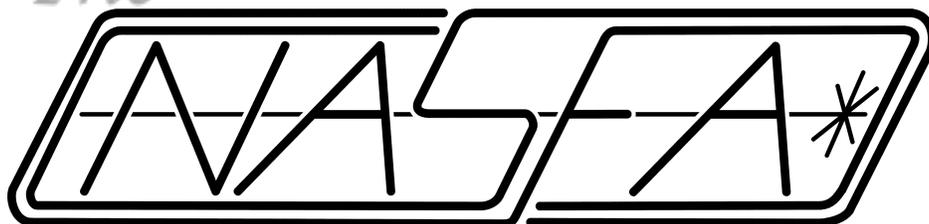


The



Shuttle

June 2014

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 21 June 2014; in Conjunction with the More-or-Less Annual Club Cookout/Picnic

See Info Below for Picnic/Cookout Start Time, Location, etc.

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next NASFA Meeting will be 6P Saturday 21 June 2014, but not at the regular time or location. The club meeting will be combined with the More-Or-Less Annual Club Picnic/Cookout. This year's hosts are Judy and Sam Smith, starting at 2P, at their house in Madison. Please see the map on page 3 of this issue if you need help finding their house.

JUNE PROGRAM AND ATMM

The club program and After-The-Meeting Meeting will also be subsumed into the More-Or-Less Annual Club Cookout/Picnic at Sam and Judy's house.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the NASFA Shuttle schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- July: TBD.

- August: Les Johnson mixes science fact and science fiction with Mars Exploration and Rescue Mode <tinyurl.com/RMBLLJ>.

We need ATMM volunteers for most future months in 2014 (July and forward, except, possibly, November).

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All further NASFA meeting dates for 2014 are currently scheduled on the normal 3rd Saturday.

JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFANs who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANs are both encouraged and welcomed to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

Continuing Our 34th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the July 2014 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 30 June 2014

News & Info

HUGO & RETRO-HUGO VOTING ONLINE

After a bit of a delay, voting for both the 2014 Hugo Awards and the 1939 Retrospective Hugo Awards has opened online (details follow). You can also vote by mailing a paper ballot to Loncon 3, this year's Worldcon. You must be an Attending, Supporting, or YA member of Loncon 3 to vote in this final round.

Whichever way you vote, the deadline is a minute before midnight Pacific Daylight Time 31 July 2014—about 6 weeks after this issue of the *Shuttle* will be published. Those who vote online can revisit their ballot multiple times, making additions or changes right up to the final minute. [At least in theory—pushing it too late might be asking for a website crash or for your ISP to hack up a furball. -ED]

You can find links to online voting pages for both sets of awards as well as a link to print a paper ballot at <www.loncon3.org/hugo_awards.php>. Loncon 3 has emailed members for whom they have contact information their membership number and Hugo PIN—both of which you'll need to vote online. You can also get your membership number at <www.loncon3.org/members.php> and request your PIN by emailing <hugoadmin@loncon3.org>.

HUGO PACKET UPDATED

The packet of Hugo-nominated works available to Loncon 3 members was expanded on 9 June 2014. Three of the fiction categories (Short Story, Novelette, and Novella) had additions, as did both the Fan Artist and Related Work categories. Members can download the packet at <www.loncon3.org/hugo_vote/hugo_voter_packet.php>.

WORLDCON MEMBERSHIP RATES RISING

Effective 14 July 2014 Loncon 3's Attending Membership rates will increase for all age ranges. The headline Adult Attending rate bumps up to £135/\$225/€175. Other Attending rates (Infant, Child, YA, and Family) also increase. The Supporting Rate stays at £25/\$40/€35. Further details can be found at <www.loncon3.org/documents/140610_MR26_rate_rise.pdf>.

AMAZING DEAL FOR WORLDCON & NASFiC MEMBERS

Amazing Stories <www.AmazingStoriesMag.com> has arranged with both Loncon 3 and Detcon1, the 2014 Worldcon and NASFiC respectively, to provide a free one-year subscription to the cons' "Attending, Supporting and Special" members. The conventions will be contacting their members with opt-in details. Those who choose to take advantage of the offer will reportedly be required to supply only a username and email address.

AWARDS FOR AWARDS—PARTLY

Anne Perry has been named the winner of the Kim Scott Walwyn Prize, in part for her work with the genre Kitschies Awards. The prize of £1000 is given by the Society of Young Publishers to honor "professional achievements and promise of women who have worked in publishing in the UK for up to seven years."

HOW DO YOU IMPRINT ON THE WEB?

Publisher Tor Books has announced that Tor.com will henceforth be considered an imprint of Tor Books "dedicated to pub-

lishing novellas, shorter novels, serializations, and any other pieces of fiction that exceed the traditional novelette length (17,499 words)." The main difference between Tor.com the website and Tor.com the imprint? The former publishes free fiction while the latter sells fiction. All, um, imprinted titles will be available in DRM-free electronic formats, but also as print-on-demand physical books and in audio formats.

