

# INTERMISSION #144

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com), for EAPA, N'APA and other war mongers. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen (but updates slow lately due to Ukraine syndrome: being occupied). Join an APA, be a fan! This zine is for you if you ENJOY typos! Early July 2024

## Editorially: Eurovision, Talking Short Stories, Bloody Computers

Back again. I hope there're no more computer problems. My main laptop computer simply refused to start about two months ago. Indications were some sort of internal glitch, probably temperature related: some soldering giving in after a while, a bad connection, something like that. Metal expands with temperature and the fault typically appeared when the machine had been running for a while. I've had the laptop in for service (on the guarantee) several times. I won't go into all details, it could be a long story and I have lots of other things to get into this issue. I'm tired of stupid computers - and you're probably not interested anyway. I hope it'll all work OK now.

All this meant that I missed covering the Eurovision Song Contest beforehand. I wrote about it and intended it should reach you before the spectacle, but it was not to be. It was an interesting shinding, shall we say. One-eyed wannabe students (most weren't too rooted in academia) who pretended not having heard or Oct 7 demonstrated, seldom being far away from hate of Jews. Israel who had been attacked must be ousted! But it became the Dutch who were unfairly excluded. And ABBA celebrated 50 years after winning ESC with "Waterloo". The hostesses film star Malin and third time host lucky Petra sang "We love Eurovision too much"...see report.

I've been out lecturing (or stuttering) about short stories with the Short Story Masters so that's in the issue too. I earlier gave you my PDF on the topic as an *Intermission* replacement due to Stupid Computers. BTW, the short story contest of the SKRIVA writing list this year *celebrates it's 25 th anniversary!* Contributions accepted in Swedish only, alas. I have this spring also finished my second "World Writing" course, about how to "construct" literary worlds in sf&f. There's been a lot of things about fiction writing for me lately!

And the Bloody War continues. I try to follow it rather closely. I get the definite impression that Putin is doing much, much worse than media care to report. I don't see Swedish papers reporting that the Russians are virtually stuck, a big part of their Black Sea fleet is sunk, Russian economy is near a crash, Putin has in desperation made a big sweep in his "defence" department, by now 100+ countries have joined the Ukraine peace formula. Media is ignoring much of it. Maybe some are under the spell of Russian desinformation? We learn that some Russian lies and wild fantasies are even swallowed by some "MAGA" US congressmen (=Make America "Great" Again). And so does the foreign policy neophyte Trump. Useful idiots!

The Ruskis tried to open a front towards Kharkiv and it was a *disaster*. They came 5-10 km and was then stopped cold to the price of over a thousand lost every day. This motivated a West go ahead to target military objects on Russian territory. Russia is running out of even Stalin era armour and turn to *golf cars* for some meat wave pushes, that the blue-yellow as always shoot to pieces.

The fighting spirit among Russian troops is rock bottom, their commanders are corrupt, incompetent fools, their supply lines are often "himarsed", they are cornered in Black Sea and over 1/3 of Russia's oil refineries are burning from drone strikes, denying the military fuel and the economy funds. The Ruble has lost half it's value to the Dollar these last months. Russian stock market and banks aren't even trading in Dollars or Euros - the Ruble becomes rubble (pun intended!). Putin's Asian tour looks like an act of desperation. He can't even go elsewhere as the war criminal would be arrested. And as more Western help arrives - eg Sweden's 17th military aid package, biggest this far with two very useful AWACS radar planes! - Putin is getting deeper into shit. And our *fanzine blockade* against Kremlin goes on. Apparently to good effect...

When the Putin regime collapses - a definite possibility! - things may happen very fast. As they say: A tyrant always seem to sit safe on his blood-stained throne...until the very moment he isn't. *Slava Ukraini!*



*Smaller than the US variant, but the Swedish AWACS have efficiently guarded the Baltic Sea. Going to Ukraine they will now coordinate F16s to make best use of them.*

--Ahrvid Engholm

## To Our Swedish Readers...And Writers!

The 25th Fantastiknovelltävlingen ("Fantastic Short Story Competition") is on! I'll summarise the rules in case some foreigners want to have a go with AI translation, since only stories in the post-Viking lingo is accepted:

1. Send entries as straight text (called "ASCII", no attached files, eg Word documents) as E-mail by September 3rd to [fantastiknovell@proton.me](mailto:fantastiknovell@proton.me) AND [ahrvi@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvi@hotmail.com) (BOTH!). Use subject "tävlingsbidrag".
2. Stories shall relate to science fiction, fantasy or horror. (Genre can be interpreted somewhat generously. There must be some "fantastic" element.) Multiple entries are allowed. Max length 40 000 characters, incl periods and spaces. Language: Swedish.
3. The winners are chosen by a jury, which may also make honorable mentions. Stories on any prize spot may also be posted on the SKRIVA list and are offered to DAST Magasin for publication, <http://www.dast.nu/>
4. First prize 300 SEK + a share of SF-Bokhandeln Ltd + an E-book reader (used, but works and comes with a library of exciting books). Second prize 200 SEK + a share of SF-Bokhandeln Ltd. Third prize a share of SF-Bokhandeln Ltd. Those and any honorable mentions will also get a diploma and a PDF of the latest version the how-to-write book *Writing In Time and Space* (complete but still edited and worked on). Shares are from the recent share issued by the SF Bookstore and it's one each.

Yeah, yours truly has turned into a share shark and have bought a stack of stocks from of Stockholm SF Bookstore, issued earlier this spring. You can now also become a Bloody Capitalist, if you write a good story making it to the competition's podium. Don't miss the chance! (Each share is worth ca €35.) As for the top prize, the E-book reader is a used simple model but fully functional, and I'll select stuff for it from my own supply of E-books, mostly non-fiction: writing guides, science, technology, history, culture, fandom...could be interesting, hundreds of books, maybe a thousand! And my how-to-write-sf book isn't a bad prize either...

*Ge tangenterna vad de tål! Lycka till!*

## Sweden Hosting Controversial Eurovision Song Contest.

The first week in May saw the World's biggest music event and probably biggest TV-event - barring the Olympics - in the form of the famous or infamous Eurovision /K/i/t/s/c/h Song Contest! It was held in a hockey arena in Sweden's No 3 city Malmö in the south, across the water from Denmark. 37 countries participated including Australia as appointed Honorary European, basically because ESC is quite loved Down Under. The number of participants would however drop to 36 (more below).

New for this year was that the Rest of the World could televote. The winner is decided by points coming by 50% from juries in each country, and by 50% from televotes from the participating countries (the Rest of the World is here treated as one country).

The televotes are presented last and are usually decisive. And this time the winner was...

*Switzerland*, with the song "The Code" by the artist Nemo: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CO\\_qJf-nW0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CO_qJf-nW0k) Sweden was represented by the Norwegian twins Marcus and Martinus and came 9th <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yekc8t0rJqA>. But that's OK. The Swedes have grabbed the ESC glass figurine (that Nemo managed to break on stage while repeating his winning song) seven times before, equal with the Irish.

ESC is done in two semi-finals during the week and a big final on Saturday, with the twenty best from the semis + the Big Five: the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain, who get extra favours because they contribute most money to the European Broadcast Union, who founded the ESC back in 1956. And it's been on every year since, growing from seven entries the first year. The audience dressed in silly clothes and waving flags - a bit like the Last Night of the Proms, if you know about that - had a majority of foreigners, from over 100 countries. The venue took about 20 000 each night.

Arrived were also some thousands of activists who seem to be in the hands of Hamas, the terrorist organisation that October 7th launched death squads to murder and kidnap about one and a half thousand civilian Israelis, many of them children as well as youngsters at a music festival.

The protesters never mention the murders. Yes, the Israelis hit back in response to the atrocities, which is their right. You must hunt down the murderers and have the right to do that until the threat is removed. (There will be collateral casualties as the terrorists cowardly hide behind civilians. But the figures Hamas spits out can't be trusted. The real numbers are substantially lower and more than half of it are Hamas combatants. Media never mention that most is Hamas military crouching behind children.) I have often wondered why the woke crowd is so one-eyed. One theory is that fawning for Palestinians is inherited from the Soviet Union, who was on that side during the cold war. Though the USSR dissolved many keep old allegiances, as phantom limbs.

Hamas aren't nice people. *Targeting* civilians for mass murder says it all. They want women to wear humiliating covers, they are not allowed to leave home without male "escort", are banned from driving cars, denied education... And death to homosexuals! There were pro-Israel demonstrations also around the ESC, but it was far less covered by biased media. Mainstream media often brag about how important their news gauging is, but I'm not so sure of that.

In my and the opinion of many, the Middle East situation can in the long run only be disarmed by a two-state solution, but Hamas won't accept that and sabotages any movement towards it through violence.\*

Over to happier things. It was 50 years ago...that ABBA won this thing, the Eurovision, with the song "Waterloo". It's one of few (Celine Dion is another) wins that became legendary. It was a stepping stone for the foursome to become the world's No 2 pop and rock band (after John, Paul, George and Ringo) selling by now nearly half a billion records. (But it's becoming increasingly difficult to measure



*There were pro-Israel demonstrations too, but media mostly ignored it.*

sales now when people "stream" songs Some millions of physical ABBA CDs and even vinyls are still sold every year.) Invited artists doing ABBA songs showed up at ESC and ABBA themselves in the form of their "ABBA-tars" appeared. That was interesting because the ABBA-tars clearly did it exclusively for the ESC. This means these electronic figures are flexible and can be "re-programmed" to do new things. Björn Ulvaeus has BTW bought a share in a company that has secured the rights to make an avatar show with the band KISS. They were never my favourites, but I guess it won't be long before we see the Beatles or Elvis on stage again... ABBA lead the way for this!

