977. The cover by Roy Ellsworth is a bit confusing – the Conan-esque man in the foreground does seem to be standing on the air – while behind him a naked lady flies by on gauzy wings. There are also floating archaic sailing ships. Maybe the air is really thick.... Lake apparently likes maps – I see that I have **The Fourth Hemisphere** and **The Changelings of Chaan** by him, both with maps, and **Ring of Truth**. The back-cover blurb explains that our hero is standing on the invisible “sky-skin” that divides the netherworld from the upper air. He describes it as metallic, yet he can pinch it between his fingers. The language owes something to William Morris – Signi Signison is the son of a thane, and dwellers of the netherworld are called Neathings.

Other Temples Other Gods by Nevill Drury & Gregory Tillett, Coronet 1982, 256pp, photos, illustrations by divers hands, index, bibliography, Occult Resource Guide, \$A5.95

This is non-fiction, subtitled *The Occult in Australia*. This tries to cover everything, including the aborigines and some Christian cults. Lots of illustrations. They miss the True Faith of the Sacred Cat (Hail Lord Mota!) and Herbangelism (Praise Herbie!).

Voyage to Faremido & Capillaria by Frigyes Harinty, New English Library 1978, 124pp, 80p

These two short novels were originally published in Hungary in 1965, and were translated into English by Paul Tabori - I remember enjoying his **The Art of Folly** and **The Natural History of Stupidity** long ago. The conceit here is that these are accounts of the fifth and sixth voyages of Gulliver that Dean Swift somehow neglected to record. I will probably enjoy reading this - Tabori (1908-1974), whose Wikipedia page is unaccountably only in German) was an excellent writer.

Song of the Line by Jack G. Gilbert, Horse & Buggy Press 2007, 112pp, illustrated by Henryk Fantazos
Jad Smith kindly sent me this book of poetry. The artwork is excellent - Henryk Fantazos came to the US from Poland in 1975 and is both a painter and an engraver. The color dust jacket is from a painting, and the endpapers and interior plates are from etchings.

Sorcery & Sanctity, edited anonymously, Heiroglyphic Press, no date, 178pp, £30

A most peculiar anthology, done as homage to Arthur Machen on the 150th anniversary of his birth - so in spite of the lack of a date in the book, it was published this year. The 20 stories are good and the book is nicely made with a black dust jacket. But there is a typo in the subtitle - "A Homage...." Shouldn't it be "An Homage..."? Or is this a British thing? On the back of the title page we find "First published by the Heiroglyphic Press On the summer of a the Hundred-&Fiftieth year" - why the capital O in "On" and how can the indefinite and definite article ever get next to each other? In the first story, a woman is described as "unimaginative and wordly" - did the author mean "worldly"? On the next page a poet is quoted - "I alone sit lingring here" - shouldn't that be "lingering", if only for the scansion? Another line of verse quoted is "Meer glimering and decays" - did he mean "Mere glimmering and decays"? Poetic license only goes so far.... The other mystery about this tome is why I ordered *two* copies of it - not absentmindedness, as they arrived together!

Peake Studies edited by G Peter Winnington, vol.13 no.3, October 2013, 52 pages, illustrated by Mervyn Peake, wraps, saddle-stapled

The last hard-copy issue of this excellent magazine for people interested in the great artist/writer. Fascinating discussion of his letters to his wife, Maeve Gilmore, and an academic analysis of the mysterious novella *Boy in Darkness*, which I always took to be an account of a nightmare that the child Titus Groan had. And many reproductions of pieces of Mervyn Peake art - I was particularly struck by an oil painting of a church, even though in general I prefer his line art. Back issues and news about electronic issues may be had from the website:

<http://peakestudies.com>

While sorting a 50-year accumulation of very miscellaneous hardcovers shelved on a long wall in the basement, it occurred to me that readers of IGOTS might want to comment on or ask about books that I have not mentioned here before. These titles reside in various lists linked at:

<http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.html>

which are updated as it occurs to me. The books in the basement were roughly in order by author, and I am working my way through the Es. For example there is -

Babel by John Cournos (Boni & Liveright 1924) – I have put this with the SF as it is skiffy to the extent of having a character claim to have invented a method to preserve a cadaver for 1000 years. When asked how such a claim could be verified, she explains that the company has also invented a decomposition accelerator to test treated and untreated bodies.