GUFF WINNER

The *Shuttle* has seen a report that Gillian Polack has won the 2014 Get Up-and-over Fan Fund. She will be the Australasian delegate and travel to Loncon 3 later this year. It was apparently a close race; there were 4 candidates (plus No Preference and Hold Over Funds) and it was reported that the 100+ preferential votes had to be put through five rounds of automatic runoffs.

NASFA Calendar

JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 04 Shavuot.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *His Majesty's Dragon*, Naomi Novik; 6P. Per the library website <hmcpl.org/bookclubs/bailey_cove_scifi>, this book club is currently inactive.
- 06–08 Hamacon—Huntsville AL.
- 13–15 Hypericon—Nashville TN.
- 13–15 ~~Rocket City FurMeet—Decatur AL. Canceled.~~
- 13–15 Sci Fi Summer Con—Atlanta GA.
- 13–15 AndoCon—Atlanta GA.
- 14 BD: Ali Scanland.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 15 Fathers' Day.
- 17 BD: Jeff Freeman.
- 20–22 Anime Blues Con—Memphis TN.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—2P More-or-less Annual Club Picnic/Cookout, Judy and Sam Smith's house. Meeting & ATMM will be subsumed in the Cookout/Picnic.
- 21 BD: PieEyedDragon.
- 21 Summer Solstice.
- 26–29 Play On Con—Birmingham AL.
- 27–29 LibertyCon 27—Chattanooga TN.
- 28–29 Con Kasterborous—Huntsville AL.
- 29 Ramadan starts.

JULY

- 00 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: No meeting scheduled. Per the library website <hmcpl.org/bookclubs/bailey_cove_scifi>, this book club is currently inactive.
- 01 Canada Day.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 09 Nunavut Day.
- 12 Comic & Toy Show—Nashville TN.
- 12–13 Goo-Con—Atlanta GA.
- 13–26 Shared Worlds—Spartanburg SC.
- 19 Biter Bash—Alpharetta GA.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 25–27 ArmadilloCon 36—Austin TX.
- 27 Parents' Day.
- 29 Eid al-Fitr.
- 29 BD: Mark Paulk.

were both in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Nope.

NEW BUSINESS

Sam had printed up letters notifying each Con+Stellation 2014 member that there will not be a con this year, along with response cards asking them to choose whether they want Con+Stellation to refund their membership fees or forward them to Con+Stellation 2015. Sam handed out envelopes containing letters and cards to the people at the meeting. He will mail out the rest.

In case anyone hasn't heard, long-time NASFA member and Con+Stellation worker Russell McNutt passed away on April 30th.

CON BUSINESS

Con+Stellation co-con chair Shelly had some announcements: She is determined to have a 2015 Con+Stellation. She and Jenny have decided to put the constellation name Libra back in the pool. Con+Stellation 2015's constellation name will be Coma Berenices, which translates to "Bernice's Hair." Feel free to bring wigs of all colors. They haven't decided on a final date, but it definitely won't be on the first weekend in October, which is when next year's DeepSouthCon will be held in New Orleans. Shelly is currently looking at hotels for next year.

Mike Stone announced that a meteor shower out of Camelopardalis will be visible either late the night before or late the night of the meeting. There was a big debate over which night. Both sides were probably right because typical meteor showers last for multiple nights.

Doug and Mary asked about holding a Con+Stellation party at LibertyCon. Shelly suggested that they should hold a non-Con+Stellation party.

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:28:26P.

The May program was the more-or-less annual NASFA auction. Maria and Adam Grim hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

Awards Roundup

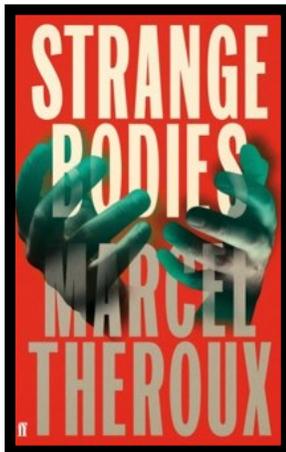
CAMPBELL AND STURGEON AWARDS

Winners of the 2014 John W. Campbell Memorial Award and Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award were presented at the Campbell Conference <www.sfcenter.ku.edu/campbell-conference.htm>, held 13–15 June 2014 at the University of Kansas Student Union in Lawrence KS. Nominees and the winners had been announced in the weeks leading up to the conference.

The **Campbell** (for the best science fiction novel published in 2013) went to *Strange Bodies*, Marcel Theroux (Faber & Faber/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux). "**In Joy, Knowing the Abyss**," Sarah Pinsker (Strange Horizons <www.strangehorizons.com> 7/1–8/2013), took the **Surgeon** (for the best short fiction of 2013).

