

# OPUNTIA

## 67.3

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OPUNTIA is published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. It is available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada as the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount. US\$ banknotes are acceptable in Canada at par value; what we gain on the exchange rate we lose on the higher postage rate to USA. Do not send mint USA stamps as they are not valid for postage outside USA and I don't collect them.

Whole-numbered OPUNTIAs are sercon, x.1 issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, x.3 issues are apazines, and x.5 issues are perzines.

### WHAT IS FAPA?

This issue is for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. (Details from Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, California 994611-1948) For those of you receiving this issue who do not know what an apa is, please read on.

Modern zine publishing as we know it today began in the middle 1800s as cheap, home-use printing presses became available to the general public. Zinesters developed a distro method called the amateur press association (apa) where members sent x number of copies of their zine to a central mailer (also known as the official editor). The zines are collated into bundles, and each member gets back one bundle of everyone's zines. There is an annual fee to cover postage. Apas have a minimum level of activity required, such as publishing 8 pages a year. It must be emphasized that apas are not for passive subscribers; you must commit to the minimum activity level or you will be booted out. FAPA has been going for more than 70 years; the oldest apa is the National A.P.A., founded 1876.

x.3 OPUNTIAs are for FAPA. In addition to articles, there will be mailing comments on other apazines in the last FAPA bundle. I usually quote the remark I am commenting on, so hopefully an outsider can still read the comments with interest.

**FAPA CLEARCUT AWARD** (for most pages published in a mailing) goes to Robert Sabella for 47 pages in FAPA #286 and for 46 pages in #287..

## MAILING COMMENTS ON FAPA #286

FAPA #286 received in Calgary on February 24, 2009.

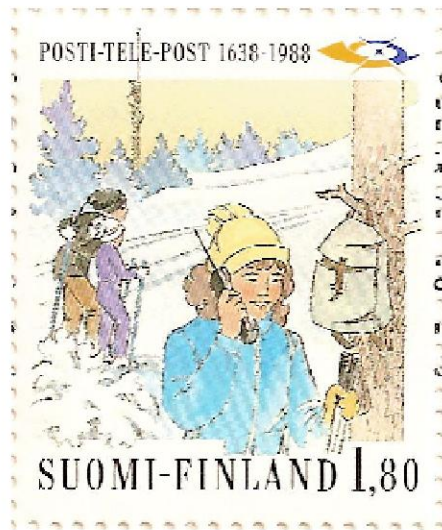
**Ghu FAPAlément** Your accordion-fold zine must have required a bit of work to manufacture, but it was easy enough to read it. I've often wondered why so many zinesters stick to 8.5 x 11 format with a staple in the upper left corner, instead of experimenting with other formats, such as accordion folds or landscape format a la OPUNTIA. The whole idea of zines is that one is not constrained as are commercial publishers who have to put the title up top so it shows on the newsstand, and have to publish in 8.5 x 11 to fit on the racks. I'm not suggesting that zinesters experiment with scrolls, pop-ups, or other hard-to-read formats, but they could be a little more daring on average.

**A Different Drummer** You mention how you used to watch Harlan Ellison when he would write a story in the display window of a Boston bookstore, and how he always sold only first drafts. As he is a short story writer, it is probably easier for him to sell the first draft than if he were writing a novel. He also probably mulls over a story in his mind before he sits down to type it and

has an idea of the plot before he touches the keyboard. **-2-** Isaac Asimov was also a prolific author who didn't waste much time but he said he used the method of having several projects on the go at one time. His method is the one I use myself; if I am stuck on one essay, I set it aside and work on something else, then come back to it later when inspiration returns.

**Voice Of The Habu** Re: earplug cellphones so compact they fit in the ear, and cellphone manufacturers making them more

conspicuous. Part of this may be because if the phones are too small, people may think you are either talking to yourself like some nutter street person, or talking to them. I've noticed on the streets of



Calgary that such cellphone users have adopted the habit of keeping their eyes down to the sidewalk and averted from others, with one hand on their ear, so as to avoid misunderstandings.

