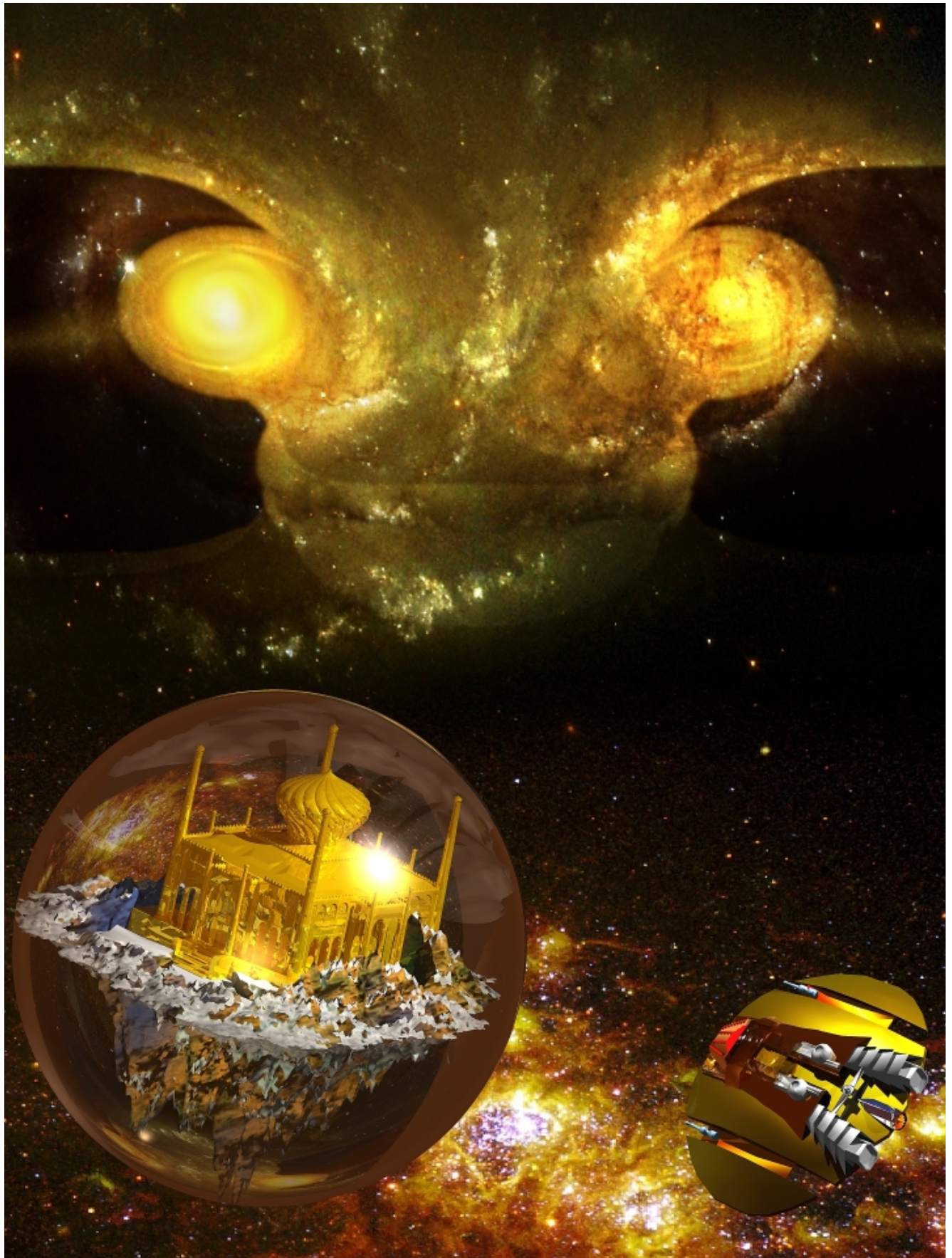


brg 94

February 2017



Cover: Ditmar (Dick Jenssen): 'Dagon'.

A fanzine for the February 2017 mailing of ANZAPA (Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association) and a few others.

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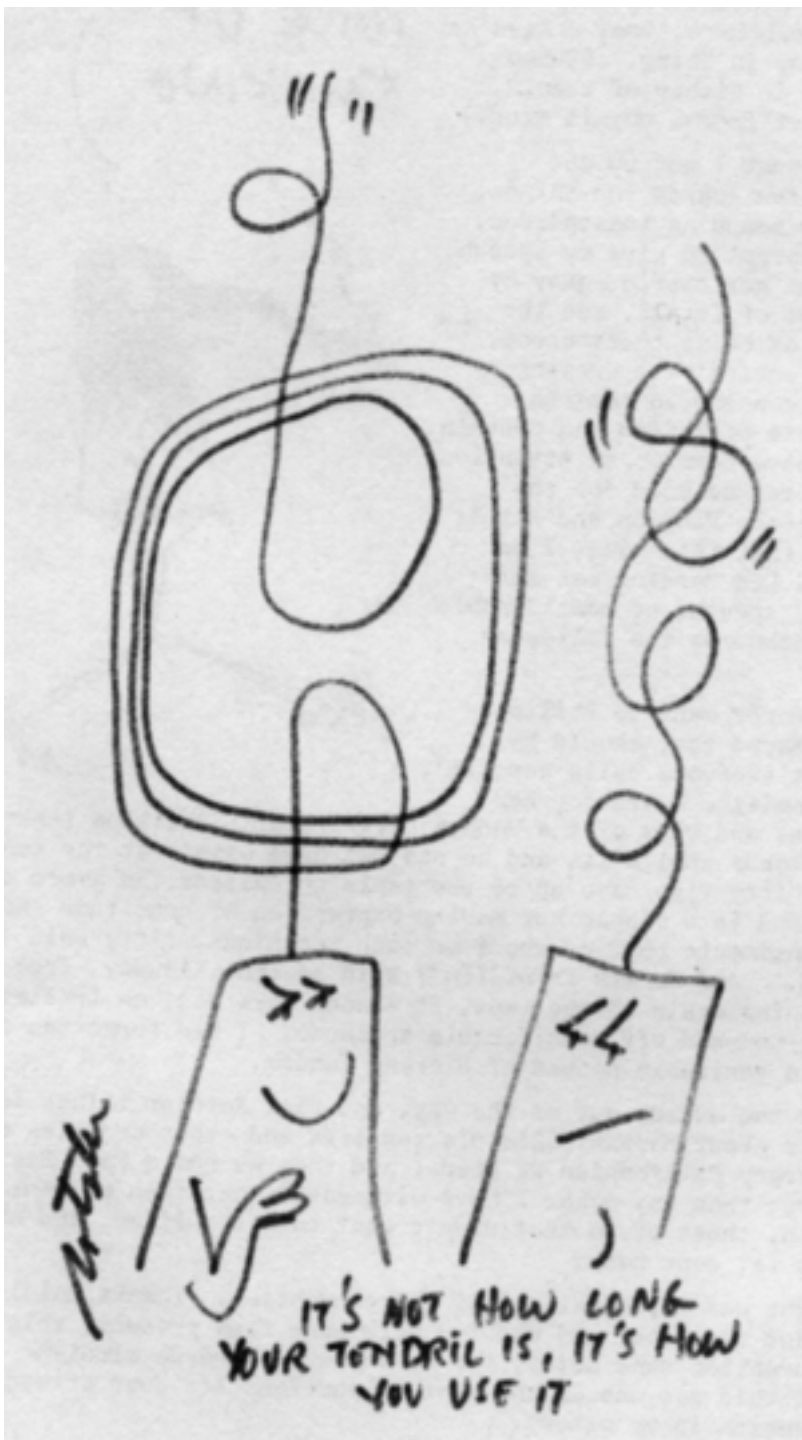
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Cartoon by Bill Rostler, after whom the Rotsler Award is named.

Mike Glycer

Rotsler Award to Ditmar

Reprinted, by permission, from *File 770*.

Martin James Ditmar ('Dick') Jessen is the winner of the **2016 Rotsler Award**, given for long-time artistic achievement in amateur publications of the science fiction community. Established in 1998, the award carries an honorarium of US\$300.

Known among fans as Dick or Ditmar, Jessen got his first look at SF art — a painting of Saturn by Chesley Bonestell — when he was eight. Immediately his imagination kicked

into gear, and he found himself able to visualise variations in the color, the point of view, and other details or hardware. By the time he was a teenager, he was producing art for his friends' mimeographed fanzines, which involved using a metal stylus to draw on waxed master sheets.

Seeing for the first time Morris Scott Dollens' black-and-white space and planetary scenes made him want to learn another technique, scraperboard. This was a thin white clay bonded to a cardboard base, which could be

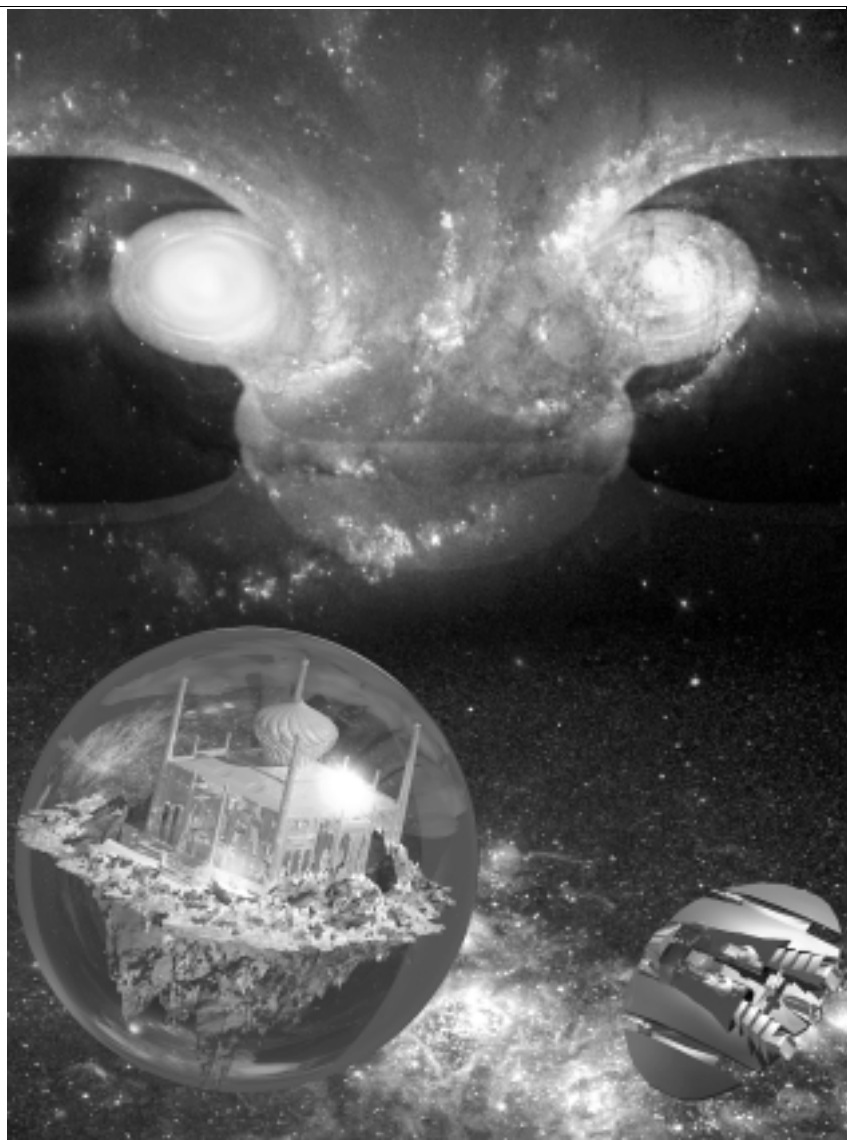


Early Dick Jessen art
(Pre-Ditmar days)

Cover: *Perhaps* 3, 1954.

covered in India ink, then scraped away with a scalpel to reveal the white underneath. Ditmar's efforts in this vein were published on the covers of Australian fanzines.

The advent of computers gave Ditmar a new tool for producing exotic color compositions. 'Since I usually always wanted to redo what I had created, in order to reorganise the compositional elements, and/or the colouring, and/or the elements themselves, it seemed that graphic packages would be ideal. Software which would allow me to generate three-dimensional objects in a virtual world, to organise their spatial distribution and relations, to color them as I wished, to manipulate them in unreal ways.' And digital and online fanzine publishers, freed from the cost of printing color art on paper, responded with approval, publishing several elaborate folios of these images.



The Rotsler Award is sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, a non-profit corporation, which hosted the 1984, 1996, and 2006 World Science Fiction Conventions. The award is named for the late Bill Rotsler, a talented and prolific artist over many years. Sue Mason, Mike Glycer, and John Hertz served as this year's judges.

The award was formally announced at Loscon 43. An exhibit honoring Ditmar's work was displayed in the Art Show.



(Above:) 'Dagon' by Ditmar (Dick Jensen).

(Right:) Dick Jensen in 2000.

2016: the year the world went away

Somebody once said that as you age, you do not leave the world, but the world leaves you. You know what kind of world you live in. You operate reasonably well in it. You are comfortable with most if its shifts and shapes. And then it disappears.

This seems to have happened to most of us, to judge from comments in the ANZAPA mailings I've been reading recently. In 2016 we lost the world of rationality, where things more or less were run in favour of more or less the majority of people in Western societies. Now we know that the few rich people who have stolen most of the world's income really do mean to steal everything. They will rub all of us into the dust if they can get away with it. However, it is not clear why a percentage of Americans voted for the person most likely to ruin their lives. Australians will have to live with this decision, or not live with it.