ASIMOV'S READERS' AWARDS & ANALOG ANLAB AWARDS

Asimov's Science Fiction magazine and *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* magazine each give an-



nual awards for works appearing in their respective publication. Winners were announced at a breakfast event held during the Nebula Awards Weekend, which was held 15–18 May 2014 at the San Jose Marriott in San Jose CA.

Analog AnLab Awards

Novella "**The Chaplain's Legacy**," Brad R. Torgersen, July/August 2013

Novellette "**Buddha Nature**," Amy Thomson, January/February 2013

Short Story "**The War of the Worlds, Book One, Chapter 18: The Sergeant-Major**," John G. Hemry, January/February 2013

Fact Article "**The Great Ptolemaic Smackdown and Down-and-Dirty Mud-Wrassle**," Michael F. Flynn January/February 2013

Cover Artist **Tomislav Tikulin**, July/August 2013. **Asimov's Readers' Awards**

Novella "**The Application of Hope**," Kristine Kathryn Rusch, August 2013

Novellette "**Over There**," Will McIntosh, January 2013

Short Story (tie) "**The Wall**," Naomi Kritzer, April/May 2013 and "**The New Guys Always Work Overtime**," David Erik Nelson, February 2013

Poem "**Rivers**," Geoffrey A. Landis, June 2013

Cover **Kinuko Craft**

BAEN MEMORIAL WRITING CONTEST

Winners have been announced for the 2014 Jim Baen Memorial Writing Contest <www.baen.com/baenmemorialaward.asp>. The winner will be paid "at the normal paying rates for professional story submittals" and featured on the Baen website and will receive a membership to the 2014 International Space Development Conference <isdc.nss.org/2014>. The winner and runners up will get a one-year National Space Society <www.nss.org> membership and Baen merchandise. The winner and runners up are:



Grand Prize "**Low Arc**," Sean Monaghan

2nd Place "**Balance**," Marina J. Lostetter

3rd Place "**Wind Shear**," Angus McIntyre

SF & TECHNOCULTURE STUDIES AWARD

The Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies program (University of California, Riverside) <ucrtoday.ucr.edu/17307> sponsors an annual SFTS book award. This year's prize went to **David Wittenberg**, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts at The University of Iowa, for *Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative* (Fordham UP, 2013).

AUDIE AWARDS

The 2014 Audie Awards <www.theaudies.com> (for distinction in audiobooks and spoken word entertainment) were presented 29 May 2014 at a ceremony sponsored by parent group the Audio Publishers Association <audiopub.org> at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City. There are around 50 categories and a number of genre-related winners. Those include:

Fiction *Doctor Sleep*, Stephen King; read by Will Patton (Simon & Schuster Audio)

Science Fiction *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance*, Lois McMaster Bujold; read by Grover Gardner (Blackstone)

Paranormal *Reviver*, Seth Patrick; read by Ari Fliakos (Macmillan Audio)

Fantasy *Wisp of a Thing*, Alex Bledsoe; read by Stefan Rudnicki (Blackstone)

Package Design*Clockwork Angels: The Watchmaker's Edition*, Kevin J. Anderson; read by Neil Peart (Brilliance)
Children's (Age 8–12)*Matilda*, Roald Dahl; read by Kate Winslet (Penguin Audio)
Multi-Voiced Performance*World War Z: The Complete Edition*, Max Brooks; read by Max Brooks and full cast (Random House Audio)

LAMBDA & BISEXUAL BOOK AWARDS

The Lambda Literary Foundation <www.lambdaliterary.org/lambdaliterary-foundation> announced the winners for the 26th Annual Lambda Literary Awards (for LGBT literature) at a 2 June 2014 ceremony at The Great Hall at Cooper Union in New York City. Among their two dozen categories is the winner in the SF/Fantasy/Horror category, *Death by Silver*, by Melissa Scott and Amy Griswold (Lethe).

The Bi Writers Association <www.biwriters.org> announced the winners for the 2nd Annual Bisexual Book Awards at a 31 May 2014 ceremony in New York City. Among the 8 categories is the winner in the Bisexual Speculative Fiction (sf/f/h) category, *Pantomime*, by Laura Lam (Strange Chemistry).

NEPR AWARD

The 2014 New England Public Radio Award for the Arts and Humanities Award has gone to genre author Jane Yolen at a 12 May 2014 Arts and Humanities Award Gala held in Holyoke MA. Yolen was said to be the first writer to receive the award.