Re: a few inches of snow paralyzing Sea-Tac. Any ordinary car should be able to drive through that little snow, and we in Calgary often do. As you suggest, the real reason for traffic jams is when there is ice under the snow. My work depot is at the end of a cul-de-sac at the bottom of a hill. It doesn't matter how good my car tires are if, all day long, pickup trucks with no weight in the back were spinning their tires going up the hill and polishing it into glass. I've learned the hard way to go over to the Roads depot, load up with pickle (pea gravel and rock salt), and lay it down myself just before I go home from work so I can get up the hill. Calgary gets snow every winter, but City Council, determined to brag about the lowest property taxes in Canada, only ploughs and sands main roads and bus routes. Residential streets in Calgary are not ploughed unless lucky enough to be on a bus route. December 2008 was unusually snowy in Calgary and came close to setting a record. The street in front of my house was packed down with snow higher than the sidewalk. When I backed out of my driveway, I was actually going uphill and had to gun the engine so the car didn't high-centre.

Re: Sea-Tac residents not knowing how to drive in snow because they seldom experience it. I don't think this matters. Canadian

drivers get snow every year but every time there is a snowfall, the police and tow trucks are busy with fender-benders. A Canadian is someone who refuses to believe that you can't drive on an ice-covered road as if it were a hot August afternoon. It's gotten worse since SUVs came in, because they think they are invulnerable with 4WD. Of course, 4WD is no better than 2WD when the vehicle starts sliding, and because SUVs are bigger, they slide further and hit harder.





**Ouroboros** Re: your study of fanzine sales on eBay. Interesting to see that FAPA bundles from 1971 were in the \$40 range plus shipping. I'm not into comics but it is nice to see older zines selling for decent prices. That will provide incentive for people to preserve our zines, "because they might be worth something someday, Mom; see, it says so right here on eBay!"

**Feline Musings** You must be one of about ten Americans left in your country who is actually building a house instead of being foreclosed!

You asked me in your mailing comments: "*What has been the impact of the recent nosedive taken by the price of oil on Canadian oil producers?*" It depends on the company. All new oilsands projects have been postponed but existing ones are still going because their capital costs are paid for. Conventional oil companies can make money at \$20 per barrel, so the ones who stayed out of debt are okay. Some of them got silly during the boom, and are now in trouble because they have too much debt. Alberta's unemployment rate for May 2009 (the most recent data as I type this) rose to 6.6%. There are no mass layoffs but most companies have hiring freezes and some are laying off in dribs and drabs. We have the advantage that most of the laid-off workers are expatriates, so they head back east to Ontario or Newfoundland and show up in those unemployment statistics. Alberta will get its hair mussed but we won't suffer like Ontario.

## **Snark Hunter's Quarterly**

-4-

Re: your troubles in producing a zine in one go or by writing a few pages per week. The method I use for OPUNTIA is to write each of the essays and reviews as separate files, then pour them into a template when it comes time to publish. This means I only have to type up late-breaking items such as letters of comment. Most of my learned articles were written weeks or months before publishing. I never pull a late-night session rushing to get an issue ready.

Re: the difference between publishing collected facts and writing analytical history. Analysis requires the perspective of decades because recent events tend to loom large and seem more important than they really were. Alberta towns have lots of monuments to the Boer War because prairie boys were in demand by the British Army as horsemen who knew how to fight on the open plains. Nowadays on Remembrance Day no one has ceremonies at them because the war, however important it may have been to South Africans, has, from the distance of a century, proven to be insignificant to our history. The ceremonies are for the two world wars, Korea, and Afghanistan. In SF fandom, who sawed Courtney's boat may have been important to palaeofans, but today it is an uninteresting bit of trivia. It is important to collect the facts and publish them, but future generations will think differently, just as an Albertan transported from 1901 to today would be shocked that we don't care about the Commonwealth.