My own world has not fallen apart dramatically in the way the real world has, but it has been an odd and disappointing year nonetheless. I haven't written much about it, because I find myself wasting words on Facebook. I stay on Facebook to keep in touch with members of my immediate family, some fans, especially from overseas, and John Bangsund. John is not the only Facebook member who treats his site as a series of well-considered blogs, but he does put most bloggers into the shade.

The reality of staying on Facebook is that I spend most of my efforts sending trivial replies to comments by people I don't know very well. The most interesting posts come not from Friends as such, but from members of the various groups in which I'm a member. Some of these groups specialise in the history of Melbourne and my childhood home suburb, Oakleigh. Two groups specialise in the work of Philip K. Dick. All very interesting, but probably I would have contributed many more pages to fanzines if Facebook didn't exist.

In 2016 my life's pattern became very restricted. I still need to compile indexes as an addition to my income. So I finish an index. I go back to *SF Commentary*. I try to remember where I was, and what needs to appear in the next issue. I produce some fanzine or other, then another index arrives. On two occasions I've stuffed up the covers of the paper editions of *SFC* because I was struggling to regain the flow of publication after finishing an index. I ruined a cover by Steve Stiles, Hugo winner; and then ran a cover by Carol Kewley a second time. She had put a lot of trouble into supplying me with two covers that were supposed to appear within a few weeks of each other. Instead, the two issues appeared a year and a half apart, so I completely forgot I had the second cover sitting on file, and repeated the *SFC* 88 cover on *SFC* 92. In 2016

I produced an issue of *Treasure* as well as three *SFCs*, but even the issue of *Treasure* contains no writing by me.

I found the social aspects of fandom a bit wearying. I resigned from one committee because I realised I was not wanted on it. Nevertheless, before I gave in to the inevitable, a group of us managed to box up the MSFC fanzine collection, and arrange with Dr Stephen Herrin at Monash Rare Books Collection for it to be transported to Monash. I assume the contents of the 46 boxes are being archived. I did give a talk to the Club about fanzine editing, which jolted Jocko Allen into writing a nice article that appears in *SFC* 93. My own MSFC talk, edited for a non-SF audience, seemed to be enjoyed by members of the Book Collectors Society, Victorian Branch, and has appeared in the society's magazine *Biblioneus* (as well as in *SFC* 93).

My social highlight of 2016/2017 was New Year's Eve. I haven't been to a New Year's Eve party for many years. Jenny and Russell Blackford used to invite me down to Middle Park each year, but in those days the trains didn't run late enough to get back to Greensborough. This year public transport ran all night. I enjoyed greatly visiting Jenny Bryce and Tony Thomas and their guests in Elwood. The weather was perfect. The conversation was sparkling. I drank one too many glasses of shiraz. About 1.30 in the morning the party broke up. I set off with three other people to grab a tram back along Brighton Road to the city. We waited for over half an hour. A group of much younger people walked toward us. One of them carried a mobile phone that could pick up the official tram information. A tram was expected in a few minutes. It did not arrive. We walked up to the corner of Brighton Road and Carlisle Street. Still no tram. We had waited 50 minutes already. Great conversation, but it was beginning to look as if no trams were running back to the city. So I left the others and walked down to Balaclava Station, and soon caught a train. When I arrived at Flinders Street Station, all the platforms were packed. People were just leaving the city after watching the midnight fireworks display along the Yarra. Everybody was having a great time. There was no sign of aggression or public drunkenness. I caught my train to Greensborough and arrived home right on 4 a.m.

I don't know whether Elaine had slept or not. She said sleepily, 'I thought you might not get home till 4.' She was very glad she had stayed at home. Not only had the usual locals been letting off the usual illegal fireworks, but some hoon in a car had been circling around the suburb letting off explosions designed to terrify both humans and pets. Elaine had managed to keep Harry and Sampson safe and calm.

Other highlights of the year? Thanks very much to David Russell for taking a group of us to dinner at Florentina, and later in the year, to lunch at the NGV restaurant. Thanks to both the Melbourne SF Club and the Nova Mob for some entertaining nights, including Justin Ackroyd's guide to the Arthur Clarke Award nominees. This was a great help to me in finding some good British SF books during the year.

I don't see my sisters very often. Robin came down from Queensland, and Jeanette from Guildford (near Castlemaine) for the 100th anniversary of the Oakleigh Church of Christ. Our family went to church at Oakleigh during the first eleven years of my life (1947–58), and Mum and Dad retained their deepest church-based friendships with the Oakleigh people who also retired to Rosebud. Jeanette also invited her son Colin, his new partner Anita, and his four children (Ryan, Kaiden, Mason, and Eboni) to the 100th Anniversary service. Oakleigh has only 35 members these days, but 100 people turned up. I've never written about religion in my fanzines, and I'm not starting now. (Much of what I might say about growing up within the Churches of Christ is said much better by Tim Winton in his most recent book of essays, *The Boy Behind the Curtain*) I still can't sing, so I had to mumble the hymns, but the average singing volume of this congregation was much louder and more enthusiastic than I remember from childhood. Also, the Oakleigh congregation can now look *up* to slides showing the words instead of looking down into their hymnals.

After the service, which included quite a bit of local history as well as sermons, prayers, and singing, we went to lunch in the hall at the back of the church. I caught up with people I hadn't seen for 50 years. Lots of historical photos were on display. Colin for the first time realised that not only his mother and father (my sister Robin and her first husband John) had married at Oakleigh, but so had his grandparents. So Colin popped up onto the platform, knelt in front of Anita, and very publicly proposed to her. We, his family, were very embarrassed, of course, but Colin's children and everybody else loved it.

Lowlights of the year?

The lowlight of the year was being forced to change internet providers. Telstra had bought Pacific Internet (Pacnet) a year or so ago, but now insisted that we change to a Bigpond address. A person made a very attractive offer to Elaine over the phone, and we understood that we would change to this new arrangement. It would save us at least \$60 a month. However, we should have asked for a written contract. Elaine spent more than 12 hours on the phone trying to get various techs to fulfil the various bits of the contract. Eventually the Bigpond address worked, but it seems our Pacific address will be turned off this coming May, so I will be excluded from the various Yahoo e-lists of which I am a member. Telstra seems to have deteriorated as an organisation even since our travails last May, and many of our friends report

exasperating difficulties with their phone service or with Bigpond as an ISP provider.

During 2016 famous people kept dying with monotonous frequency, including some respected SF people, such as Peter Weston and Dave Hartwell, and public figures such as David Bowie and Nikolas Hannoncourt. Perhaps the most missed rock and roll casualty has been Leon Russell, who died at the age of 74. At least he had a late-career bout of success, thanks to the CD he made with Elton John a few years ago. Most of the deceased pop music people have been about my age or only slightly older. This does not help my peace of mind.

Another lowlight of the year was the increase in overseas postage (again) and the sharp increase in local postage. I spent \$1000 on postage in the last few months of the year. So *SFC* 94 will have to be the last issue with a print edition.

The ABC hired a new CEO, Michelle Guthrie, to destroy the organisation instead of defending it. Her public statements and service cuts to Radio National and Local Radio indicate that Guthrie has never read the ABC Charter, and doesn't have much respect for people who read books or listen to music. ABC Classic FM was not destroyed, as rumoured, but only because of a clever campaign organised by *Limelight*, Australia's classical music magazine.

The most radical thing I did during 2016 was cancel daily delivery of the *Age* newspaper. Our monthly bill had just hit \$100. Enough! Over the last two years the *Age* has sacked most of its good journalists and cartoonists and has run down or deleted nearly every feature that once made it indispensable. Only the Saturday edition retains any resemblance to the *Age* of its great years. For many years, I'd taken the *Sunday Age* only because it would have been difficult for the newsagent to persuade the delivery person to refrain from tossing a paper on the footpath on one day out of seven. Now I walk down to the Greensborough Plaza and buy the *Age* on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays sometimes, and Saturdays. I suspect the *Age* will soon drop its week-day print editions. (I go down to the Plaza for morning coffee so I can catch up with the *Herald Sun* for free. I don't really want to contribute my dollars to Rupert Murdoch's coffers, but the *Hun* includes all the stray bits of news that the *Age* never mentions. Vastly more people die in the *Herald Sun* than they do in the *Age*. Yes, the *Herald Sun* features all the fascist columnists you would expect in a Murdoch paper, but it is still a *newspaper* in a way the *Age* no longer is.

So we wait patiently for the end of the world, including harassment and impoverishment of pensioners by members of the current Australian government, would-be Trumps.

In 2016, I did enjoy reading books, listening to CDs and watching Blu-rays, as you can see later in this issue of **brg**.

And, of yes, I turn 70 on 17 February 2017. At the age of

70, my father had just died, after suffering from memory loss for about 10 years and two years of bowel cancer. I know I feel not much different now from how I felt 30 years ago, and my lousy memory is no worse than it was then, but I couldn't help feeling nervous about trundling past my 70th.

SF Commentary turned 48 on 1 January. Eric Lindsay

turned 70 on 2 February. Lee Harding turns 80 two days after I turn 70. We all hope to celebrate these anniversaries before the bombs start falling. I'm too old to dig bomb shelters.

— Bruce Gillespie, 5 February 2017

Mailing comments

Mailing 292: August 2016

Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer: QUOZ 49

Claire:

Brexit is the horrible gift that keeps on giving.

ANZAPA's birthday is October 2018. I was two months out when Elaine and I held our afternoon tea in August 2008 to celebrate ANZAPA's fortieth birthday. But the weather is much more kind to British visitors in August than in October. ANZAPA members probably cannot afford much more than an afternoon tea or a meal at a restaurant. I doubt if we have funds or interest level to put on an Old Pharts Convention, but we hope you and Mark can get to our 2018 Afternoon Tea.

Twenty Years After is the one Alexandre Dumas novel I've read, way back in the mid sixties. I've never read *The Man in the Iron Mask*. I did read the *Classics Illustrated* comic, and I've seen so many movie versions of *The Three Musketeers* I feel that I've read it. But I haven't.

The Max Barry novel that put him on the map in Australia was *Jennifer Government*, but it seems not to have stayed in print. I've never read it.

I've never seen any episodes of *West Wing*, so it's unlikely that I would ever have heard the *West Wings Podcast*. Besides, USA seems to have decided on a non-*West Wing* regime. More like a *House of Cards* regime.

Australia's xenophobic refugee policy is much worse than anything found in Europe (at least until refugees were trapped in Serbia), but, it seems, an inspiration for Trump's latest announcement on immigration visas.

Mark:

Last I heard, Lucy Zinkiewicz is an academic who lives and works in Geelong. I think I met her once. She is on Facebook, but I've seen almost no correspondence from

her.

I'm not tempted by *Game of Thrones*. And anyway, I would not watch it on anything less than a 40-inch screen.

The committee of the first Aussiecon were not bound by any of the unwritten rules of worldcons, mainly because they didn't know them. Since we didn't know the rules of seniority that govern the choice of Guests of Honour for most worldcons, we didn't follow them. Ursula Le Guin was very much our favourite SF writer, and the one most likely to be known in Australia outside of the SF community. Mike and Susan were the most brilliant fans of their generation, which makes it all the more sad that neither is still alive.

I've never read *Gray Lensman*. E. E. Smith was already a 'primitive artefact' of the SF world when I started reading the magazines in 1960, but is now much more popular than he was during the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

I could stretch time during my teens and twenties much better than I can now. My peak reading years were those when I was commuting: between home and school, 1963 and 1964; between Bacchus Marsh and Melbourne University (one hour on the train each way), 1965–8; and between East Preston and Carlton (my place of work) 1971–3. During my two years staying in Ararat, I read not many books, but did get through four volumes of *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Thanks for the Zola cartoon.

Thanks for the further news of Cathy Kerrigan. As far as I know, she had not made contact with anybody in Australian fandom since she arrived back here in 2009.

I had no idea that Thomas Bull was documenting Melbourne fandom for *Fancyclopedia 3*. Does he write these comments because he thinks none of us reads them? Thomas is a man of deep mystery.

Since Australia seems determined to wipe out large chunks of its history, or pretend much of it didn't

happen in the first place, Melbourne buildings show few of kind of plaques you show in this issue of *Quoz*.

Diane and John Fox: RHUBARB 62

Diane:

Thanks for the trip report. Your account of your American trip had started to make it feel like 'Five Years in a Leaky Boat'. But you reached home at last!

I have a vague mental image of Kangaroo Island, and I do know where it is. But where is Cockatoo Island in New South Wales?

Thanks for the warning to *not* try wearing VR goggles, especially as the goggles would probably have to fit over my spectacles. (But I have no trouble watching 3D movies while wearing specs.)

We have in Greensborough a fortnightly green-bin collection service for garden rubbish, but usually Elaine has filled it long before the end of the fortnight.

John:

As I'm sure everybody has told you since, 'Heart of Gold' was not written by Boney M, although they might have performed it. It was the biggest hit that Neil Young wrote for the *Harvest* album, the top-selling album of 1972, and the LP that nearly put me off Neil Young for life. (Fortunately, Roger Weddall lent me *American Stars and Bars* in 1976, converting me into the rabid Neil Young fan I am today.)

Thanks for the tip about picking up a non-driving licence for ID purposes. As things stand, I can't even send a parcel overseas because I have no photo ID.

Michael Green: ABSTRACTIONS 16

I had no idea of where Tenby Point is, but now, thanks to you, I now know it's the launch point for the French Island ferry.

Thanks for the reports on Continuum 12, but I've skimmed them lightly. My respect for panelists has sharply reduced over the years (even when I'm on a panel, which hasn't happened for awhile).

Congratulations on adopting Chloe! She looks like a wonderful replacement for Embers. But don't forget to include a photo in every ANZAPA mailing.

I bought a copy of Lauren Beukes' *The Shining Girls* when it was first released. Now all I need to do is find it on the shelves and read it.

