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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: **Ulrika O'Brien**. Available for SAE, flapping tatters, or songs that the Hyades shall sing.

ConZealand: news from the first virtual Worldcon! • *Worldcon 2022:* as expected, voters preferred Chicago over Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by 517 to 33 votes: see Chicon 8 in the events list below. • *Hugo Awards:* NOVEL *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine. NOVELLA *This Is How You Lose the Time War* by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone. NOVELLETTE *Emergency Skin* by N.K. Jemisin. SHORT 'As the Last I May Know' by S.L. Huang (Tor.com). SERIES 'The Expanse' by James S. A. Corey. RELATED WORK '2019 John W. Campbell Award Acceptance Speech' by Jeannette Ng. *Graphic LaGuardia* by Nnedi Okorafor, Tana Ford, James Devlin. DRAMATIC – LONG *Good Omens*. DRAMATIC – SHORT *The Good Place: "The Answer"*. EDITOR – SHORT Ellen Datlow. EDITOR – LONG Navah Wolfe. PROFESSIONAL ARTIST John Picacio. SEMIPROZINE *Uncanny Magazine*. FANZINE *The Book Smugglers*. FANCAST *Our Opinions Are Correct*. FAN WRITER Bogi Takács. FAN ARTIST Elise Matthesen. • 'Not a Hugo': LODESTAR (YA): *Catfishing on CatNet* by Naomi Kritzer. ASTOUNDING (formerly John W. Campbell): R.F. Kuang. • *Retro Hugos* for 1944 work: NOVEL 'Shadow over Mars' (also as *The Nemesis from Terra*) by Leigh Brackett (*Startling*). NOVELLA 'Killdozer!' by Theodore Sturgeon (*Astounding*). NOVELLETTE 'City' by Clifford D. Simak (*Astounding*). SHORT 'I, Rocket' by Ray Bradbury (*Amazing*). SERIES 'The Cthulhu Mythos'. RELATED WORK 'The Science-Fiction Field' by Leigh Brackett (*Writer's Digest*). GRAPHIC *Superman: "The Mysterious Mr. Mxyztplk"*. DRAMATIC (tie): *The Canterville Ghost* and *The Curse of the Cat People*. EDITOR John W. Campbell, Jr. ARTIST Margaret Brundage. FANZINE *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*. FAN WRITER Fritz Leiber. • *First Fandom Hall of Fame:* Roger Sims and (posthumous) Chad Oliver. *Moskowitz Archive Award:* John Carter Tibbetts. *Big Heart:* Janice Gelb & Stephen Boucher. • In the absence of a million monkeys with typewriters, the official ConNZealand 'news-letter' was constructed as a dump from social media feeds. Oh dear.

The Pallid Mask

Adam-Troy Castro can afford to be philosophical about all the copies of his novel *Pharos* offered as naughty downloads from pirate websites, finding consolation in the strong likelihood that these are laden with hideous digital infections, not to mention the interesting fact that he has never written a novel called *Pharos*. (Facebook, 17 July)

Ann Leckie takes her pleasures where she can: 'Pleased to note that Google Translate still thinks the Spanish title of *Ancillary Justice* is "Assistant Attorney General".' (Twitter, 7 July) [F770]

George R.R. Martin, hosting the online Hugo presentations, made a resolute attempt on the record for interminability: a heavily cut video soon appeared on YouTube, titled *When the Toastmaster Talks Less*.

J.K. Rowling still has many loyal fans, but may be privately thinking that some are a bit too loyal: 'Not long before Rowling was published, women authors were unheard of.' (Twitter, 6 July)

John Sladek, perpetrator of the hoax *Arachne Rising: The Thirteenth Sign of the Zodiac* (1977 as by James Vogh), would if he were still with us be chuckling at recent Twitter excitement over a not even very new claim that NASA has wickedly upset the astrological apple-cart by adding the thirteenth 'sign' Ophiuchus (actually known about for millennia).

Betsy Wollheim of DAW Books broke the code of *omertà* and grumbled on Facebook about her author Patrick Rothfuss's tardiness with his third 'Kingkiller' fantasy. A fan had speculated about lengthy editorial processes at DAW, but: 'I've never seen a word of book three ... I don't think he's written anything for six years.' (*Newsweek*, 27 July)

Conjugatae

ONLINE. 6 Aug • **Virtual First Thursday**, 6-10pm, replacing the usual London pub meeting. See tinyurl.com/uow6hqn. *The Bishop's Finger reopens on 3 August, but it still seems too soon for such a gathering.* [RR]

ONLINE. 15 Aug • **Small Press Day** events throughout UK and Ireland. Postponed from 18 July: see smallpressday.co.uk.