**Adventures On Earth** Your transcription of your father's letter dated August 1945 from the Pacific front was most interesting. His agonizing over the dropping of the atomic bomb despite the fact that he was scheduled to be in the second wave of landings on the Japanese home islands demonstrates forcefully that the situation was not as cut and dried as it appeared to be. If you

haven't already, you should send copies of the letter to appropriate museums or libraries. The postmark shown below is the only thing I have in my stamp collection related to atomic warfare. World War Three was taken as inevitable by those of us who grew up in the 1950s to 1980s, but now seems to have vanished as a threat and been replaced by climate change and Peak Oil.

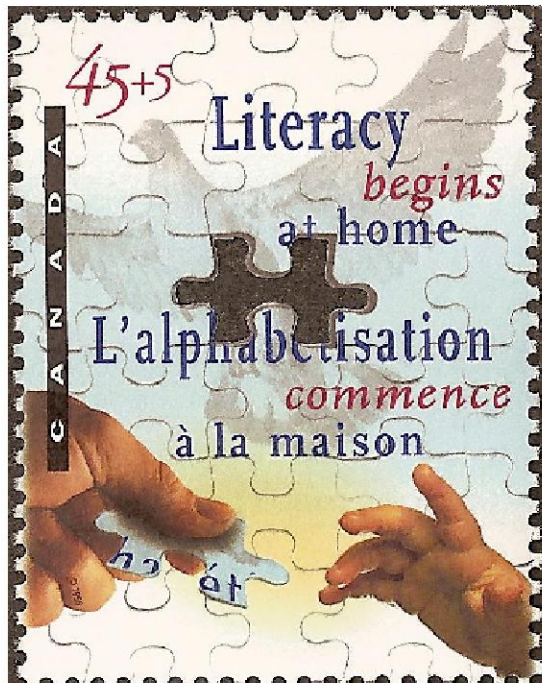


## **A Celebration for WORLD PEACE**

**August 25, 1990**

**WENDOVER STATION  
Wendover, Utah 84093**

**Lofgeornost Re:** the discussion about the Dewey Decimal system versus Library of Congress system, and joke proposals to replace them with Duodecimal or Hexadecimal systems. I've done countless hours of research in libraries, and my observation is that no matter what classification system the library uses, the essential book you need to consult is always out on long-term loan.



## Release The Hounds

**Re:** cryonics. The fatal assumption of people who want to be frozen is that someone in the distant future will want them around. The heirs to the estate certainly don't want the corpsicle back, and an over-populated technological society does not need them. A future world will not devote increasingly scarce resources to finding a method of reviving corpsicles. The only use that will be made of them is for organ transplants and cell cultures. Cryonics is the ultimate in egotism.

Amusing story about how you set your surplus computer to have its hard drive scrubbed 100 times, as a result of which the process ran for three weeks!

## MAILING COMMENTS ON FAPA #287

FAPA #287 received in Calgary on May 19, 2009.

**Visions Of Paradise #137 Re:** rigid definitions of genres. Alternative history (AH) is often considered a sub-genre of SF but now seems common enough to be elevated to its own genre. As you say, boundary lines between genres are blurry. I exclude from AH any stories involving multiple and/or controlled time travel, but will allow one trip back in time if it is not the central focus. Counterfactuals are fact-based speculative essays, and any



sort of AH with magic puts it into the fantasy category, such as the Lord Darcy stories. Other variations commonly labeled as AH are multiverse stories and cryptohistory. Multiverse stories are travels to a parallel universe where a given history evolved differently from a point of divergence. Cryptohistory is hidden events or conspiracies that produced our timeline, which doesn't qualify as AH. Steampunk is a sub-genre of AH.

Re: Eric Mayer's comment that the Byzantine Empire was the Roman Empire under another name. My understanding is that while the Byzantine was indeed, as Mayer writes, a direct continuation of the Roman, the reason it is separated by historians is that they spoke Greek. The Byzantines considered themselves as Romans and were in direct descent, but their culture was even then diverging from Rome and certainly the language was different. I like to amaze my less educated friends by telling them that Rome was sacked by Vikings who took a short cut through Russia and Ukraine.

