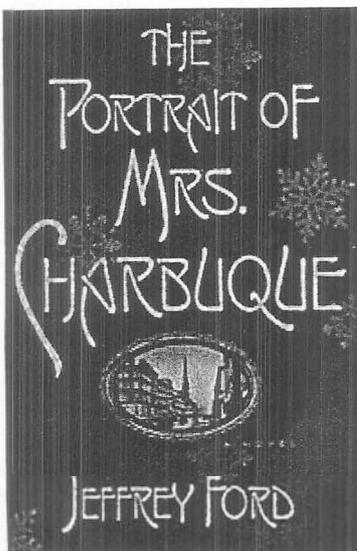


Our February Guest:
Jeffrey Ford



Jeffrey Ford is the author of four novels: *The Physiognomy* (Eos/HarperCollins; winner of The World Fantasy Award for best novel 97 and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year 97), *Memoranda* (Eos/HarperCollins; New York Times Notable Book of the Year 99), *The Beyond* (Eos/HarperCollins; Washington Post Book World's Best Books of 2001), *The Portrait of Mrs Charbuque* (Morrow)

His short fiction has appeared in the following venues: The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, SciFiction, Event Horizon, Black Gate, Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet, The Northwest Review, Puerto Del Sol, MSS, Space & Time, etc. His story, "The Fantasy Writer's Assistant," was a finalist for the 2000 Nebula Award, and "At Reparata" appeared in *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror Vol.13*.

His recent publications include his first collection of stories, *The Fantasy Writer's Assistant & Other Stories* (from Golden Gryphon Press), *The Portrait of Mrs. Charbuque* (Morrow/Harper Collins), and a story, "The Green Word" (*The Green Man and Other Tales of the Mythic Wood*, a YA anthology from Penguin).

Ford teaches Writing and Literature at Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and lives in south Jersey with his wife and two sons.

Membership Status

for January 10th, 2003

*Status changes are effective after meeting adjourns.

First Timers: 2

Nominees: 0

New Members: (see first timers)

Members: 48

(46 active, 2 general, 0 inactive)

Non-members: 0

General Meeting:

These are the minutes of the General meeting held on January 10th, 2002, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:17 pm.

Proxies:

*Proxies may be delivered directly to the Secretary either in person, by mail (must arrive before the meeting), or delivered to the Secretary at the meeting by another member of the society.

Corrections to Minutes: *There were no corrections.*

Officers' Reports:

President (Hugh): The January letter was not mailed out in time for the two weeks notice, but we technically have fulfilled the requirements of our bylaws in our November newsletter. So I agonized over this for over a week. I came to this conclusion: that we should continue with the elections as normal, but if anyone would like to make a motion to postpone the elections, because I believe that this should be a decision for the society as a whole. (listed under New Business).

Welcome to our new home! I think the Franklin Inn Club has

Announcements

Copies of all official PSFS correspondence should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.

For current information about PSFS visit <http://www.psfs.org>

Newsletter Submissions and Announcements can be e-mailed to secretary@psfs.org, mailed to the Society's P.O. Box, or given to the Secretary in writing at the meetings. To have your announcements, events, articles, etc. published accurately you must give the secretary the information in writing (or e-mail).

Prydonians of Princeton meet once a month at the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville, NJ. Contact: Prydonians@aol.com or visit www.prydonians.org.

P.A.G.E. (Philadelphia Area Gaming Enthusiasts) meet every Sunday night at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. Meetings start at 6 pm and run till 10-10:30. They do role-playing, board gaming, historical (a bit of everything). Everyone's welcome. For more information visit <http://www.philagamers.org>

Barnes & Noble in Bryn Mawr has a Science Fiction Discussion group that meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:30pm.