For my definition of 'real science fiction', take a look at my article 'My Life, Science Fiction, and Fanzines', which is the lead article in *SF Commentary* 93 (in December's ANZAPA mailing). I try to explain my definition of SF to a non-science-fiction-reading audience.

You know me. If I'm nuts about something, I need to know everything about it — but I know nothing about most things.

I can now recommend *The Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. It's not quite as seamlessly brilliant as some critics claim, but it fills two hours much more entertainingly than most films you find littering up the cinemas.

David Grigg:

THE FRETFUL PORPENTINE 10

The heating system in our Greensborough villa was at least 30 years old when we moved in, so it died in the middle of the wettest weekend of June during the second year after we arrived. So Elaine reached into her disappearing savings to pay \$5000 for a new heating unit and ducts, and it took a fortnight before it could be installed. Our house is almost unlivable in the middle of winter without central heating. The first night without heating we switched on three of our old column heaters — one in each of Elaine's workroom, my workroom, and the living room — and immediately two of the three phases of the electricity supply failed. We survived until the new unit was installed only because the rest of June was a lot warmer than the cold weekend that killed the old unit.

Thanks for the tip to watch out for a Burt Lancaster film I've never seen, *The Rainmaker*. Lancaster was one of those actors who starred only in films whose scripts he liked, and he knew how to choose good scripts. Thanks to Dick Jenssen, recently I've seen *Twilight's Last Gleaming*.

Jack Herman:

NECESSITY 131: STARTS SHOWING WHEN WE'RE SCARED

Thanks for your political analysis up to July 2016. Things just got worse, a lot worse.

It's typical of the *Age* that it did not even acknowledge the death of Frank Perry, whose *Bristow* ran in that paper for at least thirty years.

I know nothing about the Chans, except that they seem to be great friends, write books that are very popular, and they make great guests of honour at convention. (Continuum 12 was the second time when they have been joint guest of honour.)

Rhapsody in Blue is as classical as you want to play it (if only I could play it at all). I've heard some dull classical versions, a few brilliant classical versions, and at least one played in semi-jazz style. It is, of course, not jazz, because the pianist does not improvise.

I've read few of the major American nineteenth-century novels. Some American authors from that era, such as Edgar Allan Poe, write sentences that are even more congested than Dickens' or Scott's.

I spent a whole term researching and writing an essay about Teddy Roosevelt when I was doing American History in 1966. I'd have to agree with your description of him. Indeed, in personality he was the closest to Donald Trump of all America's presidents. Everybody thought he was vulgar, and he became President only because the 1900 winner was assassi-

nated. But he was a Progressive who accomplished much despite facing Republican majorities in Congress.

Thanks for your one-paragraph summary of the history of Applesauce. That's the only history of Applesauce I've seen.

Thanks for the tip to look for Peter Frankopan's *The Silk Road*.

Kim Huett:

GASTON J. FREEBLEHARE 1

Quote of the mailing: '[I have] no mobile phone number, however, as that sort of thing simply encourages unexpected phone calls, and some of us don't care to be quite that sociable.' At Howard Street, we are lucky to receive one or more incoming phone calls per day (plus spam calls), and often we don't call anybody for days at a time.

Surely you should have an inguinal hernia fixed up as soon as possible? Hernias can be very dangerous.

Thanks for the account of the changing social and restaurant map of Canberra, the sort of thing you won't find in any newspaper available in Melbourne. Indeed, your article is somewhat better written than almost anything in today's newspapers.

Thanks for the review of Sarah Wise's *The Italian Boy*. Australia's James Bradley published a novel called the *The Resurrection Men* a few years ago.

Eric Lindsay:

KINGDOM OF THE BLAND

On hot January days we can dry a bunch of laundry by lunchtime.

Thanks for the trip report. Not much I can comment on, since I've never been to Europe, and am now unlikely to leave Australia again. I'll ask for flying tips if ever I need them.

There was no problem with you sending ANZAPA dues to my account. However, we have to send our biennial payment for our website to Jean via cheque, because it is paid for by Gillespie & Cochrane Pty Ltd. Both of our signatures must appear on the cheque for it to be legal.

If I had been a top journalist or publisher when I reached 65, I wouldn't have considered retiring. A friend of mine who is a successful small publisher, well into his seventies, says he's never had so much fun in life. It's the fact I *must* keep working that's so annoying.

Jean Weber: JEANZINE 16-4

Thanks for the great photos, especially of sea, glaciers, islands, and fjords.

LynC:

FROM THE LAIR OF THE LYNX 93

Thanks for the great photo of Callie.

I've already placed an order with David Grigg for a copy of the *Antares* anthology.

After reading *Nil By Mouth*, I was looking forward to your later novels. It doesn't help that your promised publisher has just thrown in the towel. He should have asked advice from old greybeard small publishers like Rob, Carey, and me. But if he had asked for advice, he wouldn't have started publishing.

I've been going to conventions for nearly 50 years, so I agree with 'I've been going to these cons too long'. I couldn't afford a membership to Continuum 12 in 2016, so attended only the first night for the presentation of the Chandler Award to Jocko. I chatted to a few people, then disappeared into the night. Thanks for your reports on the various panels.

Thanks for your piece about the two Chans. I knew nothing about them, and had wondered if they were related.

I have one story that I should actually extract from my head and transfer to paper sometime. I might inflict it on ANZAPA members if ever I write it.

Thanks for the Hugo reading list. I can't say that any of the nominees tempted me.

Until Elaine showed me the other night I was not even sure what Goodreads is. It seems to serve the same function as my annual 'Favourite Books' list. You certainly read far more than I do, or read much more quickly.

Thanks for your alert to *The Islands of Chaldea* by Diane Wynne Jones and Ursula Jones. I'd better order it from Slow Glass.

I suppose I had heard the term 'cisgender', but had little idea of what it means. Thanks for the explanation.

Elaine bought lots of those lovely black-covered Penguin Classics over 45 years ago. She wanted to learn Latin and Greek sometime in her life, since they were not subjects offered at Glenroy High School. In the end, she did only a year's study in each of these languages, but she has never lost her interest in the classic authors, and reads the Penguin Classics translations from time to time. I haven't read any of them. (Another project for my nonexistent retirement.)

Elaine is great at preparing vegetable-based meals for us.

The real reason I hate cars is that I could never trust myself to drive one, especially in today's looney traffic. I have very little self-confidence in most things practical, but feel I can usually trust my legs or public transport. I can't afford to take a taxi anymore.

'I do not lend any of my books. Ever.' Bravo! If only Elaine and I had followed this rule, absolutely, over the last 40 years.

I know very little about your family background, so I had no idea that your father had walked out on the family when you were six.

Gary Mason:
CRASH OF THE HARD DISK 25

Thanks for the information about *Bluey and Curley*, one of my favourite comics in the *Sun* during the 1950s.

Thanks for the photo of Les Dixon.

Boofhead was never featured in any Melbourne newspaper, as far as I can remember.

Your work situation sounds rather intimidating, even terrifying. I'll look for developments in later ANZAPA mailings.

Thanks for your umbrella story. Last time I unfurled my umbrella I was pulling my wheelie case behind me. The wind sprang up, the rain came down, the umbrella waved around, I stepped on a slippery bit of path, and over I went. No damage, but I continue to rely on my raincoat for protection rather than a broolly.

Our clients use Dropbox these days to send us PDFs of books Elaine and I are working on.

Is the 'Greg' you mention the 'Greg' of 'Greg & Grae', cartoonist guests of honour at the 1971 Melbourne convention held at the Golden Age Hotel?

Your analysis of the various parties on the Senate ticket is much more informed and astute than mine. I had no idea of the real priorities and policies of the smaller parties on that endless Senate piece of paper.

Your analysis of the situation at the end of election night proved to be correct. Turnbull has shown some skill in navigating through the Senate legislation that Tony Abbott could not have enacted. So the war on the poor and the aged continues, as expected. I don't know how I will survive the next three years financially.

Frantz Kantor: a name from the past. He first appeared at the Australia Day convention held at Macquarie University in January 1975 (the last time I visited Sydney). He and his sister were showing a portfolio of artwork. Everybody said 'ooh!' and 'ah!' and wished them well, but I had heard nothing more of his career until now. Meanwhile, Dimitri Razuvaev, our great white hope of the art scene in the very early seventies, disappeared entirely by 1974, and has never been heard of since.

Don't bother with the Kevin Spacey *House of Cards*. I survived two and a half episodes before deciding it was going nowhere. The British original version was a re-telling of *Macbeth* for Thatcherian times, embodying the bloody and ferocious pace of the original play.

Elaine, who keeps up with her Chemistry because she edits science and maths textbooks, says that 'sulfur' is now the worldwide correct spelling.

That photo is definitely from the first Advention, held in the Adelaide hills (1972). Bill might have been at the second Advention (but I don't remember him being there), but John Bangsund wasn't.

Thanks for all the detail about your Kangaroo Island holiday. Sounds too expensive a holiday for me, even if I could afford to Adelaide to begin the trip. Mark and Claire have been there at least once, with a

group of Adelaide fans.

In 2005, when I was visiting Seattle, Alan Rosenthal pointed out the original Starbucks store. We were in too much of a hurry to go in. The only drinkable Starbucks coffee I found in America was in Seattle.

Jeanne Mealy:
LAND OF 10,000 LOONS

I've never been to a Wiscon. Usual pangs of envy.

So what is a 'nerd myth'? That panel items needs a bit of explanation.

I can't quite see Melbourne fans turning up for an ANZAPA collation party (although one was held at Aussiecon 3 in 1999), so I do it myself. Apologies for the occasional doubled item in the ANZAPA packet.

If John has been able to buy a new car, I take it that he has been able to get a new job sometime during the last year. I don't remember reading about this in ANZAPA. Last I heard, both of you were without jobs.

The con suite is the feature most obviously missing at Australian conventions. It's because Australian hotels want to extract every last dollar from all catering within the hotel, including anything the convention itself might want to offer.

When I was in the radio Argonauts' Club (*ABC Children's Hour*) during the 1950s my ship name was Thalia 24. My sister Robin was in the club for only a few years. She was Melpomene 16. Both Thalia and Melpomene were Muses. Since every member of the club was given the name of a god or goddess from Greek or Roman mythology, at a very early age I knew the pronunciation of all of them.

Thanks for the story of Bette Nesmith and Liquid Paper.

The *Miss Fisher* TV series is based on Kerry Greenwood's highly successful series of books, not the other way around. Kerry retains advisory control over the series, although only the first series was based directly on her novels. Kerry Greenwood gave a highly entertaining talk to the Nova Mob a few years ago.

Terry Morris: HOLD THAT TIGER!

Thanks for the news about Gab. I wish I had had all that talent when I was 16. I wish I had some of that talent now. My only hope at that age was that I could keep passing exams and get into Bachelor of Arts at Melbourne University. My main hobby was listening to pop music on the radio and collecting Top 40 charts, but I had no musical ability. I wanted to write, but didn't get far with writing fiction. I wanted to edit and publish, but had not yet discovered fandom.

'Raph, meanwhile, has decided to give up on the transgender thing and join the army.' Really?

It's great to hear that your kids are becoming involved with politics.

Re culture: I can't talk about chocolate at all! I shouldn't eat it. It can give me mighty headaches.

John Newman: LIFE ON EARTH 5

What steps do you take to control coeliac disease? It is fully manageable through diet?

I've never downloaded an e-book, so I'm not worried about DRM. But I don't borrow books from the library, because I have to give them back to the library after I've read them.

If I bought a phone with texting I wouldn't be able to type on it because I would have to use my thumbs. I would need one of those mini-pencils to peck-and-type.

'Clancy@theoverflow' is brilliant. I suspect it is on the web, not just at the Bendigo Historical Society.

Roman Orszanski: SPARROWGRASS & BATTLETWIGS 44

I'd never heard of the Fan Olympics — but I've also never been to a Swancon.

In the 1970s I was a Vegemite addict, but now I can't bear to eat it. I used to eat Vegemite and butter on Salada cracker sandwiches for lunch during my days of living at Carlton Street. I'm not sure why I lost the taste. I began to eat much more interesting lunches when Elaine and I got together, and I hadn't tasted Vegemite for over 30 years. Phtooy!

In Victoria we've heard little news of the South Australian Royal Commission into a nuclear waste dump. That's how news works these days: on a state-by-state basis, with a sprinkling of national news. The only exception used to be Terry Lane's *The National Interest* program on ABC Radio National. He covered matters important to individual states that other states might have want to know about. But Terry Lane retired. The program itself lasted for another year.

I never have time to listen to audiobooks, since I don't commute to work, but audible.com sounds like a site to bookmark.

Cath Ortlieb: YOU REALLY KNOW YOU'RE HOME WHEN YOU FIND A WOMBAT IN YOUR BED 165

Thanks for the colour photos from Continuum 12, especially of Jocko receiving his Chandler Award.

Who are the other people in the 'Strong Female Characters' panel?

Lucy Schmeidler: OZ SF FAN

Thanks for your description of your methods of discovering Australian authors and books. You are much better at it than I am. On Facebook I see occasional advertisements from authors, but their books appear very seldom in bookshops. Justin Ackroyd used to list some of them in his *Slow Glass Catalogue*, but he has now abandoned publishing it. Almost none of the local publishers send me review copies, so I can't review (or even notice) most

of their books in *SF Commentary*.

I've never been able to work out how to use databases or spreadsheets. All I need to create an index is a Word file of all the items in a book or article, and there is a Word command that will place them in alpha order.

You say that *The Last Necromancer* is by C. J. Archer, an Australian, but I have never heard of this author.