Now to some bad vibes from this spectacle...

### **Scandal at the Eurovision Song Contest!**

It had never happened before. One country was disqualified just before the final: not Israel - who did well in the contest - but *Netherlands*. Other countries like Russia and Belarus have been kicked out, but months, years earlier and we know why: war. With Netherlands it's seems a bit unclear.

According to the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) it's because there was a confrontation during a rehearsal between the Dutch artist Joost Klein and a photographer with some sort of melee. A complaint was filed with the Police and as Mr Klein is under investigation it would be "unappropriate",

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\*It's said Israel occupies "Palestinian land". Do they? Before WWI it was Turkish (the Ottomans), who then lost it to the British. At the time it was considered legitimate to conquer land in war. The British handed it over to the League of Nations, and they bounced it back to them to administer as a mandate. The League of Nations dissolved in 1946 but handed all their responsibilities and mandates over to the newly founded United Nations. So, the territory is UN's! There has never been a Palestine state. UN has jurisdiction. Israel is ready to work with the UN and make any reasonable deal, as long as threats of violence are disavowed. Hamas (and allies, like Iran) aren't. Their aim is to destroy Israel, beginning with indiscriminate murders of civilians.



the EBU decided, to have him performing. According to the Dutch delegation what happened was:

A TV camera operator had been asked not to film as Klein was finished and left the stage. Certain areas behind the stage were declared off limit for filming. But she kept shooting. Klein became angry and made "threatening moves, but never once touched her" (exact quote) There must have been a lot of cameras running near the stage - including the one with the alleged victim. So there should be a good chance to verify all details. The Netherlands delegation know this it would be fruitless for them to lie about the incident. I believe them and there's no contrary info from the "investigation" and no published statements from the camera woman.

Being kicked out of the contest due to "threatening moves", which BTW were provoked? Usually, the Swedish police would throw this into the wastebasket. Two people quarrel, no physical contact...the police has better things to attend to! (Like the outbreak of gang violence, where they haven't been very successful.) Even as I write, more than a month after the quarrel, there is very little from the "investigation". It seems to take a very long time for a simple matter. I guess they are in a quandary as the case has reached extreme attention - but it should be filed in the wastebasket.

The Dutch are mad, rightfully so if you ask me. The delegation spokesperson said disqualification was disproportional. The delegation had suggested several alternative actions, in vain. Joost Klein was also among the top favourites according to betting sites.

When it came to the jury voting, the Dutch jury group refused to give any points so the ESC Executive Supervisor stepped in and gave the points according to some algorithm based on odds and how they usually vote. (It has been used before when "unusal voting patterns" were found for some Eastern Europe countries at an earlier ESC.) The audience booed heavily when the Dutch jury protest thus was steamrolled. I hope the decision to oust Netherlands were taken on the international level by EBU and not the Swedish production team. Because it doesn't look good at all.

But the show must go on, and it did have some highlights.

My favourite was Semi Final 2, Thursday, when we had the musical number "We Love Eurovision Too Much" by hostess Petra Mede, with a Finnish Intermission of Moomins and Cha Cha Cha.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVAOiFZakPQ> Among Semi Finals honorary mentions to Good



Hostess Petra M and 1999 winner Charlotte P "love Eurovision too much".

(the report "Has ABBA winning in 1974 changed Brighton?" with the reply "Not really..." - end of report) and co-hostess Malin Åkerman interviewing her mother-in-law choreographing the 1981 skirt-tearing by Bucks Fizz, ending with Malin losing her skirt. We also got a new, softer version of last year's winner "Tattoo" with Loreen sitting in a very uncomfortable chair rising over the stage, all starting with Björn

Old Johnny Logan making his version of the Loreen hit "Euphoria". Former winners leading a Eurovision Sing-Along, incl the Herreys Bros with their 1984 hit

"Diggiloo-Diggiley" - a little greyer, a few more belly kilograms, not perfect coordination...but still.

The Grand Final offered a few jokes



1984 winners, the Dancing Deodorants brothers Herrey. A little greyer, not 100% coordination. But a good song and nice to see them after 40 years!



Dutch arist Joost Klein was disqualified under unclear circumstances.

Skifs doing his 1974 "Hooked on a feeling" Billboard #1, from the very days ABBA had not really changed anything in Brighton.

The ABBA celebration - 50 years from "Waterloo" - was lead from the Voyage stage in London by the famous Abbatars! We saw these electronic beings comment Eurovision and Waterloo and then lead a Sing-Along. It was obviously especially done for ESC which means Abbatars are rather flexible can be used for much more than prerecorded shows. AI in action?

The stage was dominated by a 340 sqm LCD display. The stage floor was all LCD and there were other LCD panels for a total of over 1000 sqm of LCD. Along with flames shooting out all the time and strange camera angles it was all visually spectacular. I think it topped all earlier ESCs in visual effects. Some of the effects to me *seemed* like being *in front* of the artists while the screens were behind them. I wonder if my eyes fooled me or if they did insert it in the TV signal?

I'd like to especially mention the United Kingdom entry by Olly Alexander that totally, unfairly failed in the voting (what else is new when it comes to UK and the ESC?) though it in my ears was totally OK and in my eyes had the most incredible stage show.

Do you remember the 1951 film "Royal Wedding" when Fred Astaire dances on the wall, on the ceiling and so on. Alexander and his dancers did the same now! And for my life I can't understand how this could be achieved by just LCD panel effects. Also, it would have been logistically impossible to roll in a rotating room on stage (which was what Astaire used in the film). So how did they do it? The UK was worth many more points, but Europe hates the British as usual... Brexit means ESCxit.

Another entry I liked was Finland with Windows95man and "No Rules". In an interview the artist states that Windows 95 was the best operating system, and I'm inclined to agree - that and the rather similar Windows 98. Later stuff Microsoft has forced down our throats are bloated beyond belief, cryptic and impossible to debug and fix faults in by other means than a clumsy "reinstall" (and on top of this misery Microsoft constantly try to force "upgrades" on us). Extra points from me to Finland.

The Swedish entry with the Norwegian twins Marcus & Martinus did OK on 9th place. I expected them to land between 5 and 10, but it was a disappointment that the Norwegian jury only gave them 3 points... Don't they like their own folks? A Norwegian paper calling them traitors didn't help. (I can't remember Swedish papers calling Elisabeth Andreasson - her name then - a quisling when she helped Norway to the ESC trophy in 1985.)

But there was instant Karma: Norway landed overall last... Perhaps it was because they choose the ethnic path, a folktune-inspired song about wolves, sung in New Norwegian. (Norway has two

official languages: Bookspeak - Bokmål - inspired by Danish, Norway was under Denmark for hundreds of years, and New Norwegian - Nynorsk - a "constucted" language based on original western Norwegian dialects cleansed of Danish.) Using your official national language was a bit of a trend. I counted to 10 countries using their national languages, acually 12 of you include Britain and Ireland. That's almost half the entries.

The Irish song was to my liking, one Bambie Thung singing "Doomsday Blue" about witches and



The ABBA members celebrating "Waterloo".



UK's Olly Alexander & crew defeating gravity.



Finland celebrating Windows 95!



other weird stuff. Quite well performed with a deep feeling of horror and darkness. It's reported she wasn't too popular among Irish catholic, conservative circles. That song was too "occult". (Hey, if something is occult it's the Catholic church! It has exorcisms, belief in demons, the devil and all that.)

Outside the ESC event arena some 10-15 000 demonstrators naively chanted their support for Hamas murderers and terrorists. They won't allow Israel, who was attacked, to defend herself and eliminate the threat that in October meant the cold-blooded murder and kidnapping of 1500 innocent civilians. They are a loud-mouthed



*Ireland gave us the creeps!*

minority and their actions resulted in a blowback: *Israel won the popular televote!* Among them the Swedes, televoting 12p to Israel. Despite that a big majority of Swedish media co-workers lean to the left (70% in general, 82% among the big national broadcaster, source: Gothenburg University survey). Obviously, there are millions of people around the world who don't agree with leftist activists.

Switzerland won, as said. Another favourite was Croatia, who came second. Ukraine came third, a perfectly good entry in my opinion, a bit "ethnic" sung in Ukranian. France was fourth, Israel fifth.

There was an extremely heavy police presence. Even Danish and Norwegian police was called up (the Scandinavian police forces have some sort of cooperation, a Norwegian police patrol chasing, say, a car thief is allowed to continue the pursuit into Sweden). The risks in todays world have increased, from wars and religious polarisation. For Sweden risks rise as some burn religious books. My take is that you should be allowed to disrespect religious dogmas, but burning books is so SS and Goebbles - find other ways!

It was a Eurovision Song Contest to remember.