The 2003 Nebula Awards® Weekend will be at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick, 1701 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, April 18, 19, and 20, 2003. The basic room rate is \$82 per room, double occupancy. There are suites and other upgrades available. The price for the entire 2003 Nebula Awards® Weekend will be \$85 until March 21, 2003. The price then becomes \$100 until April 10, 2003. After that, the cost, if banquet space is still available, will be \$125 and will have to be paid at the hotel during the event. The cost for only the ceremony is \$40. More information and updates are or will be available on the SFWA website, <http://sfwa.org>, under "Nebula Awards®"

The Lost Highways Art Gallery Radebaugh Opening is an exhibition opening in March at our space in Old City, showing the rediscovered works of the mid 20th century futurist illustrator, A. C. Radebaugh. The exhibition-in-progress can be seen right now on line, at <http://www.losthighways.org/radebaugh.html>

“
... I am not going to say
it was always the most
enjoyable experience
in the world...”

done a great job. When you get a chance there are some staff down stairs; thank them for the good job they did in getting set up and making us feel welcome.

Most of you know, there was this little get together that we had last month (PhilCon). So I'd like everyone to give Jeff Linder a

big round of applause. I'd also like to give a big thanks you to Gary Feldbaum for doing much of the hotel negotiations. I'd like to thank Oz for the programming, and Deb Ruh for the Children's programming. Also we heard great things about our Filk programming, so I'd like to thank Matt Leger for that (Matt credited his success to the panelists, the Robinsons', and Mark Mandell).

It was two years ago this month that you gave me the honor of acting as the President of the society. I am not going to say it was always the most enjoyable experience in the world, 'cause

you'd all know I'd be lying, but I will say this: It has been probably one of the most rewarding experiences in my life, it has been very important to me, the Society is important to me, and I hope in the future I will be able to serve you all. I do want to let you know that I greatly appreciate the trust and support that you've given me over the past two years, and I am honored to have served. Thank You.

Vice President (Jeff): no report

“...There was no Vice this month...”

Secretary (Nathan):

I was actually dreading coming here tonight. Dreading. But acutally everyone has been far freindlier that I thought they had reason to be. For anyone who's still pissed off at me I brought a pinata stick to be beat with.

“...just promise that it'll never happen again...”

There's actually a very funny story about the newsletter...

I just look forward to many years of serving the society in the future.

Treasurer (Suzanne): I am going to give you guys a balance, these figures are not final. We donot know if we have a surplus from PhilCon yet.

Vanguard:	\$36,814.00
Savings Green:	\$4,206.94
Blue Checking:	\$12,935.45
Green Checking:	\$2,843.05
PayPal:	\$274.93

Total: \$57,074.37

I'd like to thank Jeff Linder for all his help this year. He's done an excellent job of keeping me out of

trouble. Pay your dues!

2 Year Director (Rebecca): none

2 Year Director (Debra): Hi, I'm here.

1 Year Director (Saul): none

2003 Election Results:

President: Suzanne Rosin

Vice President: Hugh Casey

Secretary: Nathan Lilly

Treasurer: Jeff Linder

2 Year Director (Odd): Deb Ruh

1 Year Director: Saul Snitkin

“...I didn't know we had an Odd Director...”

Committee Reports:

Philcon 2002 (Jeff): The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly:

As chair my experience was overwhelmingly positive, mainly because reactions to problems that we had were of a positive nature, rather than going into crisis mode. Attendee reaction was overwhelmingly positive. David Gerrold said that if the fans had half as much fun as he had then we put together the best convention ever. Spider and Jeanne were talking about how nice the fans were, how great the program staff was. Also, more good news, for room nights, we blew away the hotel's expectations.

Attendance was our lowest in quite some time, but we were expecting that, but on the plus side... first time attendees more than doubled.

The dealers did not have a good weekend. The economy certainly did not help.

There will be a PhilCon 2002 debriefing on March 2nd. Contact Jeff Linder or Hugh Casey for details.

PhilCon 2003 (Hugh): If you are

doing a job for PhilCon '02 committee please consider yourself to be performing that duty for '03 unless you've heard differently from me, or you don't want to.

