



Ansible® 369 April 2018

From David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: Dan Steffan. Cartoon: Brad W. Foster. Available for SAE or the immanentization of the Eastercon.

Follycon. *Ansible* coverage of the 2018 UK Eastercon is scanty because *Ansible* wasn't there (sorry). • **BSEA Awards.** Novel: Nina Allan, *The Rift*. Shorter fiction: Anne Charnock, *The Enclave*. Nonfiction: Paul Kincaid, *Iain M. Banks*. Artwork (tie): Jim Burns for *The Ion Raider* by Ian Whates, and Victo Ngai for 'Waiting on a Bright Moon' by JY Yang (Tor.com). • **Doc Weir Award** for unsung fan efforts: Flick. • **Eastercon 2020:** a bid for the Birmingham NEC hotel is currently taking shape.

The Airs of Earth

Brian Aldiss was remembered at the Oxford Literary Festival on 20 March, with talks by Chris Priest and others, a panel on sf in general with Philip Pullman, and an evening champagne reception.

Patrick Nielsen Hayden is now vice president and editor-in-chief at Tor Books. Fritz Foy became president and publisher of the parent company Tom Doherty Associates. (Tor.com, 1 March)

Jack Posobiec's *Wade Asher: Agent of Admiralty* (2015, as by Jack Michael Doyle) expands the boundaries of sf language: 'Posobiec also goes big on the sci-fi tradition of mixing up regular words to make it sound like the future. Jokes are "wisdomcracks," and offices are now "cubifices" / Cows are "beefcows," and you'll never believe what chickens are called in this extremely inventive world. In the far future, they're called "chikkens." (Will Sommers, *Right Richter*, 21 March) [PB]

Philip Pullman provided a surprise 'As Others See Us' moment at his Oxford panel (see Aldiss above) by saying he'd been put off all modern sf by going to a convention and finding 'all those young men sitting around and speaking Klingon.' From the audience, an *Ansible* reader mentioned having spent a lot of time at conventions, often in conversation with Brian Aldiss, without a word of Klingon being heard.

Rudolf Schönegger, UK book dealer, was found guilty in March of nicking an allegedly rare signed copy of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* 'worth £1,675' from Hatchards. The CCTV evidence showed him furtively substituting a book of 'very little value'. (BBC, 27 March)

Contourné

19-22 Apr • **Dead by Dawn** (horror film festival), Filmhouse Cinema One, 88 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ. £90. Box office 0131 228 2688. Online booking via www.deadbydawn.co.uk.

20-22 Apr • **Springmoot** (Tolkien Soc), Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull. See www.tolkienociety.org/events/springmoot-and-agm-2018/.

21-22 Apr • **Sci-Fi Scarborough** (multimedia), The Spa, Scarborough. Adult tickets including booking fees £28, £16.80 day, under-17s £11.20, £5.60 day; under-5s free. See scifiscarborough.co.uk

25 Apr • **BSEA Open Meeting**, Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8ND. 5/6pm for 7pm. Speaker to be announced. Free.

28 Apr • **Spicing Up Sci-Fi: The Dunes Strike Back** (Mfest panel), British Library, London. 2pm-3pm. £5; £3 unwaged; 20% discount code MFfestSINDBAD valid to 13 April at tinyurl.com/ybrgmqa7.

1-7 May • **Sci-Fi London** (film festival), various London venues. For more details see sci-fi-london.com/festival/.

1 May • **Tolkien Lecture:** V.E. Schwab. Pichette Auditorium, Pembroke College, Oxford. 6:30pm. *Waiting list* via tolkienlecture.org.

5-6 May • **EM-Con** (media), Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham. Various priced tickets and extras available at www.em-con.co.uk

8-11 Jun • **To See the Invisible** (opera based on story by Robert Silverberg), Britten Studio, Snape Maltings, Snape, Suffolk. Tickets £5-£25. See snapemaltings.co.uk/whats-on/to-see-the-invisible/.

29 Jun - 1 Jul • **Two Centuries of Frankenstein: 1818-2018** (course), ICE, Cambridge. With Professor Edward James. £280. See www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/two-centuries-frankenstein-1818-2018.

20-23 Sep • **Oxonmoot** (Tolkien Society), St Antony's College, Oxford £70 reg or £60 for members, rising to £75/£65 in May and £85/£75 in August. See www.tolkienociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2018/.