### **ABBA Knighted!**

A certain group of four was called to the Royal Palace in Stockholm in late May. Over here we don't tap them on the shoulder with a sword, but the King will give a box with the regalia to those newly knighted. The members of ABBA

all became knights and commanders first class of the newly revived Order of Vasa.

In the mid 1970's the then Social Democrat government "froze" all royal orders. It was undemocratic that some people could do fine things and deserve recognition... But the present non-SocDem government (but with support by all except the far left) has decided to revive the Order of the Sword (given to



*King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia, Björn, Frida, Agnetha and Benny.*

military people), the Order of the North Star (given to government officials) and the Order of Vasa (to anybody, and the general public may nominate!). The name "Vasa" is from the House of Vasa, with king Gustaf Vasa who dissolved the Kalmar Union in 1523, ridding the Swedes of those nasty Danes. ABBA was in the first batch to get knighted it was dusted off. It's a cheap way to give symbolic recognition to people doing something extra, in ABBA's case a "very substantial contributions to the music world, domestic and abroad" as the phrasing went. BTW, Volodymyr Zelensky was visting the king on a state visit the same day, but I don't know if the president met the band.

Over here we don't take knighthoods as seriously as, I guess, in Britain. You don't have to address someone as a "Sir Björn" or a "Dame Agnetha". We don't have sirs or dames. I did a little

etymological search and it seems that the old Swedish equivalent of "sir" is "herr" and "dame" equals "fru" - in early *mediaval* times, that is. Herr and fru, borrowed from German, "Herr" and "Frau", have since shifted in meaning to refer to *any* man or any woman, being like mister or missus.

But I wouldn't be too surprised if a British reporter addresses the great composer with a Sir Benny...\*

## Talking Short Stories

The illustrious little Short Story Masters society has been out preaching this spring. It began April 21st in the House of Literature in Uppsala, the city of last summer's Eurocon. 40 members of the public filled most seats in the lecture room and heard interviews and readings of our short stories. In a side room Joe R Struly talked about short story writing and the history of the sf genre, to a limited audience of...two. No huge success for me, but

### Noveller på längden och tvären väntar

LITTERATUR  
Novellen står i fokus i Litteraturrens hus på söndagseftermiddagen 21 april. Medlemmar i författargruppen Novellmästarna deltar i en novellfestival.

På programmet står bland annat ett novellmaraton där författarna Helena Sigander, Lena Röser, Årvald Engholm, Kjell E. Genberg, Ulf Durling, Ulf Genberg, och Richard Nedström läser sina noveller.

Det blir också workshops

och paneldiskussioner. Bland annat ska Helena Sigander intervjuas av kollegan Kjell E. Genberg, som kan vara Sveriges mest produktiva författare. Den nu 84-åriga Genberg debuterade redan 1966 och har skrivit över 250 böcker, bland annat "Men Hogar", serien med 55 titlar.

Bakom arrangemanget står föreningen Novellmästarna, Litteraturrens hus och Uppsala kommun.

Göran Stenroos



Uppsalaförfattaren Lena Röser ingår i författargruppen Novellmästarna. Foto: Mikael Åberg

I did my best. I have earlier distributed the

Powerpoint presentation used. Local *Upsala Nya Tidning*

covered the event (see above). May 17th we had a mixed

program for around 45 members of the Deckarvännerna

("Friends of Crime Fiction") club. Short Story Masters

entered the stage and told anecdotes out of a writing life,

even if some of it was

very obscure. Also book

lottery. I used my time to

mumble a short version

of the talk from Uppsala.

Farstq meet began with

eating outside, which I

was late too convinced a

starting quiz would take

much more time. Stupid me. The weather for both events was

wonderful. The summer here has started well, while the spring was

colder than usual. This meant that Midsummer which just has

passed didn't see the traditional heavy rain...

Still, the little frogs were happy.



Short Story audience in the House of Literature.



Audience and stage of Farsta Manor. Anecdotes, lottery, short story talk.

# HISTORY CORNER

Your favourite, the History Corner, will this time have a little of this, a little of that, and yes, that the European Championships of footy-soccer on now will be reflected. If you're fonda Fonda keep reading. I found the death notification of Alvar, the pioneer fan who became an award, all a bit complicated and not always to the best. A 1954 columnist punches skiffy in the face and picks up a fine 1878 sf novel. Asanother columnist talks about Arthur C Clarke and space development, long before Sputnik as it was seen as obvious Mankind would go to space. Meet ther successful US soccer team, a Fänomobil, sport Pärk and private detectives of 1916. On one of the stations for paper recycling the Greenies have placed in almost every street corner I happened to stumble upon a bunch of newspapers from...1916. They were fragile, turning brown, wrinkled but I took care of what I could and have investigated some their Old News under the old slogan *Yesterday today again!*

\*BTW, Frida should perhaps get an extra bow, because she is a real princess. She is Princess Rauss from her marriage to Prince Heinrich Rauss von Pleuen (1992, in 1999 dead in cancer).



# Vad ska påven säga när JANE FONDA älskar sönder maskinen?



Det är fjädrar Jane Fonda rullar sig i. Och i hennes nya film Barbarella rullar hon sig mycket, bl a med en omätlighetsmaskin. Denna anordning ska ge villust. Till slut omkommer maskinen av villust.

Av ÅKE MALM

**ROM (ABD)** — Barbarella, det är den nya kvinnan. Full av kön — och fullständigt fri.

Främför mig står Jane Fonda, gift med Roger Vadim, och huvudrollsinnehavare i det största science-fiction-spektakel som någonsin spelats in.

Först kom Bibeln ute i Dino de Laurentis jättefilmstad — populärt kallad Dinocittà. Den kostade sisådär en 40 miljoner kr, sedan kom ingenting, ingenting, och sen Barbarella, 20 miljoner kr.

Mycket av de här pengarna har man lagt ner på plastbröst — det kan inte råda något tvivel om den saken. Vart man vänder sig i Dinocittà står de mest skrämmande kvinnliga varelser — de flesta iförda dessa plastbröst.

Du skrämmande, okända värld! Monsieur Vadim, är detta verkligen framtiden?

— Vad vet jag? Barbarella handlar om år 40000. Hur skall man kunna förutse vad som händer då?

## Evig skam

— Men man kan med det årtal skrämmas litet för den framtid som ligger betydligt närmare oss. Ibland tror jag att den redan är här.

— Och plastbrösten?  
— Ja, är dom inte hemska. Skulle ni själv vilja ha det så där?

— En s k retorisk fråga. Barbarella är väl hittills ett tämligen okänt begrepp för

svensk publik. Men från Frankrike, där hon först såg dagens ljus, har hon spridits över till ett tiotal kulturländer — USA t ex.

Olyckligtvis har hennes födelseplats dragit evig skam över sig. Boken med hennes samlade äventyr har dragits in och finns numera endast att få på loppmarknaden. Någon moraliskt sinnad ämbetsperson ansåg hennes uppförande skamlöst och ett hot mot Frankrikes själsliga liv.

Och sänt skojar man inte med i generalens land. Inte i påvens heller för den delen.

— Hur i Jesu namn tänker ni klara den italienska censuren?  
— Det gör vi inte. Inte med den internationella kopian. Vi snaskar ihop en speciellt för påvens domäner.

## På allvar

Vadim är tydligt skakad av den italienska rättvisans senaste ingrepp mot Antonionis Blow up. Varendo meter Blow up har lagts under beslag av utsända nitiska uppehållare av ordningen.

Barbarella är en rymdernas hjälte, som klarar sig ur det ensa äventyret efter det andra tack vare ett iskallt lugn och stor skönhet.

— Det viktigaste här är att ta det på allvar. Allt. Det har varit felet med alla tidigare seriefigurer som filmats, säger Jane lugnt, medan hon förstört knacker på sitt gröna plastbröst.

Hon kommer just från den sista inspelningsdagen. Utanför oss i deras lyxvilla vid Via Appia Antica plaskar det lätt i fontänen. En del av hennes menageri tar kvällsoppet.

Familjen består just nu av: Jane Fonda Roger Vadim (född Plemiannikov)

Hundar: Zarathustra Underdog Bonheur Mao Tse Tung Lillyput Colbie Maryjane 24-hour Floor Show  
Kattor: Diabolik Hercules Hascish Oedipus Katt I, Katt II, Katt III  
Hela det här gänget flyger i morgon i specialchartrad källa direkt till gården Vadim köpte Jane och som ligger strax utanför Paris.

## Mår illa

— Men vi skall bli fler, säger Jane. Jag kommer inte att röra en fens framför en kamera på två år. För nu skall här göras familj. Hjäromdagen blev hon illamående ute i ateljén och stack hem. Mången blinkade då meningsfullt till kringstående: Saken är klar.

För alla väste om Janes planer.  
— Men jag kan försäkra. Det illamående berodde helt på att jag hängt i ett par virar hela dagen under min flykt med Pyggar.

Pyggar är ängel — en fallen sådan. Dessutom är han blind och har glömt att flyga — allt på grund av ett djupgående minder-värdeskomplex.

Men Jane, eller Barbarella, förför honom. Dom älskar så duntun ryker i hans ängslanista. Och vad händer sedan?