Carol and Rich K. have been doing registration for the past 14 years (between the two of them) and deserve many thanks.

Our new head of registration will be Joe Neff.

“...I'd like to thank my fiancee who let me do this...”

If anyone would like to take flyers to an event or location please get in touch with me.

Space Sciences (Hank Smith): Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please contact him for details.

Programming (Oz): See *Meeting Notices* for future guests and dates.

Special Events (Oz): The Lost Highways art gallery has agreed to provide a private cocktail reception and viewing of the Radebaugh Exhibit for the entire Philadelphia Science Fiction Society the weekend that the exhibit opens. The event will be Saturday, 3/7/03 from 4 to 8 P.M. at the Lost Highways Archive and Research Library, 307 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. Cocktails and munchies will be served. There will be no charge for any member attending.

Book Discussion (Oz): *The Picture of Dorian Gray* at Lee and Diane Weinstein's in March 2003, Contact Oz for future features, locations, and dates.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Election Motion: There was a motion made on whether or not to proceed with elections

There was much discussion, mostly in favor of continuing the meeting. It was the legal opinion of both Gary and Oz that the elections could proceed. The motion passed 46 in favor (4 proxies in favor) to one against (one proxy against), with one abstention from Carol K.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:28 P.M.

Board Meeting

These are the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 16th, 2003, at Deb Ruh's house. The meeting was called to order at 8:49 pm. Board members present: Hugh, Nathan, Debra, and Rebecca, Suzanne, Saul, Jeff (by phone). Others present: Oz, with background music provided by Ken Ruh, Harpist.

Corrections to Minutes: none.

Board Reports:

“...Nathan, that was SO off the record...”

President (Hugh): No announcements for PhilCon 2003.

Vice President (Jeff): no report

Secretary (Nathan): none

Treasurer (Suzanne): none

2 Year Director (Rebecca): The Lost Highways Art Gallery is exhibiting the works of Radebaugh - a futurist artist from the 30s and 40s.

2 Year Director (Debra): none

1 Year Director (Saul): none

Old Business: none

New Business:

Website (Nathan): I have a list of several web hosts for the society to vote on. I will bring a breakdown to the next general meeting for discussion.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:10 P.M.

Book Discussions

by Lee Weinstein

The August discussion was of *Moonfall* (1998) by former Philadelphian Jack McDevitt. Although he writes hard SF, his academic background was in English, rather than the sciences. We previously discussed his novel, *Infinity Beach*.

The book concerns a huge comet which smashes into the moon and sends a huge chunk of the moon on a collision course with Earth.

While the group generally enjoyed the book, the feeling was that it was really just a disaster novel, well done for what it was, but formulaic. The science felt accurate but there was not much character development. There was some discussion of similarly themed books, notably *Off on a Comet* by Verne and *In the Days of the Comet* by Wells.

September's discussion was *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman, this year's Hugo winner. We began, as usual, by talking about the author. Gaiman is a British writer who started out writing graphic novels and has become phenomenally popular.

Gaiman's other works include the award winning *Sandman* graphic novels, *Neverwhere*, which was made into a British miniseries, the screenplay for the Japanese animated feature, *Princess Mononoke*, and the previously discussed novel, *Stardust*. He currently lives in Minnesota.

American Gods is Gaiman's take on American culture and beliefs, and concerns Old World gods who were transplanted here by immigrants to our shores, and who are now engaged in a power struggle with modern American gods that represent such things as the media and computers. Shadow, a seemingly hapless mortal, gets caught up in the brewing battle, and the book follows his adventures.

We talked about how most of

the backdrops are actual places, such as the House on the Rock. Post cards from there were passed around.

People generally liked the book, but with reservations. Some felt the main character, Shadow, and many of the other characters were more archetypes than real people, although others disagreed. A few felt there were too many unexplained loose ends and would have liked to have had more background on some of the gods. Many felt the ending was weak.