**Visions Of Paradise #138** *"Most people are too selfish to care about the common good, or spend time and effort doing anything unless it benefits themselves, which is the leading cause for most of the troubles in the world."* My observation is that most of the troubles in the world are because no one can agree as to what the common good is. The Taliban have a different idea of what constitutes the common good than the Shrubbies in the USA, and

both beg to differ from the NDP in Canada. In Alberta, our common good is high oil prices, while undoubtedly New Jerseyites considered \$147 oil to be an evil. The Wall Street banksters genuinely cannot understand what all the fuss is about, while to an unemployed factory worker with a family to feed the idea of \$20 million annual bonuses is pure obscenity.

**Snow Poster Township #1** When you get your apa directory completed, don't be shy about contributing it to FAPA, or indeed the many other apas you belong to. I once tried trolling the Internet a couple of years ago to see how many apas are around, but there were far too many broken links and dead Web sites. We are told that an advantage of the Internet is information at the touch of a key, but they forgot to tell us how many thousands of keys we had to touch to dredge out the information, not to mention the lost time.

**English Stew** Re: writing groups, you remark that *"Amateurs can't take constructive criticism or give it."* At a Calgary SF convention I attended a panel on fanfic, which is on-line fan fiction set in media SF worlds. One of the panelists remarked that even the slightest tinge of criticism would get a critic flamed by the author. On fanfic Websites, they expect all the comments to be favourable, and are usually obliged by readers gushing about tripe because they have never read any good books and simply do not know what constitutes proper writing.

“... especially in creative groups, such as Creative Writing, that the amateur mode is still very much in evidence.” Calgary has a local SF writers group that has produced a couple of novelists who manage to get one published by some small press. Over the years though, I’ve noticed that many of the members never get published. They are not wanna-be pros, they are workshop fans.

**Alphabet Soup #62** You mention you are buying mailings of FAPA for donation to the Eaton Collection of fanzines at University of California Riverside. I’m sure most FAPAns will agree that FAPA should donate a free set of each bundle to one or more zine libraries and you shouldn’t have to bear the cost. This is a method of preserving our zines for posterity. I send copies of OPUNTIA to the National Library of Canada in the faint hope that decades from now some reader or scholar will come across them and read them long after I have sunk into the grave. (And if you are such a reader or scholar decades from now, thank you!)

*“I know recessions replaced depressions which replaced panics.”* The way I learned it in university economics class was that a panic was a few years of reduced activity caused by a stock or commodities market crash. A depression is an extended downturn caused by lack of credit, and a recession is a downturn caused by inflation or excess inventory. The Panic of 2008 is in danger of turning into a depression because all fiat currencies are based on debt and the Wall Street gangs created too much of it.

Re: World Fantasy Conventions focusing on dark fantasy. I’ve only ever attended the one in Calgary so I’m not an expert, but the Calgary event was specifically themed about mystery fantasy. I attended lots of panels but didn’t notice too much about dark fantasy. I quite enjoyed the Calgary WFC in 2008. I was told that it was a pros event and fans were barely tolerated but I did not notice any standoffish behaviour. No costumes and no media fans made it a good literary event.

**My Last Con?** Re: going to SF conventions to socialize versus attending the programme. I prefer the latter, and try to learn at least one new thing from each panel. I also force myself to attend panels on subjects or groups that I usually avoid, such as on-line fanfic or anime, if only to learn how others live.

Re: why fanzine panels turn out poorly. Because to the modern generation, “zine” means a pdf posted on somebody’s Website. This is why newbie panels also turn out poorly. I recently came across the following item: *“Upon arrival at my first SF convention, I was shunted into a neo-fan briefing. We learned all the things fans are supposed to do and know from a bunch of chain-smoking, mindless idiots who bantered on about Moscon 78 or some other famous convention, leaving us neo-fans as uninformed as when we arrived.”* (Bill Baker in a letter to the editor of STARLOG, 1982 January)



**Horror Fans: Francis Towner Laney** “ ... *the entire universe of fandom (which at the time of Laney's death at age 43 in 1958 extended only to select cities in the USA, not globally as it does today)*” Fandom was widespread throughout Canada and Europe since the 1930s. Further, the international fans were in communication with American fans, so it wasn't that they were isolated pockets unaware of each other. Nils Helmer Frome of British Columbia corresponded with Lovecraft, the Brits had the first SF convention in the world organized as such, and fanzines were published and traded across the planet from the 1930s.

