

The New Port News
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for

SFPA 236

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Cover art by Rex and Laurence Whistler, 1946

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on October 7.

Bob's Infected Nose - weber - I'm not sure whether the pseudo-Hagar strip reminds me more of Hank or you - you have the shrubbery, after all.... Sorry to hear about the job problems. The thought of you in sales or "making children smile" boggles the mind!

I collect books with interesting art, so I can usually find something to decorate an apazine with. I've barely touched the nine volumes of bookplates published by the *Ex Libris Society* that I got on sale years ago. Some time ago I used a picture of Merlin and Vivian in a boat and can't find again the issue or the book I lifted it from. A fan in the UK wanted to know.

Yes, February 17 2003, the date of Harry Warner's death, is just a guess - they had to put something on the death certificate. The same happened with Paul Willis, the editor of *Anubis*, who had apparently been dead even longer before anyone noticed.

I enjoyed the *Stone Tape* tape, much thanks! I thought the 1957 Chevy was ugly and know nothing else about it - I just quoted the Wallechinsky entry from one of their massive compendiums of assorted fact and opinion.

John George Hohman's **The Book of Powwows** or *The Long Lost Friend* is real enough - I have two editions of it. Hohman seems to have borrowed much of it from folk beliefs or older books. It contains a spell similar in purpose to the one quoted in Manly Wade Wellman's *Vandy Vandy*, but the language is not as poetic. The earliest Hohman (or *Johann Georg Homann* or *Hohmann*) edition was published in Pennsylvania in 1819. but some of the material has been traced back to a 1725 book attributed to Albertus Magnus - who lived in the 13th century. Both the books I have are 20th century and in turgid prose. They give the original 1819 Preface - there is no mention of a translator, so perhaps Hohman's was the first version of the material in English. Aside from the Wellman connection, the book figured in the Blymyer "witch murder" trial in York PA in 1929, which was the basis for the Arthur Lewis novel **Hex**. made into an excellent Donald Sutherland film *Apprentice to Murder*. But the book itself is "white magic", full of crosses and invocations of the Trinity.

I don't object to Fahey's "Christmas music" because it is Christian - I am a Christian. But I have seen the song lists and for the most part it isn't music I care to hear again, in any form.

I think it was Huntz Hall with the beanie - wasn't he the tall goofy-looking one?

I may get the Pogue's *Peace and Love* if still available, thanks for the song list.

I may still have the TurboBasic program I wrote for the rate of exhaust of air from a pressurized vessel. You are right of course that aircraft are not pressurized to the 14.7 psi of sea level - most people (as long as they aren't exerting themselves) are comfortable at 75-80% of that, which is what you get in Denver or Bogota. But in any case a bullet-hole in a fuselage skin could be plugged before cabin pressure became dangerously low.

Old Iron Butt - Guy - Nice photos!

Variations - Lynch - I downloaded and read some of the final report on the cause of the *Columbia* disaster - the problem seems to have been lumps of hand-applied insulation foam from the bipod ramps that eventually hit the wing leading edge in the wrong place. I don't think it will be very hard to modify the bipod ramp so that there is no thick layer of foam there to escape. But whether a repair kit can be devised that would allow a repair in orbit I don't know.

I never concealed being an SF fan from coworkers at NASA - in fact I had to apply for a "permission" to publish books as an outside "job". And I was a member of the Hampton Roads SF Association, which had enough NASA members that it could use the Activities Building for meetings.

Would Harry Warner have had any say in the reprinting of his newspaper columns? Wouldn't the rights belong to the paper as work-for-hire?

The conservative talk-radio rabble-rousers may have been busy, but I can't believe their excesses approach the entire output of SFPA! I have most of SFPA in a closet and it runs to 20 feet - say 100,000 pages or something like 25 million words.

Travelers Tales - Hughes - Great photos! I wish you had visited Tom Cockcroft in Lower Hutt.

Twygradsil - Dengrove - Weird cover! Is it supposed to be a bedroom or a tomb? Are those bunk beds? What use are those handles so high on the wall? A fantasy of Martha Stewart's prison cell?

Interesting discursion on ghosts, but I would prefer to see one for myself. Can they be rented? Does *Ghosts-R-Us* deliver?

