

INTERMISSION #145

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, för EAPA, N'APA and some non-APAn apes. Follow newstweets from @SFJournalen (updates very slow now, alas). "Spavilafk ikav Sve" isn't a typo (see this # to find out why) but Typo Brahe observed the stras! Late July 2024.

Editorially: Prosecutor Vs Felon + First Sf Author!

Much have happened since last! I had to re-edit this editorial when some juvenile idiot tried to shoot Mr D Trump. And now I have to re-write it as US President Biden drops out of the US presidential election. On top of that, while researching something else, I stumbled upon Sweden's possibly *first sf author*. Rush to the History Corner for more on this sensation and what "Spavilafk ikav Sve" means!

I've been clear about Donald Trump: I never liked him. He's an unbalanced narcissist, full of "alternate facts" (lies), a criminal and a danger to international stability and security. Appeasing that mass-mudering international criminal Putin won't work. And he can't be serious about leaving NATO! This defence pact has been a pillar of US foreign policy for 3/4 of a century. His many legal battles reveals he has no moral compass. And anyone who isn't a diehard redneck drunk on moonshine knows that Trump was the very centre of the January 6 shameful attack on the Congress. He stood there rallying the troops just before it happened.

But as a presidential candidate and also former president he was under the protection of the US Secret Service - that goofed badly! Always check the roofs, dammit! The rally attendees even saw the gunman *in advance* climbing the roof. Was the Secret Service on a coffee break? They reacted only as bullets began to fly and Trump was ushered away waving his fist. But no matter what, politics shall be decided *by debate and ballot boxes - not bullets*.

I hope the US constitution's system of "checks and balances" will find ways to mitigate Mr Trump's excesses if needed. An assassination attempt should get him sympathy votes. Joe Biden did well stepping down. Over all, he's done some good (far from "the worst president in US history" as one orange-haired moron bellows). I thought Biden seemed rather OK until maybe half a year ago. But then he began mumbling through debates and speeches worse than ever, forgot and mixed up things and called president Zelensky...Putin!

Kamala Harris has made a good start, but last I saw Trump still leads in the polls, though margin is shrinking. Are US voters ready for a female president? Ms Harris has three months to pile, knead, slice and fry Trump (I hear she likes cooking). I hope Trump loses, not mainly because this anti-Washington can never tell the truth but he could become very bad for Ukraine and good for Putin. That must not happen! I fear coming autumn's presidential race may become very nasty. Polarisation widens. To me it seems that as the woke crowd gets more aggressive, more people are thrust towards people like Trump. It's the same in Sweden: the more "correctness" the PC crowd cries for, the better the Sweden Democrats (narrow-minded dunces) do in the polls.

A Trump win would not only mean trouble for both the US and Ukraine, but for *all* of us. Putin can't be allowed to get anything out of his aggression. Else he'll just re-arm and in the near future test NATO's article 5 and China will be encouraged to implement the final solution to the Taiwanese question. Iranian ayatollahs and Kim Jong Un, the fat little rocket man, will continue to build rockets and nuclear weapons. As I understand it, 70% of the US population supports US aid to Ukraine, incl a majority of the republicans. Support to Ukraine should be a *major* issue in the election race! If you're contemplating which candidate promises most for your purse, remember that if Ukraine lose *you'll really see a economic disaster*..

The European economy is about a dozen times bigger than Russia's, so we can pick up any slack Trump leaves, but it'll make the path to kicking Putin's ass longer and bloodier. For every day it looks more likely that the war will end with a Russian collapse. The Rouble is picking up inflation as the cost of war increases and no one wants to trade in rouble.. Half a million mostly poor farmboys from Russia's Eastern parts are dead or seriously wounded thanks to the Kremlin's stupid metwave tactics. A million of the most productive young men have fled the country. Russia's central bank is raising

interest rates and emergency funds are emptied. Russia's corrupt, incompetent army is running out of armour, out of rusty tanks from the Stalin era in Siberian outdoor storage. Most troops along the Finnish border have been regrouped to the war. Ukrainian drones have hit 50% of Russia's oil refineries and its discussed how to stop Putin's "shadow fleet" of old rusty tankers (being an environmental hazard). Putin can anyway only sell oil to China and India at a discount. Many Russian towns have been flooded as funds for maintaining dams had been embezzled. Russian officers replace ballistic plates in body armor with wood and sell the stolen goods on Ebay. Russian oligarchs are only held back by fear, fear of poisoned tea or falling out a window (as I write I hear that the director of the Moscow stock exchange has been found drowned). It's a mess and it will get worse.

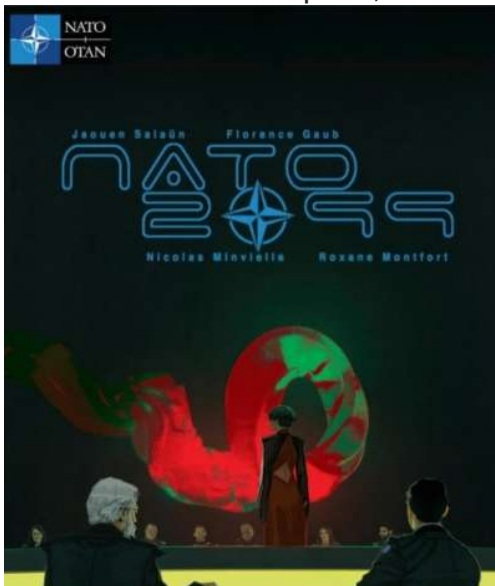
A dictator seems secure in his position until the very moment he isn't. Oligarchs may gather strength and dare a palace coup. There may be a military uprising (Prigozhin came a long way) or a popular one. Ukraine has only to keep fending off invaders, make them pay a high prize and wait. Legendary military analyst Carl von Clausewitz stated that the purpose of fighting is to *target the enemy's will to fight*. That's what Ukraine is doing. And we must and will help them with it! For all our sake.

--Ahrvid Engholm

NATO Goes to Space

As mentioned before, the defence alliance NATO (with Sweden and Finland as new members) as a part of its 75th anniversary announced it planned a "graphic novel" about NATO in the year 2099, and asked for ideas towards it. I wrote a piece and was one of ten selected contributors (receiving €500 for the trouble!). *NATO 2099* has now been published. Go to:

<https://www.ndc.nato.int/nato2099/read.php> See the cover and a page from it below. I also have a PDF you can get if you just ask me (compressed a bit so resolution isn't the best). In this story NATO establish itself in space, with bases on the Moon and everything. I



Ryska rymdspioner hot mot svensk satellitbas

Lapland 2024-07-05. Pustnäs 2024-07-05



Nato pekar ut den svenska rymdbasen Esrange som en avgörande förmåga.

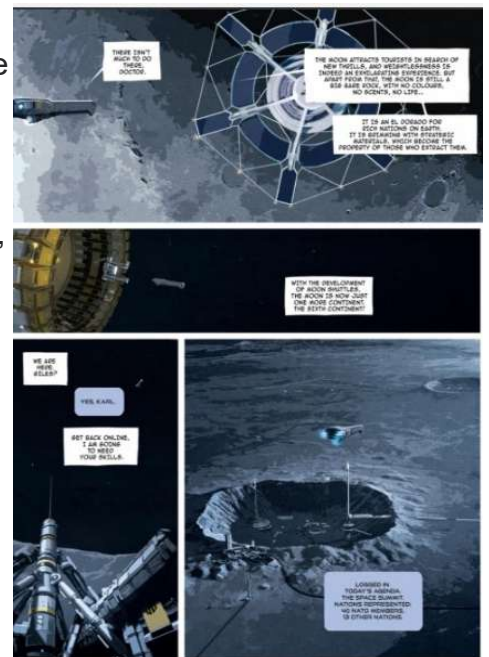
Men intresset från militäralliansen gör att hotbilden växer.

Russian spies may find this space dish at Esrange, Lapland. Satellites RSN!

remember my ideas covered space too, but one thing they didn't use was my idea to let Earth be hit by comet fragments, and letting NATO be helping with evacuations, rescue operations etc from the comet impact. I thought that it would be close to the effects of war, but wouldn't involve people killing each other - which I have some reservations against - but something NATO could do well.