I have heard of Paul Collins, of course. We've been friends since the end of 1975, when he and his then partner Rowena Cory arrived in Melbourne from Brisbane. I met him in the street in Clifton Hill the other day, and caught up with his news. However, I have not heard of the book you mention.

Spike: THIS IS CHAMPAGNE RHINO 1/WARM CHAMPAGNE 8

What a great concept, to publish your own ANZAPazine designed to look like Susan's ANZAPzine.

It's rather a jolt to see the names David Levine and Kate Yule, and to realise that Kate has fallen ill and died since you published your zine in August. David and Kate visited our place during Elaine's Garden Visit a few days before Aussiecon 4 in 2010.

Do Australians eat popcorn at the movies? Hah! I rarely visit one of the multiplex cinemas, but when last I did, a family in front of me bought their tickets — and enough popcorn and Coke to the value of \$57. The cinema chains are said to make most of their profits from their candy bars.

I have a vague memory of enjoying the first *Ghostbusters*, but the memory is not clear enough to make me seek out the new version. It's already been released on Blu-ray.

Alan Stewart gave me his copy of Delany's *Mad Man*, but after reading 40 pages I gave it back.

You don't mention the CD I sent you (a copy of Taral's CD of the complete works of Mike Glicksohn). It doesn't include any copies of *Warm Champagne*, because Taral had no access to copies, but it does include Jerry Kaufman's *The Best of Susan Wood*. Note the ominous line in *Champagne 8*: 'I've noticed a strange condition in my life: the chaos never seems to end.' And her life just got worse.

Susan has now been dead for 37 years, but Kate Wilhelm is still writing (now forced to self-publish).

Alan Stewart: YTTERBIUM 112

I'm not sure what all the fuss is about beer. To me it's just a cold fizzy drink that substitutes quite nicely for soft drink, which I'm not supposed to drink at all. I'm allowed one standard alcoholic drink per day, so I drink one beer when I go out to dinner. Sometimes I even drink two beers over dinner. It puts on weight, but not as much weight as drinking soft drinks or fruit juices.

I'm also not allowed to eat Tim Tams, and I seem

to have got over my addiction to them. If they are not in the house, I don't eat them.

The Melbourne SF Club's fanzine collection has now been moved from Jocko's house to the Monash Rare Books Collection. It's difficult to access, because you have to visit Monash University to look at them, but the fanzines are a lot more accessible than when they were piled up in boxes in Jocko's spare bedroom.

I haven't read any of your book choices except *Europe at Midnight*. It tells a lot about the state of Australian SF and fantasy that I had never heard of *The Year's Best Young Adult Speculative Fiction 2014*.

Your TV and DVD lists: I once tried watching *The Men Who Stare at Goats*. I'm not sure why I disliked it, but it didn't seem funny or peculiar enough to be interesting, although the original books is said to be very interesting.

I really enjoyed the *Jack Irish* movies, and the recent six-part series. Australia is making TV mini-series extremely well these days.

I gave up on *Bosch, Season 2*, although I really enjoyed Season 1. The central interest of the first season was the characters, but those characters merely stayed the same in Season 2.

I enjoyed *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, although the end was a bit wet. *Zootopia* is a very impressive animated feature, although I probably won't keep my copy.

Sally Yeoland:

LES CHATTES PARTIES 145

Your family sounds a lot more complicated than mine. I'm glad you've been able to mend a few family fences.

I loved *Into the Woods* because it was written by

Stephen Sondheim, whose work is a cut above other 'musicals'.

No sooner did I print my lists of favourite classical pieces and recordings than I remembered all the items I had left out. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* would have to be my No 1 favourite piece of classical music. How many different versions have we owned over the years? Twenty, perhaps more. My favourite *recording* is Daniel Barenboim's first recording of the last three piano sonatas by Beethoven. His recording of the Sonata No. 32 (Opus 111) emits an almost supernatural aural glow.

Like everybody else, I love the Adagietto from Mahler's 5th Symphony, but find the other movements fairly craggy. The first four symphonies are rich from beginning to end, each in a quite different way. I love Mahler's 7th, with its two outer exuberant movements and three inner movements that sound as if the composer is creeping along the floor of a forest at midnight, but many find the 7th puzzling. Mahler's 8th, the choral symphony ('Symphony of 1000') has to be sung to perfection or not at all. There are very few great versions of it. The 9th Symphony's first three movements can be a bit hard to take, unless conducted by Leonard Bernstein or Bruno Walter, but the half-hour-long last movement always sounds magnificent. Perhaps Mahler's greatest symphony does not have that title; it's *The Song of the Earth*. One of the top ten recordings of all time is the 1952 Bruno Walter version in which Kathleen Ferrier sings the last movement.

Jack Herman tells a bit about the history of Applesauce in his contribution. I was never a member, and knew little about it. I once leafed through a mailing when visiting Marc Ortlieb in Adelaide in 1980.

Mailing 293: October 2016

Doug Bell: SECRET ORIGINS

Thanks for joining us! The benign influence of Claire and Mark continues to spread outward from Croydon. I met Christina during her GUFF trip in 1996, but I've never met you.

Thanks for telling us a bit about Cornwall. I certainly did not know about its parlous economic state. I had somehow thought it must be so picturesque that it's overrun by rich tourists. My only knowledge of it comes from various bits of fiction I've read; a slide show that a friend of Dad's once showed, which included photos of 'Lance-ston', spelled the same way as the place in Tasmania we call 'Lawn-sest-on', i.e. Launceston; and Roger Weddall's description of his long walk along the cliffs of Cornwall during either his 1982 or 1985 trip.

Thanks for your own mini-autobiography.

Yes, your joining fandom in 1992 makes you a bright young thing compared to most of us in ANZAPA. I estimate that 16 of us joined fandom in the 1970s or very early 80s, 3 in the 1980s, and 2 in the 1990s or later.

Congratulations on getting involved in fan history. Marc Ortlieb was doing some very valuable fan history, especially ANZAPA history, before he bolted off into another fandom. Leigh Edmonds is racing ahead with his Australian Fan History project, but that might not appear for a couple of years.

You don't find *On the Road* on many favourite novels lists these days. I found its prose intoxicating when I read the book in the 1970s, after Gerald Murnane gave me his old paperback copy. However, I made the mistake of not buying further Kerouac classics when they were all available in the mid 70s, and now most of them have disappeared. And there are

very few secondhand bookshops where I might explore for further Kerouac titles.

I haven't bought comics since 1959, and have read few since, so I don't know any of the people to whom you refer.

During 2016 I finally got to see *Repo Man* for the first time. It's highly entertaining, but has not made my Top Ten for the year. Many years ago I gritted my teeth through the first 20 minutes of *Eraserhead* before giving up, but recently I enjoyed *The Wicker Man*, now fully restored on Blu-ray.

Christina Lake: FANTOPIARY 1

Welcome, Christina! It doesn't seem very long since our trip to the Bellarine Peninsula with Justin Ackroyd and co., but I suppose it was about 20 years ago. (And yes, it was 1996. I found it in my diary.) We all visited John Bangsund in Fyansford, and you referred to the hat I was wearing as my 'dorky blue hat'. That hat is still my main head protection when I go for a walk on a Melbourne summer's day.

300,000 words in this ANZAPA mailing! No wonder ANZAPA might take over your life.

Paul Voermans lives quite near us (but never drops in), and has written several novels for which he has not yet found a publisher. He thought he had found a publisher for the most ambitious novel he's written in recent years, but his publisher has just gone bust. Therefore his only two published novels are those he placed with Gollancz during the 1980s.

I've never had the Mercers on my mailing list but, as you say, Peter Roberts was once briefly a member of ANZAPA, and also (I think) a member of APA-45. I've never met him, since he was living away from London when I visited there in 1974, and he dropped out of fandom altogether during the 1970s.

Thanks for the material about the End of the Road festival. I've never heard of any of the people you mention except Wilco. I was a Wilco fan about 20 years ago, but haven't bought any of their recent CDs.

I've heard of Joanna Newsom, but not heard anything by her, and I haven't bought any Teenage Fanclub albums for years. (I do have one of their LPs.) And I've heard of King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, but again, not heard anything by them. They've recently won lots of Australian music industry awards.

In my time, Victoria's school system was Grades 1 to 6, primary school; and Forms 1 to 6 secondary school. Now it's Grades 1 to 6 at primary school and Grades 7 to 12 at secondary school.

My main beef with British, American, and Australian nineteenth-century novels is the interminable length of their sentences — prose that the editor in me wants to cut. Many of the great French writers, however, were already writing twentieth-century prose in the middle of the nineteenth century. No wonder I enjoy novels and stories by H. G. Wells, who seems, like Arthur Conan Doyle, to be one of the first modern British writers. However, I will concede that George

Eliot was very influenced by the French writers of her time, and I must re-read *Middlemarch*, which I last read in 1966. I've never read *Daniel Deronda*, although I've owned a copy for many years. So many great books still to read!

My generalisations breaks down when I read Henry James and Marcel Proust.

Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer: QUOZ 50

Claire:

You are already better organised than I will ever be. I have a several filing cabinets filled mainly with fannish correspondence. I have all my correspondence received since beginning *SF Commentary* in 1969. I organised some drawers alphabetically about twenty years ago, well before we moved to Greensborough. But I don't know which drawers hold which letters. Your house-ordering project sounds uncontentable to me.

I also want to read the Absolutely Urgent Books, as compared to the rest of the library, books that I was determined to read as soon as I bought them.

Mark:

People do forget that Pauline Hanson has spent time in jail, and that she has endless battles with her parliamentary candidates (two more sacked this week). One Nation will collapse under her, even if she begins to get the percentage of the votes she's hoping for.

King Crimson and Tangerine Dream represent everything I hated most about Prog Rock in the early seventies: all that ghastly UMC pretentious crap that was undermining and destroying pure beautiful rock and roll. Not that I would have ever heard any of it if Elaine had not bought a couple of Tangerine Dream LPs and somebody had lent me a King Crimson LP. They were not played on AM radio, and commercial FM radio did not arrive until the end of the 70s.

So what's Graham Charnock really like? (I'm sure he's much nicer and less entertaining in person than he is in print. In *Vibrator*, he has lifted Grumpy-Old-Fanedness to new heights of excellence.)

I read page 1 of *Dhalgren* three times ... then gave up.

I haven't seen any of the DVD-sourced series you mention. We don't watch water-cooler TV, mainly because neither of us works in a office or stands around a water-cooler. When I was working on the premises at Macmillan in Melbourne from 1984 to 1986, the company still boasted a tea-lady — but her kind service meant that people worked through tea-time.

Thanks for the unlikely Cornish explanation of 'Oi! Oi! Oi!' Australians think they invented it.

I filled my brain during the 1960s with all the fine detail about all the great pop songs released between 1959 and 1969, which has left little room to fit in

anything else. I was still able to learn French vocabulary in 1965, but I doubt any would stick to the inside of my head if I tried now.

You've met Ryan! I've not even set eyes on Gary since the early 1990s.

Garry Dalrymple: TBS&E 69

Thanks very much for Doug Nicholson's wonderful tribute to Mike Baldwin. Not only have I heard of Doug Nicholson, but I met him during Syncon 2 (1972), and have corresponded via email at least once. I had never heard of Mike Baldwin until you published this piece.

I keep hearing occasional stories about the Sydney Push. Surely a complete history of the Push has been published?

How could you get wrong the name of the most famous SF novel, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, written by the world's most famous SF writer, Philip K. Dick? Sometimes I think you live in an alternative reality, Garry.

Since when has Leigh Brackett been an *Australian* SF identity? The mind boggles. She did visit Sydney in 1967 with her husband Edmond Hamilton. This visit led to a gathering of the younger Sydney fans that led to the formation of the Sydney SF Foundation.

How could Philip Dick's book be out of copyright? He only died in 1982.

I can offer little to cheer you up after reading your accounts of visiting your mother. Many people are going through a similar dispiriting experience. But surely her move away from the house has given you a freedom of movement denied for many years?

Cats also have bad dreams occasionally, which causes them to twitch a great deal.

Diane and John Fox: RHUBARB 63

John:

So for you has being plugged into the NBN offered any improvement in speed or service, especially as all that you were being offered was fibre to the node? Your home system looks staggeringly complex to me, someone who can't even connect his TV to the wi fi.

'Everybody's Talking' is the only famous song written by Fred Neil. He lived on the royalties for the rest of his life, then died. His *Blecker & MacDougall* (1965) is his best album. It's recently been reissued, along with four other classic American folk records from Elektra, on one of those little five-CD boxes that are available from JB Hi Fi. One of them, *The Blues Project*, I have not heard since I last borrowed the LP from my friend Rick Brewster in the mid sixties.

Is the Fox Guide to Marmite-like Substances more valuable than the Stewart Guide to Tim Tams?

I finally have your email address correct. I hadn't added the '7' to your new address, John, which is why it wouldn't work.

My failure in Art in Form 5 (Year 11) was because

(a) I cannot draw very well and (b) I was hopeless at manipulating oil paints. My paintings that were supposed to be covered in wonderful colour patterns turned into uniform brown splotches. I enjoyed the Art History half of the subject, but that wasn't going to give me a Pass. Ken Jiggins' Art History class in 1963 was one of the most valuable learning experiences of my life.

Diane:

I have a copy of John Marsden/Shawn Tan's *The Rabbits*. It's become an opera since then, but I'm not sure whether it has been made into a film. If so, it hasn't been shown at a cinema near me.

I've heard Etgar Keret being interviewed by Ramona Koval when she was running *Books and Writing* on ABC Radio National. He is a very funny man with a unique viewpoint of his native Israel and the rest of the world. I've never seen any of his books in a bookshop.

Ditto for Jim Thompson. The only book of his I've ever seen in a bookshop was *The Killer Inside Me*, so I bought it, especially as it's also the title of one of my favourite CDs (by Green on Red).