ONLINE. 23 Aug • **BSFA AGM**, members only. 2:30-5:30pm. With proposal of a new constitution! Discord link is discord.gg/hfaHTWV.

ONLINE. 28-31 Aug • **Frightfest** (film festival), 'geo-locked for viewers in the UK only'. Tickets from frightfest.co.uk/filmsevents.html.

29-30 Aug • **Sanctuary** steampunk gathering, Kelham Hall Park, NG23 5QX. Replaces the cancelled Lincoln 'Asylum' festival. Outdoor event with social distancing and masks required. Prebooking only – no at-the-door tickets. See www.tickettailor.com/events/asylumxi/390265.

ONLINE. 18-20 Sep • **Oxonmoot** (The Tolkien Society). *New dates.* £30 'per connection' for all events; Tolkien Society members £20. More details at www.tolkienociety.org/events/oxonmoot-online/.

POSTPONED TO 2021. 19 Sep • **International Comics Expo** (ICE), Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham. See www.thecomicsshow.co.uk.

CANCELLED. 26-27 Sep • **HorrorCon UK**, Rotherham. *See below.*

CANCELLED. 26-27 Sep • **Nor-Con** (media), Norfolk. *See below.*

ONLINE. 7-11 Oct • **Grimmfest** (horror/cult films), was to be at Odeon Manchester Great Northern. See grimmfest.com.

CANCELLED. 9-11 Oct • **Octocon**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Memberships rolled over to 2021; refunds offered. An online substitute event for 2020 is planned. See octocon.com.

CANCELLED. 6-8 Nov • **Armadacon**, Future Inns, Plymouth. Memberships will be transferred to the 2021 event. See www.armadacon.org.

28-31 Jan 2021 • **ChillerCon UK** (horror), Grand and Royal Hotels, Scarborough. The renamed StokerCon, postponed from April to August 2020 and then to 2021; there will be no Stoker Awards presentation, presumably because it's the wrong time of year. *Now £130 reg; HWA members £120; £50 supp.* Day rates etc. at chillercon-uk.com.

2-5 Apr 2021 • **ConFusion** (Eastercon), Birmingham NEC Hilton. £70 reg until 22 November; £40 concessions; accompanied under-18s £20, under-5s £1. Online registration now live at confusion2021.uk.

15-16 May 2021 • **HorrorCon UK**, Magna Science Adventure Centre, Sheffield Rd, Rotherham, S60 1DX. 2020 tickets transferred; refunds on application *before 31 August*. See horrorconuk.com.

25-26 Sep 2021 • **Nor-Con** (media), Norfolk Showground Arena. Tickets £13 (£16 early entry); child £9 (£10) from www.nor-con.co.uk.

1-5 Sep 2022 • Chicon 8 (80th Worldcon), Chicago, IL, USA. GoH Charles de Lint (author), Floyd Norman (artist), Edie Stern & Joe Siclari (fan), Erle Korschak (First Fandom). \$170 reg; under-25s \$90; under-18s \$70; under 14s \$50; under-10s free; \$50 supporting; all valid to 30 April 2021. Special rates for site selection voters etc. at chicon.org.

Rumblings. *Worldcon Bids.* Nice in 2023 (France) is postponed owing to COVID-19 disruption; Brisbane, Australia, will bid for 2025; Jeddahcon, the failed Saudi Arabian 2022 bid, is trying again for 2026.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others See Us. *Interviewer (Hannah Beckerman):* 'Are there any genres you avoid in your own reading?' *Kit de Waal:* 'Yes, I don't read any fantasy. I've never even read *Lord of the Rings* or *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I only really like things that can happen or did happen. As soon as you introduce a talking horse or Mr Tumnus, I'm just not interested.' (*Guardian*, 18 July) [JH] But magic realism is just fine.