What many liked was the multi-layered construction of the work, which can be read either literally, or as a metaphor for cultural forces. This led to some discussion of unintended meanings in artistic works. Comparisons were made to the works of Roger Zelazny, who seems to have been a major influence of Gaiman.

About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is a non-profit organization that meets monthly to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts, and popular culture.

General meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in the South America Room at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - unless otherwise specified. Meetings usually consist of business proceedings from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed by a guest speaker involved in some area of Science Fiction or Fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, etc.

Sponsored events such as The Philadelphia Science Fiction Convention, or PhilCon, is the annual science fiction conference sponsored by the Society

Other special interest events, are also sponsored by the society, such as the Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy; and the Special Events Group, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events are also held.

Membership in the society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy. Attend your first meeting; we'll say "Hello." At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership or ask someone else to nominate you. At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$24 for a full year (\$40 for couples), and attendance of 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.

Copies of the Bylaws and Standing Rules can be made available to all Society Members by asking the Secretary.

Contacting the Society

Board of Directors:

Questions? Comments? Contact any boardmember at these numbers, or e-mail us at board@psfs.org

President:	<i>Hugh Casey</i>	(215)674-8047*
Vice President:	<i>Jeff Linder</i>	(856)983-3074
Secretary:	<i>Nathan Lilly</i>	(215)439-8690
Treasurer:	<i>Suzanne Rosin</i>	(610)667-5248
2 Year Director:	<i>Debra Ruh</i>	(215)739-9045
2 Year Director:	<i>Rebecca Marcus</i>	(610)642-8694
1 Year Director:	<i>Saul Snitkin</i>	(215)745-3765

*no calls after 9p.m.

To join the announcement list and other listserves and receive Society related announcements via e-mail, send an e-mail to 'announce-on@psfs.org'. To subscribe to PSFS-Talk (general PSFS discussions), the address is 'psfs-talk-on@psfs.org'.

Call the PSFS hotline: (877) 656-3914 for PSFS Meeting Information, to leave messages, and to receive last minute meeting cancelation notices.

About PSFS News

PSFS News is the newsletter and corporate minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership.

Submissions - PSFS News welcomes submissions and is seeking to expand. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. We prefer that articles be e-mailed (secretary@psfs.org) but they may be mailed if necessary to the PSFS PO Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting.

E-mailed articles may be sent in nearly any format, but text or HTML formats are preferred. Artwork, Sketches, Comics, or Photos are also welcome in any graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us (originals will not be returned).

SciFi-ographies submissions are open to any member who would like to send us approximately 300 words about themselves, and their relationship with science fiction. Submissions will be published based on available space.

Subscriptions - PSFS News is available free to active and general members of PSFS, and to any Science Fiction Club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or inactive members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$15/year.

PSFS News is published by the PSFS Secretary (Nathan E. Lilly) of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

Contributors(in order of submission received): Henry Leon Lazarus, Nathan Lilly, Darrell Schweitzer, Lee Weinstein.