I don't know any of the other books or authors on your list.

I don't know Difficult Reads. Of your list, the books that (a) I've tried reading and (b) have given up on are: *Gravity's Rainbow* (after the first page), *Finnegans Wake* (after the first half-page), and Wallace's *Infinite Jest* (after leafing through it in a bookshop). The books that I've read, and can recommend, are *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *The Female Man*, *Moby-Dick*, *Blood Meridian* (but it's hard going), *The Magic Mountain*, *The Castle*, *The Name of the Rose* (a bit dull), *Cloud Atlas*, *To the Lighthouse* (hard going; the film is better), and *The Recognitions* (which should be impossible to read, but is a romp).

I've no idea why *Atlas Shrugged* is on the Difficult list. Most of it reads like a good SF suspense story, and it's pretty easy to skip over the 100-page sermon/speech toward the end. At the age of 16, I found it very easy to read. As Franz Rottensteiner once wrote of the fiction of Robert A. Heinlein, it's 'chewing gum for the vulgar'.

I love your description of Turnbull as 'shit with sugar on it' — but the sugar has long since melted away, leaving nothing but visions of shit'.

Leanne Frahm:

THE VICTORIAN CHRONICLES 2

There seems to have been a fair amount of bigamy going on, especially in the nineteenth century. Elaine found at least one example in the history of her family, where one husband just skedaddled off to New Zealand and was never heard of again.

I love *Five Thousand Fingers of Dr T.*, but find the songs a bit weird. The Dr Seuss lyrics are great.

I didn't see any of the famous monster movies until

I was in my twenties. Because of prejudice based on total ignorance, I was amazed when I joined fandom to find adult persons (the members of the Melbourne Fantasy Film Group) who loved these movies, and showed them at the MSFC whenever they could obtain prints. However, the prints had been badly censored during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, so perhaps even Paul Stevens and co. hadn't seen complete prints of some of these films until VHS arrived.

Thanks for your story of discovering real science fiction books.

I had probably heard the story of how John Bangsund's ad in *Nation Review* led to you writing your first SF story, but if so, I had forgotten it. Please tell it again.

Another Ruth Rendell reader! I thought I was the only one in fandom.

All you need to do is ask one of us to travel around with you for a few days on trams, trains, and buses and you will master Melbourne's public transport system.

The last ANZAPA gathering was an afternoon tea at our place in Greensborough in August 2008.

I don't have an incredible memory. I have a very poor memory for many things, and cannot remember verbatim poetry, songs, or prose. I tend to remember events as little dramatic scenes, often connected to another, more important event that I can date. In your case, I can remember that John Foyster cast you into outer darkness (ANZAPA darkness), because that event enabled me to rejoin after several years absent. I do remember sitting around at a Nova Mob meeting at Christine and Derrick Ashby's place in Albert Park with a group of people who were rippling with indignation at being thrown out of ANZAPA by John Foyster because of some minor infraction of the rules. ANZAPA meant a lot to Melbourne fans in those days.

Michael Green: ABSTRACTIONS 17

Thanks for your reports on Continuum 12 panels. At least you've saved me the trouble of sitting through them. I'd be more interested if more of the panels were single-speaker forums. Also, of course, I can hardly be expected to be interested in panel items designed for wannabe writers. It would be nice if there were more discussions centred on critical cut and thrust.

I enjoyed the great cat photos, especially the cat in the tunnel.

It's 12 years since I've read Kelly Link's *Magic for Beginners*. I don't remember any of the stories clearly. I have a copy of her latest collection, but haven't read it yet. You're correct — there is something a bit short of breath in the telling of most of her stories. Great situations and images, but often not fully developed into satisfying stories.

Yes, *The Riddling* has a great cover.

I owned a copy of Laidlaw's *Dad's Nuke* at one time, having received it as a review copy from Gollancz. It's no longer on the shelf, so I assume I sold it or gave it to someone.

David Grigg: THE FRETFUL PORPENTINE 11

Thanks for the story of the Gunfight at the Star Chorale. Difficult situations like this are familiar to anybody who has ever sat on a committee. If somebody believes that an entire enterprise depends on her or him, sooner or later that person will be told that it doesn't. So that person's whole identity is challenged. It's worse if age is an issue. We oldies don't give up easily! (I wonder how I will react when somebody makes a serious bid to take over ANZAPA.)

Your account of Mary Doria Russell's *Children of God* makes it seem unmissable. Yet I don't remember being too excited by it when I read it years ago. I do remember the excitement I felt when reading *The Sparrow*.

Most of what you write in 'Inside the Plex' is told in a foreign language to me. I would never make the move to an iPad — I like my big screen too much.

The Best Offer is one of the best movies of the last 10 years. Perfect script. Geoffrey Rush's best performance. Memorable photography.

Fargo is one of the movies I really hate, simply because it is a battle between fools (except for Francis McDermott's police officer). It is not much fun seeing idiots destroy themselves and each other simply because they are idiots and their enterprise is idiotic. (Most of the crime films and novels I like assume that crimes are committed by and solved by clever people. Not realistic, but good drama.)

Mr Holmes was one of my favourite movies of 2015. It is not as complex or intense as the novel upon which it is based, but it has a magnificent cast, photography, and direction.

I could not get past the half-way mark on *2312*. I do remember, however, the brilliance of Stan Robinson's writing in his early stories and novels.

My TV, given to us by Dick Jenssen when he changed to an LCD screen, is an early plasma screen, and does not have HDMI connections. I don't think I can justify buying a new TV while the older one is working perfectly, and I still have a huge backlog of DVDs and Blu-rays to watch.

Jack Herman: NECESSITY 132: ...THEY DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Join the club of people diagnosed Type 2 diabetes. It was a shock when I received the same verdict a few years ago, but it led to me improving my eating habits and general health. I assume your doctor has directed you towards a diabetes nurse or clinician — they are very useful people. Make sure you get the annual eye check-up.

I suffer from *alogotransiphobia*. The word is a bit long to become a fanzine title.

Erdogan appears to be the man that Trump admires most, apart from Putin. Much sympathy for my many American fannish friends, who are trapped

within the firing range watching all the big guns being aimed at intelligent activity in the USA.

We buy our coffee from Jasper Coffee in Brunswick Street for sentimental reasons as much as any other. Jasper started as a small shop in Smith Street, Collingwood, very near where we lived in Keele Street. Welles and Merrilyn ran it, and Jasper was their small son. At the time the shop specialised in chocolates, including Lindt. It was the only place in the Melbourne metropolitan area where you could buy Lindt chocolates apart from the Myer Food Hall. Then the shop expanded to selling coffee, and began its own roasting facility elsewhere in Collingwood. Later it moved to Brunswick Street, began to devote half the shop to various forms of imported coffee, and continued to stock exotic chocolate (which I can no longer eat). I haven't seen Welles for years, since he still manages the roasting factory in Abbotsford, but occasionally we natter to Merrilyn. Son Jasper is now in his thirties, but still works in the shop. I travel in from Greensborough to Fitzroy once a month with my wheelie case, and stock up on coffee beans. About ten years ago David Russell gave me a neat little electric grinder for my birthday, so we grind our daily beans every day.

Yes, the script for *Memento* is brilliant, as is that for Chris Nolan's first film, *Following*. I found a copy on Criterion.

Yes, *Into the Woods* is one of my favourite recent films, for all the reasons you state. I do like Stephen Sondheim's music, as well

Hugh Laurie was my actor of the year in 2016: first in *Mr Pip* as a truly heroic modest hero, and then as 'the worst man in the world' (Le Carre's line in the novel) in *The Night Manager*. I've also bought Hugh Laurie's CD of him singing blues songs, but haven't had time to listen to it yet.

Kim Huett: GASTON J. FEEBLEHARE 2

I keep getting confused about who attended which of the 1969 and 1970 Melbourne Easter Conventions. When I think about it, yes, Sabina and Shayne did show up first at the 1970 convention. I had certainly forgotten Sabina's nickname Nomad, and I suspect I was never sent a copy of *Terran Times*, since at no time have I ever had any interest in the *Star Trek* TV show.

Shayne said briefly on Facebook that it was Facebook that enabled her to make brief contact with Sabina a year or so ago. I'd have to go back to Shayne to remind me of what she was told.

I wore a beard because my girlfriend of 1975 ordered me too. We split up a few months later, but I continued to wear the beard until the end of 1977. Eventually I lopped it off because I could not recognise myself in the mirror. Now I can't recognise myself in the mirror because my face is now 70 years old.

Eric Lindsay: KINGDOM OF THE BLAND

Three pages of colour photos, including lots of strange metal sculpture! Thank you. Norway is one place I would like to have visited before Trump destroys the world.

I tremble to think how badly our system can be interrupted if NBN ever comes to Greensborough. Telstra's ability to stuff up any operation (such as the changeover to NBN) seems infinite.

Jean Weber: JEANZINE 2016-5

Thanks, as always, for the photos, especially of the polar bears on one trip and thorny devil from the other trip. I would prefer the Norway trip to the Canning Stock Route trip.

LynC: FROM THE LAIR OF THE LYNX 94

Sorry that Satalyte Books has proved to be such a letdown for everybody involved. Stephen's lack of success seemed inevitable when I learned that he had published over 50 books in just two years! Okay, he doesn't have to store them all, because I assume he's using Print on Demand for all his titles, but the capital investment would still seem to be beyond the capacity of anybody but a well-heeled company. At least you did get your book published and in the hands of readers. I've never seen copies of any of the other Satalyte titles, except for Gillian Polack's.

The trouble with Agatha Christie is that I have seen so many of her novels in film and TV adaptations that I'm not even sure how many of them I've read. My favourites are those I read when I was a teenager, especially *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and *Murder in Mesopotamia*. Towards the end of her life my mother did a lot of reading — she re-read, over and over again, her set of Agatha Christie novels. I agree that Christie's short stories are mainly unsatisfactory.

I don't watch any TV in real time. I caught up with *The Code: Series 2* on DVD. Great entertainment, mainly because of the relationship between the two brothers. I can never remember the plots of such series.

My difficulty in America in 2005 was finding a way to ask for the equivalent of a 'long black' coffee. Twelve years later I've forgotten the correct term. It was no good asking for an espresso: that would get you only a tiny sliver of intensely black coffee at the bottom of a cup. I think the correct term was 'coffee without milk'. It was quite different in America in 1973. You could ask for a bottomless cup of coffee. Black coffee would be poured into your cup and you would be offered milk (usually milk substitute) on the side.

Yes, I have no time to be a member of FAPA as well as that of ANZAPA. A pity, since some of the most interesting fanzine fans are still in FAPA.

Robinsons Bookshop is a fairly small shop here in the Greensborough Plaza, with only a basic stock of books. However, if some book I'm looking for is released first at our Robinsons, I buy it here. Its only

community involvement seems to be a children's reading group that meets at the back of the shop. On the other hand, Eltham Books, an independent bookshop, is only two stations away. It is also very small, but has a more interesting selection of titles than Robinsons', and the shop maintains a huge public outreach through its series of visiting author events. The best bookshop reachable by train from Greensborough is Andrew's in Ivanhoe. It has a huge range, often of books that cannot be found at Readings in Carlton or Dymocks in Melbourne.

Obviously I cannot describe our family finances in a fanzine. I can say that I cannot live on the pension because I get only a half single pension. I draw a small bit from my superannuation fund, because there isn't a lot in it. To retire I would need to draw a fair bit per month from the super fund, which would be exhausted in under three years. The only way I can survive in something like comfort, I need that \$1000 a month from compiling indexes. So I cannot retire.

Yes, I haven't tried to do any DOS work for years. On my Word 98 machine I used to be able to do big commands such as Copy *.* to *.* , but I wouldn't have a clue where to find the commands now.

You clear your kitchen table for Foundation committee meetings, for which much thanks.

Paul Kelly is on a roll. I enjoyed greatly both of his 2016 CDs, the Shakespeare Sonnets CD and the CD of songs to play at funerals.

Gary Mason: CRASH OF THE HARD DISK 26

Ah bother! Beaten by a year and a half! To the half-century mark, I mean, for fanzine production.

My first fanzine was *The Marshian Chronicles* 1 in APA-A Mailing 1, October 1968. I typed the stencils, very badly, and Leigh and Paul ran them through the duplicator. My first fanzine that anybody might remember is *SF Commentary* 1, January 1969, so I have an entire two years to go before my half-century. Now I just have to get to the finish line.

Thanks very much for the celebratory comic strips, especially the Blondie Halloween Party and Dagwood's Fiftieth. The Schulz sign-off strip is also beautifully done.

Thanks also for providing a starting date for *Fred Bassett* (1963). That and *Blondie* were my father's favourite comic strips in *The Sun*. Dad felt a special affinity for Dagwood Bumstead.

Best wishes to Ryan's father (and your friend Gaff from CAPA-alpha). The only other diabetes sufferer I know whose feet have been badly affected is Bill Wright, but that seems to be the least of his physical problems at the moment. Ryan's father must have been suffering badly from loneliness as well as the condition that put him in hospital. If he had been an Australian, he would have been monitored by a diabetes specialist of some kind, and the nail-in-the-foot would have been noticed long before the situation

became dangerous.

Glad to hear that you have been able to order US quarto paper inside Australia. I would have thought that an impossible request. I haven't published on US quarto since the 1980s, because the paper size became unavailable.

It's great that you had such a wonderful day with Claire, Mark, and Roman. (Would I get an equally enthusiastic reception if ever I visited Adelaide again?) The important things in life were taken care of — conversation, coffee, and ice cream.

Sorry to hear about the degradation of Victoria Square. It was a wonderful feature of Adelaide when Elaine and I last visited in 1980.