Whatever you think, there's no doubt that NATO today has an important role. NATO states give the Ukrainians the tools to repel and later beat the Russians - something we must continue with. *We cannot let Putin benefit from his senseless, braindead, criminal war!* NATO is eg also the factor that keeps Putin away from the Baltic states.

But there's more about NATO and space. As *Intermission* has mentioned, the Swedish Space Corporation has built capacity for launching satellites from its space research base Esrange in Northern Lapland (it now looks like the first satellites from there, the first from European ground excluding Russia, will come in 2025). The papers write that Esrange now is seen as a strategically valuable asset for NATO. The only other European space base with satellite capacity is in French Guiana, in South America. That's fine for



traditional satellites, but launch sites towards the poles are advantageous for satellites in polar orbits, needed for spy and surveillance satellites that have to "sweep" the surface of the planet North to South as Earth rotates.

But the fear is...Russian spies! Dagens Nyheter wrote July 5, "*Russian space spies a threat to Swedish satellite base*"! I don't doubt Putin's guys would be interested to know what happens there in reindeer country. We'd better beware. There is even suspicions about Russian saboteurs! There have been unexplained de-railings on the important iron ore railway to Narvik. There's no proof that Russians are behind it, but it's a possibility. Russian agents have otherwise been caught around Europe doing or preparing arsons, assassinations, organising fake demonstrations, bribing and much more. They planned to murder the boss of Rheinmetall, big weapons producer, there are fires in weapon's factories and even fire in an IKEA warehouse in Lithuania. They have a hand in many incidents.

From Russia with glove, it seems.

Sweden...borg!

Researching this article I found a hitherto possibly "unknown" early sf story by Swedenborg's friend Christopher Polhem - but that's for the History Corner later.

Last year I wrote about a visit to the Swedenborgians. During the Stockholm Culture Night (20th April) the Swedenborg Forum & Library (51 Oland Street) this year once again held open house with lectures and films. So I went there. Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) was a scientist and mysticist who designed a "Machine that Flies in the Weather", constructed different machines, thought he had mental contact with beings on other planets and believed he knew true Christianity - upon which he founded his own New Church. He wrote a lot about his visions - more than 20 000 pages it's claimed.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emanuel_Swedenborg

I'm not into religion or mysticism, but Swedenborg seems like an interesting person. And it was an interesting evening. Swedenborg is actually more known outside Sweden. There are about 200 Swedenborgians around their Stockholm HQ. The Swedenborgian Church of North America in



Swedenborgain Susanna Åkerman lectures about her Great Master.

Massachussetts has more than 2000 members, and there are other Swedenborgian groups around the world, though they aren't much of missionaries. Swedenborgians are more of introverts.

BTW, the name Swedenborg has nothing to do with the country of Sweden. The country word "Sweden" is connected to one of the original "tribes" forming the nation, known as the "Suiones", or "SVEar" in Swedish. "Sweden" in the name "Swedenborg" is a word referring to burning the undergrowth of a forest for later cultivation, in Swedish called "SVEdjebruk". The two words are false cousins. "Borg" just means castle. Or Wimbledon champion.

Beside being a mystic talking to aliens (even intelligent people may have hallucinations and weird ideas) he was a scientist, eg editor of Sweden's first scientific journal, *Daedalus Hyperboreus* 1716-18 and influenced many during and after his lifetime, among them William Blake, CJL Almqvist, August Strindberg, Charles Baudelaire, Honoré de Balzac, William Butler Yeats and Carl Jung. Read more on the scientist Swedenborg:



Swedenborg notes, with a drawing of his "flying machine". The elliptical wing was aero-dynamically on the right track and he understood that centre of gravity must be low. But it would take a couple of centuries of tests and finding a light enough power source for real flying.

<https://swedenborg.com/emanuel-swedenborg/scientific-writings> or <https://swedenborg-philosophy.org/the-new-philosophy/current-issue/>

There you may find the Swedenborgian journal *The New Philosophy*. There are many documentaries about Swedenborg on Youtube. Try:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UR-ik9JQT0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThXhj2oclQU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEa0e8AcS78>

In Swedenborg's *Other Planets* (translated from Latin, the language he used for his notes) he tells about life on the planets of the Solar system which he claims to have had spiritual contacts with. He wrote it around 1758 when he visited England (where he met the famous astronomer Edmond Halley). You can download the English translation for free here: https://swedenborg.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NCE_OtherPlanets.pdf

But as it is quite tedious reading, I'll make some summaries:

The climate of *Mercury* isn't too hot due to a thick atmosphere. The spirits of its people "*roam throughout the universe...Swedenborg's Mercurians have...a custom of not giving direct answers to questions...a distaste for verbal speech /and they are/ completely uninterested in earthly and bodily things*". Mercurians have a "*wealth of knowledge*". Venusians on the other hand, on the side facing Earth, are "*are savage*



Audience at the Swedenborg Forum & Library.

and almost feral /and/ stupid, with no interest in heaven or eternal life". But Venusians on the side that faces away from Earth are "*gentle and humane*". One wonders how Swedenborg thought one side of Venus could constantly face Earth, like the Moon? (But he was right in that Venus rotates extremely slow.) Jupiter is also populated: "*inhabitants of Jupiter seem somewhat apelike...They do not walk upright like the inhabitants of our planet...but help themselves along with their hands*". (An effect of more gravity? Was Swedenborg thinking of that?) Beings from Saturn are "*upright and modest...and profoundly modest in their worship*". Our Moon is of course inhabited, with people like small boys, and they make "*booming sounds exactly like the thunder that comes from the clouds after lightning.....belching the sound out of their abdomens gave it this thunderous quality...this practice arose out of the fact that the inhabitants of the Moon do not speak from their lungs like the inhabitants of other planets, but from the abdomen and therefore from some air that is stored there*".

Those were the planets known at that time (Uranus was discovered 1781 and Neptune in 1846). In his contacts with the spirits of these people, Swedenborg learns there are inhabited planets around

other stars too. Cosmos is teeming with life! From

<https://swedenborg.com/swedenborg-and-the-plurality-of-worlds-astrotheology-in-the-eighteenth-century-part-1/> we learn:

There was also a lively extraterrestrial life debate in Swedenborg's native country. Two dissertations were defended in the 1740s in Uppsala with the astronomy professor Anders Celsius chairing the proceedings, of which one refuted the idea of a habitable moon, while the other defended the idea of the plurality of worlds. Of more relevance for Swedenborg was a short story about traveling to the moon written by the inventor Christopher Polhem with whom Swedenborg collaborated



An organ Swedenborg built closely for a couple of years. Polhem's Nyia and composed music on..



Swedenborg's gazebo.

tiender uthur mǎnan (News from the moon) from the 1710s tells about a Sami who travels to the moon (Dunér 2013). A Sami had been engaged by some learned men in Uppsala to use wings to fly in the air, but after several unsuccessful flight attempts, another Sami, who was a magician, suggested another way of traveling to the moon. With the help of his magic drum, he could travel there. After spending seven months on the moon, while learning the language of the Lunarians, he returned to earth and told about everything he had seen and heard on the moon.

Swedenborg never talks about advanced science and technology among the aliens, because it was irrelevant. He's only interested in spiritual matters. His aliens all have a relationship with a God, basically the Christian God.

Up to the age of 44 Swedenborg was a run of the mill scientist and inventor. He wrote to his brother describing inventing (on paper, some were never built):

- A flying machine ("a machine, with whose aid a man could rise into the air and travel aloft")
- A submarine ("a kind of boat in which one could travel underwater wherever one wanted")
- A machine gun ("a gun machine that will shoot ten or eleven thousand shots an hour")
- A system of sluices that could be used to transport boats across land
- Several types of water pumps (which he would later put into use when he worked for Sweden's Board of Mines)
- A universal musical instrument ("by the aid of which the most unskilled in music can play all kinds of harmonies that are found in the score")

The last could refer to the organ with 45 pipes that he later built.