Awards. *Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery:* Rick Raphael. • *Kate Greenaway Medal* (children's illustration): Shaun Tan for *Tales from the Inner City*. • *Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction:* Colson Whitehead. [F770] • *Prometheus* (libertarian): NOVEL *Alliance Rising* by C. J. Cherryh and Jane S. Fancher. CLASSIC 'Sam Hall' (1953) by Poul Anderson. • *SF and Fantasy Hall of Fame:* Ted Chiang, D.C. Fontana, the *Star Wars* film series, and *Watchmen* (the original graphic novel). [L] • *Scribe/Faust* for life achievement in media tie-in work: Jean Rabe. • *Shirley Jackson* (suspense/horror) best novel: *The Book of X* by Sarah Rose Etter. [ED] • *World Fantasy* life achievement: Karen Joy Fowler, Rowena Morrill.

Not Since Conan the Barbarian ... Tom Shippey's appreciative review of Sarah Kozloff's fantasy tetralogy is mostly hidden behind a paywall, but the headline added by the *Wall Street Journal* caused some fannish outcry and even sarcasm: 'Science Fiction: Finally, a Grown-up Fantasy / The "Nine Realms" sequence has the scope and much of the gusto of Robert E. Howard's famous Hyboria ...' (17 July)

R.I.P. Late report: *F. Alexander Brejcha* (1957-2019), who began selling to *Analog* in 1989 and published the collections *No World Warranty* and *People First!* (both 2004), died on 11 February 2019 aged 61.