Cobb's Anatomy (illustrated by Peter Newell) by Irvin S. Cobb (George H. Doran 1912) – this will go with the Silly Books, as it is deliberately silly – bit like Dave Barry. In spite of the coated paper, the artwork is not that well reproduced. Some dealers think they can get \$100 for it.

The Future Like a Bride by Robert Colborn (Beacon Press 1958) – This is skiffy – the US is attacked with nuclear missiles by a South American dictator.

Spangled Blood and Other Stories (frontis photo) by Marian Cox (Vantage 1965) – Well, there is a scene in the tomb of Queen Nitocris, and a woman hypnotizes a snake. Vantage is a vanity press, and the photo of the author must date from her earlier literary career (1910-1919) when she was praised by Benjamin de Casseres. A nice copy in dust jacket. No dealer on the Net currently seems to have a copy of this on offer.

Sara Crewe: Little Saint Elizabeth and Other Stories (ills.Reginald Birch) by Frances Hodgson Burnett (Scribners 1923) – This was in print for at least 35 years. A very pretty binding. Some of the stories are fairy tales.

Continent by Jim Crace (Picador 1987) – A very curious fantasy made up of seven shorter pieces – which in turn are made up of satirical anecdotes. There is no plot or cast of characters. It won the 1986 Whitbread First Novel prize and two others the same year. But this is worn and I have a better copy. It is not rare, so off it goes to some thrift store.

The God Boy by Ian Cross (Harcourt Brace 1957) – I no doubt thought this was skiffy, but it is not – just a “growing up in New Zealand” novel. Odd that no dealer seems to offer the Harcourt Brace edition.

The Story of Don Miff by Virginius Dabney (Lippincott 1886) – Only one poor copy of this is offered online, at \$120 – this one is quite nice. The framing story is that Dabney is just editing a story by “John Bouche Whacker”. The opening bars of the four movements of Beethoven's “Eroica” symphony are bound in as foldouts. The actual story is unbearably tedious and trivial.

La Belle Nivernaise by Alphonse Daudet (L.C.Page) – Translated from the French by Robert Routledge and published in Boston on coated paper long ago, but without a date anywhere. The attraction for me was the excellent artwork by an artist identified only as Montégut, so I will shelve it with the illustrated books.

The Carpet from Bagdad by Harold MacGrath (Bobbs Merrill 1911) – in spite of the Andre Castaigne color plates, one of which shows the carpet and a djinn, this has no supernatural elements in the plot.

But it is a great painting!

Silence in Heaven by Michael Erlanger (Atheneum 1961) – The author is said to be chairman of the board of the Erlanger Mills Corporation, and a member of the Explorers Club. This is an odd book indeed – the protagonist flees a satirically described skiffy future, but then has a mystical experience in the desert. I have moved it to the SF shelves.

The Goblins of Eros by Warren Eyster (Random House 1957) – Eyster had previously written **No Country for Old Men**. I see that I tried to read this tale of revolution and vengeance in Mexico but gave up – there are no characters I could care about. Spectacular title though!

It Comes in the Mail from -

Jan Alvarez, West Coast Hobbit fancier, who sends a Tolkien Society postcard with dragon by J.R.R.T. himself and a stamp with the Two Trees and the Seven Stars. And later, a Blu-Ray reviewers DVD of the recent movie “The Hobbit” (Part 1 of 3)!

Susannah and Sarah Bates, who send a Christmas card.

Dee Beetem from Slanapa, who sends a Christmas card with a Santa Claus joke that I don't get!