PROMETHEUS AWARD NOMS

The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced the finalists for the Prometheus Awards <www.lfs.org/releases.shtml>—in both the Novel and Hall of Fame categories. The Prometheus Awards are intended to “provide encouragement to science fiction writers whose books examine the meaning of freedom.” Winners will be announced at Loncon 3 <www.loncon3.org>, this year’s Worldcon. By category, the nominees are:

Prometheus Award Novel Noms

Homeland, Cory Doctorow (Tor)
A Few Good Men, Sarah Hoyt (Baen)
CruX, Ramez Naam (Angry Robot)
Nexus, Ramez Naam (Angry Robot)
Brilliance, Marcus Sakey (Thomas & Mercer)

Prometheus Hall of Fame Award Noms

“Sam Hall,” Poul Anderson (1953)
Falling Free, Lois McMaster Bujold (1988)
 “Repent, Harlequin!” Said the Ticktockman,” Harlan Ellison (1965)
Courtship Rite, Donald M. Kingsbury (1982)
 “As Easy as A.B.C.,” Rudyard Kipling (1912)

SIDWISE AWARD NOMS

Finalists for the 2013 Sidewise Award for Alternate History <www.uchronia.net/sidewise> have been announced. Winners will be announced at Worldcon. By category the nominees are:

Sidewise Short Form Noms

Vylar Kaftan, “The Weight of the Sunrise” (*Asimov's*, February 2013)
 Ken Liu, “A Brief History of the Trans-Pacific Tunnel” (*F&SF*, January 2013)
 Adam Roberts, “Tollund” (*The Book of the Dead*, Jurassic London)
 Kristine Kathryn Rusch, “Uncertainty” (*Asimov's*, March 2013)
 Harry Turtledove, “Cayos in the Stream” (Tor.com, 8/7/2013)
 Ian Watson, “Blair’s War” (*Asimov's*, July 2013)

Sidewise Long Form Noms

Robert Conroy, *1920: America's Great War* (Baen)
 Mark Hodder, *The Secret of Abdu el Yezdi* (Del Rey UK/Pyr)
 D. J. Taylor, *The Windsor Faction* (Chatto & Windus/Pegasus)
 Bryce Zabel, *Surrounded by Enemies : What If Kennedy Sur-*

vived Dallas? (Mill City Press)

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS NOMS

The British Fantasy Society <www.britishfantasysociety.org> has announced the nominees for the 2013 British Fantasy Awards. Winners will be announced during this year’s FantasyCon <www.fantasycon2014.org>, to be held 5–7 September 2014 at the Royal York Hotel in York UK. By category, the nominees are:

BFA Fantasy Novel Noms (Robert Holdstock Award)

The Ocean at the End of the Lane, Neil Gaiman (Headline)
Blood and Feathers: Rebellion, Lou Morgan (Solaris)
Between Two Thorns, Emma Newman (Angry Robot)
The Glass Republic, Tom Pollock (Jo Fletcher)
A Stranger in Olondria, Sofia Samatar (Small Beer)

BFA Horror Novel Noms (August Derleth Award)

The Shining Girls, Lauren Beukes (HarperCollins)
NOS4R2, Joe Hill (Gollancz)
The Year of the Ladybird, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)
Path of Needles, Alison Littlewood (Jo Fletcher)
House of Small Shadows, Adam Nevill (Pan)
Mayhem, Sarah Pinborough (Jo Fletcher)

BFA Novella Noms

Spin, Nina Allan (TTA Press)
 “Vivian Guppy and the Brighton Belle,” Nina Allan (Rustblind and Silverbright)
Dogs With Their Eyes Shut, Paul Meloy (PS Publishing)
Beauty, Sarah Pinborough (Gollancz)
Whitstable, Stephen Volk (Spectral)

BFA Short Story Noms

“Chalk,” Pat Cadigan (*This Is Horror*)
 “Signs of the Times,” Carole Johnstone (*Black Static* #33)
 “Golden Apple,” Sophia McDougall (*The Lowest Heaven*)
 “Death Walks En Pointe,” Thana Niveau (*The Burning Circus*)
 “Family Business,” Adrian Tchaikovsky (*The Alchemy Press Book of Urban Mythic*)
 “Moonstruck,” Karin Tidbeck (*Shadows & Tall Trees* #5)
 “The Fox,” Conrad Williams (*This Is Horror*)

BFA Collection Noms

North American Lake Monsters, Nathan Ballingrud (Small Beer)
Holes for Faces, Ramsey Campbell (Dark Regions)
For Those Who Dream Monsters, Anna Taborska (Mortbury)
Monsters in the Heart, Stephen Volk (Gray Friar)

BFA Anthology Noms

The Tenth Black Book of Horror, Charles Black, ed. (Mortbury)
Fearie Tales, Stephen Jones, ed. (Jo Fletcher)
End of the Road, Jonathan Oliver, ed. (Solaris)
Rustblind and Silverbright, David Rix, ed. (Eibonvale)
Tales of Eve, Mhairi Simpson, ed. (Fox Spirit)

BFA Small Press Noms

(PS Publishing Independent Press Award)