— Jo, när Jane slår upp sina ljusbli, då ETERAT, singlar naturligtvis Pyggar omkring däruppe.

Mera love blir det i omätlighetsmaskinen, där Barbarella skall dö av lust. Men helt naturligt spränger Barbarella maskinen. Inte ens en maskin kan stå på hennes egen mänskliga betta. Det är symboler det.

Right an obituary for Alvar Appeltofft, Dagens Nyheter Jan 2 1978, whom the main fandom achievement award the Alvar Appeltofft Memorial Award is named after. He had been found dead - by his own tormented hand - earlier in the autumn:

*Alvar Appeltofft has passed away at the age of 34, He was born in Halmnstad, son of BA Hugo Appeltofft and his wife Ellen nee Linden, high school teacher. After high school graduation in Halmstad in 1961 he studied at Lund University. He was editorial board member of the sf-magazines Häpna! and Jules Verne Magasinet and early got the honorary title Mr SF. The Alvar Award handed out in the sf movement is named after him.*

Alvar (b 1941) is a bit of a sad story. The Foundation in his honour, set up mainly on the initiative of old-time fan and friend Dénis Lindbohm (1927-2005), is an operation out of bad conscience by his parents. They pushed their son to despair, when he became active in fandom, by taking all his fanzines and his entire collection of sf literature and burn it, demanding he must "concentrate on his a school work". They didn't realise that fandom in many ways gives an alternative advanced education: you learn English, how to write, you read a lot, you learn how to organise, learn to think even, perhaps learn to draw... Alvar never really recovered from this.

But The memorial foundation hasn't exactly always walked the line. In the 1980s it was used as a private bank by board member John-Henri Humbug - as we shall him - borrowing \$16 000 (exchange rate then, today worth four times more) as a whistleblower contacting me revealed. Ghod knows when and if it was paid back. And with any interest? However, the foundation had no business giving money to a board member in the first place. (Not the first time Mr Humbug was caught with fingers in the cookie jar. Remember the Scandinavian fan fund scandal in 1987 where he mass-produced fake votes to grab the rather substantial fund sum for an associate. Covered in *Intermission*

Land, har avlidit i en ålder av 34 år.  
Han var född i Halmnstad, son till BA Hugo Appeltofft och hans maka Ellen, f. Linden, högre folkskollära. Efter studentexamen i Halmstad 1961 studerade han vid Lunds universitet. Han har varit redaktionell medarbetare i sciencefictiontidningarna Häpna! och Jules Verne-magasinet och fick tidigt hedersstiftelsen "Mr Science Fiction". Utmärkelsen "Alvar", som delas ut inom sf-rörelsen, är uppkallad efter honom.



earlier with facsimiles of the fake votes.)

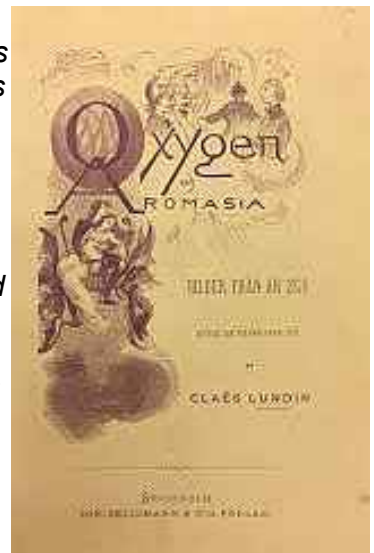
More details of all this are kept under wraps since the foundation, wanting to be for the benefit of fandom won't give fandom the benefit of seeing their minutes. So we for instance don't know details of how they gave away their fanzine collection, now buried deeply in the vaults of the Royal Library. Last we checked it hadn't been entered into their catalogue, so it's for all practical purposes dead. Scandals like this made father Hugo Appeltofft cut the foundation from his will (the mother had already passed away when the irregularities surfaced so her money couldn't be stopped).

From deeds hidden to someone who didn't hide much. "Barbarella" starring Jane Fonda had an opening sequence that makes "Star Wars" beg for mercy. The evening rag Aftonbladet reported from this cinematic sensation Nov 4, 1967 (prev page) and I'll translate the "juicy" bits, "What Will the Pope Say When JANE FONDA Loves the Machine to Pieces?":

*Barbarella is the new woman. Full of sex - and totally free. In front of me is Jane Fonda, married to Roger Vadim, and starring in the biggest sf-spectacle ever filmed...Much of this /budget of \$2m/ is spent on plastic breasts...M Vadim, is this the future? "How do I know. Barbarella is about the year 40 000, how can you anticipate what happens then?...Barbarella is yet a fairly unknown concept for a Swedish audience. But from France where she first appeared she has been spread to many cultural countries, eg USA. Unfortunately she has caused shame, the book about here adventures has been retracted and may now only be found on flea markets. Some morally minded official saw her behaviour as shameless and a threat to the spritual life of French. /Italian censors acted against the British film "Blow Up" and Vadim plans to save "Barbarella" for the Italian audience by making a special edit of the tilm./ Barbarella is a heroine of space who goes through one adventure after another with ice-cold calm and a huge beauty. /We meet Ms Fonda and get a list of her family, incl several dogs and cats... They have a mansion right outside Paris./ "We will multiply," Jane says. "I won't be in front of a camera the next two years. It's time to make a family." The other day she felt ill in the study and went home. Many then saw what it meant: naturally. But I can guarantee that this illness was only because I'd been hanging in a couple of wires all day due to escaping with Pygar." Thats an angel - a fallen one. Also being blind and forgetting how to fly - all because of a deep inferiority complex. But Jane, or Barbarella, seduces him. They make love so feathers fly in his angel's nest. And then what? Yes, when Jane opens her blue eyes, AFTERWARDS, Pygar of course flies around up there. And there's more love in the in the love machine, where Barbafeffa is supposed to die out of lust. But naturally Barbarella blows the machine to smithereens. Not even machines can match her human heat. It's symbolism.*

From a sex machine to other futurological speculations, signature Flips in his "Blinken" column in the same paper April 24 1954 punches skiffy in the face and find an old book with smelling music:

*Reality is more wonderful than fantasy, it is said, and that's fortunate because fantasy is pretty lame now, at least according to **science fiction**, an artform I have dealt with a lot lately...With sf as the knowledgeable reader knows we mean stories of life in 100 or 1000 years time. It seems they have pretty much trouble then too, nothinhg but troubles, At one time the Martians come to invade Earth and Earthlings must put on space suits and travel around space and punch Martians in the face. Or instead it may be the Venusians who come and behaves badly. And the poor Earthlings must put on space suits and travel in cosmos to punch the Venusians in the face. All this happens within 100 to 1000 years and the stories are really fantastic. That we in those times have found better arguments than punching each other in the face seems to be beyond the imagination of the authors. ...You can't lift yourself by the bootstraps and even with the most sparkling imagination we seem unable to come up with anything really improbable. Jules Verne who wrote sf long before anyone had found out it should be called sf, wrote about the flights of engineer Robour long before Bleriot had started with his first aircraft, but his endeavours are today reduced to yawning routine. Captain Nemo sailed around the world under the sea long before you could only dream of underwater traffic, but now they've built submarines powered by atomic energy and that was something Jules Verne could only dream of. Does anyone today consider it much of a feat to like Phileas Fogg travel round the world in 80 days? The other day I got hold of a book named Oxygen and Aromasia and it was a very entertaining book. It was written by a gentleman named Claes Lundin and printed by Isaac Mercus Printshop Ltd in 1878. It is also sf and the story is about happenings in Stockholm in 2378. This author has mustered all the imagination he had and therefore he lets the young hero Mr Oxygen be the chief of a company that makes weather. He sends rain here and high pressures there, and this thought was of course comical in 1878, but today they can make rain in America at will and there is also a question of law, who really owns the atmosphere. Aromasia is ther heroine in Cles Lundin's story and she's an artist.*





# Världens gång

## Växande värld

De som anar att vi blott står i yttersta början av människosläktets långa och mödosamma väg mot en tillvaro, vars fulla innebörd vi nu ej ens vågar drömma om, stärks säkert i sin framtidstro av Arthur C. Clarke, som är medlem av Brittiska Astronomiska Sällskapet och Interplanetariska Förbundet. Konsekvenserna av de nya rymdfärderna komma att bli revolutionerande för hela den vetenskapliga utvecklingen.

Redan Kopernikus eller Darwins utvecklingslära öppnade ju nya världar. Rymdfärderna och till och med blotta spekulerandet kring dessa kommer att vidga den andliga horisonten och samtidigt möjligheten att nå ett övermått av skapande. Behärskandet av världarna omkring är naturligtvis inte någon större dygd om denna makt ej paras med vishet. Vår trångbröstad nationalism tynar förmodligen bort när människorna upptäcker hela sin jord i det rätta perspektivet och ser den som en liten obetydlig boll i det stora kosmos. Även om man inte får hoppas för mycket av den mänskliga anden så bör väl den nya, påtagliga kontakten med världsrymden åtminstone vidga förståelsen för jorden som enhet.