15-19 Aug 2019 • **Dublin 2019** (Worldcon), Dublin, Ireland. Now €180 reg, €110 under-26s or first-time Worldcon members, and €65 under-13s. Unchanged: €5 under-6s, €40 supp. See dublin2019.com.

Infinitely Improbable

The Critical Heritage. "This is an entire pre-summer slate of would-be event movies getting steamrolled by one very big tentpole." (Scott Mendelson on *Black Panther*, *Forbes.com*, 20 March) [PDF]

Awards. *American Academy of Arts and Letters* inaugural \$100,000 for life achievement: Thomas Pynchon. [JB] • *Astrid Lindgren Memorial:* Jacqueline Woodson. • *Ditmar* (Australia) best novel: Thoraya Dyer, *Crossroads of Canopy*. • *Oscars.* Best Film: *The Shape of Water*, whose other wins included Best Director for Guillermo del Toro. Animated film: *Coco*. Original screenplay: *Get Out*. Cinematography, visual effects: *Blade Runner 2049*. • *Philip K. Dick:* Carrie Vaughn, *Bannerless*. • *SFRA Pilgrim Award* (scholarship): Carl Freedman. *SFRA Thomas D. Clareson Award:* Veronica Hollinger. • *Starburst Brave New Words Award:* Margrét Helgadóttir for editing *Pacific Monsters*. • *Stoker Awards* (selected). Novel: Christopher Golden, *Ararat*. First novel: Robert Payne Cabeen, *Cold Cuts*. YA novel: Kim Liggett, *The Last Harvest*. • *Tiptree Award:* Virginia Bergin, *Who Runs the World?* (US title *The XY*).

Signage. Some naughty person has been improving—or according to Oxfordshire County Council, vandalizing—roundabout signs in and around Didcot by adding more interesting destinations: Emerald City, Gotham City, Middle Earth, Narnia and Neverland. (BBC, 19 March)

R.I.P. *Karen Anderson* (1932-2018), US author and fan who collaborated with her husband Poul Anderson (1926-2001) on several books including *The Last Viking* (1980) and *King of Ys* (1986-1988) series, died on 17 March; she was 85. Her fan activities included costuming, filk and the SCA; she received the 2010 LSAFS Forry Award for life achievement in sf. [AB] • *Don J. Arneson* (1935-2018), US comics writer/editor who wrote *Frankenstein*, *Dracula* and *Werewolf* scripts for Dell and the *Dark Shadows* comic for Western Publishing, died on 1 February aged 82. [PDF] • *Adrian Barnes* (1963-2018), UK-born Canadian author of *Satan a la Mode* (2006) and the Clarke-shortlisted *Nad* (2012), died on 5 January aged 54. • *David Bischoff* (1951-2018), prolific US author whose early novel *Tin Woodman* (1979) with Dennis R Bailey was based on their Nebula-shortlisted story, died on 19 March aged 66. [JDC] Besides his own books and series he wrote many novelizations and shared-world ties, and edited *Starlog* with Ted White 1985-1986. • *Harry Blamires* (1916-2017), UK author of a theological fantasy trilogy influenced by his mentor C.S. Lewis, opening with *The Devil's Hunting Grounds* (1954), died on 21 November aged 101. • *Martin G. Cameron*, artist whose work included many interiors for *Analog*, 3D art for Lucasfilm games and other game companies, and the steampunk *Major Arcanum Gazette* (2018) with Robert E. Vardeman, died on 26 March. [F770] • *Debbie Lee Carrington* (1959-2018), US actress and stunt artist in *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *Total Recall* (1990), *Batman Returns* (1992) and others, died on 24 March aged 58. [PDF] • *Fred Crippen* (1928-2018), US animator who created *Roger Ramjet* (1965) and worked on many series including *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (1996), *Men in Black* (1997-1998) and *Godzilla* (1999-2001), died on 22 March aged 90. [SFS] • *Erwin C. Dietrich* (1930-2018): Swiss 'sexploitation' film-maker whose genre releases include *Jack the Ripper* (1976) and *Killer Condom* (1996), died on 15 March aged 87. [SG] • *Michael Fleisher* (1942-2018), US comics writer and novelist remembered for his work on the DC Comics characters *The Spectre* and *Jonah Hex* (also for an unwise lawsuit against Harlan Ellison and *The Comics Journal*), died on 2 February aged 75. [SG/GW] • *Stephen Hawking* (1942-2018), distinguished UK theoretical physicist who incidentally had cameo roles in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *The Simpsons* and *Futurama*, died on 14 March aged 76. • *Bill Maynard* (1928-2018), UK actor in *You Too Can Have a Body* (1960), *The Boy with Two Heads* (1974) and *Warzel Gumidge* (1980), died on 30 March aged 89. [SG] • *Peter Nicholls* (1939-2018), founder of the *SF Encyclopedia*, has died after a long illness. "Science fiction critic, encyclopedist, *non vivant*, and pontificator. Died on 6th March 2018, aged 78, surrounded by family. Inspired adoration and exasperation in equal measure. Remembered