I haven't had a taxable income for many years. Because of that, Mr Rudd did not send me his \$900 gift in 2009(?)/2010(?). The following financial year was the last during which I paid a bit of tax, which would have made me eligible for the gift, but it wasn't offered a second time.

Now I will be in suspense until I reach the page in a following apa that tells me whether you got the manager's job or not.

I think I was asked to join ZAPA, but didn't see a copy of any mailing, and all talk of it faded quickly.

I sent some *SF Commentaries* to Alison Carriage, but received no reply. I had hoped she would be interested in fanzines in general.

Brunetti in Carlton used to sell a squeezed-orange drink on the spot. Five oranges in a row were squelched and the juice piled up in the glass. You can't buy orange juice like that in a bottle.

I stick to Blu-rays because there is a very sharp difference between the visual definition from a DVD and that of a Blu-ray on my old plasma screen: four and a half times difference. But I am told that recent high definition TVs upgrade DVD definition to Blu-ray quality.

Thanks for your memorial for Frank Dickens. *Bristow* was simply dropped in the *Age* without explanation; there was no hint that Dickens had retired.

Privacy issues created by the disposal of apazines has become an issue mainly because of the donation of various fanzine collections to the Monash University Rare Books Collection. Eventually they hope to digitise everything they receive, so it has become quite important to remove every apazine from both the MSFC fanzine collection (already sent to Monash), the Foyster collection (from Yvonne), and the Meteor fanzine collection. I tend to agree with an ANZAPA member who says to me in person that every published utterance is non-private.

Sorry for saying the wrong thing about colour printing. What I *meant* to say is that colour printing is as expensive when using a home printer as it is using a print shop like Copyplace. The home printer chews up colour cartridges so fast that the cost to me of publishing a fanzine with as much colour as you use would be astronomical — as would printing a colour-page fanzine at Copyplace. I thoroughly enjoy the use

you make of colour, but I can't follow your example.

Thanks for the panel from the 'Lost Cities of Cibola' episode of *Uncle Scrooge*, my favourite comic book of my childhood, especially Carl Barks' climactic page panel showing the destruction of the city.

Yes, it seems to me that Rudd threw away the opportunity to forge a 12-year period of rule by Labor. For some time he was as popular as Hawke ever was, and he could claim credit for being the only PM in the world to save his country from the worst of the 2008 slump. From then on, he just annoyed people into switching their votes away from Labor.

It's hard to imagine my imaginative life without having seen *Citizen Kane*. However, the first time I saw it, way back in 1965, I saw the name 'Rosebud' appear on the screen at the end, but I couldn't work out the object that had just been hurled into the fire. Eventually I read somewhere that 'Rosebud is the sled'. After that, I could watch the whole film again, happy to know what was really going on. Aesthetically and technically, it is still the most remarkable American film, but not one of my own Top 10 films. It's not even among my favourite Welles films (which are *The Trial* and *Othello*).

John Newman: LIFE ON EARTH 6

I don't think your suggested criteria for Hugo nominees mean much to most people who nominate for the awards. Many Hugo nominees and winners score about 0 on *clarity*, *credibility*, or *values*. What most readers still want is a yarn that grabs them by the googlies and won't let them go until they finish the book. Most Hugo nominees that I've read are very boring. Sometimes a Hugo winner hits my buttons, such as Jo Walton's *Among Others*. But not often.

The object of news outlets seems to be to persuade us that (a) almost everything happening in the world will get us in the end; and (b) we can't do anything about it. The object of the Murdoch papers, in particular, seems to be to keep their readers dunked in a boiling cauldron of fear and anger. But the *Age* is in some ways even worse. It tells us what is wrong with the world, but doesn't even offer the leavening of good news stories that sprinkle the pages of the *Herald Sun*. Yes, I know many people no longer rely on newspapers, but on fake-news tweets or Facebook messages. The election of Trump seems to be a god-send to Facebook and Twitter. From time to time, there have been attempts to start good-newspapers, especially in America. The result — terrible failures. Lots of people do seem to enjoy being scared to death by stuff they can't do anything about.

2016 has made me even more allergic than ever to the Big Generalisations (Money, Religion, Politics, Capitalism and Consumerism), so I won't be reading the book you recommend by Harari. (Not that I've ever seen it, or any review of it.)

Roman Orszanski: SPARROWGRASS & BATTLE-TWIGS 45

Thanks for the great photo of the Christie Walk gardens. One year I might get to visit Christie Walk.

I still can't get hold of a decent print of *Stalker*. I did buy a copy on DVD years ago, but it looked as fuzzy as an old video. Nothing happened in the first 20 minutes. I would have thought all of Tarkovsky's films would have been on Blu-ray, but not so far.

All-time favourite SF films I can think of immediately are: Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (which I've seen more than 20 times); John Frankenheimer's *Seconds*; Roy Ward Baker's *Quatermass and the Pit/Five Million Years to Earth*; Denis Villeneuve's *Arrival* (a recent candidate, but one I'll watch a few times when it appears on Blu-ray); the Spierig Brothers' *Predestination*; *Forbidden Planet*; Tarkovsky's *Solaris*; Christopher Nolan's *The Prestige*, *Dark City*; Spielberg's *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, *Minority Report*, and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. I've never warmed to *Blade Runner*, mainly because I am a Philip K. Dick fan.

I've never heard of Zelazny's *A Night in the Lonesome October*. Not even leading Zelazny fan Bill Wright has ever mentioned it.

Since I love my old Collins Classics edition of *Les Misérables*, I'm not in the market for a new translation. However, Christine Donougher's statement of intentions sounds reasonable.

Lucy Schmeidler: OZ SF FAN

You attended about the same number of items as I would have if I'd been at MidAmericon. I would have tracked down friends and taken up conversations started years ago. The convention would probably have been so large that I would not have found the people I wanted to see.

Sorry to hear of your falls. I don't fall at home, but that's probably because I always wear slippers, even in hot weather. Otherwise I would always be stubbing my toes on bits of furniture.

Thanks very much for your poems, which I always enjoy. 'How to Haiku' is particularly good.

Yes, I enjoyed Jo Walton's *My Real Children* very much. I was surprised that it did not have the success of *Among Others*.

Quote of the mailing: 'How is it that the Americans you know personally are rational but the nation as a whole is nuts? I guess you don't know the right people.'

The real weakness of America, though, is the unwillingness of people to vote, i.e. their unwillingness to take up the burden of responsibility for what happens to them or their country. In Australia we get around the problem by having compulsory voting.

Thanks for telling us about 'seder'. Sometime you should write the Schmeidler guide to Jewish celebration days.

On Facebook a reasonably well-known Australian writer has been telling everybody about his mental

health problems, which seem to have stopped made his life difficult and have stopped him writing a new novel for some time. I keep hoping he gather up his troubles, take them away from Facebook, and stuff them into his new novel. He'd probably have a much happier life.

'Blue metal' in Melbourne is usually granite. Many of the great Victorian buildings of Melbourne were built of local granite, but I suspect it was all quarried many years ago.

Gerald Smith: THE EROTIC WOMBAT 2

Thanks for the description of your trip. Since I know nothing about the Southern Highlands of NSW, I have no real idea of where you stayed.

Elaine and I have a lifelong antipathy to 'making a fuss' of anything, so I'm scratching my head at all the effort that's going into your wedding. In March 1979, we had 16 people, including only closest relatives and no friends, gather for lunch at Wattle Park Chalet. A minister who was a personal friend from years before conducted the ceremony, and then we all went home. However, when we told Sally Yeoland and John Bangsund that we were already married, they insisted on holding a gathering at their house for all our friends! Many of them brought presents, which we didn't expect. Our wedding gathering for our closest friends was at a restaurant in Collingwood. We moved into the Collingwood house two weeks after the wedding, and held a house warming in May. It seemed like hundreds of people turned up — it seemed like another wedding celebration. You and Karen could stretch your wedding celebrations into infinity.

You do get full marks for making the decision to live in separate dwellings. This solution could have saved many millions of marriages, but doesn't do much for the housing crisis.

I've known several people who've suffered from shingles over recent years, and it's always very painful. It's a viral disease, based on childhood chicken pox, but it seems to be triggered by life stress. Nature's way of telling you to slow down. I hope you recovered fully during the rest of 2016.

Er ... people do have very peculiar prejudices. Why

not, at least, look up *Les Mis* on Google? Anyway, *Les Misérables* is the greatest heroic epic novel I've ever read. It's much better than all of Dickens' novels, which do wallow in a bit of miserableness.

Thanks, Gerald, a fact that I had forgotten. You're right. Roger Weddall did originally ask *four* people to be GoH at the 1978 Easter convention in Melbourne, expecting only one of them would accept. But both Zelazny and Aldiss had strong ties to Australian fans, and both accepted.

Thanks for the details of the final stages of Apple-sauce.

I've already run photos of Susan Wood's trip to Aussiecon on the cover of the OBO. Why doesn't anybody read the OBO?

Sally Yeoland: LES CHATTES PARTIES 146

We absolutely refuse to put together any more flatpicks from anybody, let alone Ikea. If we wanted to buy any more major furniture items the only solution would be to go ferreting around secondhand furniture markets. There was once a vast secondhand furniture outlet in Swan Street, Richmond. I don't know if it's still there.

You and John are much better acquainted with the remaining secondhand bookshops than I am. I didn't know Grant's still existed; I had thought Grub Street had long since closed; and I had not heard of Brown and Bunting or Already Read. Scotchmer Street is easily reached by train and hoof from here. Thanks for the tip.

When Teresa Pitt was at Heinemann, I read some manuscripts for her. The ones I recommended were all published eventually, but not by Heinemann. Heinemann closed its fiction division for good, and sacked Teresa.

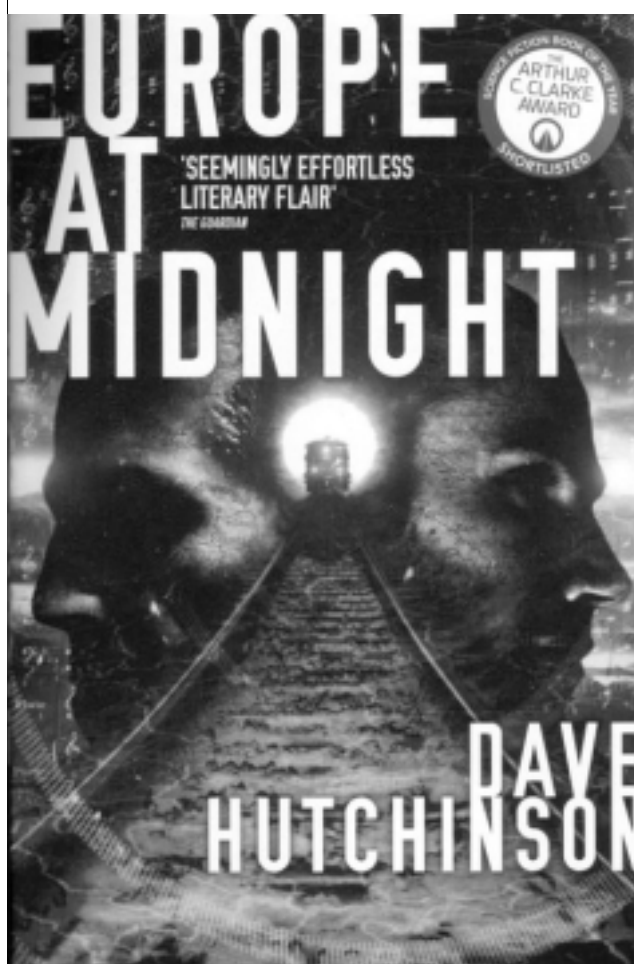
Another fan of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother!* That's my favourite funny film of all time.

I realise I am still two mailings behind. But I'm exhausted, and late. And still much to do before I can send this issue to the printer.