If I didn't mow my lawn here, it would quickly become an impenetrable thicket of blackberry, Virginia creeper, gum trees, and other native plants. The alternative to mowing that some people here take is to cover the yard with pine needles - if there are enough pine trees in the yard this will happen naturally. Part of my back yard is that way - the pine needles smother all the growth beneath the trees.

I think jade daggers were mostly ornamental - you can probably get an edge on it, but such a weapon would snap at the first use as the tensile strength is low.

The general in charge at the Guantanamo concentration camp admitted in a *60 Minutes* interview that prisoners were "interrogated" by teams for as much as 16 hours at a time - not in a class with the rack or other medieval torture devices perhaps, but neither does it conform to my idea of justice. Some of these prisoners are still teenagers and none are charged with any crime. Basically, we invaded Afghanistan, killed several thousand people (some of whom were armed) and kidnapped several hundred more. No one has explained what benefit it is to us to hold these people in cages in the tropics.

Space Travel - Poulette - Your "new" typewriter needs the keys cleaned!

Nice Distinctions - Hlavaty - If I had known you liked rats I might have trapped the ones in the basement for you. I'm not sure what kind of rats they are - the gurus are divided between "Norway rat" and "roof rat". I have no idea where they hang out when they aren't visiting my basement, which is not provided with either food or water. I haven't found that they did any damage (other than leaving droppings around) but I find it annoying to see them on the a/c ducts, and who knows what diseases they or their fleas may carry? Or when they may decide to gnaw on the literature or the wiring?

Perhaps the costs of running the prisons will eventually bring some sanity to the criminal justice industry - I agree with you about the decriminalization of drugs and consensual sex. I see no excuse for any of the laws against gambling or fortune-telling either.

Adventures - Hughes - Nice booklet - looks oddly like an SF con Program Book!

The Sphere - Don - Some of the spammers seem to be totally incompetent - I get great piles of bad HTML code that the browser could not digest and just presents as ascii.

It's been a long time since I had a car refuse to start, but if I took one out in the boonies a lot a backup manual starter would be a comfort - assuming that's even possible with a modern engine. Even the little 4-cylinder engines in my Toyotas are probably a good bit heavier and higher compression than what was in the old Model T.

Threat? Frown? Wingnut? Uh.... Oh, my joke about the Wolflord - that was mere foolishness.

Things that "got better because of the war on Iraq" - the profits of Dubya's cronies in the arms and "reconstruction" industries....

O.E. Oh - divers fen - Since my name is taken in vain here I will say that I don't quite see the connection between not making it to DSC and becoming OE! I could no doubt manage the technical details of getting the mailings out, but I can't work up any enthusiasm for the job - I am not a natural booster or manager. Perhaps as we all drift into senility we will have to have co-OEs - one to do the sorting and printing and mailing, and another to edit the OO.

Speaking of old fans, I had an e-mail from a member of North Carolina Fandumb, "Good Time Eddie" Ferrell. He's now part of the *South Carolina Pro Musica*.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Great "Boar War" cover! Nice piece about PL. Good account of your legal adventures - but how did you know that Rudy's IQ is 101? By definition this is "normal", and I suppose there must have been a time when it was adequate for the "normal" citizen. I don't think that is true now - mine is supposed to be around 130 and I often feel overwhelmed by the modern world.

The "Our Lady of Fanzines" cover was lifted from some website long ago. I suppose I really had no right to use it - or does it fall under "fair use" as an apazine cover from a typewriter fan? If I can find the site again I'll send them a copy, if I can get a street address.

My impression is that "Emmanuel" is way too looney (to use a technical term) to have formed a rational intent to kidnap or rape Elizabeth Smart - but in any case I don't see how he can be convicted of anything without testimony from the victim. They don't seem to have any evidence that he took her from her home. I was never clear from the accounts whether he is known to have raped her. She was found walking down the street with him. Was he armed? Couldn't she easily have outrun him if she was tired of his company? Is she as looney as he is?

Many excellent manual portables were made in the 1950s and 1960s. For actual use I would probably choose the Olympia I used at NASA (or any other Olympia - I have never seen a bad Olympia) or the Royal Quiet DeLuxe that my parents gave me in 1955. But I have also used the large Hermes portables, the Media 3 or Model 3000 without trouble. The small Hermes portables, the Rocket and Baby, are easier to carry about, but a bit cramped and awkward for extended use.