Sheryl Birkhead, who sends a Card and promises a loc Real Soon Now.... And indeed, 8 months later, sent one – no hurry, I only publish once a year after all. She liked the Brad foster covers. And asks about this exotie font – it's Harrington.

Dainis Bisenieks, who says that Brad Foster's cover for IGOTS 34 should win him a Fan-artist Hugo. Dain also notes that there is now a Latin translation of **The Hobbit** to go with the ones done into Hebrew, Japanese, Polish, Dutch, Latvian, Lithuanian, French, German, and Spanish.

Godfrey Brangham, who sent a booklet of quotations in honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Machen.

Alan Brignull, who sent some of his elegant printed cards and other interesting material about the tenth planet and the amateur journalism of the early 20th century. And a little booklet about tobacco by the poet John Taylor – see above.

Chuck Connor, who I hadn't heard from in years, sends an elegant fanzine, *Detritus* #1, co-authored by Rodney Leighton.

Melissa Conway at UCR (the Pelz archive), who sends a Christmas card.

Kevin Cook, who writes about a Hannes Bok letter that mentions the Virgil Finlay lifts from Norman

Lindsay; about the Hollywoodization of Robert E Howard's Soloman Kane; and about the Lance Thingmaker facsimile of *Marvel Tales*.

Kevin says he has had a letter from Tom Cockcroft's nephew John A. Cockcroft saying that Tom, who had been in a nursing home for several years, passed away on April 12, 2013 – see above.

Margaret Cubberly, who sends a Christmas card and offers to sing “The Sheik of Araby”!

Al Durie, who labors under the delusion that I actually read all of every book mentioned here!

Ken Faig, who found he had extra binders and so printed 15 more copies of a corrected text of his excellent collection, **Lovecraft's Pillow** – and kindly sent me one. Now the Hippocampus Press edition is out – see above.

Jan Howard Finder, who sends his annual *Il Vombato* – and then, alas, before this was published, passed on to the Permanent Convention.

John & Diane Fox, who send a Christmas card from Down Under – the stamp says “Christmas Island” and shows Santa putting a starfish on top of a tree made of sand – and two books, see above.

Alexis & Lee Gilliland, who send a Christmas Letter with two cartoons and drawing of their cats, and note that Lee missed the 100th anniversary cruise to the site of the sinking of the Titanic – and just as well, as the weather was bad and more ice than the Titanic saw blocked approach to the site!

Jim Goldfrank, who sends a card from his new address – 1661 SE 31st St, Ocala FL 34471

Mary Gray, who sends a card and says she'll read IGOTS when she gets over an eye problem – but alas has since passed away.

Thomas R. Hall, who says he thinks Machen was in contact the “White People” and has written a grimoire for a Welsh Witch Cult. But he doesn't plan to publish it, alas.

Linton Herbert, who got around to *IGOTS* 34 just before this one was ready for publication. And sent a technical paper on an experiment showing that as population increases, consanguinity (how closely related mating pairs are) decreases (assuming the population is randomly mixed) and so does fertility. Thus a feedback loop keeps population quasi-stable. This was done with fruit flies – Herbert has long claimed that it applies to humans as well.

Binker Hughes, erstwhile of SFPA, who sends a Christmas card and an occasional e-mail.

Steve & Suzanne Hughes, who send a Christmas card.

Al Kirkpatrick, who sends a photo card taken on the Queen Mary with Elaine Marie and Siobhan.

Chad Kolean, who kindly sent me some old fanzines and the new book about Jeff Jones – see above.

Colin Langeveld, who sends acknowledgment from his iPad.

Rodney Leighton, co-author with Chuck Connor of *Detritus 1*, who tries to straighten out how I came to have a reduced photocopy of Crad Kilodney's **Blood-Sucking Monkeys from North Tonawanda** shelved as by Leighton.

Guy & Rosy Lillian, who send a Christmas card.