But enough about rationality. In 1743 he had an episode when he fell into unconsciousness and began having the mental visions. Many such episodes followed and he spent the last 28 years of his life having visions och contact with other beings in the solr system Some of his time was spent in his gazebo. which he had built in his garden in Stockholms southern district, on Horns Street. In there he could play the organ, he had a library where he often took out a book to read. His Gazebo has been restored and moved to the Skansen outdoor museum, where it is today. He even sometimes composed music on the organ he had constructed himself. Here's an example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5BCG5bVuv8>

Finnccon + Critique of Pure Conning

Early July, 5-7, I took the ferry over to Finncon as usual. Not much to report. Things were about the same as usual. Maybe 1 000 mostly Finns (8 Swedes present) gathered at the Jyväskylä university. Most program was in Finnish. I went to just four program items (GoH interview, Fin-Swe panel, fancy dresses, film) and spent most time walking along the book tables - very little in English this year - or placing myself somewhere outside in the sun, reading and sipping taxfree bheer from the ferry. Other bheer outlets are too expensive for me! I'll present some photos with captions so you get a gist of Finncon 2024, but else I take the time to talk about *cons in general*.

Sf cons have become more boring and stiff in later years. So time for some critique of how the conventions, that used to be fun and lively and good, have become a drag. This is about *all* sf cons (Finncon too, but also eg Eurocon in Uppsala last year). Someone claimed that cons way back were like "badly organised parties"...wrong! They were *well* organised parties, because they *were* parties! Today cons are becoming bureaucratic hellholes.



GoH interview with Ursula Vernon (aka T Kingfisher),

I'll present the critique in separate points points.

Bureaucracy has taken over! The Secret Bureaucrats of Fandom even have their own con-running (con-destroying?) cons, to invent new ways to disappoint the jolly fan. They invent "Codes of



Swedish is an official language of Finland, so there were three program items in Swedish. Here two Finland-Swedes discussing books. About 10 in the audience.

Conduct" when common sense and ordinary social rules is all we need. These "CoCs" are biased and then misused. A US fan was kicked out from a Worldcon because he successfully chaired a panel (what it boiled down to). Cons

today have a whole cadre of yellow vests walking around, patting their beloved walkie-talkies, thinking they are important. "Security" staff has so little to do that they out of boredom will harass folks for the tiniest reasons, just to motivate their existence.

Apropos beaucracy, GRR Martin was turned away from the program of coming Scottish worldcon. The reason: he hadn't logged into and used the con's program site! Instead he had called and mailed them and said he was available, which was no good. I understand him: I tried their site program forms and they weren't exactly streamlined.



Some of the book tables. Few books in English, alas. Few second hand books.

No fannish program! Cons used to have a fan room, with fanzines, fan-history walls, typewriters (in the old days) for writing fanzines, a program of games, fandom memories, quizzes, etc. You may find it on a Worldcon today (but scaled down a lot!) but on ordinary cons: no. The fannish side of fandom is forgotten. And the reson may be...

A substantial lack of humor! Sf is a serious literatur, most of the time, so we need things to ease up when it comes to conventions. Fun stories from the annals of fandom. Jokes. Puns. Parodies. "Crazy" things. Things that make you laugh have always been important in fandom. Remember that people who lack humour are dangerous. Joking is a sign of health, though you today run the risk of being silenced and cancelled if you're not careful! Jokes must be approved by the central committ . Don't challenge any taboos in jokes! Damn you if you make a joke happening to imply something about ethnicity, sex, religion, etc. The bureacrats running things have no humor (conclusion: they are dangerous). John Cleese has noted that starting Monty Python would impossible today.

The Polically Correct routine... Oh my, the Scottish con home page asked people if they wanted to be adressed Mr, Ms or "They" - the last wasn't for a travel group. Why not let sexual orientation be a private matter, like most people would like it to be? Some cons have destroyed banquets by letting the meal be vegetarian. It was a real scandal when someone from the main stage of the 2019 Worldcon claimed John W Campbell was a "bloody fascist" (the man who created modern skiffy was staunchly anti-Hitler, anti-



A Batman fan-made film was shown. Technically very good, and the acting was OK. but the manuscript lacked something. A teaser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knR-dJY95WA>



The entrance to Finncon 2024.

Mussolini etc). It was a flagrant breach of their "Code of Conduct" which banned such outbreaks. For some reason (a virus causing partial blindness perhaps?) this stupidity wasn't acted upon. More: The Scottish con gives half price for membership to "historically underrepresented groups" but refuse to say how on Earth this defined. It's seems as just a way to arbitrarily give perks to favourite ethnic and "minority" groups, and let the rest of the attendees pay for it.

Oh no, not another panel! Con program today lack imagination. The concom produces a number of toipics - the PC ones have priority, of course - and then assigns it to a...panel, over and over and over again. 80% of con programs today are boring panels. In them we find uninteresting (many of them) people who think they are so interesting. So they talk and talk and talk, afraid to lose the word if they stop. The tempo is slow and all the panels soon merge into a big constant humming. Can't you find other things to fill the program with? For my part I usually find a simple lecture by *one person* best, one who has worked with/studied the topic. Works better than mumbling panels. Cons don't have film shows any more - but try to find intersting films to show! There are thousands on Youtube, I know there are lots of films among amateur film makers. Have live demonstrations of robots, unusual science phenomenon, AI, etc. And of course, don't forget fandom and have a decent fan program!

Academic, whackademic... Yeah, some cons have an "academic" program. The universities are available, so why can't "academic" stuff stay there? We have in later years seen increasing problems with degrading higher education. The academy is becoming superficial, non-knowledge oriented, fooling around with this shit called "post-modernism", keen of cancel culture. Universities are rotting and become much less relevant. Why give smart asses another forum, like sf cons, to feel important in, to flash around with impressive sounding, empty merits?



The Finncon masqueraders lining up.



A strange face catching the sinking sun on the ferry back. Bheer was enjoyed.

Where's the bar? Earlier the cons would put a lot emphasis on having a decent and not too expensive bar. The concom would even negotiate the bheer price, so it was a little bit lower for the con attendees. Not so anymore. The last cons I've been to have at most had "cafés", though with beer rights. However, the cafés have often been more than half empty, the atmosphere silent and stiff and bheer prices of 7 euros per half litre or pint keep fans away. Cons need a better blog policy. Bheer and science fiction go together. Ask Poul Anderson who founded *Ølförbundet* with the slogan *Ned med øled!* (Down with the bheer, in Danish.)

Fandom isn't a teetotaler body. Since sf is a literature of breaking boundaries and playing with new ideas, it is by its nature anti-authoritarian. Fans don't like politicians telling them what they can and can't do. *Fandom is anti-totlitarian and anti-teetolitarian.*

History Corner

Scientist and inventor Christopher Polhem (1661-1751) was very well-known in his own time. His machines for instance made huge improvements to the Falun copper mine: hoists, water pumps, water wheels and other ingenious contraptions. He thought out machine guns and submarines. Polhem founded the first engineering school, *Laboratorium mechanicum* in Stockholm in 1697, which later became today's Royal Technical Institute. He built the Stockholm sluice connecting the Baltic Sea with Lake Mälaren. He became head of the Science Academy, created a "Mechanical Alphabet", built a watermill-powered factory that produced clocks and locks and did lots other things. His portrait landed on the SEK500 bill and he has been called "Sweden's Archimedes" as well as "The father of Swedish Mechanics". Polhem is



An entry of Polhem's mechanical alphabet, dealing with how every type of motion can be transformed to another type.

a major figure!