The Alchemy Press (Peter Coleborn)
 Fox Spirit Books (Adele Wearing)
 NewCon Press (Ian Whates)
 Spectral Press (Simon Marshall-Jones)

BFA Non-Fiction Noms

Fantasy Faction, Marc Aplin, ed.
Doors to Elsewhere, Mike Barrett (The Alchemy Press)
 “We Have Always Fought: Challenging the Women, Cattle and Slaves Narrative,” Kameron Hurley (*A Dribble of Ink* <aidanmoher.com/blog> 5/20/2013)
Speculative Fiction 2012, Justin Landon and Jared Shurin, eds. (Jurassic London)
Gestalt Real-Time Reviews <dflewisreviews.wordpress.com>, D.F. Lewis

BFA Magazine/Periodical Noms

Clarkesworld, Neil Clarke and Sean Wallace, eds. (Wyrms)
Black Static, Andy Cox, ed. (TTA Press)
Interzone, Andy Cox, ed. (TTA Press)
Shadows & Tall Trees, Michael Kelly, ed. (Undertow)

BFA Artist Noms

Ben Baldwin Vincent Chong Joey Hi-Fi
Tula Lotay Adam Oehlers Daniele Serra

BFA Comic/Graphic Novel Noms

The Unwritten, Mike Carey and Peter Gross (Vertigo)
Demeter, Becky Cloonan (Becky Cloonan)
Jennifer Wilde, Maura McHugh, Karen Mahoney and Stephen Downey (Atomic Diner Comics)
Rachel Rising, Terry Moore (Abstract Studio)
Porcelain, Benjamin Read and Chris Wildgoose (Improper Books)
Saga, Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples (Image Comics)

BFA Film/Television Episode Noms

Game of Thrones, “The Rains of Castamere”
Gravity

Doctor Who, “The Day of the Doctor”
Iron Man 3

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

BFA Newcomer Noms (Sydney J. Bounds Award)

Francis Knight, for *Fade to Black* (Orbit)
Laura Lam, for *Pantomime* (Strange Chemistry)
Ann Leckie, for *Ancillary Justice* (Orbit)
Libby McGugan, for *The Eidolon* (Solaris)
Emma Newman, for *Between Two Thorns* (Angry Robot)
Samantha Shannon, for *The Bone Season* (Bloomsbury)

SEIUN AWARD NOMS

Finalists for the 2014 Seiun Awards (sometimes called the Japanese Hugos) have been announced. Voting for the winners will be by members of this year’s Japanese natcon and the winners will be announced at that convention, to be held 19–20 July 2014. Nominees for the two translated fiction categories are:

Seiun Translated Novel Noms

Incandescence, Greg Egan, translated by Yamagishi Shin (Hayakawa)
Serpent’s Egg, R.A. Lafferty, translated by Inoue Hisashi (Seishinsha)
Embassytown, China Miéville, translated by Masayuki Uchida (Hayakawa)
Kraken, China Miéville, translated by Masamichi Higurashi (Hayakawa)
The Islanders, Christopher Priest, translated by Furusawa Yoshimi-dori (Hayakawa)
Blindsight, Peter Watts, translated by Yoichi Shimada (Tokyo Somoto-sha)
Blackout/All Clear, Connie Willis, translated by N. Omori (Hayakawa)

Seiun Translated Story Fiction Noms

“Final Exam,” Megan Akenberg, translated by Jun Suzuki (Hayakawa SF September 2013)
“Vacuum Lad,” Stephen Baxter, translated by Yagauchi Satoru (Hayakawa SF September 13)
“Christopher Raven,” Theodora Goss, translated by Jun Suzuki (Hayakawa SF December 2012)
“The Man Who Bridged the Mist,” Kij Johnson, translated by Misumi Kazuyo (Hayakawa SF January 2013)
“The Paper Menagerie,” Ken Liu, translated by Furusawa Yoshimi-dori (Hayakawa January 2013)
“Palimpsest,” Charles Stross, translated by Hiroshi Kaneko (Hayakawa SF September 2013)

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the 2014 Mythopoeic Awards <www.mythsoc.org/awards> have been announced. Winners will be announced at Mythcon 45 <www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-45>, to be held 8–11 August 2014 at Wheaton College in Norton MA. By category, the nominees are:

Mythopoeic Adult Literature Noms

Yangsze Choo, *The Ghost Bride* (William Morrow)
Neil Gaiman, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* (William Morrow)
Max Gladstone, *Three Parts Dead* (Tor)
Mark H. Williams, *Sleepless Knights* (Atomic Fez Publishing)
Helene Wecker, *The Golem and the Jinni* (Harper)