**Number One #15** Re: your being laid off but not having any debts and the house and car paid for. The people who suffer the most in any kind of economic decline are the ones who owe money, so you are well positioned. Income can disappear but debt never goes away.

Re: your shares of General Motors. I've never owned publicly-traded shares of any company, but up until two years ago I had \$20,000 of GMAC bonds. I bought them because they paid 10% but after a while I got tired of reading nothing but bad news about GM and unloaded just before the Panic of 2008. My philosophy of investing is that when the CEO says business is fundamentally sound, that is the time to sell. All my bonds now are Canadian bank bonds averaging 4.75% to 5%; dull but safe.

**King Biscuit Time #54** Re: the early vinyl records you had of breaking rock groups 50 years ago. They'd be worth a fortune now, but who knew back then? I cringe when I think of my mother's collection going to the Salvation Army thrift shop after she died in 2002; early Elvis Presley and Johnny Horton in near-mint wrappers. Some collector in Red Deer who spotted them in the shop probably had a near heart attack and then bought them.

The only commercial radio I listen to now is an all-news station and only at 26 and 56 minutes past the hour to get the prices of oil and gold.

**Lofgeornost #95** You mention listening to a lecture on a CD player that drew you to the conclusion that the professor was incoherent and disorganized before realizing that your daughter had left the CD player on random selection. I loved that anecdote! From there you go on to discuss non-linear literature. I've had this discussion with trendy Canlitcrit types and I always belligerently interrupt them by challenging them on their assumption that linear narrative is somehow old-fashioned and defective. My argument is that the narrative should be invisible as much as possible, and the story's the thing, not the writer's ability to perform verbal gymnastics. A good writer does not draw attention to himself. He should allow the reader to sink into the story without being jarred out of it by some literary pyrotechnics.

Re: your Google searches bringing up references that use the same words but in an unrelated context. A common problem. Examples that come to my mind are searches I did for “rubber stamp” that brought up references to some committee rubber stamping a proposal or law, or Exshaw the town bringing up numerous people named Exshaw. This despite using advanced searching techniques to try and exclude unwanted uses of the term.

**Feline Mewsings #36** You mention that because your new house cost more than expected that you had to cancel your trip to Montréal and possibly Australia. At your time of life I wouldn't take any chances. I know several people who decided they had to have two weeks in Hawaii every winter, golf club memberships, and other luxuries, and who now regret it since they can't work anymore but their savings can't be renewed.

**Yhos #65** As usual, this zine was completely unreadable because of the editor's insistence on writing in phonetic abbreviations and random vowel deletions..

**The Days Of Miracle And Wonder #1** Firstly, welcome to zinedom and apadom! You say your company does contract work for the State of California. Given that they are in such dire straits as to refuse to pay out tax refunds and are taking property taxes from the municipalities, I hope you get your paycheques okay.

Re: solo hiking being frowned on for safety reasons. **-10-**  
I do quite a bit of solo hiking in the Rocky Mountains adjacent to Calgary, but I only do day hikes and stay on the more used trails. I suppose it is a bit of chance taking but since I don't do any climbing it isn't physically hazardous. About a dozen cougar and bear attacks happen in this area per year, but they attack couples and groups as much as anyone else. I've seen the occasional coyote or bear cross the trail a few metres in front of me but they always bolt into the forest when they see me. When I was a young and stupid university student, I used to hike by myself in the Red Deer River badlands hunting for fossils off-trail and out of sight of the road. The badlands are treeless, and I could have easily twisted an ankle and been unable to jury-rig a crutch from a tree branch to get out.