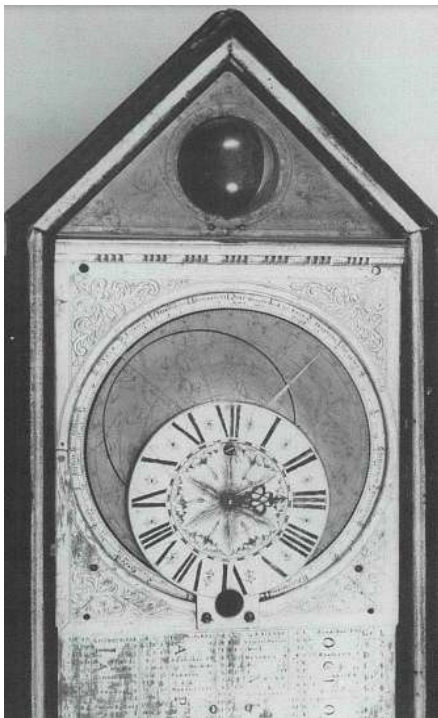
But now it's quite possible that

Sweden's first science fiction author!

I hadn't bumped into the 1710 "News from the Moon" story before. It's not in Bertil Falk's mighty history work *Faktasin*, which he spent lots of time researching (which the halfwits of the Eurocon Grand Master award were ignorant of). In the published collected papers of Polhem, vol 5, there is the space travel tale *Nyia tiender uthur månan* ("News from the Moon"). A Sami - the reindeer herding people in the North - uses a magic drum to go to the Moon and reports back to some wise men. The story centres on something as interesting and odd as...linguistics!

In master Falk's Magnus Opus *Faktasin* we see other candidates of the first Swedish sf writer. One Olof Rydbeck murdered historical science in his *Atlantica* (1677) where he tried to "prove" that Sweden was behind

Greek mythology, the original Atlantis and other silly stuff. Some will call it sf, but it was more "fake news". Around 1700 one Olof Verelius wrote the utopian *Trip to the world city*, but it was in Latin and was probably a rip-off from an earlier Spanish piece. About the same time one Gunno Dahlstierna wrote a long, fantastic...poem. We want prose, like in *Astronomia* by Anders "Thermometer" Celsius, but from later (1735) and already covered in *Intermission* (in Feb 2013). The famous Olof von



Clocks was an early speciality of Polhem. Here's an astronomical clock he built in Uppsala.



CHR. POLHEM 1661-1751
FEM HUNDRA
Christopher Polhem on the 500 crown bill.

Dalin had several pieces oozing of the fantastic in his magazine *The Swedish Argus* 1732-34. Both being much later, as well as Johan Krooks *Thoughts About Earth's Creation* 1741 and CM Bellman satirical *The Moon*, 1760 (which your editor transcribed and sent to Projekt Runeberg <https://runeberg.org/manan/>). So Polhem may have been first writing original sf prose in Swedish.

Unfortunately I can't find Polhem's Moon story on the net, but there're snippets and lots of info in professor Göran Rydén's essay anthology *Sweden in the Eighteenth-Century World - Provincial Cosmopolitans* (2013) which I found as a PDF. In the essay "The Language of Cosmos: The Cosmopolitan Endeavour of Universal Languages" by David Dunér, also professor, we read:

There are forests, lakes and plains on the Moon, and animals, birds, fish and people. There is a language, totally perfect and crystal clear. And the mechanic Christopher Polhem (1661–1751) knows its grammar. In the manuscript Nyia tiender uthur månan ('New tidings from the Moon'), which could have been written at the middle of the 1710s at the earliest, Polhem, the Swedish inventor known for his mining machines and his pre-industrial activities, tells of a Saami with magical knowledge who travels to the Moon, and how he talks to the Moon inhabitants and learns their language.

A Sami going to the Moon! The magic drum could perhaps be interpreted as invoking some sort of teleportation. Polhem wrote what's perhaps the first sf prose in Swedish, and speculating about something as odd and interesting as linguistics:

The strange thing about the language on the Moon is that it is completely regular and easy to learn. We do not have to use an infinite number of words; instead, each word in the lunar language contains entire sentences and phrases in concentrated form. Nor are we forced to plod through irregular and complicated grammar, as in Latin. This language can be learnt by anyone, irrespective of origin, and whether people come from the Moon, the Earth or the most far-flung environs of the Universe. It is a universal language, the language of the Universe, the Cosmos, a truly cosmopolitan language that can be understood by all rational beings, independent of culture and nationality.

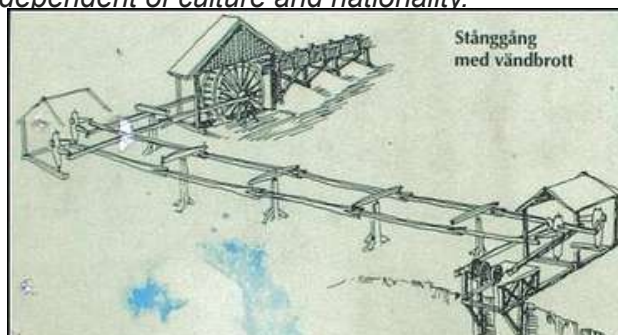


A machine for making cogwheels invented by Polhem.

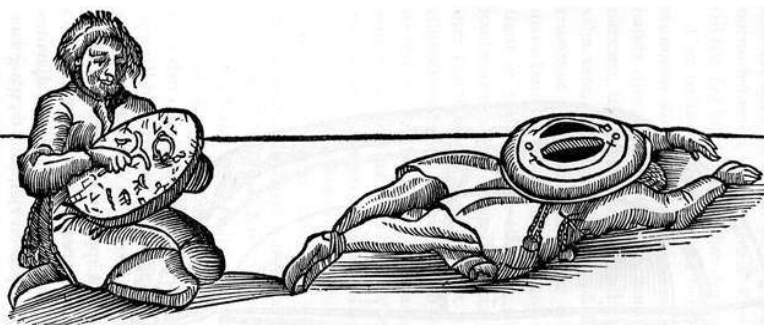
Polhem writes:

I have investigated and observed the strange figures and shapes of the planets using telescopes. The Moon, which is the closest and apparently largest celestial body, has been particularly scrutinised and been seen to be covered by forests, lakes and plains. As it has forests and lakes, Polhem further reasons, there must also be animals, birds and fish. And as there are plains, there must be people, as no plains can exist without people having cleared the forests...A Saami, who had been given the task thanks to his knowledge of magic, tied his magic drum on his back, flung himself flat on the ground and asked that no one touch him until he rose again (Figure 3.1). Some hours passed.

When he woke up, he started to tell what he had seen on the Moon. It turned out to be a country almost like here, with animals, birds and people. The wise men who had witnessed the event were not entirely satisfied with the tale, as they suspected that it might be a fabrication. So they asked him if he could not travel there again, but this time against a greater payment. They particularly requested him to learn their language, and to stay there a longer time to acquire more knowledge and give a more detailed description. The Saami did not have to think long about the offer. Soon, he started his second trip to the Moon. This time he was gone for all of seven months. When he came back, he gave such a detailed description that it was difficult to think that all could be pure lies and invention. Whatever the facts of the matter were, he soon started telling about the language of the lunar inhabitants. 'It was impossible for me,' said the flying Saami, 'to learn their language in their company, as they were frightened of me as of a troll or a ghost.' They had never seen anything like his body, face or clothes. 'I therefore made myself invisible, in order to listen to their conversations unnoticed. I flew from one place to another, and finally arrived at a school, where the lunar children were being taught a language that their learned people used.' One of the curious gentlemen then interrupted and asked whether it could have been Latin? 'I do not



Polhem could transfer hydropower hundreds of yards with connected rods in a "stånggång".



Contemporary woodcut of a Sami with a magic drum

know whether it was Latin or any other language, as I do not understand Latin,' answered the Saami. Latin, but this language of the Moon you could learn quickly, nor do you need as many words, as each word expresses a whole sentence.' Here, the Saami's account started to be slightly It was a pity that he had never studied or understood grammar, as this would have made it possible to learn a bit more about the lunar people's language. But the curious gentlemen carefully recorded all the words the Saami had heard there on the Moon, and tried to bring order to them.