Mythopoeic Children’s Literature Noms

William Alexander, *Ghouliah Song* (Margaret K. McElderry)
Holly Black, *Doll Bones* (Margaret K. McElderry)
Joseph Bruchac, *Killer of Enemies* (Tu Books)
Sara Beth Durst, *Conjured* (Walker Children’s)
Robin McKinley, *Shadows* (Nancy Paulsen Books)

Mythopoeic Inklings Studies Noms

Mark Atherton, *There and Back Again: J.R.R. Tolkien and the Origins of the Hobbit* (I.B. Tauris, 2012)
Robert Boenig, *C.S. Lewis and the Middle Ages* (Kent State University Press, 2012)
Jason Fisher, ed., *Tolkien and the Study of His Sources: Critical Essays* (McFarland, 2011)
Alister McGrath, *C.S. Lewis—A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet* (Tyndale House, 2013)
Corey Olsen, *Exploring J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Hobbit* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012)

Mythopoeic Myth and Fantasy Studies Noms

Umberto Eco and Alastair McEwan, trans., *The Book of Legendary Lands* (Rizzoli Ex Libris, 2013)
Sandra J. Lindow, *Dancing the Tao: Le Guin and Moral Development* (Cambridge Scholars, 2012)
G. Ronald Murphy, *Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North* (Oxford University Press, 2013)
Michael Saler, *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality* (Oxford University Press, 2012)
David Sandner, *Critical Discourses of the Fantastic, 1712–1831* (Ashgate, 2011)

Calling All Witches

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 6

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: PieEyedDragon’s adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends less time “on camera” as this adventure develops, but still plays a part.]

The water plants suddenly jerked, and vibrated. An incredible, eerie noise surrounded Miss Moran. This was something she had never heard, nor heard of. It was a series of slow, bizarre sounds. Some parts were like whoops, some like screeches, some like enormous drums and violas. She doubted that any stringed instrument ever made—or even an aeolian harp—would sound like this. It was so deliciously mournful. The sound was all around but seemed to be coming from the center of the lake. Were the merfolk doing this? She went to see.

The merfolk were gathered in a broad, open spherical formation near the big statue of Poseidon—facing inward toward

their city. Facing a, a, a Basilisk! No, surely not. It seemed to be a reptilian of tremendous size, which swayed and, seemingly, made the noises. Sometimes it paused, and the merfolk would cry out in their own language. Some would shake their spears and tridents outward. Not, she saw, toward the beast. The beast had short legs and was oddly marked all over. Pale, straight lines ran everywhere. They reminded her of her old grandfather, “Tiger Jack” Moran; half-healed after that German bomb had blown all that window glass at him.

She remembered that 1940 summer, right before the Blitz. She had asked Grandpa why he always listened so religiously to that funny Lord Haw-Haw on the radio who opened with “Jairmany calling, Jairmany calling.” Grandpa explained that hundred-year-old retired Army Colonels could not be very active in the defense of England, but “They also serve, who only sit and listen very carefully” and if he heard anything that sounded like it might be important, he wrote it down and reported it. He was not the only one. Though the broadcasts were full of lies, half-truths, and slander—still sometimes there was a gleam of gold in all the mud.

Soon after that, the two ladies from the school had arrived; to tell her family about why she was “special.” The war preparations had disrupted much normal travel, but the ladies assured them that their transportation was available. Britain needed all their magical people to be properly trained. The Germans had their own magical corps which was, barely, countered. One lady seemed to know Grandpa. She introduced herself as Colonel Price’s daughter. After thinking a moment, Grandpa smiled and said: “Little Miss Eglantine! Your papa certainly knew how to set up a proper party for his old Army comrades. I missed his retirement party, being unfortunately, ah, detained. [In jail because of the Affair of the Not-Dead Detective; he called upon a first-class solicitor on *permanent* retainer by the Professor. Appeals on legal technicalities, plus his own friends in the government, had gotten him released after a few months.] But I always enjoyed the ones I could get to, later.”

Miss Price: Did you, *really*, crawl into a culvert after a wounded man-eating tiger?

Colonel John Sebastian Moran, Ret.: Yes, Ellie, I really did. Just following orders, actually. It had taken at least five, and mostly children. If it didn’t die it would be even harder to hunt. I tied a rope loosely to my leg and went in with a brace of pistols.

Miss Price: Why the rope?

Col. “Tiger Jack” Moran: That was so my comrades could pull me out if I failed, without crawling in themselves. I didn’t fail. I got in a good shot and then another. When it was still, I moved the rope from my leg to his neck, and crawled back out.

Miss Price: How incredibly brave of you! I’d like to see that Elephant Gun you two always talked about, if you have it here.

Col. Moran: (Laughs) It’s been hanging there over the sitting room fireplace for ages. The one time I had to use it, the recoil nearly killed *me*. The muzzle blast certainly left me deaf for hours! I never dared use it again, but it saved my life and I never cast away such a friend. I think your father once told me his family name was originally “Prince.”