[SHS] ● **Wilford Brimley** (1934-2020), US actor in *The Thing* (1982), *Cocoon* (1985; also sequel) and *Ewoks: Battle of Endor* (1985), died on 1 August aged 85. [LP] ● **Earl Cameron** (1917-2020), Bermuda-born UK actor with many genre credits from *Tarzan the Magnificent* (1960), *Thunderball* (1965) and *Doctor Who* (1966) to *Neverwhere* (1996), *Revelation* (2001) and *Inception* (2010), died on 3 July aged 102. [DC] ● **Lewis John Carlino** (1932-2020), US screenwriter/director whose script credits include *Seconds* (1966) and *Where Have All the People Gone* (1974), died on 17 June aged 88. [AIP] ● **Victor Chizhikov** (1935-2020), Russian illustrator of more than 100 children's books (including fantasy) and designer of the 1980 Olympics bear mascot, died on 20 July aged 84. [PDF] ● **Harry Klein**, Hollywood publicist for *Star Wars* (1977), *Batman Returns* (1992), *Toy Story* (1995), *The Blair Witch Project* (1999) and many more, died on 18 June aged 82. [AIP] ● **Joanna Cole** (1944-2020), prolific US children's author best known for the 'Magic School Bus' sequence opening with *At the Waterworks* (1986, with illustrator Bruce Degen) – which became a long-running tv series – died on 12 July aged 75. [PDF] ● **Nick Cordero** (1978-2020), Canadian actor who played the title role in the off-Broadway musical of *The Toxic Avenger* (2010-2011), died on 5 July aged 41. [F770] ● **Gary William Crawford** (1953-2020), US author, critic and publisher who founded Gothic Press in 1979 and wrote books on Robert Aickman, Ramsey Campbell and J. Sheridan Le Fanu, died on 9 July aged 67. [DAA] ● **Charlie Daniels** (1936-2020) US musician who used supernatural themes in his best-known country song 'The Devil Went Down to Georgia' (1979, a #1 hit) and in 'The Legend Of Wooley Swamp' (1980), died on 6 July aged 83. [LP] ● **Olivia de Havilland** (1916-2020), noted UK actress whose rare genre credits include *The Swarm* (1978), died on 25 July aged 104. [LP] ● **Bent Fabricius-Bjerre** (1924-2020), prolific Danish film/tv composer whose credits include *Jasper's Ghost* (1992), died on 28 July aged 95. [MMW] ● **Carl Gafford** (1953-2020), US comics fan who joined DC in 1973 and also worked for Marvel and others, mostly as editor and colorist, died on 13 July aged 66. [PDF] ● **Galyn Gørg** (1964-2020), US actress in *The Wizard of Speed and Time* (1988), *RoboCop 2* (1990), *Twin Peaks* (1990), *M.A.N.T.I.S.* (1994-1995) and others, died on 14 July aged 55. [PDF] ● **Mavis Haut** (1936-2020), author and critic who reviewed for *Foundation* and wrote *The Hidden Library of Tanith Lee: Themes and Subtexts from Dionysos to the Immortal Gene* (2001), died on 6 July. [JC] ● **Grant Imahara** (1970-2020), US electronics/animatronics expert whose effects credits include all three *Star Wars* prequels, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997), *Galaxy Quest* (1999), *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence* (2001) and two *Matrix* sequels, died on 13 July aged 49. [TM] Actor credits include *Star Trek Continues* (as Sulu, 2013-2017). ● **Jean-Pierre Laigle** (1947-2020), French writer, critic, sf historian, translator from many languages for many French sf publishers, and editor/publisher of *Antares* (as Jean-Pierre Moumon), died on 1 July. [J-HH] ● **Moonyeenn Lee**, South African casting director whose credits include *Curse III: Blood Sacrifice* (1991) and *Tarzan and the Lost City* (1998), died on 18 July aged 76. [SJ] ● **Johnny Mandel** (1925-2020), Oscar-winning US composer who scored *Escape to Witch Mountain* (1975), *Freaky Friday* (1976), *Brenda Starr* (1989) and others, died on 29 June aged 94. [MMW] ● **Bob Martin** (1948-2020), founding editor in 1979 of *Fangoria*, with screenwriter credits for *Frankenhooker* (1990) and *Basket Case 3* (1991), died on 20 July aged 71. [PDF] ● **Henry Martin** (1925-2020), long-time *New Yorker* cartoonist who also contributed over 100 cartoons to *F&SF*, died on 30 June aged 94. [AIP/GVG] ● **Kurt Mitchell**, US writer, artist, comics creator and videogame developer whose novels include *A Stranger Side of Red* (2012), died on 1 July aged 67. [SJ] ● **Haruma Miura** (1990-2020), Japanese actor in *Attack on Titan* (2015) and the tv mini-series *Never Let Me Go* (2016), died on 18 July aged 30. [AIP] ● **Ennio Morricone** (1928-2020), Italian film/tv composer whose credits include *The Thing* (1982), *Red Sonja* (1985), *Genesis: The Creation and the Flood* (1994) and *Mission to Mars* (2000), died on 6 July aged 91. [SG] ● **Ro Nagey** (1953-2020), US fan, con-goer, fanzine publisher, co-founder of the Stilyagi Air Corps fan club and juggler (sometimes with Stephen Leigh as Cosmos and Chaos) who had for some years lived in Wales, died on 27 July aged 67. [JZ] ● **Ted Newsom** (1952-2020), US filmmaker, film historian and screenwriter whose documentaries on genre topics include the *100 Years of Horror* series (1996), and who had many director credits from *Evil Spawn* (1987) to *Superman and the Secret Planet* (2013), died on 4 July aged 67. [SG] ● **Jonathan Oppenheim** (1952-2020), US film editor best known for documentaries, with a genre credit for *The Muppets Take Manhattan* (1984), died on 17 July aged 67. [AIP] ● **Alan Parker** (1944-2020), award-winning UK filmmaker whose productions include *Pink Floyd – The Wall* (1982) and *Angel Heart* (1987), died on 31 July aged 76. [SG/JJ] ● **Regis Philbin** (1931-2020),