I have read of seized property being kept by the government even though no charges were ever brought, much less brought and dismissed. Mostly, I think, as part of the demented "war on drugs". But I have no specific case data to hand. I expect Google could find some, and there may

be some among clippings I have kept.

I have the *Queen Kong* DVD - did all the old gang watch it at DSC? It was just released in April and can be gotten from amazon.

With a bit of practice it is quite possible to run a mimeo without getting any ink on your hands - I have done it. Of course in years of running the things (mostly electric RexRotary M4s) there would be occasional booboos that would get a little ink on my fingers. I didn't obsess about it, the stuff is quite harmless. If I had to take the ink gun out I was sure to get some ink on my hands of course. But I very seldom got any on my clothes. I remember once seeing Phil Harrell after he ran off a fanzine cover with large areas of solid black on a Roneo - he was covered with ink.

Revenant - Sheila - You realize it has been many years since anyone actually *ran* for SFPA OE - as soon as there's one candidate the race is just a formality.... Sorry to hear about the library school problem.

Good worldcon report. It figures the Canadians would have a "Quiet Con Suite" - they were probably all in there saying *Eh* to each other very softly.

I'm still taking the 2-part medication for my *lichen planus* but only once a day. Now I have a horrible sore throat but I don't think there's any connection.

I really must try to find out who that is on the "Miracle of Zines" cover. I don't remember what I was looking for a couple of years ago when I found that site on the net and saved the image. It's in full color even though I could only print it in b&w.

Both the federal and state legislatures have been sneaking pork and other nefarious riders through on unrelated bills for years, and it's been a long time since it was even much of an issue.

I like *Law and Order* in comparison to anything else on TV - it's a fantasy, but at least it's an inventive fantasy and most of the plots are fairly logical. The only other series I can watch is *Boston Public*, which is a sort of horror comedy (one can't speak of "black comedy" on TV without being totally misunderstood).

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - Whatever I said about chihuahuas was probably intentional nonsense.... Don't all land mammals have some hair if you look close enough?

I downloaded and read some of the final report on the Columbia disaster - it looks like they found the cause and I hope they abandon any attempt to find a scapegoat. The decisions that led to the problems were corporate decisions based on very complex constraints.

I don't care whether they call them "concentration camps", "internment camps", or "Disneyland Middle East" - from the accounts I have read in the paper and several magazines, large numbers of people are being held in abysmal conditions without charge or trial. Do they plan to kill them all or release them to report how they were treated to their fellow tribesmen?

I sell both my own publications (which it hard to imagine even the most rabid Patriot Act agent being much interested it) and a variety of duplicate used books. I suppose they might come ask me who bought one of those - or even who asked about buying something mentioned in *It Goes On The Shelf*. People reading that online don't always understand that prices given with some of those books are just part of the description, not an offer to sell. And by law I must not only tell them whatever they want to know (even though no party to the transaction is charged with any crime) but am also forbidden to reveal their evil snooping to anyone? Gimme a break - does the Fourth Amendment still mean anything at all?

Seems that Wesley Clark is an SF fan and FTL enthusiast. Matters little to me, I would vote for a three-legged dog over Boy George Dubya. A *dead* three-legged dog....

I see you have the Terminator Governor now - spouting the same effervescent swill as we get from Dubya, that he will cut taxes, improve government services, *and* balance the budget.

Tyndallite - Metcalf - I'm no toxicologist, but I think mercury must be much more poisonous than sodium - and the mercury compounds accumulate in the body, which sodium would not.

I suppose the best-known Kipling SF is *With the Night Mail*, subtitled "A Story of 2000 AD", some 65 pages in the **Actions and Reactions** volume of the 1909 standard set of his works. I am not a Kipling guru and can't offhand think of anything else I would call SF.

Guilty Pleasures - Eve - Sore throat without fever? That's what I've had since we ate at a Chinese restaurant last Saturday. It seems to be fading today.

I haven't been able to get Google to find the site I lifted that cover from. The PC tells me it has a date of August'02 - but is that the date it was made or the date that I got it?

I had no idea it was possible to make anything from "possum down" - there are plenty of them here, though they are nocturnal and seldom seen except as road kill.

Oblio - Brown - Cute cover! Interesting account of your "missing years". I am surprised that anyone would be put to handling sheetrock without heavy gloves!