Sean McLachlan, that mysterious world traveler, sends a picture postcard from the Julian Alps, showing Lake Bled in Slovenia and its island – the only island in Slovenia. The island has a church, where people go to make a wish and ring the bell, which can be heard all across the lake. Doesn't say if he did it or what he wished for....

Kris & Lola Minninger, who send a booklet about Irving Stettner (1922-2004) who inspired Kris to get into amateur publishing.

Frederick Moe, who sent some elegant publications from the Paper-Net side of amateur publishing, including *Paper Radio* #7, about pirate and ham radio; and the third mailing of a new apa called Cuneiform. And a note in the form of a library pocket card-holder, enhanced with dictionary entries on *shoe* words – I hope this is nothing to do with the Muslim shoe-throwing insult!

Larry Montgomery, who just rejoined SFPA, sends a card – and a genealogy of my ancestors three inches thick, already useful as a cousin is trying to get into the DAR. Of course this does not cover quite all of them.... But the cousin did get into the DAR.

Murray Moore & Mary Ellen, who send a long loc that was originally e-mail – but as of December 21 (the world did not end!) I still have no e-mail here (see above) though the phone line has been restored. I was able to use my nephew's PC to clear e-mail. Murray noticed that the excellent IGOTS 34 cover by Brad Foster is dated 1985!

Chris O'Brien, who sends a Christmas card – and many e-mails.

Gavin & Margery O'Keefe, who send a Christmas card. I gave someone his New England address after he relocated from the Antipodes.

Dan Osterman, who sent an illo for use in SFPA – he says he tries to forget the art he did for fanzines like Dave Hulvey's *Afan* 40 years ago.

Lloyd Penney, who sent a long e-mail.

Fred Phillips, who sends a long letter.

Andy Robson, who sends his thick poetry magazine *Krax* #49, which also includes reviews of fanzines and other Paper-Net productions. And the tiny booklet *Finger Poems* by Robert MacLean.

Tom Sadler, who sends a card and his *Reluctant Famulus* and says he enjoyed IGOTS.

David Shea, who sends a Christmas card and a loc. And a nontract, *Heathen's Greetings*, by the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Jad Smith, who kindly sent me a copy of Karen Anderson's fanzine *Ampersand* #1 – was there a #2? Jad is also trying to read the peculiar **Nomad** by Paul Jordan-Smith. I have gotten about half-way through it. I think it was meant to be Voltairean paradoxical satire.

Steve Sneyd, who says that the “black stone” in the Kaaba that Muslim pilgrims kiss may be a meteorite previously known as the “Black Stone of Emesa”.

Dale Speirs, who notes in his zine *Opuntia* that I review obscure books....

Milt Stevens, who liked the Brad Foster cover on IGOTS 34.

Darrell Schweitzer, who worries that IGOTS may become as political as *Dagon* (John Boardman's apazine) or *Fosfax*. But I am not very political – I just feel compelled to mention egregious abuses of government power.

Dave Szurek, who sends a Christmas card.

Mark Valentine, who kindly mentioned IGOTS on the “Caermaen” Yahoo-group for fans of the great Arthur Machen, long one of my main collecting interests.

Juan Carlos Verrecchia, who sends a photocopy of the ad (in Spanish) for the rare 1950 Fantasy Calender. This was offered in the Mexican pulp *Los Cuentos Fantasticos* #28 (1950) with the Hannes Bok cover art, and he got it from a facsimile of this magazine just published in Spain. The Mexican readers of 1950 were to send “Weaver Wright” in Los Angeles \$1 for the calendar – this was a Forry Ackerman pseudonym. Juan Carlos also sent the facsimile edition of *Los Cuentos Fantasticos* #36 – see above.

Toni Weisskopf, who sends a Christmas card – at least I think it's from her. There is no return address, and the postmark is smudged.