It was rather serious linguistic speculations. We read further:

It was then discovered that it was not a language like ours; a language that appears to originate among children and unlearned people; that lacks a solid foundation, and is improved a bit as time goes by, just like when an old, irregular city is turned into a regular one without moving the old houses. The lunar language, on the other hand, originates with learned people, who have built it on a new foundation. In more detail, the lunar language is built on the following bases. Syllables in their language correspond to whole words in our language. For example, abasaba means: 'the great space of the universe stretches out endlessly on all sides'. Breaking this down, ab means 'spatium' (space), ba 'universale' (the great universe), so that aba means 'spatium universale' (the great space of the universe). And further, sab is a verb that means 'expandere' (stretch out), ba is an adverb that means 'continuè or indefinitè' (endlessly on all sides), and from this we get abasaba 'spatium universum expandit se indefinitè'. From this, we find that the general rule is that when a consonant and a vowel are put together this takes on a special meaning, irrespective of whether it is an adjective, adverb, noun or verb. This differs from our language, where words are used more metaphorically or allegorically and not in their real fundamental sense.

Interest in artificial languages was on the rise at this time, "as a result of gradually decreasing international role of Latin" Wikipedia notes. Rosicrucians and alchemists were interested in "magical languages". Philosophers and mathematicians thought of constructing languages to be able to express things with greater precision. Polhem had learned Latin and encountered foreign languages on his trips in Europe, all of which must have lead him into linguistic speculations. In later years he worked with constructing an artificial language called lingua philosophica. Why it didn't become a success may be obvious from this article by David Dunér:

In a collection of fragments bearing the label "Attempts at a new and brief art of writing", Polhem tries to translate the first verses of Genesis into a universal language.³² He had an idea about an artificial language: a perfect language that could be understood by everyone, no matter from where they came or what natural language they spoke. As the greatest and the most perfect of spirits, God must be called - according to Polhem's universal language - "Spav", and if we say that he "created", it must be "ila." "Heavens" is "f" and "earth" is "k." And "earth was" is "ika", and "formless and void", is "v." God's spirit must be called "Sve." Thus, the two first verses of the Bible are, according to Polhem's universal language: "Spavilafk ikav Sve."

Spavilafk ikav Sve, indeed! As clear as "Kkaatu barada nikto". But hey! This about every syllable being a word and every word a sentence reminds me of something? Checking... Yes, Robert Heinlein had the same idea in the story "Gulf" (1949), where he introduced Speedtalk:

Speedtalk was a structurally different speech from any the race had ever used. Long before, Ogden and Richards had shown that eight hundred and fifty words were sufficient vocabulary to express anything that could be expressed by "normal" human vocabularies, with the aid of a handful of special words - a hundred odd - for each special field, such as horse racing or ballistics. About the same time phoneticians had analyzed all human tongues into about a hundred-odd sounds, represented by the letters of a general phonetic alphabet. On these two propositions Speedtalk was based.

To be sure, the phonetic alphabet was much less in number than the words in Basic English. But the letters representing sound in the phonetic alphabet were each capable of variation several different ways - length, stress, pitch, rising, falling. The more trained an ear was the larger the number of possible variations; there was no limit to variations, but, without much refinement of accepted phonetic practice, it was possible to establish a one-to-one relationship with Basic English so that one phonetic symbol was equivalent to an entire word in a "normal" language, one Speedtalk word was equal to an entire sentence. The language



The AI came up with this when asked to do an illustration for Polhem's News from the Moon

consequently was learned by letter units rather than by word units - but each word was spoken and listened to as a single structured gestalt... All other languages made scientific, multi-valued logic almost impossible to achieve, in Speedtalk it was as difficult not to be logical. Compare the pellucid Boolean logic with the obscurities of the Aristotelean logic it supplanted.

I have my doubts about "Speedtalk" and similar schemes. Such languages would a) be difficult to learn, b) be unusable since we don't think as fast as speedtalking goes, and c) forget the reason why natural languages are slower and redundant: the redundancy is a way of error checking, meaning that when you hear a message garbled you may still get the message due to the grammar error coding. Another thing: it's doubtful you can build a language in a way that it's impossible to be illogical in it. If a language is "complete" it can express anything, but if it isn't...it's useless.

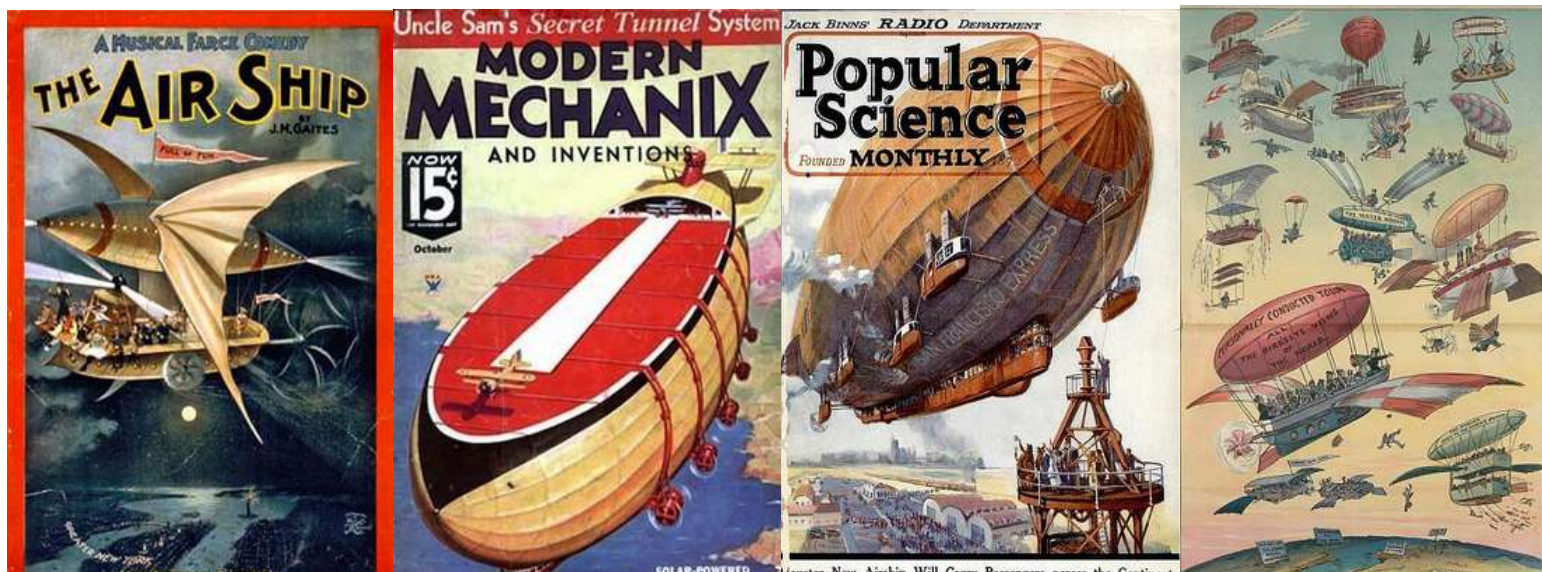


Joe R Struly had a tour on this.

Have you had an airship trip? I have. In the mid-1980s *Teknikmagasinet* magazine was invited to take a tour onboard a Goodyear blimp, and I was assigned to dare it. We started from Bromma Airport and circled around Stockholm a sunny spring day. Magic!

As aeroplanes improved, interest in fragile airships faded in the 1930s especially after a series of accidents (Hindenburg in 1937 was the nail in the coffin).

I remember an old mockumentary by Lars Helander, early fan and later TV producer, where we



Already in 1898 saw the musical comedy "The Air Ship" We saw ideas about a flying aircraft carrier in Modern Mechanix. Popular Science envisioned a future zeppelin with a huge gondola. Last a poster of fantasy airships.

heard Michael Moorcock claim that zeppelins had never existed. But they certainly existed in the Dagens Nyheter article Sep 14, 1916, "Zeppelin attack on steamer Nordland. Ship bombed by two German airships. The steamers could escape only through skillful navigation":

Reuters has received these details from authentic sources about German airships a while ago unmotivated attacks on steamer Nordland, belonging to a firm in Gothenburg. While the steamer was enroute from Middlesborough to Narvik the captain heard shots fired ca 33 miles from Tyne, which he thought was from an English patrol boat. Shortly after, time was 2:20 am, a zeppelin was observed. Without making the faintest attempt to find out Nordland's nationality, the airship dropped 7 bombs, that fell into the water beside the steamer but all within 20 feet. The captain ordered all lights out. And the voyage continued. Half an hour later another airship was observed, from which 9 bombs were dropped towards Nordland. Two of these fell just two feet from the ship, and Nordland escaped destruction only through skilled navigation. A number of shrapnel fell on the deck of Nordland, but luckily without anyone being injured. And neither was the ship damaged.