— Bruce Gillespie, 4 February 2017

The best of everything, 2016

Favourite novels read for the first time in 2016



- 1 EUROPE AT MIDNIGHT (2015) Dave Hutchinson (Solaris)
- 2 ARCADIA (2015) Iain Pears (Faber)
- 3 THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION (2002) Nancy Farmer (Atheneum)
- 4 THE FIRST FIFTEEN LIVES OF HARRY AUGUST (2014) Claire North (Orbit)
- 5 A FEARFUL JOY (1949/1951) Joyce Cary (Readers Union/Michael Joseph)
- 6 TO WALK THE NIGHT (1937) William Sloane (Panther)
- 7 GENERATION LOSS (2007) Elizabeth Hand (Constable & Robinson Crime)
- 8 UNDERGROUND AIRLINES (2016) Ben. Winters (Century)
- 9 ANGELMAKER (2012) Nick Harkaway (William Heinemann)
- 10 EUROPE IN AUTUMN (2014) Dave Hutchinson (Solaris)
- 11 KOLYMSKY HEIGHTS (1994) Lionel Davidson (Faber)
- 12 THE WORLD REPAIR VIDEO GAME (2015) David Ireland (Island)
- 13 MOCKINGBIRD (1980) Walter Tevis (Gollancz SF Masterworks)
- 14 HARD LIGHT (2016) Elizabeth Hand (Minotaur)

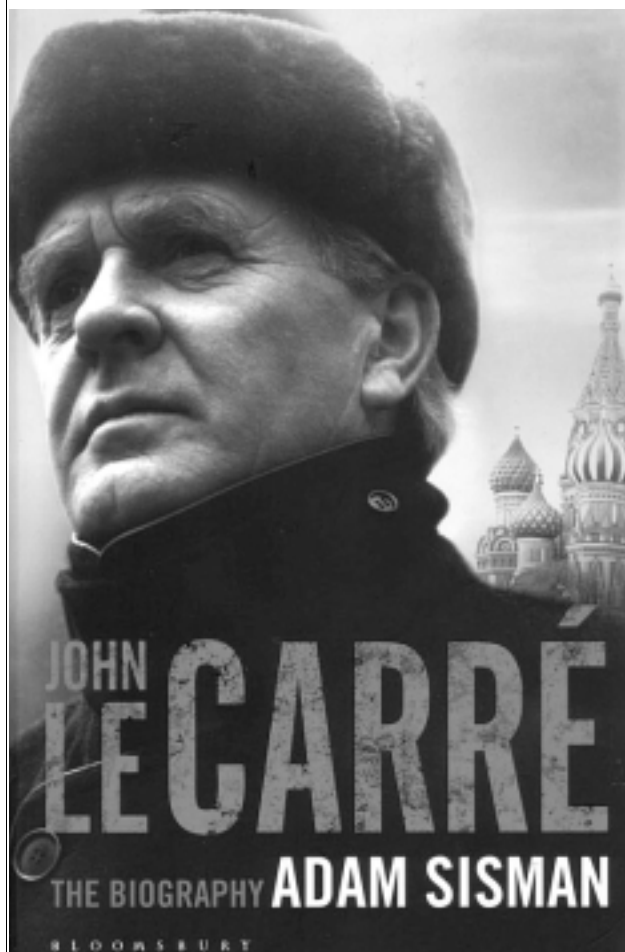
Other four-star contenders, in the order in which I read them:

- THE MARTIAN (2013) Andy Weir (Del Rey)
THE DRY (2016) Jane Harper (Macmillan)
GOODBYE MR CHIPS (1934) James Hilton (Hodder)

Favourite books read for the first time in 2016

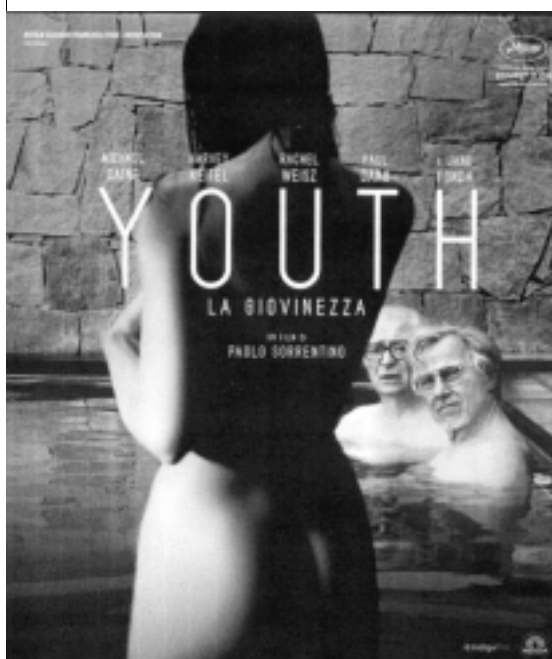
- 1 LE CARRÉ: THE BIOGRAPHY (2015) Adam Sisman (Bloomsbury)
- 2 EUROPE AT MIDNIGHT (2015) Dave Hutchinson (Solaris)
- 3 ARCADIA (2015) Iain Pears (Faber)
- 4 HAWKFALL AND OTHER STORIES (1974) George Mackay Brown (Triad Granada)
- 5 BROWSINGS (2015) Michael Dirda (Pegasus)
- 6 THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION (2002) Nancy Farmer (Atheneum)
- 7 MERMAID SINGING (1958) Charmian Clift (Collins Imprint)
- 8 THE LEIBER CHRONICLES: FIFTY YEARS OF FRITZ LEIBER (1990) Fritz Leiber ed. Martin H. Greenberg (Dark Harvest)
- 9 THE BOY BEHIND THE CURTAIN (2016) Tim Winton (Hamish Hamilton)
- 10 THE FIRST FIFTEEN LIVES OF HARRY AUGUST (2014) Claire North (Orbit)
- 11 A FEARFUL JOY (1949/1951) Joyce Cary (Readers Union/Michael Joseph)
- 12 THE ISLE OF FOULA (1938/2001) Ian B. Stoughton Holbourn & M. C. Stoughton Holburn (Birlinn)

Other four-star contenders in the order in which I read them:



- THE MARTIAN (2013) Andy Weir (Del Rey)
 J. M. BARRIE AND THE LOST BOYS (1979) Andrew Birkin (with Sharyn Goode) (Macdonald Futura)
 GENERATION LOSS (2007) Elizabeth Hand (Constable & Robinson Crime)
 MOCKINGBIRD (1980) Walter Tevis (Gollancz SF Masterworks)
 FAR FROM HOME (1981) Walter Tevis (Doubleday)
 TO WALK THE NIGHT (1937) William Sloane (Panther)
 KOLYMSKY HEIGHTS (1994) Lionel Davidson (Faber)
 ADVENTURES IN THE SCREEN TRADE: A PERSONAL VIEW OF HOLLYWOOD AND SCREENWRITING (1983) William Goldman (Futura)
 READINGS: ESSAYS AND LITERARY ENTERTAINMENTS (2000) Michael Dirda (W. W. Norton)
 HARD LIGHT (2016) Elizabeth Hand (Minotaur)
 THE DRY (2016) Jane Harper (Macmillan)
 LAST SUMMER AT MARS HILL (1998) Elizabeth Hand (HarperPrism)
 EUROPE IN AUTUMN (2014) Dave Hutchinson (Solaris)
 VOICES IN THE NIGHT (2015) Steven Millhauser (Corsair)
 ANGELMAKER (2012) Nick Harkaway (William Heinemann)
 THE WORLD REPAIR VIDEO GAME (2015) David Ireland (Island)
 STORIES OF YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS (2002) Ted Chiang (Tor)
 THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM: HOUSING EXPERIENCES OF OLDER AUSTRALIANS (2016) Alan Morris (CSIRO Publishing)
 LIGHT AND SHADOW: MEMOIRS OF A SPY'S SON (2016) Mark Colvin (Melbourne University Press)
 UNDERGROUND AIRLINES (2016) Ben. Winters (Century)
 GOODBYE MR CHIPS (1934) James Hilton (Hodder)

Favourite films seen for the first time in 2016



- 1 YOUTH (2015) Paolo Sorrentino
- 2 ARRIVAL (2016) Dennis Villeneuve
- 3 LEON THE PROFESSIONAL (1994) Luc Besson
- 4 MONSTERS (2010) Gareth Edwards
- 5 SUNSET SONG (2015) Terence Davies
- 6 RUSH (2014) Ron Howard
- 7 TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING (1977) Robert Aldrich
- 8 MIDNIGHT SPECIAL (2016) Jeff Nichols
- 9 THE GLASS KEY (1942) Stuart Heisler
- 10 FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (2016) Stephen Frears
- 11 MR PIP (2014) Andrew Adamson
- 12 LAST CAB TO DARWIN (2014) Jeremy Sims
- 13 A SINGLE MAN (2009) Tom Ford
- 14 THE ENEMY BELOW ((1951) Dick Powell
- 15 MATILDA (1996) Danny DeVito
- 16 EASY VIRTUE (2008) Stephen Elliott
- 17 THE BIG SHORT (2015) Adam McKay
- 18 SPOTLIGHT (2015) Tom McCarthy

Other four-star contenders, in the order in which I saw them:

THE DRESSMAKER (2015)
80,000 SUSPECTS (1963) Val Guest
PHOENIX (2014) Christian Petzgold
THREE LITTLE WORDS (1949) Richard Thorpe
PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED (1986) Francis Coppola
THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES (2015) Billy Ray
THE WHISPERER IN DARKNESS (2011) Sam Branney
THE THREE MUSKETEERS (1993) Stephen Herek
SNOOPY AND CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE (2015) Steve Martino
THE SAINT IN LONDON (1939) John Paddy Carstairs
THE LADY IN THE VAN (2015) Nicholas Hytner
THREE DAYS OF THE CONDOR (1975) Sidney Pollack
WOMAN ON THE RUN (1950) Norman Foster

FINDING DORY (2016) John Stanton
HAIL CAESAR! (2016) Joel and Ethan Coen
RAFFLES (1930) Henry d'Amast & George Fitzsimmons
ZOOTOPIA (2016) Byron Howard & Rich Moore
INTO THE WOODS (2015) Gary Marshall
SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC (1948) Charles Frend
LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP (2016) Whit Stillman
THE DARK CORNER (1946) Henry Hathaway
THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY (2015) Matthew Brown
REPO MAN (1984) Alex Cox
WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (1971) Mel Stuart
ALL NIGHT LONG (1962) Basil Dearden
WHIRLPOOL (1950) Otto Preminger
THE LAUGHING POLICEMAN (1973) Stuart Rosenberg
THE BFG (2016) Steven Spielberg
HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (2016) Taiki Waititi

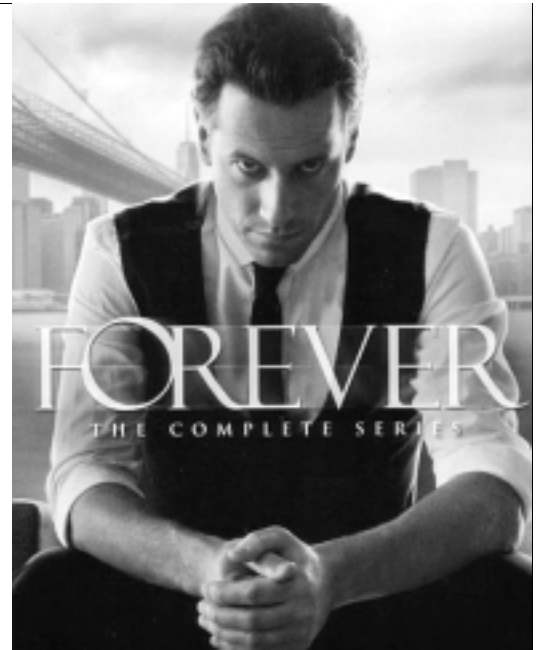
Favourite films seen again in 2016



- 1 ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS (1939) Howard Hawks
- 2 INSIDE MAN (2006) Spike Lee
- 3 QUATERMASS AND THE PIT (FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH) (1967) Roy Ward Baker
- 4 DARK PASSAGE (1947) Delmer Daves
- 5 GOSFORD PARK (2001) Robert Altman
- 6 THE WITCHES (1989) Nicolas Roeg
- 7 GILDA (1948) Charles Vidor
- 8 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (1974) Mel Brooks
- 9 THE DEAD (1987) John Huston
- 10 AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD (1983) John Schlesinger
- 11 FINDING NEMO (2003) Andrew Stanton
- 12 WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS (1950) Otto Preminger
- 13 LOST HORIZON (1937) Frank Capra
- 14 HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR (1959) Alain Resnais

Other four-star contenders, in the order in which I saw them:

ON THE BEACH (1959) Stanley Kramer
THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN (1957) Jack Arnold
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT'S 'IS NAME (1967) Michael Winner
THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (2004) Wes Anderson
BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (1988) Stephen Herek



Favourite documentaries and music films seen for the first time in 2016

- 1 SENNA (2010) Asif Kapada
- 2 ELGAR (1962) Ken Russell
- 3 TALKING HEADS: STOP MAKING SENSE (1984) Jonathan Demme
- 4 SONG OF THE EARTH/DEATH AND TRANSFIGURATION (2013) Jason Starr (Neemi Jarvi/Orch. Suisse Romande/Thomas Hampson/Paul Groves)
- 5 THE HIGHWAYMEN LIVE (1990) Jon Small
- 6 ERIC CLAPTON: SLOWHAND AT 70: LIVE AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL (2015) Blue Leach
- 7 ROLLING STONES: HAVANA MOON (2016) Paul Dugdale and Simon Fisher
- 8 THE ROLLING STONES: TOTALLY STRIPPED (1995/2016) Elaine Shepherd
- 9 ADELE: LIVE AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL (2011) Paul Dugdale
- 10 FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLIES (2013) Mike Slee
- 11 HITCHCOCK TRUFFAUT (2015) Kent Jones
- 12 THE BEATLES: EIGHT DAYS A WEEK: THE TOURING YEARS (2016) Ron Howard

Other four-star contenders, in the order in which I saw them:

- JEFFREY SMART: MASTER OF STILLNESS (2012) Catherine Hunter
 RY COODER: DARK END OF THE STREET (2015)
 IT MIGHT GET LOUD: THE EDGE, JIMMY PAGE, JACK WHITE (2009) Davis Guggenheim)
 MAVIS! (2015) Jessica Edwards
 MAHLER: SYMPHONY No 4/RUCKERT LEIDER Abbado/Kozena/Lucerne Festival Orchestra
 CATS LAUGHING: A LONG TIME GONE: REUNION AT MINICON 50 (2016) Theo Lubke & Anne-Marie Kim
 DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS: LIVE IN AUSTIN TX (2008) Gary Menotti
 THE MUSICAL MOJO OF DR JOHN: CELEBRATING MAC AND HIS MUSIC (2016) Kevin Wortman & Justin Kreutzman)
 THE DEBUSSY MOVIE (1965) Ken Russell