Neal Wilgus, who sends a loc and a fat envelope full of booklets and photocopies – see above. And again in August, explaining that the unlikely name “Hoseib” in his *Cold Case: Rona* is borrowed from

Ambrose Bierce's *An Inhabitant of Carcosa*. His letter paper features a great poem on the contentious subject of free will, "Free Will Hunting".

Fred Woodsworth, who sends his beautiful Journal of Ethical Anarchism, *The Match* No.112 - he should be happy that, for a little while in October anyway, we had *less government...*

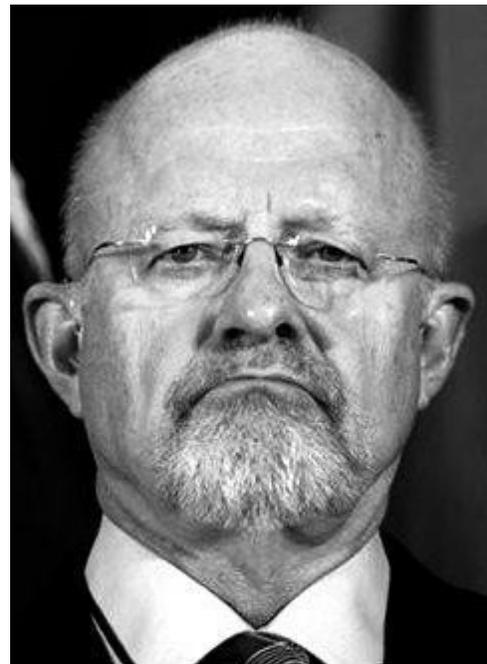
- Too much government? -

"You need to make sure that when you make water quality complaints you have a basis, because federally, if there's no water quality issues, that can be considered under Homeland Security an act of terrorism."

- Sherwin Smith, a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation deputy director

Once the government can keep everything secret there is no restraint on abuse of power. The paranoids in power will see all dissent as "terrorism" and any abuses as justified. This is what happened under Stalin and Mao, and what Orwell was warning against in his novel "1984".

The photograph, snaffled from the Net, is of the official government spokesman, the "Director of National Intelligence", on the massive secret cyber-snooping program. His oddly appropriate name is James Clapper - maybe he was teased too much as a child....



Ve haf ways of making you

"Every man over 40 is responsible for his face"

A. Lincoln

If the government is going to retain a database on who called who on the phone, they could do something useful with it - they now have *prima facie* evidence on violations of the Do-Not-Call registry and could shut down the telepests who wake me up several days a week!

The ability to use whatever words we want is one of our most basic freedoms, yet the NSA's growing surveillance of electronic speech threatens our first amendment rights. One of the primary flaws of the NSA's surveillance efforts: words do not equal intent.

Benjamin Grosser

A legal duty to report war crimes

Bradley Manning is charged with crimes for sending hundreds of thousands of classified files,

documents and videos, including the "Collateral Murder" video, the "Iraq War Logs," the "Afghan War Logs" and State Department cables to Wikileaks. Many of the things he transmitted contain evidence of war crimes.

The "Collateral Murder" video depicts a US Apache attack helicopter killing 12 civilians and wounding two children on the ground in Baghdad in 2007. The helicopter then fired on and killed the people trying to rescue the wounded. Finally, a US tank drove over one of the bodies, cutting the man in half. These acts constitute three separate war crimes.

Manning fulfilled his legal duty to report war crimes. He complied with his legal duty to obey lawful orders but also his legal duty to disobey unlawful orders.

Section 499 of the Army Field Manual states, "Every violation of the law of war is a war crime." The law of war is contained in the Geneva Conventions.

Article 85 of the First Protocol to the Geneva Conventions describes making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack as a grave breach. The firing on and killing of civilians shown in the "Collateral Murder" video violated this provision of Geneva.

Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions requires that the wounded be collected and cared for. Article 17 of the First Protocol states that the civilian population "shall be permitted, even on their own initiative, to collect and care for the wounded." That article also says, "No one shall be harmed . . . for such humanitarian acts." The firing on rescuers portrayed in the "Collateral Murder" video violates these provisions of Geneva.