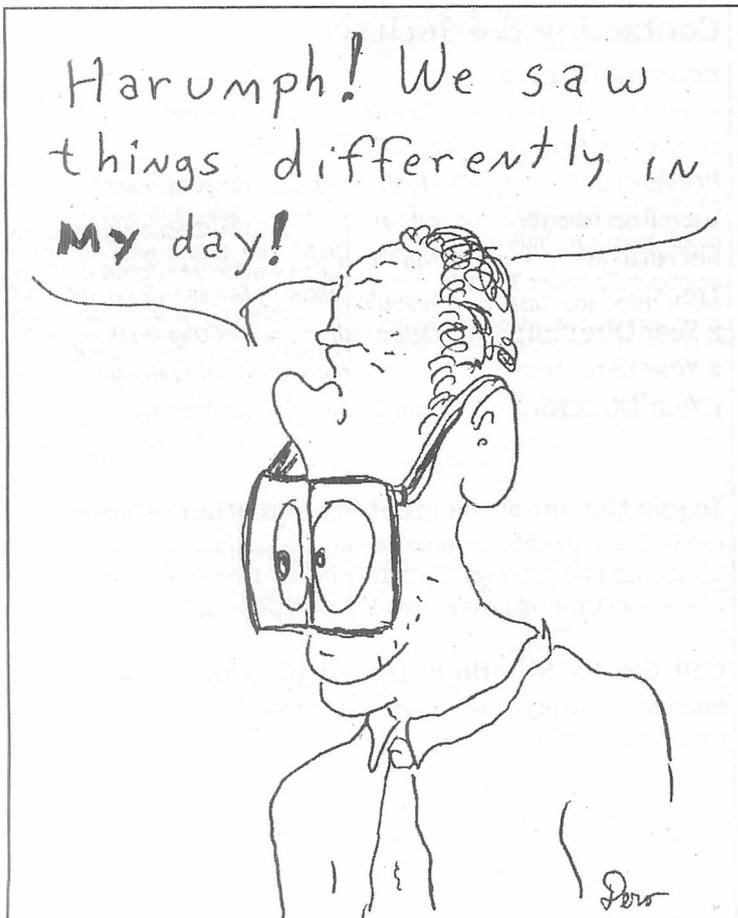
THIS SPACE FOR RENT!

Well, not *this* one, but one very much like it - If you would care to sponsor PSFS News, to help support the society and the newsletter, you may purchase either a half page or full page space (pending approval of the PSFS board).

Contact the secretary by e-mail (secretary@psfs.org) for more information (rates, deadlines, formats, etc.).

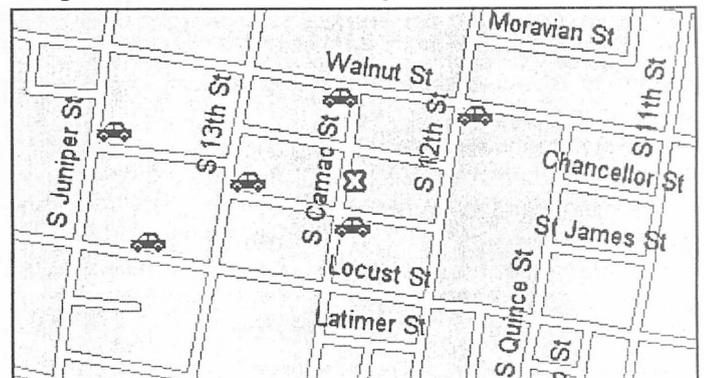
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The Science Fiction Comic
by Darrell Schweitzer



RELOCATION NOTICE:

NOTICE: Beginning in January, meetings will be held at *The Franklin Inn Club*, located at 205 South Camac Street -- the northeast corner of the intersection of Camac and St. James Streets, between 12th and 13th streets on Walnut, in Center City Philadelphia. The approximate location of the building is marked with an X on the map below. Parking lots are marked with a "car" symbol.



Books for Feb. 2003

by Henry Leon Lazarus

Many people think that Science Fiction predicts the future. I wish that were true. What Science Fiction does best is to follow a trend to the future and write a tale set in that future. For example, let us suppose that the Iraq war goes very badly and the US is forced to withdraw - with lots of body bags. At the same time second depression hits. Both of these events are very likely, but add a third element - a democratic candidate blames Jews on problems faced in the U.S. (just like Hitler did in Germany when the first depression got him elected.) All Jews are sent to Israel. Cut off from the world, little Israel manages to survive the apocalypse that a ruined economy brings to the world. A Science Fiction writer could write a tale set in the period in which Israel emerges from its cocoon to find itself the remaining oasis of civilization. Likely? probably not. But it would make for a nice tale.