Miss Price: Yes. His grandfather changed his name out of deference to the Crown. Some of my relatives still use it, or else go by “Pince.”

Col. Moran: So, are *you* a witch, then? My onetime employer claimed there were many such, but wouldn’t name names.

Miss Price: Yes, though not as effective as many. I had been taking schooling from a correspondence course when a German sortie landed and took over my house. I made a desperate gamble and invoked a very old spell called “intrasubstantiary-

locomotion.” It animated a museum full of antique British weapons and armor, which marched against the Germans and drove them back to the sea. The blast of a demolition explosion then knocked me out, which proved fortuitous. It broke my concentration and broke the spell I was powering. I found I did not know how to stop it. Another five minutes and the drain would have killed me. That is an excellent reason for more structured schooling.

Col. Moran: Always good to have a bit of luck. I hadn’t heard about that landing, but it doesn’t surprise me. Sussex and Kent have always been England’s doorstep from the continent. The Romans weren’t the first to land there, and in the past two centuries alone, every inch has seen its share of pirates and smugglers (and I ought to know).

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Myrtle remembered her own schooling. She also remembered the Blitz. Grandpa had taken her and little Johnny to dine in London at the Savoy Hotel for New Year’s Eve (though they were actually there December 29), while Father was off somewhere with his Artillery unit, and Mother was organizing the reuniting of children separated from each other in the relocation scramble called Operation Pied Piper. She thought she had recognized Professors Merrythought, Beery, and Dumbledore at a large table in one corner, along with some other Hogwarts staff members, and a few other folk.

After a while, Professor Slughorn, head of Slytherin House, came into the dining room and walked over to the others. There seemed to be an urgency in his step that was most uncommon for him. He spoke a few words to the professors, and they all got up and made for the exit. Soon thereafter, she started hearing sirens, and then the heavy drone of many large aircraft.

Then, the explosions started. They were not very loud at first, but there were so many. They were coming closer. She looked around and caught glimpses of wizards, witches, and even senior students peeking through the blackout curtains at windows and doors. Flickering lights started shining in the windows. A man came over to Grandpa and whispered something to him about a warning from the acoustic mirrors. Grandpa thanked him and told the children that the Germans were dropping fire-bombs on the city, but the Savoy was being strongly defended, due to its importance in international commerce and diplomacy. Then, Professor Slughorn came back in, looked around, and made straight for her table.

Slughorn: Sorry to bother you, Colonel Moran, but we need to borrow this young lady for a while.

Tiger Jack: What is the particular trouble, Horace?

Slughorn: The Germans timed their attack well. They started with incendiaries. Now they’ve switched to high explosives and are targeting the water mains. It’s an unusually low tide and the Thames is little more than a muddy ditch. The fire brigades are having trouble getting enough water to fight the fires. We’re shielding the Savoy, and other key landmarks such as St Paul’s. We cannot cover the entire city, but this young lady is very talented at things to do with water. She can be a great help if you permit it. I know she is only eleven, but the Germans don’t care. Britain must all stand together.

Tiger Jack: Myrtle, are you willing to help?

Myrtle: Yes, Grandpa. We are all soldiers here, now. I will go.

Tiger Jack Moran got slowly to his feet, and gave his granddaughter a regulation salute, and a broad smile. Then, he covered the children as the window blew in, spraying shards of glass.

Tiger Jack: I’ll be all right, (his face was bleeding as Myrtle left) go and do what you can, keep safe, and return.

Slughorn: We'll look after her, but I've got to get back to my own position. That near miss was a bit *too* near. Thank you, Colonel!

Myrtle worked all night, unclogging fire hoses, "encouraging" the river to bunch up in weed-free pools around the intakes, and sometimes narrowing the streams of water to reach higher than they ordinarily would. She was more than exhausted when Professor Merrythought tapped her on the shoulder, and told her it was time for her to "stand down."

Myrtle collapsed, and never knew how she got back home. She suspected Magic, of course.

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[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.K. Rowling. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letter of Comment

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Lloyd Penney
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2 June 2014

I am writing this in the morning as it is my birthday today, and I start a new job today, too, but I don't have to leave for another hour. I have the *May Shuttle*, and I should get something written for you.

That's a shame you must cancel Con†Stellation 2014... I've been part of a concom where the con was cancelled, often because of sudden hotel problems, or even lack of preregistration. (Removing a conchair?) Here, a large, annual fan-run con was shut down for good because they couldn't find enough people to fill all the committee and staff positions.