That was more from my stash of 1916 newspapers.

Since we're speaking of languages, it may be of interest to introduce you to some Swefandom "fanslang" and concepts. I've looked into the *Fandboken* ("The Fandbook") fancyclopedia and selected a few entries.



(The Fandbook is full of names of sf clubs, fanzines, pseudonyms fen have used, convention listnings, descriptions of events and so on, and unique Swefandom slang is just the tiniest fraction of it. A lot of originally English-language fanspeak of course there.) The Fandbook formally covers Swedish fandom 1945 to 1995 - fifty years! Sometime in the 1990s our local fandom began to wither, besieged by mediafandom, silly costumes, superheroes and cons slowly turning boring. Fanzines stopped coming almost entirely. From the mid 1990's there hasn't been much fannish creativity, not much of interest happening so it was logical to stop 1995, and much below is from the 1980s, the golden era of Swedish fandom.

Autarkatet - *"The Autarchy", a state in southern Sweden in the 1960's Fannish War lead by The Autarch (Dénis Lindbohm) who in mail, fanzine articles, tape recordings etc battled with the Hyboria, lead by Lord Theo (Sam J Lundwall). This living satire of real world politics went on for several years. Others eventually proclaimed their own states and joined the Fannish War, but as things became complicated the war ebbed out.*

Brungangol - *A fan who often does his duty with blog (ie down with it!). The expression was never common, but so interesting I'll include it here... Brungangol is old Norse meaning "He who often goes to the well". Bheer and blog (there's even special words and spellings) have a long connection to fandom, as expressed by eg Poul Anderson founding Ølførbundet - Bheer Federation - with the maxim Ned med øled!*

Bytteabbo - *Trade as in trading fanzines, short for approx "exchange subscription". The tradition that faneds exchange their fanzines with each other has been very important in our local fandom. (If you're curious, you may mutter a little "botto ibo?" as on a Salingsåsfandom cassette zine.)*

Chairman Larsson - *Nickname for Stieg Larsson at the time he was chairman of the Scandinavian SF Association.*

Den fanniska råkraften - *"The Fannish Raw Power", the superstrength that can overwhelm you when you do fannish things. It makes you manage 24 hours behind the keyboard. It's the force that magically finds you more bheer when desperately needed. The force fields that stops the stencil stylus rolling off the table...*

Det finns mycket - *"There is much", the universal answer to any question.*

Dumska - *"Stupidness", except that the word "dumska" doesn't really exist in Swedish. From the Froggy Gordon cartoons by Lars LON Olsson.*

Faktasi - *"Factasy", alternate term for science fiction. Another one is "vetsaga", used by Harry Martinson scholar Tord Hall.,*

"Fandom är egentligen något mycket större än oss själva" - *"Fandom is actually something much bigger than ourselves". Famous quote from one of the Salingåsfandom kazzines.*

Fanilsen - *"fan greetings", from Danish/Norwegian "fanhilsen", also used sometimes in Swefandom.*

Fanweek - *When the rest of the household is away or the house/flat is otherwise empty, just announce a fanweek, an open house when any fellow fan may turn up 24/7 (related: a fannish weekend, the same but just over the weekend).*

Fanzineblockad - *If he refuses to trade or if you're angry with someone, you can declare that he's under fanzine blockade. The first fanzine blockade was announced in the autumn of 1978 by one Marvyn de Vil against Anders Belly. The international cultural magazine Intermission presently maintains a strict fanzine blockade against that inter-galactic villain Vlad Putin and his cronies.*

FATT-fan - *Fandom's Answer to a Twelve-ton Truck, a fan that can carry a lot. One example is when the Scandinavian SF Association's new printing press was carried into the SF-Bokhandeln on Atlas Street in the late 1980s.*

15 September - *Not really fanspeak, but the day (1945) when the club Atomic Noah was founded, wanting to build space ships to save mankind from the atomic war. To be considered as the first Swedish sf club.*

Frusen metanhockey - *Tabletop ice-hockey. But as sf fans we don't play on ice, but have frozen methane hockey. There have been tournaments for it, eg on Finncon (but they don't call it frozen methane hockey). Methane BTW freezes at -182C...*

"Gnugga sin käcka rokokorumpa i morgongröten" - *Can't say this became very widespread, but worth mentioning because it made it to the fanzine column of Amazing SF (ca 1980). They got hold of a bunch of Swedish fanzines and thought it was fun that the hero in a space opera parody to get out of a fix began to "gnugga sin käcka rokokorumpa i morgongröten" ("rubbed his dashing rococo ass in the morning porridge").*

Gurka - *Cucumber, the first and most influential of the early 1980's small carbon-copied APAs, half a dozen members, ca 50 mailings. Many more in the same style followed, most lasted a short time only.*



Frozen Methane Hockey is played on this.

Gösta - A figure used by Uppsala-fandom. If they like someone they claim "Gösta will nail someone like you!".

"Hur, men vart?" - "How, but where?", a motto from Borås fandom in the early 1980s.

Gårdagens värld idag igen - "Yesterday's World Today Again", motto of the newszine VÄ, inspired by the slogan "Tomorrow's World Today". A newszine should tell what has just happened ("yesterday") so it must present the yesterday today. Again.

"Helvetes förbannade fittbastarder" - "Damn cunt bastards from hell", as phrase used by the "typesetter" or what to call him, Mr Belly in the Börje Crona novel World in Danger. He often smuggled on his own questionable jokes in books. No big deal he claimed, just fun, but it was big enough for Mr Crona to be forced to take out an ad in the biggest Swedish morning paper offering excuses that his book had been sabotaged.

"En hörnsten i varje sf fans bokhylla" - "A cornerstone in the book shelves of every sf fan", a common phrase used by reviewer Roland Adlerberth, reviewing tons of books for decades in both Håpna! and JVM. He used an informal style with many linguistic innovations, known as adlerberthian.

INS - (Sensitive readers beware:) "Ignorant Neo Shit", what some used to call neofans...

It sveri good - Alternate Swefandom phrasing of "It's very good". "Sveri" is from the country's name in the local incomprehensible lingo: SVERIGE (local fandom thus often calls itself "Sverifandom").

Jordnötsloppet - "The Peanut Race", inspired by British fandom's Great Pork Pie Race: use imaginative means to transport a peanut 2 metres. (Peanuts were the staple food of sf meetings, provided by Lars-Olov Strandberg.)

Kazzine - A fanzine made as recordings on a Philips sound cassette. The best ones came in the 1980s, from Salingsåsfandom (David Nettle, Martin Kristenson & co from Sala, and Erik Andersson & Co from Alingsås.) Others, like skiffy author Bertil Mårtensson, also did kazzines. (Today people imitate this and call it "pods". Copycats!)

Meteorboll - The game of rounders, somewhat like baseball, but instead of shouting "burnt!" you shout "Disintegrated" to take a player out. As this word is longer it gives the outfield team a slight advantage, as they otherwise usually are at a disadvantage. (There are several variations of rounders. Meteorball use these Swedish rules: <https://www.piffl.se/activity/rounders>)

"...många goda enskildheter, but..." - "...many good singularities, but...". Phrase used by Sam J Lundwall when he rejected a story for Jules Verne Magasinet.