with enormous love by [family listed here].’ (*The Age*, Melbourne, 9 March) *Foundation* was never livelier than when he was editor 1974-1978; the first *Encyclopedia* was a revelation and each edition (1979, 1993, 2011-current) won a Hugo, while Peter received the 1980 Pilgrim Award for criticism; other books included *The Science in Science Fiction* (1982, with me and Brian Stableford) and *Fantastic Cinema* (1984). Another sad though not unexpected farewell. ● *Jürgen Peterzén* (1941-2018), long-time Swedish fan who was a founder of the Stockholm Tolkien society (Forodrim), died in early March aged 76. [J-HH] ● *Mary Rosenblum* (1952-2018), US author who won the Compton Crook Award for her first novel *The Drylands* (1993), and also a 2009 Sidewise Award, died in a solo plane crash on 11 March; she was 65. [F770] ● *Clive Sinclair* (1948-2018), UK author—not the inventor—whose work includes some short fantasy and the Beelzebub-narrated novel *Augustus Rex* (1992), died on 5 March aged 70. [JC] ● *David Ogden Stiers* (1942-2018), US actor in *THX 1138* (1971), *Oh, God!* (1977), *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) and several other Disney animations, *Justice League of America* (1997), *Lady in the Water* (2006) and *Neil Stryker and the Tyrant of Time* (2017), died on 3 March aged 75. [MR/MMW] ● *Lars-Olov Strandberg* (1926-2018), major Swedish fan, died on 3 March aged 88. John-Henri Holmberg writes: ‘Active in Swedish fandom since early 1956, one of the founders of the still active Scandinavian SF Society (SFSF), committee member of many Swedish SF conventions, a founder of the Alvar Appeltoft Memorial Foundation. He was one of the central fans in Swedish fan history; a link to its beginnings, an attendee of the country’s first convention, and a tireless worker, often behind the scenes. Until the last two or three years Lars-Olov attended every con held in Sweden, as well as hundreds in the US and throughout Europe; he was the first Swedish fan to be GoH at a worldcon, at Glasgow in 2005.’ ● *Daniel Walther* (1940-2018), French editor and author since 1965 of much SF (including the *Swa/Shai* series, first two books translated by C.J. Cherryh) and heroic fantasy; died on 3 March aged 77. [PDF] ● *Kate Wilhelm* (1928-2018), US author much valued not only for her substantial and varied output of fiction—including the Hugo-winning *Where Late the Sweet Bird Sang* (1976)—but for encouraging younger writers through the Milford (with her late husband Damon Knight) and Clarion workshops, died on 8 March aged 89. Her many further accolades include three Nebulas for shorter fiction, the SF Hall of Fame in 2003, and SFWA’s 2009 Solstice Award, a career honour since renamed the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award.

The Weakest Link. *Bradley Walsh*: ‘Brueghel the Elder painted the biblical character Jonah leaving which sea creature?’ *Contestant*: ‘The Loch Ness Monster.’ (ITV, *The Chase*) ● *John Humphrys*: ‘What pantomime, usually set in China, is taken from a story in the *Arabian Nights*?’ *Louis Payne*: ‘*Withnail and I*.’ (BBC1, *Celebrity Mastermind*) [PE]