*“I joke that I would read the side of a cereal box if I had nothing else to read ...”* In Canada, the half-serious joke is that is where most Canadians get their bilingualism from, since food containers have to be bilingual. Even the most redneck anglophone knows that “Gagnez!” means “Win!” (from the cereal boxes), that legumes are francophone vegetables (not beans or peas as in English), French fries are pomme frites, and pineapples are ananas (which is actually the Latin name). Anyone who walks through a federal building or post office knows that a sortie is the exit, and “Defense de fumer” means no smoking allowed.

## SEEN IN THE LITERATURE

noticed by Dale Speirs

Laskar, J., and M. Gastineau (2009) **Existence of collisional trajectories of Mercury, Mars and Venus with the Earth.** NATURE 459:817-819

*"It has been established that, owing to the proximity of a resonance with Jupiter, Mercury's eccentricity can be pumped to values large enough to allow collision with Venus within 5 Gyr. This conclusion, however, was established either with averaged equations that are not appropriate near the collisions or with non-relativistic models in which the resonance effect is greatly enhanced by a decrease of the perihelion velocity of Mercury. In these previous studies, the Earth's orbit was essentially unaffected. Here we report numerical simulations of the evolution of the Solar System over 5 Gyr, including contributions from the Moon and general relativity. In a set of 2,501 orbits with initial conditions that are in agreement with our present knowledge of the parameters of the Solar System, we found, as in previous studies, that one per cent of the solutions lead to a large increase in Mercury's eccentricity—an increase large enough to allow collisions with Venus or the Sun. More surprisingly, in one of these high-eccentricity solutions, a subsequent decrease in Mercury's eccentricity induces a transfer of angular momentum*

*from the giant planets that destabilizes all the terrestrial planets 3.34 Gyr from now, with possible collisions of Mercury, Mars or Venus with the Earth."*

Speirs: We're doomed!, or will be in 3.34. billion years. Better go short on gold futures.

Donovan, G.H., and D.T. Butry (2009) **The value of shade: Estimating the effect of urban trees on summertime electricity use.** ENERGY AND BUILDINGS 41:662-668

*"We estimated the effect of shade trees on the summertime electricity use of 460 single-family homes in Sacramento, California. Results show that trees on the west and south sides of a house reduce summertime electricity use, whereas trees on the north side of a house increase summertime electricity use. The current level of tree cover on the west and south sides of houses in our sample reduced summertime electricity use by 185 kWh (5.2%), whereas north-side trees increased electricity use by 55 kWh (1.5%). Results also show that a London plane tree, planted on the west side of a house, can reduce carbon emissions from summertime electricity use by an average of 31% over 100 years."*

Speirs: Peak Oil notwithstanding, people will still crank up their air conditioners on a hot day.