Kanske möter vi andra varelser i nya planetvärldar högre stående och lägre stående. Vem kan hitta ett visst sandkorn vid en sandstrand? Kanske far de eventuellt högre stående varelserna därute i rymden redan fram och tillbaka i världsallett utan att ens ha upptäckt jorden bland miljoner andra planeter. Kanske har de upptäckt jorden, kanske noterat att den bebos av något krälände liv. Vem vet hur de reagerar inför oss. Möjligen riktar de några insektsprutor mot oss, Arthur C. Clarke varnar: I världsrymden skall vi inte vänta att våra ideal har någon universell giltighet och vi måste bjuda upp allt vad vi har av tolerans och vidsynthet för att fatta de andra världarnas liv och tankesformer. Vi måste erinra oss Platons ord om att vi är fångar i en källare och att vi bildar vårt intryck av yttervärlden av de skuggor som faller på murarna. Säkert kommer det att dröja närmare hundra år innan effektivt utforskande av de närmaste planeterna med hjälp av rymdfarkoster kommer igång, men långt dessförinnan skall säkerligen den vidgade världsbilden ha bidragit till att göra oss mognare, djärvare och visare.

Vi är ju bara i början, vägsvalet mot Columbus Santa Maria är inget mot detta — bruset kring märraketerna — som inleder åtminstone början till verkliga mänskliga möjligheter och ett liv som lyfter sig ur jordeggets begränsning för att sträcka på vingarna och flyga i det stora, riktiga, förutbestämda och enda världiga, men tyvärr ännu ej tillgängliga livsrummet.

# I BLINKE

Verkligheten är underbarare än fantasien, sägs det och det får man nog anse som en stor lycka, för just nu tycks det vara rätt knalt med fantasien,

## KRÖNIKAN

Av åtminstone om man får döma av

Flins

science fiction, en konststart som jag har umgåtts rätt flitigt med på sista tiden. Man måste ju följa med vad som händer och sker även i dikens rike.

Med science fiction menas, som den bildade läsaren vet, berättelser som handlar om hur folk har det om 100 eller om 1.000 år. De har det av allt att döma rätt besvärligt då också. Det är ingenting annat än bekymmer. Än är det marsinvånarna som kommer och invaderar jorden och då måste jordianerna klä sig i rymddräkter, ge sig ut på irrfärder i kosmos och slå marsianerna på käften. Eller också är det folk från Venus som kommer och betar sig otillbörligt. Då måste de stackars jordmänniskorna klä sig i rymddräkt och bege sig ut i kosmos för att slå venusianerna på käften. Allt detta händer som sagt om 100 eller 1.000 år och berättelserna är mycket fantastiska. Att vi på den tiden skulle ha kommit så långt att vi kan hitta på andra argument än att slå varandra på käften tycks dock överskrida författarnas inbillningsförmåga. Det är tydligen alldeles för fantastiskt och det är rätt nedslående.

Människans fantasi har tydligen sina gränser. Eller som en av mina målände vänner sade härom dagen när han var som bitrast på de s. k. konkretisterna: — De arma griffarna tror, att de kan hitta på former som inte redan finns i naturen! såde han medan han tankfullt betraktade det vilda arabeskmönstret i den portion spaghetti som låg framför honom.

Det går tydligen inte. Man kan inte lyfta sig själv i håret och även med den mest sprakande fantasi tycks vi inte kunna hitta på något riktigt osannolikt. Jules Verne, som skrev science fiction långt innan någon kommit på att det skulle heta så, skrev om ingenjör Roburs luftfärd långt innan Blériot hade lyft sin första flygmaskin men hans bragder är numera ner-solkade till den mest gäspande rutin. Kapten Nemo gjorde världsomseglingar under havet på en tid då man bara kunde drömma om undervattenstrafik, men nu har man byggt en u-båt som drivs med atomenergi och det hade inte ens Jules Verne drömt om. Är det någon nu som betraktar det som en sportbragd att som Phileas Fogg resa jorden runt på 80 dagar?

Härom dagen fick jag tag på en bok som heter "Oxygen and Aromasia" och det var en riktigt rolig bok. Den är skriven av en herre som hette Claes Lundin och den är tryckt på Isaac Marcus Boktryckeri-aktiebolag år 1878. Det är också science fiction och berättelsen handlar om vissa märkliga tilldragelser i Stockholm år 2378. Den författaren hade minnsann mobiliserat all den fantasi han var mäktigt och därför låter han den unge hjälten herr Oxygen vara chef för ett företag som förfärdigar väder. Han skickar regn hit och högrtryck dit och den tanken var naturligtvis övermåttan komisk år 1878, men nu kan man göra regn i Amerika när man vill och man har redan fått bekymmer med den juridiska frågan om vem som egentligen råår om atmosfären.

Aromasia är hjältinnan i Claes Lundins berättelse och hon är konstnärinna. På grund av att Wagner och hans efterföljare gjort hela den musiklyssnande mänskligheten lomhörd kan man år 2378 inte spela piano på vanligt sätt utan man har då uppfunnit ett "luktkläver" — ododion — på vilket man frambringa de sinnrikaste kompositioner. Aromasia har t. ex. gjort ett "odorat" som framställer "materialismens besegrande av kritikismen och Nicaragua-kanalens fullbordan".

När Claes Lundin hittade på detta log han säkert och tyckte att han hade hittat på något så otroligt befängt att hans fantasi aldrig skulle överträffas av verkligheten. Nu sitter hela Sovjetryska Tonsättarföreningen och skriver symfonier som förhårlig Stalingrads återuppbyggande och den skogsindustriella femårsplanens lyckliga genomförande.

Verkligheten är underbarare än dikten och det skall vi tydligen vara glada för.

*Since Wagner and his heirs have made the music-listening humanity half-deaf you can't play the piano in the regular way 2378, instead they have invented the "scent organ" - ododion — on which you bring forth the most elaborate scents. Aromasia has for instance written an "odorat" that shows how "materialism defeated criticism and the completion om the Nicuaragua canal" .When Claes Lundin made this up he must have smiled and thought he had found someting so hilarious that his imagination couldn't be beaten by reality. But now the Soviet composers guild sits and writes symphonies that glorify Stalingrad's reconstruction and the completion of the five year plan for the forest industry. We must be glad that reality is more wonderful than fantasy.*

Oxygen and Aromasia is a fine novel, re-printed in the 1980s.

The magazine called "The Reformer", meets Arthur "Ego" Clarke in its issue Feb 21, 1954.

*Those who think we are only in the very beginning av mankind's long and labourous way towards an existence with conditions we today not even dare to dream about, are probably strengthened in the belief in the future by Arthur C Clarke, member of the British Interplanetary Society and the Interplanetary Federation. The results of coming space voyages will be revolutionary for all scientific development. Already Copernicus or Darwin's evolution teachings opened up new worlds. Space travel and even the mere speculations will widen the metal horizon and at the same time be extremely creative. To master the worlds around us is of course no big virtue if it can't be combined with wisdom. Our narrow nationalism will probably wither away when man discovers the entire Earth in the proper perspective and sees it as an insignificant little ball in the big cosmos. Even if we can't put too much hope into the human spirit, the new and concrete contact with outer space should at least widen the understanding of Earth as a unit. Perhaps we meet other beings from other planetary worlds that are higher or lower in development than us. Who can sit on a grain of sand and see the whole beach. Perhaps the possibly higher developed beings out in space already travel back and forth in the universe without*



discovering Earth among millions of other planets. Perhaps they have discovered Earth, perhaps noted it is inhabited by some crawling life. Who knows how they react to us? Perhaps they spray insecticides at us. Arthur C Clarke warns us: We musn't expect that our ideals are universally valid in space, and we must muster all we have of tolerance and a wide views to understand the life and thought patters of other worlds. We must remember the words of Plato that we are prisoners in a cave and form our impressions from the shadows falling on the walls. It will probably take 100 years until efficient explations of the closests planets can commence, but before this a wider world-view should have contributed to make us more mature, more daring and wiser. We are only in the beginning, the waves from Columbus' Santa Maria is nothing compared to this - the noise from the Moon rocket - starting at least the first human possibilities and a life that lifts us from the Earth egg's limitations, to stretch the wings and fly out into the big, real, decisive and only dignifying but unfortunately not yet available living space.

As been reported in *Intermission* earlier, natural force, author, sf historian, translator etc Bertil Falk left us last autumn. To the right my obituary in *Locus* earlier this year, #755 (Jan/Feb). I even got paid for it (\$35 if I remember).

I believe I told you about the NATO contest for speculating on the future, in view of the alliance's 75th anniversary soon, <https://www.ndc.nato.int/news/news.php?icode=1872> I was one of ten winners whose text will be somehow used in a "graphic novel". The latest I heard is that the publication is a bit delayed and will come in July. I'll tell you more when I know and later perhaps dig into my contribution (and this gave me even more, €500 - getting filthy rich!)