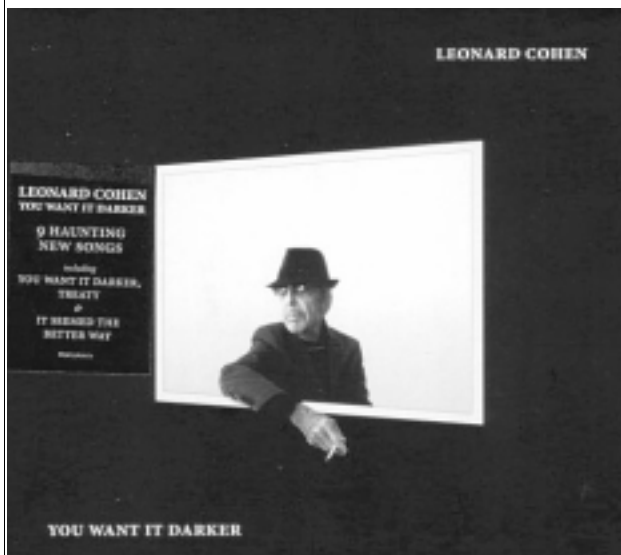
Favourite television 2016

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 FOREVER | 5 THE BRIDGE: SEASON 1 |
| 2 JACK IRISH: SEASON 1 | 6 THE BRIDGE: SEASON 2 |
| 3 THE CODE: SEASON 2 | 7 THE AVENGERS: SERIES 4 (1966) |
| 4 DOCTOR BLAKE MYSTERIES: SEASON 4 | 8 ENDEAVOUR: SERIES 3 |

- 9 LEWIS: SERIES 9
- 10 MIDSOMER MURDERS: SEASON 17
- 11 DOCTOR THORNE (2016) Julian Fellows

- 12 THE BRIDGE: SEASON 3
- 13 WORRICKER (2013) David Hare

Favourite popular CDs heard for the first time in 2016



- 1 Leonard Cohen: YOU WANT IT DARKER (2016)
- 2 The Highwaymen (Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristoffersen, Waylon Jennings): LIVE: AMERICAN OUTLAWS (1990/2016) (3 CDs)
- 3 Lindi Ortega: FADED GLORYVILLE (2015)
- 4 Ruby Boots: SOLITUDE (2015)
- 5 Shovels & Ropes: LITTLE SEEDS (2016)
- 6 Shovels & Ropes: BUSTED JUKEBOX VOLUME 1 (2015)
- 7 Shovels & Ropes: SWIMMIN' TIME (2014)
- 8 Kelly Auty: LIVE 2016 (2016)
- 9 Herbie Hancock: HEADHUNTERS (1974)
- 10 MUDCRUTCH 2 (2016)
- 11 Jeff Beck: LOUD HAILER (2016)
- 12 Rolling Stones: BLUE & LONESOME (2016)
- 13 Joan Baez & Friends: 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (2016) (2 CDs)
- 14 Drive-By Truckers: AMERICAN BAND (2016) (2 CDs)
- 15 Eric Clapton: LIVE IN SAN DIEGO: WITH SPECIAL GUEST J. J. CALE (2016)
- 16 Neil Young: PEACE TRAIL (2016)
- 17 Katy Moffatt: LOOSE DIAMOND (1999)
- 18 Leon Bridges: COMING HOME (2015)
- 19 Ethan Johns & the Black Eyed Dogs: SILVER LINER (2016)
- 20 Cyndi Lauper: DETOUR (2016)
- 21 Paul Simon: STRANGER TO STRANGER (2016)
- 22 Mary Chapin Carpenter: THE THINGS THAT WE ARE MADE OF (2016)
- 23 Various: SOME LONESOME PICKER: GREG QUILL TRIBUTE (2016)
- 24 THE LUMINEERS (2012)

- 25 Paul Kelly & Charlie Owens: DEATH'S DATELESS NIGHT (2016)
- 26 Brian Cadd & the Bootleg Family Band: BULLETPROOF (2016)
- 27 Various: GOD DON'T NEVER CHANGE: THE SONGS OF BLIND WILLIE JOHNSTON (2016)
- 28 Dave Rawlings Machine: NASHVILLE OBSOLETE (2015)
- 29 Jennifer Warnes: THE WELL (2016)
- 30 Black Sorrows: FAITHFUL SATELLITE (2016)
- 31 Drive-By Truckers: LIVE FROM AUSTIN TX (2008)
- 32 Buddy Miller: CAYAMO: SESSIONS AT SEA (2016)

Other four-star contenders, in the order in which I listened to them:

- Various: THE JOY OF LIVING: A TRIBUTE TO EWAN MCCOLL (2015) (2 CDs)
- Patty Griffin: SERVANT OF LOVE (2015)
- Bruce Springsteen: THE RIVER: OUTTAKES (1980/2015)
- Dan Kelly: LEISURE PANIC! (2015)
- Jimi Hendrix Experience: LIVE AT BERKELEY, 30 MAY 1970 (2003)
- Don Henley: CASS COUNTY (2015)
- Tift Merritt & Simone Dinnerstein: NIGHT (2013)
- Glen Hansard: DIDN'T HE RAMBLE (2015)
- Willie Nelson: SUMMERTIME: WILLIE NELSON SINGS GERSHWIN (2016)
- Mavis Staples: LIVIN' ON A HIGH NOTE (2016)
- Henry Wagons: AFTER WHAT I DID LAST NIGHT (2016)
- Paul Kelly: SEVEN SONNETS AND A SONG (2016)
- George Washington and Ian Date: THE STRING BAND (2001)
- The Little Willies: FOR THE GOOD TIMES (2012)
- Ben Harper & Innocent Criminals: CALL IT WHAT IT IS (2016)
- Allen Toussaint: AMERICAN TUNES (2016)
- Diesel: AMERICANA (2016)
- CASE/LANG/VEIRS (2016)
- Shawn Colvin & Steve Earle: COLVIN AND EARLE (2016)
- Oh Pep!: STADIUM CAKE (2016)
- CHAIM TANNENBAUM (2016)
- Crusaders: RURAL REVIVAL (2003)
- Avett Brothers: TRUE SADNESS (2016)
- Drive-By Truckers: GO-GO BOOTS (2011)
- Sarah Watkins: YOUNG IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS (2016)
- Hurray for the Riff Raff: SMALL TOWN HEROES (2014)
- Tracy McNeil & the Good Life: THIEVES (2016)

Kasey Chambers: AIN'T NO LITTLE GIRL (2016) (EP)
 Madeleine Peyroux: SECULAR HYMNS (2016)
 Ian Hunter & the Rant Band: FINGERS CROSSED (2016)
 Floyd Cramer: RCA COUNTRY LEGENDS (2001)
 David Bromberg: THE BLUES, THE WHOLE BLUES, AND
 NOTHING BUT THE BLUES (2016)

Sturgill Simpson: METAMODERN SOUNDS IN COUNTRY
 AND WESTERN MUSIC (2014)
 Courtney Mavis Andrews: HONEST LIFE (2016)
 John Prine: FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE (2016)
 Archie Roach: LET LOVE RULE (2016)
 Paul Kelly: WAYS AND MEANS (2003) (2 CDs)

Favourite popular boxed sets bought during 2016



- 1 Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, and Linda Ronstadt: TRIO: COMPLETE COLLECTION (3 CDs)
- 2 Rolling Stones: TOTALLY STRIPPED (4 Blu-rays + CD)
- 3 Various: GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLK SCENE: ORIGINAL ALBUMS SERIES (5 CDs)
- 4 Staple Singers: FAITH AND GRACE (4 CDs)
- 5 Various: 100 GREATEST AUSTRALIAN SINGLES OF THE 60s (4 CDs)
- 6 Kev Carmody: RECOLLECTIONS, REFLECTIONS (A JOURNEY) (4 CDs)

Other contenders, in the order in which I bought them:

- Skyhooks: DON'T YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN OR YOU'VE HEARD (3 CDs)
 Fleetwood Mac: TUSK (3 CDs)
 Chick Corea: FIVE ORIGINAL ALBUMS (5 CDs)
 Various: DAY OF THE DEAD (5 CDs)

Favourite classical CDs heard for the first time in 2016

- 1 Martha Argerich (piano)/Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana: **Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2/Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 1/Bartok: Piano Concerto No. 3/Mozart: Andante and 5 Variations in C Major K501** (2004/2012) (Martha Argerich Complete Recordings on DG CD46)
- 2 Leonard Bernstein (cond.)/Vienna Philharmonic: **Beethoven: Symphony Nos. 1 & 3** (1978/2014) (Leonard Bernstein Collection Vol. 1 CD2)
- 3 Joshua Bell (violin)/Neville Marriner (cond.)/Academy of St Martin in the Fields//Peter Maag (cond.)/English Chamber Orchestra: **Bruch: Violin Concerto/Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto/Mozart: Violin Concertos Nos. 3, 5/Adagio in E major/Rondo in C major** (1988/1992/2008) (2 CDs)
- 4 Sol Gabetta (cello)/Kandida Thompson (cond.) Amsterdam Sinfonietta: **Vasks: Presence/Musique Busoir/Gramata Celum/The Book** (2015)
- 5 Martha Argerich (piano) and friends: **Beethoven: Piano Quartet No. 3/Clarinet Trio/Piano Trio No. 1 'The Ghost'/Chopin: Introduction and polonaise brillante No. 3** (2002/2005/2007/2009/2011) (Martha Argerich Edition: Chamber Music CD 2)
- 6 Mandelring Quartet: **Mendelssohn: String Quartets Op. 12, Op. 13, WoO** (2015) (Mendelssohn Complete Chamber Music for Strings CD1)
- 7 Martha Argerich (piano)/Alexandre Vedernikov (cond.)/Mikhail Pletnev (cond.)/Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana: **Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1/De Falla: Nights in the Gardens of Spain/Pletnev: Fantasia elvetica** (2008/2011) (Martha Argerich Edition: Concertos CD4)
- 8 Leonard Bernstein (cond.)/New York Philharmonic: **Copland: Symphony No. 3/Quiet City** (1985/2014) (Leonard Bernstein Collection Vol. 1 CD44)

MARTHA ARGERICH

THE COMPLETE RECORDINGS ON DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON



- 9 Simon Tedeschi (piano)/**Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition/Tchaikovsky: Album for the Young** Op. 39 (2015)
- 10 Martha Argerich (piano)/Gidon Kremer (violin)/Mischa Maisky (cello): **Shostakovich: Trio No. 2/Tchaikovsky: Trio in A minor/Keiswetter: Tango Pathetique** (1999/2011) (Martha Argerich Recordings for DG CD34)

Other four-star contenders, in order in which I listened to them:

- Benjamin Britten (cond.)/Mstislav Rostropovich (cello)/English Chamber Orch.: **Britten: Symphony for Cello & Orchestra Op. 68/Haydn: Cello Concerto** (1964/2013) (Decca Sound Analogue Years CD32)
- Lorin Maazel (cond.)/Vienna Philharmonic: **Sibelius: Symphony No 1/Karelia Suite/Symphony No. 4** (1963/1968/2013) (Decca Sound Analogue Years CD34)
- David Oistrakh (violin)/Jacha Horenstein (cond.)/Paul Hindemith (cond.): **Bruch: Scottish Fantasia/Hindemith: Violin Concerto** (1962/2013) (Decca Sound Analogue Years CD36)
- Martha Argerich:(piano)/Claudio Abbado (cond.)/**Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3/Ravel: Piano Concerto in G major** (1967/2015) (Martha Argerich Complete Recordings on DG CD3)
- Bruno Walter (cond.)/New York Philharmonic: **Strauss: Don Juan/Tod und Verklarung/Barber:**

Symphony No. 1 (Bruno Walter The Edition CD37)

Ronald Brautigan (piano)/Andrew Parrott (cond.)/Norrkoping Symphony Orchestra:

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 4/ Violin Concerto piano transcription

Kodaly Quartet: Haydn: **String Quartets Op. 64, No. 4, 5 ('The Lark'), 6** (1993)

Leonard Bernstein (cond.)/Vienna Philharmonic: **Beethoven: String Quartet No. 14/No. 16 (string orchestra versions)** (1977/1989/2014) Leonard Bernstein Collection CD

Martha Argerich (piano)/Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana: **Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 1/Piano Concerto No. 3/Schumann Piano Concerto Op. 54** (Martha Argerich Complete Recordings on DG CD45)

Martha Argerich (piano) and friends: **Schubert: Hungarian Divertissement in G minor D818/Brahms: Leibeslieder Waltzes Op. 52/Stravinsky: Noces/ Milhaud: Scaramouches** Op. 165b (Martha Argerich Complete Records on DG?)

Martha Argerich (piano)/Claudio Abbado (cond.): **Mozart: Piano Concertos 25, 20** (Martha Argerich Complete Recordings on DG CD 42)

Martha Argerich (piano)/Charles Dutoit (cond.)/Montreal Symphony Orchestra: **Chopin Piano Concertos 1, 2** (1998/2011) (Martha Argerich Edition: Concertos CD1)

Martha Argerich (piano)/Renard Capucon (violin)/Mischa Maisky (cello)/Alexandre Rabinovich (cond.)/Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana: **Beethoven: Triple Concerto/ Robert Schumann: Piano Concerto** (2002/2003/2011) (Martha Argerich Edition: Concertos CD3)

Martha Argerich (piano) and friends: **Haydn: Piano Trio in G ('Gypsy' trio)/Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1/Schumann: Fantasiestucke Op. 88** (1981/2002/2003/2009/2011) (Martha Argerich Edition: Chamber Music CD5)

Herbert von Karajan (cond.)/Geza Anda (piano)/Berlin Philharmonic: **Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2** (1967/2012) (Karajan 1960s, CD60)

Istvan Kersetz (cond.)/London Symphony Orchestra: **Dvorak: Symphony No. 1** (1963)

Alicia de Larrocha (piano)/Zubin Mehta (cond.)/Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra: **Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5// Ole Mustonen (piano)/ Jukka-Pekka Saraste (cond.)/German Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra: Beethoven: Violin Concerto (piano version)** (1979/1994/2004)

Mandelring Quartet: **Mendelssohn String Quartets Op. 44, Nos. 1 and 2, Op. 80** (2015) (Mendelssohn Complete Chamber Music for Strings CD2)