The typewriter became a "home item" long before the 1940s. I would say the 1920s - heavy advertising for portables in designer colors from Smith Corona, Remington, and Underwood. But they were not universal - my parents never had one, and only thought to give me one when I graduated from High School in 1955.

I would choose feeding chickens (or watching paint dry) over listening to Britney Spears, but I know what you mean. I don't like pop music - or many other aspects of our culture - but it's hard to imagine living anywhere else.

When I repeated the line that a newspaper story about anything you are really up on will be found to have something wrong in it, I meant strictly facts about detail, not matters of opinion or point of view. Hardly surprising with material that is researched under pressure of a deadline, but of course to the expert reader it is very noticeable, which is why this idea is repeated so often.

Avatar - Cleary - Ooh, are you ever gonna be in trouble - either your camera or your printing software is stretching images in the horizontal direction, making all your camera subjects look fat!

Interesting book reviews.

Yngvi - Toni - So *Yngvi* is not *Yngvi*? Ghad, another problem for the bibliographers....

Interesting "Socratic Discourse".... If we are in a "religious war" with Islam then we are at a severe disadvantage, as they are a lot more religious than we are! I'm not sure why Hank thinks that the problem with *Sesame Street* was that it "shortened attention span". I never saw the show until I was way too old for it, so it meant nothing to me - but wasn't it aimed at very young children, who have very short attention spans? If it could hold their interest wasn't that a *lengthening* of attention span?

Speaking of typos, There are only two r's in "Berry".... Glad to hear he is well, I hadn't heard from him lately. But it seems odd for you to give Ken Cheslin's address - Ken died some time ago. Google finds the *Ansible* notice of it - he died of a heart attack on August 4, 2000.

Perhaps if you put out food for the deer they would leave your shrubbery alone - or you could plant inedible shrubbery. Do deer eat holly? Tea Olive seems a bit spiky too. But if they have munched on the azalea or photina here I see no sign of it.

I wonder what Arabs make of translations of Shakespeare? Does the Koran "sound better" in the original just because its style formed the idea of generations who had little else of what is "good"? My feeling is that this is an unanswerable question, and that the only judgement we could make of the Koran would be on its content and internal consistency - style would have to be set aside. Which would be hard for me to do! I am fairly sure I have a copy here somewhere, but I can't find it. Is there a literal word-for-word translation? That way the reader would not expect any style.

Your quibble about "democracy" is true I suppose - did any modern nation state ever have a "pure democracy"? When people note that none of the Islamic states are "democratic" this is merely shorthand for the observation that none of them seem to have very representative government. Turkey seems to have some of the forms of representative government - and so do Iran and Egypt - but nothing like that found in the Western "democracies".

Do convicts vote anywhere? Or are you talking about the much more important question of whether ex-convicts should be restored to that much of full citizenship?

I don't think politics have taken the place of religion - at least not to any greater extent than sports have - but it is a great failing of our educational system that logic is not taught along with math in the early grades.

Passages - Janet - Great cover! You had a mimeo in a college dorm room?! Excellent bio.

My impression of the meaning of "steed" is that it was a horse (or even an analogous animal) that had been trained for riding. I see that the OED gives both this and the original Old English root that referred to a stallion.

Trivial Pursuits - Janice - Cute cover - I am still amazed to notice occasionally that I am on permanent weekend status.

Sounds like I didn't miss much in Toronto!

Armadillo - Liz - Hard to imagine the Pentagon would be so stupid as to think they could run the Iraq invasion on inadequate water supplies!

Wave - Copeland - And what a wave.... Nice wraparound cover! Good luck to Allie with the flocks of academic rabbits in Canada.

I recently stumbled across a contention that the details of Mohammed's life and the Koran were all concocted in an attempt to unify the early Ottoman empire.

With the indexes the quote collections will be really valuable - perhaps you can sell the files to whoever publishes Bartlett's!

The Rose is one of the handful of pop music pieces I don't mind hearing. *House of the Rising Sun*, *City of New Orleans* are others.

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Slow here, other than battles with the vermin and the shrubbery. The *Lichen Planus* is subdued enough that I only treat for it once instead of 4 times a day. I hope to get *It Goes On The Shelf 25* out in time for Christmas.

I may have found (through the forum at *abebooks*) the earliest fantasy I remember reading, the story about the orphan boy whose cat ate a dictionary and was then able to speak. I have ordered a used copy, we will see.