As this is written, the Euro 2024 is going on, the European Soccer Championships (and the American ditto is on too, both North and South, US and Canada are in it).<sup>\*</sup> If North Americans think soccer is a strange new invention, in the heap of 1916 newspapers we read as *main headline on page 1*, about a guest tour by a selected all-star US team, *"Dagens Nyheter's football game a shining sports party, stadium filled to the last sea by enthusiastic spectators. The game, lively and exciting, ending in a draw with 1 goal to 1."*

The US team came after a special invitation, the travel paid for. And their game against an all-stars Stockholm team was major news dominating the page of *Dagens Nyheter* ("Daily News", the biggest newspaper) Aug 16, 1916. The game report was long and detailed, but instead of translating it I found this history article about the tour <https://www.ussoccerhistory.org/behind-the-footage-the-opening-game-of-the-usmnts-1916-scandinavian-tour/> that will tell you more. Soccer was a reasonably big sport in America 100+ years ago and the team was good. They won a later game against a Swedish national all-stars team with 3-2 and played a draw against a Norwegian team 1-1.

At the same time as US soccer visited us, the Swedes began taking up baseball! From *Dagens Nyheter* 3 jul, 1916, *"Baseball in Västerås"* (a city west of Stockholm, pronounced like "Westeros" which you might know about).

<sup>\*</sup>"Soccer" from "asSOciation football" is actually a British word, exported to North America. In Sweden NFL football is called "American football". If that's considered too cumbersome it may be called - in English spelling - simply "football" (Swedish spelling is "fotboll").

Swedish author and translator BERTIL FALK, 90, died October 14, 2023 after a long illness.

I have never known anyone with so much energy as author-publisher-reporter-translator-SF-expert-etc. Bertil Falk. Now this hurricane of a force is no longer with us. His Swedish translation of James Joyce's "untranslatable" *Finnegans Wake* came out last year, a work of love taking 60-plus years. We also saw his massive, three-volume history of science fiction in Swedish, *Faktasin*. Unlike earlier SF history works, it covered only what's been written in Swedish, making it a unique study. A little earlier his biography *Feroze: The Forgotten Gandhi* was published, about Indira Gandhi's husband, written in English and well-received in India, discovering a man who had been mostly forgotten.

But Falk did so much more! I first met Bertil on the SF-Kongressen 1977 and was later contacted to help out with a very nice *Spacecon* in 1980, where Bertil with companions Anders Palm and Lasse Junell launched a *Captain Future* pulp-sized novel. As a journalist he later met and interviewed *Captain Future's* author Edmond Hamilton. When he revived *Jules Verne-Magasinet* in the late 1960s, Bertil published "The Return of Captain Future". His interest in good old space adventures prompted me to found Bertil Falk's Space Opera Prize. I hope there is enough interest to make it annual.

I got to know Bertil really well after I working on the popular tech/science magazine *Teknikmagasinet* in 1982. Bertil wrote lots of articles for us, and though he lived in the south, he often came up before deadlines to help out, beside his then-day job at the *Kvällsposten* evening paper. Though at times breaking even, the lack of astronomical success made our magazine slip to another publisher, but we co-workers kept in touch.

Bertil then crossed the North Sea working for the newly started TV3 satellite channel in 1987. Transmitting from London, it challenged and in effect tore down the Swedish government TV monopoly. He wrote non-fiction on many subjects, as well as hammering out short stories and novels. He was also translator and sometimes the publisher of the results through his publishing house *Zen Zat*.

He was especially interested in "reviving" popular fiction writers from yesteryear. His Swedish Wikipedia entry lists about 50 "selected writings" and 25 "selected translations," but he did more. He was especially proud of his Viking detective stories about Gardar Gätlösaren ("Gardar Riddlesolver").

In *Zen Zat's* planetary system of whirling massive objects, every December saw flashing falling stars in the form of Bertil's small print run - 100 copies, tops - Christmas specials. They would have virtually anything you could wish for, like a reprint of Bertil's short story debut from age 12, "A Trip in Space" (1946), or his debut in longer format, "The Masked Gangleader" (1954). My own first short story collection *Murder on the Moon* was no more than a tiny asteroid in Bertil's rich and vivid publishing space.

From the late 1990s and for several years afterward, he continued exploring popular literature history as editor of *DAST Magazine*. Bertil was namong our foremost experts on early magazine fiction and the history of the SF genre in general. Bertil was a main initiator of *Crime the Swedish Way*, probably the first anthology of Swedish crime fiction in English, and attended Bouchercon in 2008 to promote the anthology.

"Falk" means "falcon." Bertil flew high and wide, and his sharp falcon eyes gazed at the the broad horizons of literature.

-Ahrvid Engholm ■





A baseball game was today played here between Gothenburg's and Västerås' baseball clubs. The game consisting of 9 rounds was won by the Gothenburg team with 16 rounds to 13. Referee was engineer K Wersäll.

I don't know if "rounds" is a baseball term. I have very vague idea of the game. To me baseball seems like a very complicated version of the game rounders, which we played a lot in school. I



Pärk being played. A combination of NFL football and baseball?

I remember I also introduced rounders to fandom as "meteorball", with the usual rules except you shout "disintegrated" instead of "burnt" to take a player out.

Despite this early introduction of the game, baseball has never been popular here. But on the other hand Americans don't do much bandy, cross-country skiing,

orienteering or pärk. The last is a game from the island of Gotland which Wikipedia claims has a bit of both football and baseball! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%C3%A4rk> Americans would probably love pärk!

Between consuming books about rockets and robots, I'm outrageously unfaithful. It happens I dive into books about policemen hunting ritual killers or young pretty students becoming a She-rocket Holmes (pun intended) and other highly realistic crime stories. So it was interesting that there were private detectives in Stockholm in 1916, advertising in Dagens Nyheter (date lost, I keep the top ad about a firm offering stencil duplicating help):

**Renskrivningar  
Dupliceringar  
Översättningar**  
Continental Skrifbyrå,  
A. 67 40, 57 41, 234 72, R. Namnanrop  
"Continental skrivmaskin",  
Kungsgatan 54.

**Privat-Detektiva**  
uppdrag utföras billigt snabbt och diskret av  
ANTON BRODEN, Privat-Detektivbyrå  
Västerlånggatan 68, Stockholm. - Rikstel  
144 68 Allm. Tel. 201 68. Står i förbin  
delse med utländska byråer.  
Pohjanta suomen. Pohjanta suomen

**Privat-Detektiva**  
uppdrag utföras med största skyndsambhet  
under djupaste diskretion, billigt arvode.  
E. Ahlins Privatdetektivbyrå,  
A. T. 106 02. Rika 91 97.  
9 Hamngatan, 2 tr., Stockholm.

Private-Detective tasks conducted cheap, fast and discreetly. Anton Broden Private-Detective Bureau. /They speak Russian and Finnish it's added last in Russian and and Finnish. And: / Private-Detective tasks performed in the biggest speed under deepest discretion, cheap fee. E Ahlin's Private Detective Bureau.

Oldtime fan David Nettle is busy writing about a 1920's private detective, starting with Herr Nymans detektivbragd ("Mr Nyman's Detective Feat"). Now we have confirmation that such private detectives existed around that time!

Here's a strange piece in Dagens Nyheter Jul 13, 1916: "Fänomobil and tram colliding". What the heck is a "fänomobil"? Did some digging and it shows that it's what a three-wheeled car was called.

**Fänomobil och spårvagn i kollision.**  
Vid 5-tiden på onsdagsmorgnaden inträffade en lösnande kollision på Vasagatan mitt för Mästerskapslegatan mellan en fänomobil från Istan Jansson's bageri, Storgatan 4, och en norraström



A fänomobil





Detective from early 1900s. Mr Nessel's book now seems almost documentary... David Nessel of legendary Salafandom does nostalgic whodunnits, earlier did comics, y'know where strange figures go "Fghyj prtflik!" and other onomatopoeica

Those were rather popular at the time and but the term "fänomobile" was later lost. This reminds me how strange I thought it was, the first time I came to England (an EF language summer school, in my early teens), that three-wheeled cars seemed to be common there. The model was called *Reliant*, but to me they looked unreliable...

Finally, a full page of cinema adverts, Dagens Nyheter Oct 8, 1916. There're a couple of cabarets and lectures ads there, but most are cinematographic pictures, from just one day, in one city, 108 years ago. Even without sound, cinema was obviously very popular! A full, big page (the size is called "broadsheet") och movies. I thought my grandfather's travelling cinema (read about Svenska Biograf-Kompaniet in #139) struggled a bit but now it more looks like his visits should have been very welcome!



Poster from the "Swedish Cinema Company", offering the western "With Cocked Guns". Owned by one A Engholm it enlightened the Swedish countryside in the 1920s. See #139.

### Mailing Comments

Due to those simply lovely computers sometimes going on strike (is there a computer trade union?) last two signs of life from Joe R Struly weren't regular Intermissions. So for the apans who get this (BTW, join an APA, it's nutritious and educating, real fans are into fanzines - and we need you!) here some comments to the latest two mailings.