Finally, Section 27-10 of the Army Field Manual states that "maltreatment of dead bodies" is a war crime. When the Army jeep drove over the dead body, it violated this provision.

Enshrined in the US Army Subject Schedule No. 27-1 is "the obligation to report all violations of the law of war." At his guilty plea hearing, Manning explained that he had gone to his chain of command and asked them to investigate the "Collateral Murder" video and other "war porn," but his superiors refused. "I was disturbed by the response to injured children," Manning stated. He was also bothered by the soldiers depicted in the video who "seemed to not value human life by referring to [their targets] as 'dead bastards.' "

The Uniform Code of Military Justice sets forth the duty of a service member to obey lawful orders. But that duty includes the concomitant duty to disobey unlawful orders. An order not to reveal classified information that contains evidence of war crimes would be an unlawful order. Manning had a legal duty to reveal the commission of war crimes.

Marjorie Cohn, Truthout

"Honi soit qui mal y pense" - evil is in the eye of the beholder.... These rants against a current or emerging culture as somehow worse than an imagined golden age are always right, to some extent - and always useless. The cat is out of the bag and the genie is out of the bottle - and I

think that is much healthier than any sort of government censorship.

* * * *

So now it has become illegal for a government employee to read about government policy in a Washington newspaper:

A DHS memo as quoted in the *Washington Post*:

“From: LARSEN, MARK R

Sent: Friday, July 12, 2013 9:50 AM

Subject: SECURITY ALERT ***Washington Post Article***

Importance: High

FYSA...From DHS HQ

Per the National Cybersecurity Communications Integration Center:

There is a recent article on the Washington Post’s Website that has a clickable link titled “The NSA Slide you never seen” that must not be opened on an Unclassified government workstation. This link opens up a classified document which will raise the classification level of your Unclassified workstation to the classification of the slide which is reported to be TS/NF.

If opened on an Unclassified system, you are obligated to report this to the SSO as a Classified Data Spillage (Opssecurity@hq.dhs.gov <<mailto:Opssecurity@hq.dhs.gov>> <<mailto:Opssecurity@hq.dhs.gov> <<mailto:Opssecurity@hq.dhs.gov>> >).

Again, please exercise good judgment when visiting these webpages and clicking on such links. You may be violating your Non-Disclosure Agreement in which you sign that you will protect Classified National Security Information. You may be subject to any administrative or legal action from the Government.”

!?!?!?!!

The White House is "concerned and disappointed" over the news that Yemeni Journalist Abdulelah Haider Shaye, who was kept in a Yemeni jail for three years per the request of the Obama administration after he exposed a deadly U.S. drone strike, was released Tuesday. Following news of Shaye's release, journalist Jeremy Scahill, who has written extensively about Shaye's story, contacted the White House for a comment. The White House's response was brief and alarming: "We are concerned and disappointed by the early release of Abd-Ilah al-Shai, who was sentenced by a Yemeni court to five years in prison for his involvement with Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula." According to Scahill and numerous other journalists who have followed the story, Shaye's only involvement with Al Qaeda was conducting interviews with their members for major news outlets that included the Washington Post, ABC News and the New York Times. Shaye's legal troubles only arose after he uncovered the deadly U.S. strike that killed dozens of innocent Yemeni civilians, after which he was thrown in prison. At one point Shaye was slated for early release, but a phone call from president Obama urged Yemeni officials to keep him

behind bars. "We should let that statement set in," Scahill said of the White House's response. "The White House is saying that they are disappointed and concerned that a Yemeni journalist has been released from a Yemeni prison." "This is a man who was put in prison because he had the audacity to expose a U.S. cruise missile attack that killed three dozen women and children."

Common Dreams, July 2013

Merry Christmas to All and a Happy New Year!