M.M. Buckner assumes that the earth's biosphere will collapse in the near future, forcing people to move underground. Jolie, a tunnel rat from Paris, has made a career for herself guiding rich tourists to the uninhabitable and very dangerous surface, meets the rich Jin Sura, movie star, and son of the head of the Pacific Corn and falls for him. But he's begun a quest of his own, to be an experimental guinea pig for a new nano-technological brain surgery that will somehow give him *Hyperthought* (paper from Ace) abilities. Jolie, who tells the tale, claims that the story is about jin's efforts to remake himself, but it is really about his rescue, a rescue that requires her crossing parts the horrible wilderness of the future earth. There's also a rebellion going on against the Coms who have turned many people into slaves. This tale is an eye-opening looking into a improbable future, but it is so well limned that it feels very real. I can't wait to see another book from M.M. Buckner. Wow!!!

S.M. Sterling imagines that in 1946 a war veteran found a gate to an alternate earth in which America was never discovered and still has the base native population. He and his friends grew quite rich from the resources of an unmined world. By 2009 there are quite a few people living in the Commonwealth of New Virginia (really around Oakland California). The secret of the gate has held all that time. Tom Christianson and his friend Roy Tully are game wardens who stumble into a group they think is smuggling stuff from protected species and manage to rescue a California condor that somehow wasn't one of the known, protected condors. Adriane Rolfe, the granddaughter of the founder of New Virginia, works for gate security and is trying to squelch smuggling from the new world - even if it means murder. Somehow Tom and Roy get shanghaied into New Virginia and work to stop one of the ruling families from taking over. The fun of *Conquistador* (hard from ROC) is the paradise that New Virginia has become. Plenty of room, low taxes, and an open continent filled with wild animals and practically empty of wild indians (90% of the natives were accidentally killed by imported illness). The schools are good, the air is clean,

and the water fresh. It's a conservative paradise. There's even modern technology in moderation. I'd move there tomorrow, but, alas, it is only available in S.M. Sterling's mind.

Syne Mitchell takes a look at the future of genetic engineering in *The Changeling Plague* (paper from ROC). Plague tales have a certain sameness, and for a while this tale treads the standard path. Geoffrey Allen is a very-rich, young man dying of Cystic Fibrosis and he buys an illegal cure to rewrite his DNA. Unfortunately the virus (based on the AIDS virus) gets out and starts rewriting DNA of the people around him, causing major problems, and many deaths. Enter a researcher at the CDC and soon standard measures like isolation and attempts to cure the spreading plague. The public goes nuts, etc. But then, just when everything seems standard, Ms. Mitchell turns the whole concept on its head. While the main world has created a vaccine and leper colonies for those still afflicted, there's a hacker who realizes that the plague can be used in controlled conditions to hack people's DNA and allow for physical changes. Patient zero, Geoffrey spends his money fighting the disease he inadvertently caused and then, when shipped to a colony near his old home, fights to get medical supplies to the ignored and dying patients. I don't want to spoil the rest of this fun tale, but my head was spinning at the end from all the ideas. This Syne Mitchell's third, and very different novel and marks her as a writer to be watched.

Stephen Leigh writing as S. L. Farrell has written new variation of the standard DAW tale in *Holder of Lighting* (hard). He has a world in which magic ebbs and flows in multi-century long cycles. Magic flows from the sky (when the sky is lit like an aura borealis) and magical stones capture the magic to be used as their holders wish. Jenna, a young shepherdess living in a small village with her mother finds the master stone, the one to awaken all the others and the most powerful of them all, and is swept into a maelstrom of power when the rich and powerful all hunt her from the stone. Mr. Leigh fleshes out his tale with nice touches like the pain brought from drawing the magic, and ancient inhabitants of the land with their own ecological magic. Jenna has to learn how to use the stone and protect herself from those wanting to steal it. This is a great beginning to a special series and I can't wait for the sequel.