**William McCabe:** Marx Bros are the only legitimate form of marxism...  People risking health and death for selfies deserve any Darwin Award waiting for them.  As for early eamples of the words "science fiction" in print, I'd say a term doesn't get *coined* until a use gets a following. In that sense I believe it was Hugo Gernsback who coined it through...not *Amazing*, but *Wonder Stories*. In *Amazing* he used "scientifiction", but as he lost control of it and launched *Wonder Stories* he had to find a new term for the new magazine and science fiction it became. (He probaby though "scientifiction" belonged to *Amazing*.) If you expect grand visions of eternal space full of blazing stars and sizzling rockets it's a bit contradictory to have a word play disturbing the majestic panorama.  These days I use my Open Office Writer for all layout. I have no use for a dedicated DTP program. 20 years ago I used Ventura Publisher for Desktop Publishing - noting wrong with it, but Writer does all I need and is faster.  As for copyright, immaterial concessions holders always try to extend their rights claims as far as possible. I think the concessions (copyright is limited, granted rights, not "ownership") already goes tdo far. Eg 70 years should return to 50. Recently, they try to grab the right of decision over mere links and publishers try to stop others using external work as inspiration, eg what an AI or someone writing a parody does.  As for "climate change", alarmists tend to be totally ignorant of that

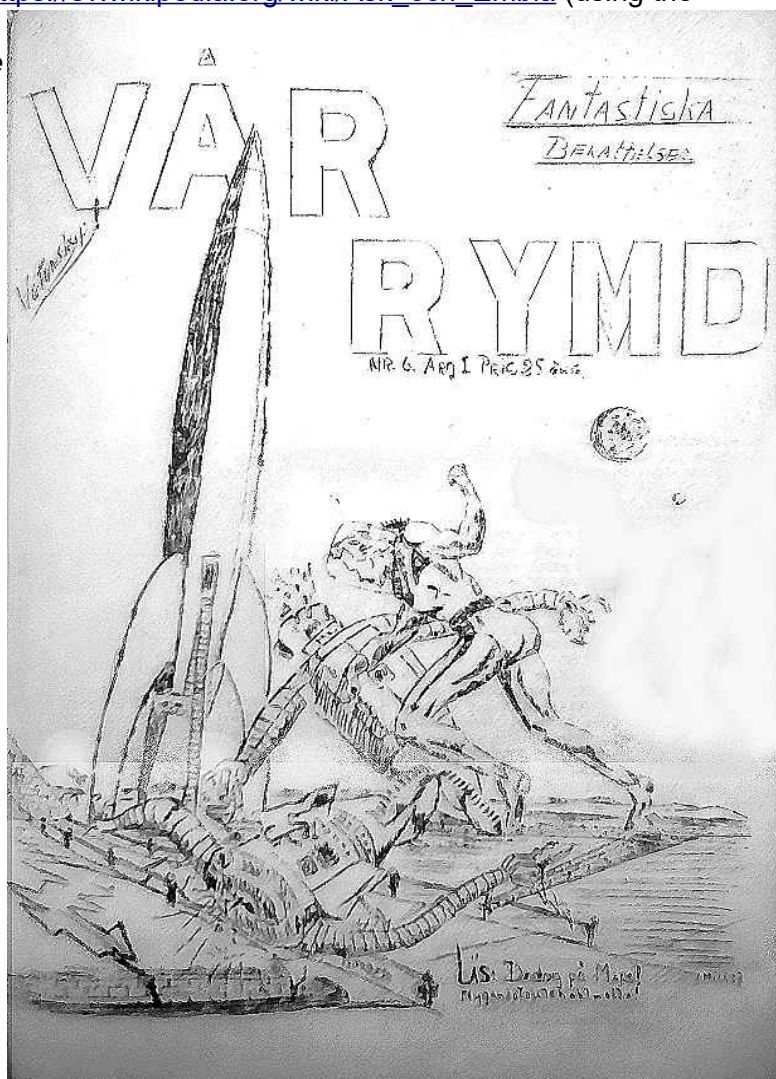




climate is *driven by temperature differences*. It's thermodynamics 1A and meteorology 1B. Alarmists claim 1) the climate will become wilder with more extremes, 2) the poles warm up faster. 1A and 1B can't be true at the same time. If the poles warm fast, temperature differences between them and the equator decrease, the climate gets *less* energy and weather becomes calmer with less extremes. Whatever you think of Greta & Co, the Sun's magnetic field deciding Earth's albedo through cosmic particle flux doesn't care. ☐☐ GET WELL! (Referring to the half-page contribution to June EAPA where William sayshe's ill.)

**Henry Grynsten:** No, horror fiction is the zombie genre...! I'm not afraid that skiffy won't develop, but what should worry us is that sf may go in the *wrong direction*. I want shorter, more concentrated stories instead of today's babbling 500 pages And more science and technology. ☐☐ No, Asimov's laws could be useful, if we could get them to work. That'll be difficult, since the different parts of the laws are hard to define. Also, the military won't allow robots being banned from killing enemies, and terrorists and crooks don't care. ☐☐ I think sf writers should have at least an active interest in and a deeper than average common sense for science. ☐☐ I think sports is a better opiate than religion. Sports isn't superstition at least. The only supersitition I know is the irrational belief by Norway's women skiers, that they would have even the *slightest* chance against the superior Swedish ladies in white on skis... ;-)

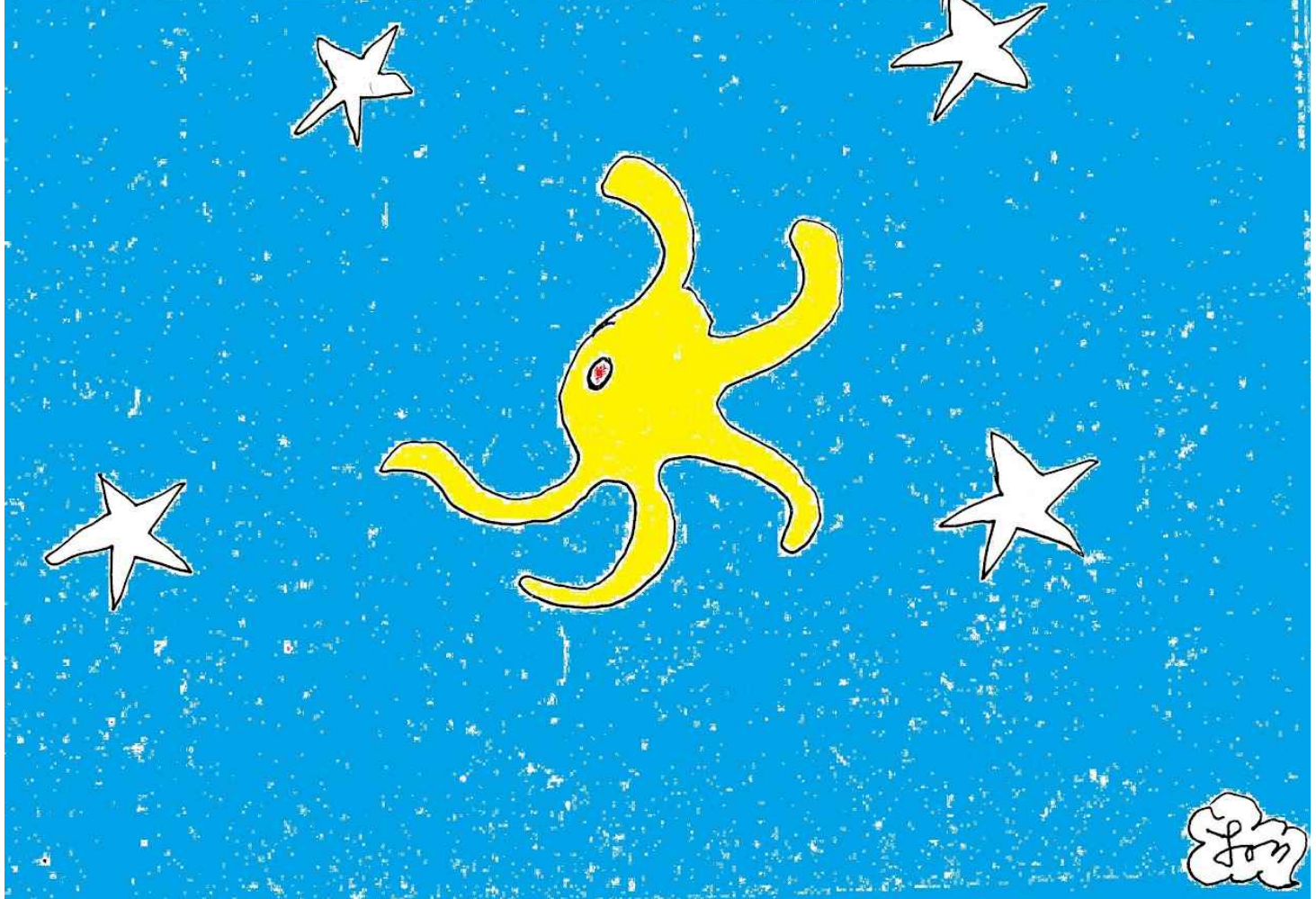
☐☐ Religion? Well at the same time it may fill an emotional need one must be blind not to realise how much death and suffering religion has caused. AIK & IFK supporters clashing is nothing compared to Al Qaida or Hamas! Being a fanatic supporter of your local team is equal to primitive tribalism, but the damage from it is limited. ☐☐ I think political campaigning have become shallower and more stupid the last decade. I'm gray-haired enough to have seen election debates on the telly with Thage Erander, Bertil Ohlin, Gunnar Sträng and those guys, though I was quite little. They usually spoke of concrete issues, with dignity and without mudslinging. ☐☐ You write. "The best sf to me are short stories, serious, based on plots and ideas, with credible characters and psychology while not being the focus of it." I agree, adding that "ideas" should sometimes have a little technology and science. ☐☐ I don't care much for the stories of Adam and Eve or any other sort of mythology. But it may be worth mentioning that Nordic mythology had its own story of Ask and Embla. I translate from [https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ask\\_och\\_Embla](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ask_och_Embla) (using the Swedish mythological names): *"In Nordic cosmology it is Oden who, together with Hönur and Lodur (or Vile and Ve, says Snorre), created the first human beings. They came walking to the ocean's beach and there they found two logs of wood: from ashtree and elm. Oden who is also known as the caster gave them life - the ashtree became the first man and elm became the first woman, Embla, the mother of Mankind. Höner then gave them wits and mobility and Lodur gave them feelings and senses. They came to live in Middle Earth. They are talked about in the poetry of Völuspá and Snorre's Edda."* ☐☐ You should write more short stories. 30 years or so back I remember you wrote excellent stories. And excellent humour pieces too. ☐☐ I agree that a lot in sf is scientifically impossible, but it shouldn't stop authors from trying to make it *sound* plausible. To your list I would like to add *conscious* robots...yeah, we have debated this, but extrapolating on today's AI, "artificial" consciousness seems absolutely within reach. Saying it must be impossible is like relying on magical mysticism, like "secret laws of nature says only biological cells can do this". ☐☐ We have also between us debated "superintelligence", which I believe is possible and you don't. You may be correct that it may not be obtained evolution-wise, but we should be able to *constuct* it intentionally without evolution. And it may be true that the brain of Homo Sapiens has become a bit smaller (it can be measured by the volume of old skulls, ie the volume left in the skull for the brain) but it's fractional and I'm not so sure we've become dumber. The workings of the neurons could have become more efficient. Up to