Hugo Shortlist. NOVEL John Scalzi, *The Collapsing Empire*, Kim Stanley Robinson, *New York 2140*, Ann Leckie, *Providence*; Yoon Ha Lee, *Raven Stratagem*; Mur Lafferty, *Six Wakes*; N.K. Jemisin, *The Stone Sky*. NOVELLA Martha Wells, *All Systems Red*, Sarah Pinsker, ‘And Then There Were (N-One)’ (*Uncanny* 3/17); Nnedi Okorafor, *Binti: Home*; JY Yang, *The Black Tides of Heaven*; Seanan McGuire, *Down Among the Sticks and Bones*; Sarah Gailey, *River of Teeth*. NOVELETTE Alette de Bodard, ‘Children of Thorns, Children of Water’ (*Uncanny* 7/17); Yoon Ha Lee ‘Extracurricular Activities’ (Tor com 15/2/17); Suzanne Palmer, ‘The Secret Life of Bots’ (*Clarkesworld* 9/17); Vina Jie-Min Prasad, ‘A Series of Steaks’ (*Clarkesworld* 1/17); K.M. Szpara, ‘Small Changes over Long Periods of Time’ (*Uncanny* 5/17); Sarah Pinsker ‘Wind Will Rove’ (*Asimov’s* 9/17). SHORT Caroline M. Yoachim, ‘Carnival Nine’ (*Beneath Ceaseless Skies* 5/17); Fran Wilde, ‘Clearly Lettered in a Mostly Steady Hand’ (*Uncanny* 9/17); Vina Jie-Min Prasad, ‘Fandom for Robots’ (*Uncanny* 9/17); Linda Nagata, ‘The Martian Obelisk’ (Tor com 19/7/17); Ursula Vernon, ‘Sun, Moon, Dust’ (*Uncanny* 5/17); Rebecca Roanhorse, ‘Welcome to your Authentic Indian Experience™’ (*Apex* 8/17). RELATED WORK Zoe Quinn, *Crash Override*; Paul Kincaid, *Iain M. Banks*; Nat Segaloff, *A Lit Fuse*; Alexandra Pierce & Mimi Mondal, eds., *Luminent Threads*; Ursula K. Le Guin, *No Time to Spare*; Liz Bourke, *Sleeping with Monsters*. GRAPHIC *Black Bolt, Volume 1*; *Bitch Planet, Volume 2*; *Monstress, Volume 2*; *My Favorite Thing is Monsters*; *Paper Girls, Volume 3*; *Saga, Volume 7*. DRAMATIC/LONG *Blade Runner 2049*, *Get Out*, *The Shape of Water*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Wonder Woman*. DRAMATIC/SHORT *Black Mirror*: ‘USS Callister’, ‘The Deep’ [song], *Doctor Who*: ‘Twice Upon a Time’, *The Good Place*: ‘Michael’s Gambit’, *The Good Place*: ‘The Trolley Problem’, *Star Trek: Discovery*: ‘Magic to Make the Sanest Man Go Mad’. EDITOR/SHORT John Joseph Adams, Neil Clarke, Lee Harris, Jonathan Strahan, Lynne M.

Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, Sheila Williams. EDITOR/LONG Sheila E. Gilbert, Joe Monti, Diana M. Pho, Devi Pillai, Miriam Weinberg, Navah Wolfe. PRO ARTIST Galen Dara, Kathleen Jennings, Bastien Lecouffe Deharme, Vicky Ngai, John Picacio, Sana Takeda. SEMIPROZINE *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *The Book Smugglers*, *Escape Pod*, *Fireside Magazine*, *Strange Horizons*, *Uncanny*. FANZINE *File 770*, *Galactic Journey*, *Journey Planet*, *nerds of a feather flock together*, *Rocket Stack Rank*, *SF Bluestocking*. FANCAST *The Coode Street Podcast*, *Ditch Diggers*, *Fangirl Happy Hour*, *Galactic Suburbia*, *Sword and Laser*, *Verity!*. FAN WRITER Camesrost Felapton, Sarah Gailey, Mike Glycer, Foz Meadows, Charles Payseur, Bogi Takács. FAN ARTIST Geneva Benton, Grace P. Fong, Maya Hahto, Likhain (M. Sereno), Spring Schoenhuth, Steve Stiles. SERIES Martha Wells, *The Books of the Raksura*; Robert Jackson Bennett, *The Divine Cities*; Brandon McGuire, *InCryptid*; Marie Brennan, *The Memoirs of Lady Trent*; Seanan Sanderson, *The Stormlight Archive*; Lois McMaster Bujold, *World of the Five Gods*. ● NON-HUGOS: *John W. Campbell Award*: Katherine Arden, Sarah Kuhn, Jeannette Ng, Vina Jie-Min Prasad, Rebecca Roanhorse, Rivers Solomon. *WSFS YA Award*: Nnedi Okorafor, *Akata Warrior*; Sam J. Miller, *The Art of Starving*; Philip Pullman, *La Belle Sauvage*; Sarah Rees Brennan, *In Other Lands*; Frances Hardinge, *A Skinful of Shadows*; T. Kingfisher, *Summer in Orcus*. ● See www.thehugowards.org/hugo-history/2018-hugo-awards/ for a more detailed list with subtitles and full credits, plus Retro Hugos at www.thehugowards.org/hugo-history/1943-retro-hugo-awards/.