US tv host and actor in *Little Nicky* (2000), *Pinocchio* (2002), *Shrek the Third* (2007) and *Shrek Forever After* (2010), died on 24 July aged 88. [LP] ● **Kelly Preston** (1962-2020), US actress in *SpaceCamp* (1986), *Amazon Women on the Moon* (1987), *Battlefield Earth* (2000) and *The Cat in the Hat* (2003), died on 12 July aged 57. [AIP] ● **Naya Rivera** (1987-2020), US actress in *The Master of Disguise* (2002), *Frankenhood* (2009) and *At the Devil's Door* (2014), died on 8 July aged 33. [SJ] ● **Maurice Roëves** (1937-2020), Scots actor whose genre credits include *Doomwatch* (1970), *The Nightmare Man* (1981), *Doctor Who: 'The Caves of Androzani'* (1984) and *Judge Dredd* (1995), died on 15 July aged 83. [S] ● **Annie Ross** (1930-2020), UK singer and actress in *The Beast Must Die* (1974), *Superman III* (1983), *Witchery* (1988) and *Basket Case 2 and 3* (1990, 1991), died on 21 July aged 89. [SJ] ● **John Saxon** (1935-2020), US actor in *Planet Earth* (1974), *Strange New World* (1975), *Battle Beyond the Stars* (1980), *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984), *Death House* (1988, which he also directed) and *From Dusk Till Dawn* (1996), died on 25 July aged 84. [LP] ● **Ronald L. Schwary** (1944-2020), Oscar-winning US producer whose credits include *Shadow of the Hawk* (1976), **batteries not included* (1987) and *Medium* (2005-2011), died on 2 July aged 76. [AIP] ● **Jacqueline Scott** (1931-2020), US actress whose genre credits include *Empire of the Ants* (1977), died on 23 July aged 89. [PDF] ● **Susan Sizemore** (1951-2020), US author of bestselling paranormal romances whose series include the vampire-themed 'Laws of the Blood' (6 novels) and 'Primes' (9 novels), died on 20 July aged 69. [JLN] ● **Phyllis Somerville** (1943-2020), US actress in *It All Came True* (1998), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008) and *Daredevil* (2015), died on 16 July aged 76. [AIP] ● **Guy Thomas**, US screenwriter who scripted *Wholly Moses!* (1980), died on 10 July aged 66. [AIP] ● **Glen Warmingier** (1957-2020), UK fan and convention-goer – initially active in the Norwich sf group – whose fanzine was *This Farce* (5 issues 1980-1984), died on 17 July aged 62. [RS] ● **Brad Watson** (1955-2020), US author of two novels and much short fiction – some, like 'Water Dog God: A Ghost Story', fantastic – died on 8 July aged 64. [GVG]

The Weakest Link. Q: 'What celestial body orbits the Earth at a distance of about 239,000 miles?' A: 'The Sun.' (ITV, *The Chase*.) [PE]

Sword and Sordidry. Lin Carter's literary executor Robert M. Price revived Carter's fantasy anthology series with *Flashing Swords 6* (Pulp Hero Press, August), but contrived to sabotage it with his introduction. This wildly irrelevant political rant persuaded several contributors – who hadn't seen it until Amazon let them 'Look inside' – to withdraw their stories, and the publisher to delist the book. (Bleeding Cool, 31 July)

Random Fandom. *Fan Funds:* the CoNZealand online auction raised \$NZ2,190 for DUFF, FFANZ, GUFF and TAFF. ● *The Retro Hugo Statistics* reveal that a single Fan Writer nomination for 1944 work (it took three to get on the final ballot and no one had more than six) went to some chap called David Langford. Ho ho, very satirical....

The Critical Heritage. Clifton Fadiman introduces a James Blish story: 'This one, by an English science-fictioneer who at his best is as good as any of our home products ...' (*The Mathematical Magpie*, 1962)

Editorial. Ansible Editions has just released John Sladek's last completed novel, the offbeat mystery *Puff Love*, as a trade paperback and in the usual ebook formats. More at ae.ansible.uk/?t=pufflove.

Thog's Masterclass. *Eyeballs in the Simile.* '... Harrowhawk was quivering like a maggot next to a dead duck. As the Third traipsed out – as noisy as if they were leaving a play, not a sickroom – Harrow's eyes went with them.' (Tamsyn Muir, *Gideon the Ninth*, 2019) [NE] ● *Neat Tricks.* 'He was standing face-to-face with the man without a face.' (Alfred Bester, *The Demolished Man*, 1953) [J-HH] ● *Familiar Scene in the Chemistry Lab.* '... there were test tubes, beakers and a few graduates broken and lying around.' (Jerry Sohl, *The Haploids*, 1952) [BA] ● *Expressionist Dept.* 'She stamped her foot, but a merry smile contradicted her stern frown.' (Miles J. Breuer, 'The Captured Cross-Section', *Amazing Stories*, 1929) ● *Servants of the What?* '... then he saw two pheasants balancing on the rim of the fountain. A wanking and flapping from behind made him wince ...' (Pamela C. Dean, *The Secret Country*, 1985) [BA] ● *Radiophonic Workshop Dept.* 'She pushed her chair forward and tried to drown out all of the noise around her: Marianne on the telephone, Charlie banging away, the persistence of a clock ticking somewhere in the room, and the sound of Mr. Babcock's eyeballs on her back.' (Susie Orman Schnall, *We Came Here to Shine*, 2020) [KM]

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