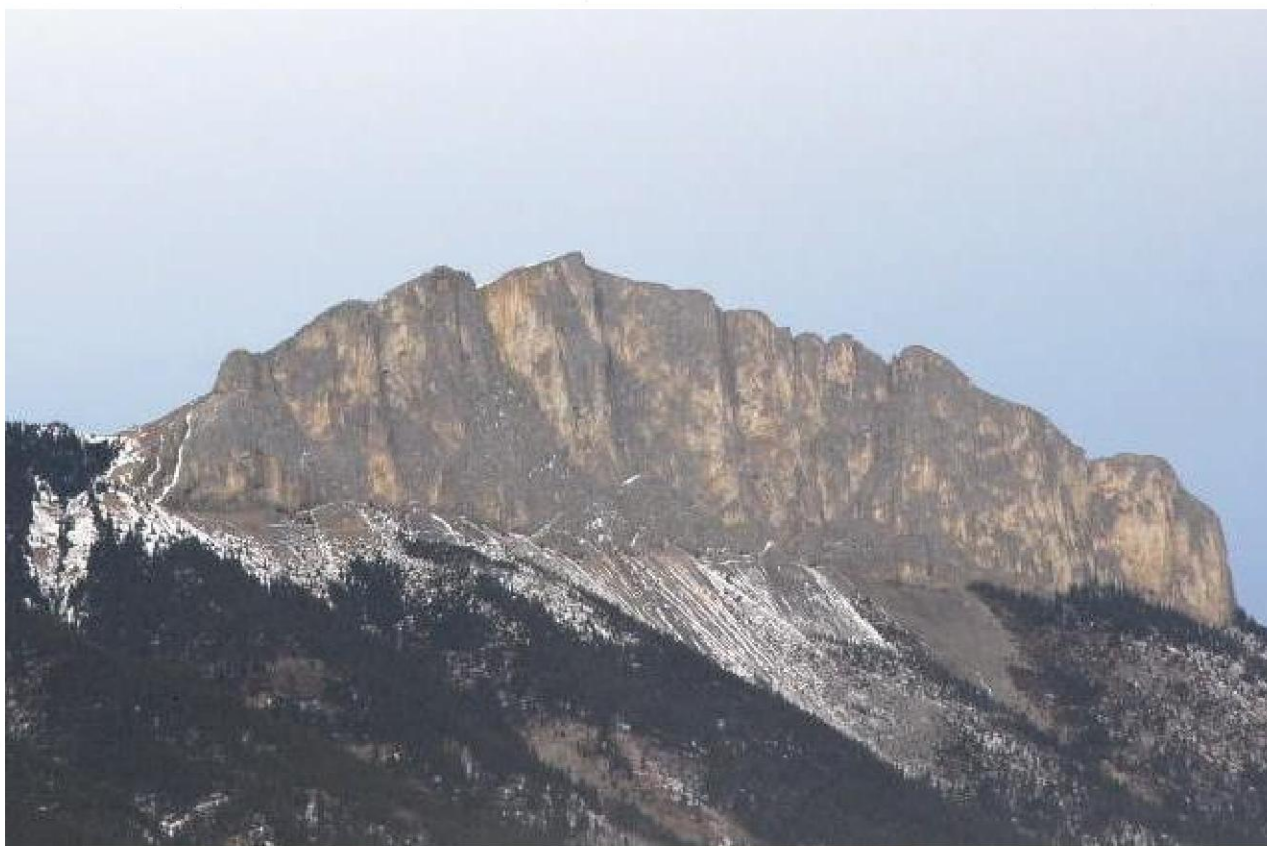
Cooke, C.A., et al (2009) **Over three millennia of mercury pollution in the Peruvian Andes.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 106:8830-8834

*"We present unambiguous records of preindustrial atmospheric mercury (Hg) pollution, derived from lake-sediment cores collected near Huancavelica, Peru, the largest Hg deposit in the New World. Intensive Hg mining first began ca. 1400 BC, predating the emergence of complex Andean societies, and signifying that the region served as a locus for early Hg extraction. The earliest mining targeted cinnabar (HgS) for the production of vermillion. Pre-Colonial Hg burdens peak ca. 500 BC and ca. 1450 AD, corresponding to the heights of the Chavín and Inca states, respectively. During the Inca, Colonial, and industrial intervals, Hg pollution became regional, as evidenced by a third lake record ~225 km distant from Huancavelica. Measurements of sediment-Hg speciation reveal that cinnabar dust was initially the dominant Hg species deposited, and significant increases in deposition were limited to the local environment. After conquest by the Inca (ca. 1450 AD), smelting was adopted at the mine and Hg pollution became more widely circulated, with the deposition of matrix-bound phases of Hg predominating over cinnabar dust. Our results demonstrate the existence of a major Hg mining industry at Huancavelica spanning the past 3,500 years, and place recent Hg enrichment in the Andes in a broader historical context."*

Speirs: Environmentalists and New Agers often -12-  
hearken back to the days of yore when people lived simply in the country in harmony with nature. The truth, of course, is that there never was any utopia.