Pontonjärgatan 45 - 45 Pioneer Street, the address of the Scandinavian SF Association and the first SF-Bokhandeln, 1977-1980, a place of intrigues, myth-making, minicons, many meetings, a tornado of fannishness (perhaps resembling the 1940s LASFS Bixelstrasse a bit?). The original Swedish "Pontonjär" refers to what the military in English call "pioneer troops" (who build bridges and other installations). There was a pioneer regiment on that street in older times. Stieg Larsson was there, and you and me and John-Henri and all of us.

ql - Alternate spelling of "kul" (fun). That and other abbreviations and slangwords were a part of the peculiar informal "appeltoffian", used in eg correspondence by Alvar Appeltoff, perhaps a bit similar to ackermanese.

Robban Heinlein - What RAH sometimes is called here ("Robban" being a nickname of "Robert"). Comes from a faaanfiction story with one Ture Storm who had a T-shirt exclaiming "Heja Robban Heinlein!"

Samuel Delany - In the early 1980s the myth flourished in Stockholm fandom that Chip Delany had a secret passion: to jump on a plane to Stockholm to be a driver of a Metro train for a few days!

SEFF-skandalen - The 1987 scandal when misters JH and AB faked 34 fan fund votes to embezzle its funds, \$3500-4000 in today's worth. The deed had devastating effects on Swefandom.

StF - StockholmFandom (yeah, we know it also stands for "scientifiction"), sometimes thinking of itself as "The Squares of StF" (think of Irish Fandom and "The Wheels of IF").

Stora mossen - Metro station in Stockholm (the one closest to Sam J Lundwall when he lived on Storskogs Way) giving name to a this dialogue game, inspired by the similar game Finchley Central known in British fandom. Take turns naming Stockholm metro stations and the first to say "Stora Mossen" wins...

Sverifandom - What Swedish fandom calls itself.

"There are only three bookstores in New York" - A claim by Sam J Lundwall in a famous interview in 1979 by the newszine VÄ (the first incarnation of SFJ). Lundwall always had a double-edged relationship to this bastion of bloody capitalism called the US of A. The quote was an attempt to pin down Americans as uncultural. ChatGTP says "there are over 200 independent bookstores across the city of New York".

Vita prickar i ett svart mörker - "White dots in a black darkness", from an interview with fan Wolf von Witting in big newspaper 1980. Wolf knew so much and was so in awe of the magic of space, just imagine...white dots in a black darkness!

Witter (adjective) - fun or fannish - which is the same thing... There's the existing word "vitter" meaning well-read. The "w"-spelling was picked up from the fan group WDFV. From this comes that exchanging "v" for a "w" is considered fannish spelling. Witter is probably related to witty.

The Mechanical Butcher, 1895



Just a selection of words, concepts, quotes etc from local fandom and not known internationally...yet. Beside this, Swefandom has also always used the most common English language fanslang: BNF, Gafia, LoC, mimeo, trufan, etc. *The Fandbook* of course doesn't include many words relating to eg gaming, masquerading, film/TV (eg the Star Trek-specific) since such doesn't belong to true, traditional fandom. Sorry, but for me and many others fandom is connected to literature and text and things that build on the almost 100 years of fannish history. Folks who don't talk about "sci-fi"...

"The X-Rays", 1897



What was the first sf film? Let's look at some candidate. Wikipedia claims this film by George Méliès is the first sf movie, "The Mechanical Butcher" (1895), about a pig brought into a machine that automatically makes sausages and things from it (rather cruel!):

<https://youtu.be/X6PNgbOxNDg>

I have my doubts about classifying it as sf, since such a machine is quite near what could or is done in reality... Méliès made another perhaps-sf film in 1897, with a clown and a mechanical man, but Wiki says it's lost. Not lost is George Albert Smith's "The X-Ray" from the same year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gMCKFRMJQQ>

"Astronomer's Dream", 1898



showing a couple becoming half-transparent skeletons after being exposed to x-rays. Perhaps skiffy? George Méliès made a similar film "The Röntgen Rays" the same year, but Wiki says it's also lost. But in 1898 he also made "The Astronomer's Dream", where an astronomer is visited by a series of strange beings in his dream, incl a giant moon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8SMliQZUcs>

As it's a "dream" a dream fantasy may be more appropriate?

"Mr Moon", 1901



The Moon was central for several of the first skiffy films! But George Méliès's "A Trip to the Moon" wasn't the first moon film (but perhaps the best!). It came in 1902, but we find a short film of a ukulele-playing Moon from 1901, "Mister Moon": <https://youtu.be/LRYSuuXUZ2Y>

Back to Méliès, "The Impossible Voyage" (1904) was another masterpiece by him: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZVgCTQFKXo> Scientists go to

strange places using different transports, incl a visit to the Sun and ending up in a submarine. See the beautiful hand-coloured version!

The Moon appeared also in this quite entertaining roll, "The Motorist"

(1906): <https://youtu.be/Gnu02WeQ44>. This fun film



illustrates the idea of "cut to the chase"! A motor car - at a time when few of such things were around! - is chased, and drives up on house walls, on clouds, around the moon, using the rings of Saturn as a roundabout, etc.

More films. I found this 1916 ad about (did some googling) the film "The Suspect" (Swedish title "From New York's Secret Police") shown on cinema Drott:

"The Motorist", 1906





From the Secret Police of New York. Unanimous film critics notes that this masterly, expressively played, by the beautiful and sympathetic all over the world admired artist /Anita Stewart/ and the male star Mr ANDERS RANDOLPH without exaggeration here achieves somethings lively and exciting, altogether human with a naturally captivating plot, that gets spirit and life. At first screening this spring this remarkable film creation was an outstanding public success.

I didn't know that New York had a "secret police" force. Maybe it had something to do with the corrupt Tammany Hall organisation? Sweden had introduced film censors in 1911, but no complaints about this film from there.

Local police still had a say, and in Karlskrona city they didn't like the film. Dagens Nyheter October 30, "Karlskrona film censorship. Another letter from pollice chief Levertin to JO" (Justice Ombudsman):

Another letter about the censorship battle in Karlskrona is delivered to JO, namely from police chief Levertin, who answers remarks by the National Cinema Bureau. He

claims to be in his right to act as he did, and the fact that the fact that the cinema bureau has passed the film doesn't mean is suitable to show. In other cases it's been due to that the bureau chief has been convinced of the infallibility of the scrutinisers... The undersigned...has another opinion, If we presume all human insrtitutions are fallible and that the cinema bureau is no exception, and a mistake seems to have been performed here about the meaning of a film and its effect on the audience, and the alliance the bureau has made, as it declares "From New York's secret police" being ethically and estehically being among the very best that has been submitted to the national cinemna bureau. Beside persons with signed statements declaring it free of offensiveness, others have, both in this city and elsewhere, confirmed the film being partly revolting and terrible, especially the scen where the seduced gitl tries to strangle the seduce. Those who find this scene especially cruel may also find an eloquent example in the esthetically done program booklet. There's no point to quarrel in matters of taste, but an excuse should be uttered by the agency trusted with the task of film censorship in our country as they lead public's taste. Regarding the esthetic properties of the film they could be summarises as a seduced woman committs attempted murder of her unfaithful lover and dosen't succeed in her intention to take his life and as punishment she gets the forgiveness by the victim. Such morality may work in France - country of crimes of passion - and America - where women are made into goddesses, but won't get high points inSweden, where attempted murder luckily still falls under the prosecution and the punishment is life in prison or 6-10 years.

As I understand it the police chief wasn't satisfied with that the murderess wasn't thrown in jail. I think this old silent film is available to download from what at least looks like Russian sites (I haven't dared to go there) and maybe elsewhere, so why not try to have a look yourself.

I believe the right of the local police to implement their own censorship was soon stopped, but the cinema censorship bureau was scrapped as late as 2011. At that time it hadn't censored a films for years and had only evaluated if a film should be R-rated or not (allowed from 15 years and up). Censorship for cinemas of course became meaningless when movies are everywhere on TV (they have other rules), DVDs, and of course the Internet.

The ban on sex in media was scrapped in the early 70s (I believe 1971) so only excess violence was censored, but then came something called video and VHS and censorship began to fall apart. There was a famous TV debate in 1980 (available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgj6gR-Kbt0>) about the film "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre". My opinion is that people are both more intelligent and tougher than some think, when encountering "uncomfortable" stuff in movies, comics, books etc. It takes much more to be "desensitized" and censorship isn't needed. (At least for adults. But it may be wise to limit material aimed at influence the

Filmcensuren i Karlskrona.