Did you miss it? Last Intermission covered Sweden's first fanzine, *Vår Rymd* from 1952, and talked with editor Åke Schwartz. Ask [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com) for it and read how the editors "bombed" the Russian Embassy... Hot stuff!



# Artist Lars LON Olsson lets a starfish meet the stars!



modern times people have often had very tough lives (why did 1,2 million Swedes emigrate to North America 100-150 years ago...life was rosy?) and had use for a good brain. I know that eg studies of conscripts points to a little decline in mental abilities, but that could be more because our schools are getting worse and parents more sloppy. (IQ and mental abilities will be part what you're born with, part what potentials parents and school have managed to release). Anyway, possible decline here will be very slow and society won't collapse because of it. I think that we in the future, quite a number of years away, we'll construct more intelligent Homo Sapiens by genetic engineering. We can try to ban it, but it may be difficult in the long run. ☐☐ To consider "2001" as a weird musical with an LSD trip is interesting... ☐☐ I agree that interstellar travel seems unlikely, or at best extremely difficult, considering that nothing points to that Einstein was wrong with the speed of light being the top speed. Even reaching decent fraction of C will be very, very difficult. (But a lot of skiffy would become very boring if we didn't allow "hyper space" and "warp drives" and things like that.) ☐☐ More on your "impossible" list: I think planetary engineering is possible, but it'll take a very long time and need huge resources. Generation ships should be possible, but difficult. Interplanetary, not interstellar, war should be possible. Intelligent robots/AI/etc should be possible. Mind uploading and digital immortality may be possible, but very difficult. Superhumans may come some time in the future, alas. And also intelligent animals. Other types of societies and governments may come, hopefully more free and liberal, but far from perfect (as most "utopias" tend to be described as). ☐☐ BTW, "capitalism" or market economy - a term I prefer, because the market has a more important role than capital - had another golden age from the late 1800s up to WWI ☐☐ The fact that it's difficult to forget scientific/technical advances and "uninvent" them will make further progress inevitable. We must discard the silly idea of the Greenies that we are "destroying" Earth and only have "limited" resources. Earth and our environment has the last decades been *improving*. We "care" more about animals and species. Lots of potentially dangerous substances are banned or severely limited (lead, mercury, PDB, DDT, CFCs, asbestos, etc). Nature is getting more room due to heavy urbanisation. NASA satellites has measured that Earth is greening with 2% per year. As for resources. 1) We use less resources as production processes are becoming more efficient. 2) And less also as an increasing amount of value growth is...information. 3) We recycle more. And finally: 4) in the future we'll have the resources in the solar system. ☐☐ UFOs as modern ghosts is an interesting thought.

**Heath Row:** I've never been to Portugal. The closest is France. ☐☐ You have an Academy of SF, Fantasy

and Horror films? Sounds interesting. We used to have a Turkey Movie Academy here, hosting the first and last Turkey Movie Festival. That Academy soon collapsed. They had a Turkey Movie award, claiming the year's worst movie was one directed by legendary Hans Alfredson. He's half the legendary duo of Hasse & Tage and was offended. The public loved Hasse more than turkey films... and the academy gave up and disappeared.

**Garth Spencer:** I assume NBC has paid owner of the registered name *Amazing Stories* for using it, and now they've stopped... Well, they should pay. ☐☐ Interesting lists, esp of all those universities and institutions collecting fanzines. In Sweden AFAIK only the Royal Library in Stockholm has fanzine collection. But it isn't too big. The contents have been taken down in an Excel file, which I have, covering ca 6000 items. But the zines aren't available as they have failed to catalogue them. 40 years ago, in the early 1980's, the number of Swedish fanzine issues was estimated to be around 20 000, so the Royal Library collection is very far from complete. (\*I\* did this calculation, not that fraud Mr Belly as some idiot claimed. Mr Belly can't even count fan fund votes correctly.) ☐☐ How many of the APAs are electronic?

**Jefferson Swycaffer:** I have tried AI art a little, but only from sites that are free. You may get the most different results. Some are absurd, some look OK but have odd details, and some are both OK and not odd. AI paysites may be better, but I haven't tried them. BTW, AIs have as far as I have seen - in FaiNZINE - no idea what a mimeograph looks like... ☐☐ I'm against quotas applying discrimination in the belief it would change discrimination back in history. You can't fight bad with bad. ☐☐ Fun story this "Stupid Equations"...

**Mark Nelson:** I stand by that ideologically activist books, incl the ideology of LGBTQ+extraletters, may be removed from school libraries on levels below high school. Children aren't intellectually ready to take part in a controversial debate in the grown-up world. ☐☐ Thanks for digging into the origin of the term robot. And the interesting robot articles too! ☐☐ "Tungsten" means "heavy stone", but the element tungsten is now actually called "wolfram" in Swedish. "Mandarin" is used in Swedish but my googling says it's from Portuguese. Stairs is "trappa" in Swedish, but it is from the German "treppe". Säter sounds Swedish or rather Scandinavian. There seem to be a lot of minerals with Swedish roots. It may be because the Scandinavian peninsula has quite a varied mineralogy and in the 19th Century we had a number of good chemists. No less than four elements are named after just one spot, *Ytterby* in the northern Stockholm archipelago: *yttrium*, *ytterbium*, *terbium*, *erbium*.

**George Phillies:** Yes, the R3 reactor was to make plutonium for the Swedish Bomb. ☐☐ You spent 40 years on your book project? Jeezus. I have projects going 1-2 decades, but off and on, some may rest for years.

**Samuell Lubell:** "...nearly all movies, TV shows, and novels were renewed", ie about 1963 implying they have a valid copyright. But no, in many cases, AFAIK. Just check Youtube, where you find plenty of movies and TV shows up to 1963, free to watch. I suppose only the most famous literary works and movies got the renewal needed for post-1963 protection. In most cases it would just be a cost and a hassle for a rather small gain. ☐☐ I haven't heard more from Isaac Asimov so I guess there's interstellar disturbance or FaiNZINE has indeed indeed run its course. ☐☐ Those who want flying cars are probably similar to those who want a car instead of taking the train or standing in line for hugely delayed airline flights. Modern technology with sensors and computers should be able to separate flying cars in the sky. You don't drive a flying car! The flying car drives itself and avoids obstacles with sensors, navigation systems and advanced computers. ☐☐ I've read some books by Turtledove, but I think he should cut down his manuscripts *substantially*. He writes too wordy, with too many subplots. ☐☐ Interesting covering 19th century connections between science and literature. But where is Verne and Wells? (Maybe you'll cover them later?) ☐☐ While I agree that Mr Donny Trump is a babbling idiot, the truth is that many people like him and vote for him not because "the rich have convinced many that the government is to blame for their problems" but because the frequent and loud cries from the wokeists and the policies they fanatically advocate push them towards Trump. Fortunately, I think Trump *won't* win the election anyway. Biden is weakened because of his age, but Trump is just three years younger and stands out as *more mushy* in his head. His plans for Russia's war against Ukraine are unrealistic. Trump has problems with reality. If Joe B just gets a decent VP candidate, he has a good chance of winning. I don't believe Kamela Harris is the likely running mate. The voters want a person they like to stand in line if Biden can't finish the term. Many favour Michelle Obama, but the problem is she doesn't favour it herself. Swedish papers speculate that Biden may quit his re-election run. How will the Democrats then select the replacement candidate? Will it be decided directly on the convention without primaries?

Слава Україні!