I'm not sure why Sean McMullen titled his latest, *The Voyage of the Shadowmoon* (hard from Tor) because the crew spends more time off the ship than voyaging on it. The ship is neat, a wooden spy-ship designed to sink (like a primitive submarine). The danger is tremendous - a magical creation called 'Silverdeath' which, when set off, keeps destroying expanding its range until it reaches water. In the opening scenes it destroys a small continent. It has a side effect of completely healing its host. The crew has a number of interesting characters including the last two priestesses of a religion based on the destroyed continent, a vampire whose soul originally was brought magically from our earth seven hundred years ago, and a castrated ex-king. This creation was one of the best of last years novels and I just finally got a

copy.

With Hades' Daughter (hard from Tor) Sara Douglass begins a historical series (with magic) that will eventually culminate in our time. She takes the tale of the settlement of London by descendants of the sack of Troy. The magic at its heart comes from the Minoan Labyrinth (the one with the Minotaur) that was destroyed by Thesus. In Ms. Douglass' version, each ancient city had a labyrinth which collected all the evil from its surroundings and kept the city-states stable. This first tale introduces the characters who will reincarnate down the years to conflict again and again. It's a fascinating beginning, but a third too long for my taste. Ms. Douglass' descriptions of ancient England rings true as do the Trojan invaders.

The marines landed with a prince to protect and had to first *March Upcountry* (paper), then *March to the Sea* (paper). Now they have to cross the sea fighting giant fish and pirates, go upcountry facing a huge Aztec like society, and then take the star port so they can, in fact *March to the Stars* (Hard from Baen). I don't know what the last book will be titled, but I can't wait to find out how Prince Roger rescues his mother, the Queen. The *March* series is very satisfying military sf in which problems have to be thought through and it is not only fighting skills, but brains that make the warrior. I've read the first set twice and this will probably also be read again before the final volume appears.

Count Ulric and his wife settled down in Canada after World War II, and then wild Indians from an alternate world captured him, forcing Oona (*The Dreamthief's Daughter* (paper)) to chase after him through the world gate where she meets Ayanawatta (Hiawatha) and he adds his quest to hers. At the same time (sort of), Eric of Melinbone, Michael Moorcock's classic character, is dreaming a thousand years of our world during one night of his, and he ends up in the same place, the city of *The Skrayling Tree* (hard from Warner) where the multi-universe has been poisoned. Somehow Mr. Moorcock has mixed American Indian mythology with that of the Norse in a complicated manner. The tale is fun, but I miss the less complicated adventures that Mr. Moorcock devised for Eric in the seventies before he got all pretentious.

Cory Doctorow's *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* (hard from Tor) is a silly tale taking place after death has been conquered and when people earn social points instead of money. Disney World is run by cooperatives who keep improving each ride. The group has recently really improved the Hall of Presidents and might be after the Haunted Mansion. Jules, our hero, is convinced that they were responsible for killing him. It doesn't help that his new body is flawed and he would lose his most recent memories if he gets a new one. This silly tale is about obsession and a future that has everything except challenge. It's a silly tale, but I devoured it over lunch.

Jessica Rydill's tale about the *Children of the Shaman* (paper from Roc) who come to live with their father on the frontier of the Railroad people's land. This is a well developed world, recently recovering from an ice age,

and the ones with magical powers are from the Wanderers, a people based on medieval Jews. Thirteen-year-old Annet and her older brother find themselves and their father in another magical world chasing the cold goddess to set her free. It's hard enough to believe in one world, but when Ms. Rydill added the second, even though well designed, it played havoc with my sense of belief. It's a well written book, though and well worth a perusal.

Self-immolations are urban legends, but Stephen Krane assumes them true as teenager, after teenager turns to flames. One, however, a rebel and comic fan who is sent to an institution because of his violent comic books, has a specialness about him. *Stranger Inside* (paper from DAW) is what the movie *Unbreakable* should have been and it is impossible to put down. Mr. Kane, as usual, writes a taut thriller and I look forward to his next work.

Ian Tattersall has a unique collection of essays about human evolution in *The Monkey in the Mirror* (trade from Harcourt) that is must reading for anyone caught in the crossfire of religion and science.