En ny skrivelse från polismästare Levertin till J. O.

I filmcensurstriden i Karlskrona har ännu en skrift ingivits till J. O., nämligen från polismästare Levertin, som däri bemöter statens biografbyrås yttrande i ärendet. Han hävdar att han anser sig haft full rätt att ingripa som han gjort och påpekar att det förhållandet att biografbyrån godkännt filmen inte nödvändigtvis behöver förutsätta att filmen ej är olämplig att visas. När så skett, torde det ej kunna bero på annat än att vederbörande byråchef varit livligt övertygad om granskningens ofelbarhet.

Undertöcknad — i likhet med lagstiftaren, som uttryckligt medgivit polismyndigheten rätten att ingripa på sätt som skett — står på en annan ståndpunkt, förklarar polismästaren. Utgår man nämligen från att alla mänskliga institutioner äro bristfälliga och att statens biografbyrå icke härifrån utgör det enda undantaget, lär man i likhet med mig kunna tänka sig det fall att statens granskingsmän, hur kvalificerade de än må vara, kunna misstaga sig i fråga om en films innebörd och dess verkan på publiken. Ett dylikt misstag torde, efter allt att döma, föreligga här, trots den propägorien som statens biografbyrå ansett sig kunna ingå för filmen i fråga, då den förklarar filmen "Från Newyorks hemliga polis" vara "etiskt som estetiskt en av de allra yppersta som statens biografbyrå haft att godkänna".

Förutom de personer som i avgivna inlägg vittordat filmens anstötighet, är nämligen även av andra åskådare, både här i staden och annorstädes, bekräftats att filmen delvis varit av synnerligen vämlig och ruslig beskaffenhet, vilket särskilt förklarats vara fallet med den långt utdragna scen där den förförda flickans ader efter alla konstens regler söker stryva förörraren. Med den som finner ifrågavarande, om sällsynt rådet vittnande om, varpå ett vältaligt prov finnes återivet i det hos eder ingivna reklamhäftet, statistiskt tilltalande, lönar det sig uppenbarligen ej att tvista i smakfrågor, varmot ett beklagande av att den som fällt ett dylikt omdöme är den myndighet som är sig anförtrödt att utöva biografcensur i vårt land och därigenom leda allmänhetens smak torde vara på sin plats.

Vad beträffar filmens etiska förtjänster, så dessa framgå äro att i Sverige den förberedda skådespelet i kortet kan manumattas sålunda att en förförd kvinnas begär mordförsök mot sin otrogna älskare och hart när lyckas i sitt uppdrag att bringa honom om livet, blir straffet om hon vinnor ofrjets förlåtelse.

En dylik moral kan måhända tillfredsställa de etiska begreppen i Frankrike — missionsförbytelsans — och Amerika — inoffensivitetens förlovade land — men lär näppeligen ha hög kurs i Sverige, då dess bättre mordförsök alltjämt höra till allmänt åtal och bestraffas med afarbete på livstid eller från 6 till och med 10 år.

Säkert är att därest det blir en fastslagen praxis hos statens biografbyrå att känna bilder av ifrågavarande slag, vid så åskådande den mera finkänsliga delen av publiken, i främsta rummet den allmänna, riskerar att behöva lämna förehången, det lär bli nödvändigt att leda nu befintliga två kategorierna av "godkänd för barn under femton" eller "icke godkänd för barn under ton år" även inför en tredje kategori "äst för herrar".

Polismästaren övergår därefter att åter för J. O. det enligt hans mening olämpliga uppträdande i ärendet som censor Berg gjort sig skyldig till.

basic norms of young people. Kids aren't intellectually equipped to evaluate anything about sex and gender, for instance.) With AI coming, we could expect that any barriers against showing anything will crumble. You ask what you want and AIs produce it. What shall we think and do about that?

Mailing Comments

Henry Grynsten: the robots /as/ just machines, then they would be just - machines. Humans are machines too, biological machines. they would not accept being treated as anything less than humans Oh, just program them to like being treated in this or that way! Remember that humans are programable too, through eg the school (programming takes longer and is more uncertain, but still).
☞☞ "I remember earlier you had problems with the word processor and an entire issue was lost" It was almost an entire issue. The text was overwritten with ##### ☞☞ What is Swedish fandom today? Dying. So is traditional fandom everywhere, to be replaced by mediafans who dress up in silly costumes, play games, superficially adore silly TV series or films. To keep some knowledge alive about *real* fandom is a reason to do the "History Corner". ☞☞ (About genre development.) Genres develop, not drastically, not fast, but a little. A crime story today is quite a bit different than one from the 1960s. The same goes for skiffy. I generally tend to think the older stories and writers are *better*. ☞☞ No matter how many lines we add, a trillion lines, it will not develop consciousness. It will, at a certain complexity consciousness will pop up. Not ready and running from the very start, but ready to accept and process information (like a child does). Most scientists connected to neurology, brain, electronics say it's a matter of complexity. (And common sense says it MUST be so.) ☞☞ I have come to believe that consciousness is an embodied phenomenon that requires a body and senses. It certainly requires input! It may come from senses and a body, but from any type of sense and body, not just biological ones. Information processing - and consciousness is that - is medium independent. You can build a system of cogwheels that add 1001 and 0010. You can build an arrangement of rolling marbles that does the same. You can build electronics to do it. Biological cells can be arranged to do it. ☞☞ (About zombies.) I agree that belief in zombies, as portrayed in popular culture, is irrational. But I know there are drugs that may have effects that mimic *some* behaviour of that kind of zombies. In the future we will get computerised zombie-like programs, using AI to "revive" deceased loved ones so we can communicate with them.

William McCabe: I hope your health tests will be positive, oh, I mean negative, eh...well, showing *no worries*. ☞☞ A RAF pilot sff club in Brum? Very interesting. You should contact Rob Hansen who is the premiere chronicler of British fandom history. ☞☞ I know that Archive.org has a lot of bootleg recordings. Fine thing. ☞☞ I think we will get Asimovian robots, based on AI. The thing is that such creatures will be so useful that we can't avoid them. Most things in our society is designed for the human form and shape, so it's practical to build such robots.

Heath Row: Interesting article about "Nonfic for SF Readers". I read a lot of nonfic: history, science, technology, culture, biographies (recently I've read a couple of books about the interesting physicist Richard Feynman and one about Freeman Dyson). ☞☞ I have made a PDF of the complete run of Vår Rymd ("Our Space"). It's not very pretty since it's from photos snapped with a mobile and not scanned, but it is complete and readable (with a little difficulty for some parts).



(Batman has the bat signal. Froggy Gordon has...) Colonel Armourymarshal is desperate: "I must call for Froggy Gordon." / Most are unaware of that to the left of the entrance to the Royal Armoury's southern hall - next to a display of 16th century weapons - is a secretive little button. The direct alarm for " / "Froggy Gordon. Ring Pling Klingeling "Oh well, Mankind is in dire straits again." ("Swedish original character name "Blixt-Grodon" is a wordplay on "Flash Gordon" and "frog", so we interpret it to "Froggy Gordon".)

Garth Spencer: Interesting speculations about "Third, Fourth, or Fifth-Level complexity", but I'm not sure I understand it all... ☞☞ I do have an external HD, which by now is full with a backup which I did 2-3 years ago (it took forever to make that backup). Since I have purchased sets of USB-sticks of up to 64 GB also used for backups, as well as a "cabinet" where I put an old SSD disk for daily use. Yeah, I think a lot about how to store data. Generally, storing and handling data, new and old, is often confusing and takes a lot of time... ☞☞ Time to Bye-Bye... Och författande svenska läsare: sänd tävlingsnovell senast 3 sep och bli (kanske) delägare i SF-Bokhandeln.
<https://www.freelists.org/post/skriva/FANTASTIKNOVELLTVLINGEN-2024>

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