Driscolla, C.A., et al (2009) **From wild animals to domestic pets, an evolutionary view of domestication.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 106 Supplement:9971-9978

*"Wolf domestication was initiated late in the Mesolithic when humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers. Those wolves less afraid of humans scavenged nomadic hunting camps and over time developed utility, initially as guards warning of approaching animals or other nomadic bands and soon thereafter as hunters, an attribute tuned by artificial selection. The first domestic cats had limited utility and initiated their domestication among the earliest agricultural Neolithic settlements in the Near East. Wildcat domestication occurred through a self-selective process in which behavioral reproductive isolation evolved as a correlated character of assortative mating coupled to habitat choice for urban environments. Eurasian wildcats initiated domestication and their evolution to companion animals was initially a process of natural, rather than artificial, selection over time driven during their sympatry with forbear wildcats."*



## THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY

photos by Dale  
Speirs

A few more photos  
from my trips into  
the Rockies adjacent  
to Calgary.

Mount Yamnuska is  
at the entrance to the  
Rocky Mountains,  
and is conspicuous  
from 50 km away  
because it faces to  
the eastbound traffic  
on the Trans-Canada  
Highway. It is  
located at the west  
end of the Nakoda  
Reserve, and they  
venerate it as a holy  
site.



Loder Peak is the next mountain over from Yamnuska. It is also conspicuous to travelers entering the Rockies because of the large oval on its face. The oval is a cross-section of a 400-megayear-old coral reef.

At the bottom left, you can just barely make out a thin line, which is the Bow River exiting the Rockies and heading out to Calgary.

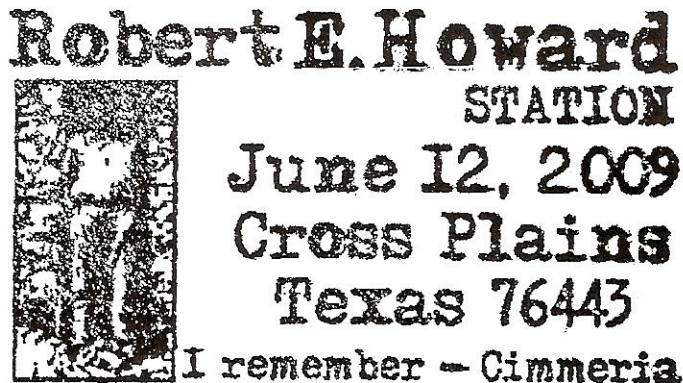




## FANTASY POSTMARKS

by Dale Speirs

As a stamp collector, I keep an eye out for SF or fantasy-related postmarks, which are rare on the ground. In recent years, the post office at Cross Plains, Texas, has been issuing pictorial postmarks honouring their native son Robert E. Howard. He specialized in two-fisted fantasy set in an era when men were barbarian kings and women warriors rode into battle wearing nothing but a bikini and a cape. This year the Cross Plains post office issued a postmark for one of Howard's fantasy lands, that of Cimmeria.



## WORLD WIDE PARTY #16

The World Wide Party was invented by Benoit Girard (Québec) and popularized by Franz Miklis (Austria). On June 21 each year at 21h00 local time, zine fans raise a toast to zinedom. The idea is to get a wave circling the planet in celebration of the hobby and each other.

In past years, I toasted the four points of the compass to zinesters who had already done it (east), were doing it at the same time as I (north and south), and would be doing it in an hour (west). This year I did something different. First I faced northeast towards Germany and toasted the memory of Gutenberg, the man who started it all so many centuries ago. Then I faced southeast towards the northeastern American states, where organized zinedom arose 133 years ago with the founding of the National Amateur Press Association and 72 years ago with the founding of the Fantasy APA. Finally I faced southwest towards Silicon Valley, whose denizens played such an important part in changing zinedom for better or for worse with the personal computer and the Internet.

**I Heard From:** John Held Jr, KRin Pender-Gunn, Lloyd Penney, Franz Zrillich, Ken Bausert, Sue Jones, Mike Dickau

**Keep On Trekking.**

I was driving north on Shaganappi Trail NW when I saw this pickup in front of me. For once, I had a camera with me and got a photo at the next stop light.

Even without the STARTRK licence plate, I and most other SF fans could have guessed that this vehicle was owned by a Trekkie. I'm sure that someone in Alberta probably has the NCC1701 or TREKKIE licence plates.