Older reprints this months include one of the early books of the Liden universe by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller, *Carpe Diem* (paper from Ace) a fun space series killed by the original publisher and revived by a small publisher; Ellen Kushner's *Swordpoint* (paper from Bantam) which I have in hard cover but have only read once in the decade since it came out, *The Book of Athya* (trade from Ace) two of Steven Brust's Vlad Taltos tales; *Hour of the Gremlins* (trade from Baen) which includes some of my favorite novels by Gordon R. Dickson, including one he wrote with Ben Bova. The late Mr. Dickson was more known for his Dorai tales, but I've reread the three tales in this collection a number of times; and Spider Robinson's tales of the best whorehouse, *Lady slings the Blues* (paper from Baen)

Collections this month include the first stories of fantasy writers, *Magical Beginnings* (edited by Steven H. Silver and Martin H. Greenberg, paper from DAW); the first stories of science fiction writers, *Wonderous Beginnings* (edited by Steven H. Silver and Martin H. Greenberg, paper from DAW); classic tales of *Give Me Liberty* (edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Mark Tier, paper from Baen); *Stories by Jack Dan*, Jubilee (hard from Tor); and *Duel* (trade from Tor) classic stories by Richard Matheson including the one Steven Spielberg turned into his first movie.

Paperback reprints include David Weber's *The Excalibur Alternative* (Baen) about knights in space; Jack L. Chalker's second tale about a strange solar system, *Melchior's Fire* (Baen); Anne McCaffrey's fourth freedom tale, *Freedom's Ransom* (Ace); J. Adrian Lee's fun return to the Scottish wars, *Son of the Sword* (Ace); and Patricia A. McKillip's odd fantasy, *Ombria in Shadow* (Ace)



Philadelphia Science Fiction Society
 P.O. Box 8303
 Philadelphia, PA, 19101-8303



NYSFS, The Lunarians Inc. [T]
 PO Box 3566
 New York, NY 10008-3566

PSFS News: November 2002

Convention Calendar

Due to the nature of fandom it sometimes occurs that meetings are moved so that our members may attend conventions. We present to you a list of the upcoming local and major conventions.

February 19-23, 2003
PrezCon 10
 Charlottesville, VA
 Role-Playing Games

March 14-16, 2003
Technicon 20
 Blacksburg, VA
 Science Fiction

February 21-23, 2003
Gazebo of Games
 Piscataway, NJ
 Role-Playing Games

March 17-20, 2003
GAMA Trade Show
 Las Vegas, NV
 Role-Playing Games

February 21-23, 2003
Shevacon 11
 Roanoke, VA
 Science Fiction

December 12-14, 2003
PhilCon 2003
 Philadelphia, PA
 Science Fiction

February 28-March 2, 2003
Johncon
 Baltimore, MD
 Role-Playing Games

March 8-9, 2003
Boston Super Mega Show
 Boston, MA
 Media & Science Fiction

March 14-16, 2003
Enlightenment 6
 Hunt Valley, MD
 Role-Playing Games

Meeting Notices

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at *The Franklin Inn Club*, located at 205 South Camac Street - the northeast corner of the intersection of Camac and St. James Streets, which is just north and east of the intersection of Locust and 13th Streets, in Center City Philadelphia. Business meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Program starts at 9 pm. Meeting dates may be changed by the Society when necessary.

February 21st, 2003
Jeffrey Ford

Author, *The Physiognomy*,
Memoranda, *The Beyond*, *The*
Portrait of Mrs Charbuque

February 27th, 2003
Board Meeting

To discuss society topics.
 Contact board@psfs.org for
 time&location

March 2nd, 2003
PhilCon 2002 Debeifing

To discuss PhilCon 2002.
 Contact info@philcon.org for
 time&location

March 14th, 2003
Karl Kofoed

Artist & Illustrator
The Galactic Geographic

December 12-14, 2003
PhilCon 2003

The Philadelphia Science Fiction
 Conference
 at the *Marriott Hotel*