The Dead Past. 50 Years Ago, kindly George Hay was ‘declared to be a Suppressive Person and an ENEMY to Scientology.’ (HCO ETHICS ORDER, 19 April 1968) L Ron Hubbard himself added the damning handwritten comment ‘This is an odd enturbulator.’ ● 20 Years Ago, in the Lauray of Salisbury plant catalogue ‘EPIPHYLLUMS Small Flowered Hybrids [...] ‘Ursula Le Guin’—Broad, deep raspberry pink petals form tulip-shaped funnel. Recurved sepals have beige overtones. [...] ‘Robert Silverberg’—Small, satiny, watermelon red flowers, recurved petals. Free flowering, basket type growth.’ (*Ansbie* 129, April 1998)

More Shortlists. *Kitschies*: NOVEL Michelle Tea, *Black Wave*; Nina Allan, *The Rift*; William Sutcliffe, *We See Everything*; Deon Meyer trans L. Seegers, *Fever*; Jess Richards, *City of Circles*. DEBUT Carmen Marcus, *How Saints Die*; Alex ‘Acks’ Wells, *Hunger Makes the Wolf*; RJ Barker, *Age of Assassins*; JY Yang, *The Black Tides of Heaven*; Liz Ziemska, *Mandelbrot the Magnificent*. COVER ART David Dean for *The Land of Neverendings* by Kate Saunders; Rose Stafford for *Black Wave* by Michelle Tea; Jack Smyth for *The History of Bees* by Maja Lunde; Black Sheep for *The Real-Town Murders* by Adam Roberts; Richard Shailer for *Our Memory Like Dust* by Gavin Chait. ● *Prometheus* (libertarian sf): Doug Casey and John Hunt, *Drug Lord: High Ground*; Travis Corcoran, *The Powers of the Earth*; Karl Gallagher, *Torchship*, *Torchship Pilot* and *Torchship Captain*; Sarah Hoyt, *Darkship Revenge*; Ken MacLeod, *The Corporation Wars*: *Emergence*; Andy Weir, *Artemis*.

As Others See Us. ‘Yet there isn’t anything inherently unfeminine about science fiction. Some might say the dystopic fantasy, apocalyptic tales and paranormal romance so popular with today’s teenage girls are actually couched “girl-friendly” variants of science fiction. Perhaps.’ (Pamela Paul on *A Wrinkle in Time*, *NY Times*, 27 January 2012) [JonC]

Magazine Scene. Penthouse Global Media, which relaunched *Omni* as a quarterly in late 2017, has filed for US Chapter 11 bankruptcy. ‘The future of *Omni* is currently uncertain.’ (*Locus*, 22 March) *Whog’s Masterclass*. In *Typo Veritas*. ‘... I was seated in the head—the bathroom—with my red USMC shorts at my ankles when the Gunny appeared and sat down on the toilet next to mine. This was in the ‘Old Corps,’ when there were no patricians separating the porcelain thrones.’ (Dan Emmett, *At Arm’s Length*, 2014) [TP] ● *Neat Tricks Dept.* ‘Lin returned and held out her arms, her face dissolving.’ (Elizabeth Bonesteel, *Remnants of Trust*, 2016) [SS] ● *Dept of Physiology*. ‘Balls, Malin thinks. Balls in my head now.’ (Mons Kallentoft, *Midwinter Blood*, trans Neil Smith 2011) ‘Borje Svård walks with his stomach muscles clenched, feeling how their power spreads throughout his whole body.’ (*Ibid*) ‘Malin feels a warm glow course through her body. A warmth that is icy cold.’ (*Ibid*) [PB] ● *Hollywood Eyeballs*. ‘Five years ago, she [Jennifer Lawrence] klutzily tripped over her puffy pink princess gown while accepting an Oscar for a peppy indie romcom, and audiences watched with bursting hearts in their eyes.’ (Guy Lodge, *Guardian*, 2 March) [PB]

Ansbie© 369 © David Langford, 2018. Thanks to Paul Barnett, Jonathan Clements, John Clute, John DeChancie, Paul Di Filippo, File 770, Steve Green, John-Henri Holmberg, Locus, Tim Powers, Private Eye, Marcus L Rowland, SF Site, Sally Smith, Gary Wilkinson, Martin Morse Wooster, Hero Distributors: SCIS/Prophecy, Alan Stewart (Australia). 3 April 2018