Yvonne and I had our memberships and hotel room all lined up for Loncon 3, but with new jobs, asking for time off to go to England wouldn't look good, and we have some financial recovery to do, so we sold the memberships and cancelled the hotel room, and we will keep saving for a trip to England in a year or two. Right-leaning authors? The nominations reflect the people who nominate, so it would seem that the majority of

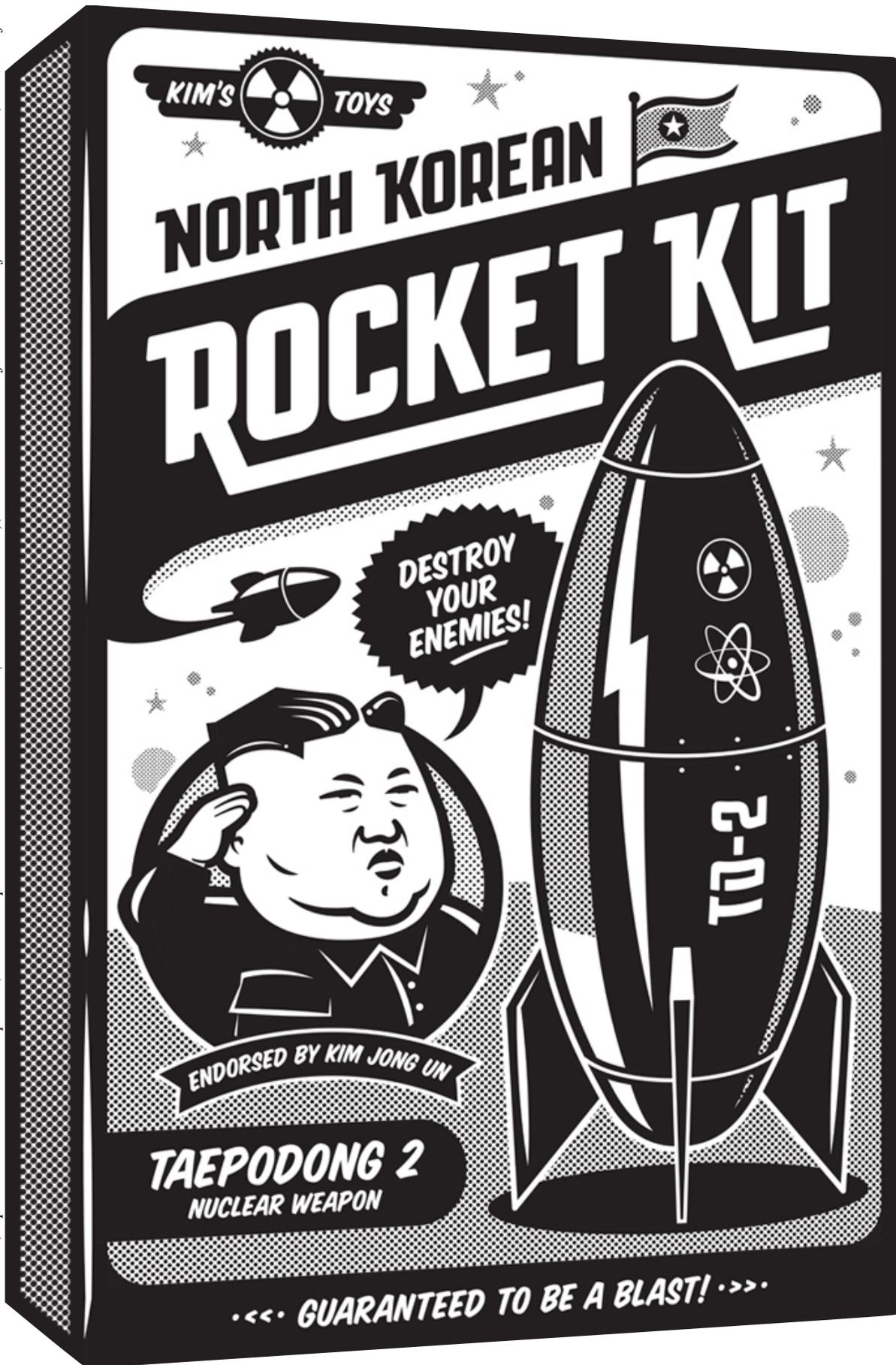
nominator lean left. To try to change that might be seen as gerrymandering with the Hugo vote. Politics and pro SF? A terrible combination, and perhaps this year, it's just as well I no longer have a Hugo vote. This is turning off more fans than me, I suspect. I also recognize few people on the actual ballot. I did not nominate because I didn't feel qualified to do so, and now that the final ballot is out, I don't feel qualified to vote, either, especially in the fan categories.

Lots more awards... the Aurora nominations are out, and I feel the same way about them as I do about the Hugos. I did not nominate, and seeing I have read exactly none of the nominees, I will not vote.

My loc... our Anime North sales at our table exceeded \$1,000, and now, it's time to restock, go shopping, get the basics to get creative, and then... get creative, and make more necklaces, earrings, etc. A Toronto NASFiC? Well, I am retired from con-running, and there will be plenty of people who would tell me that a NASFiC couldn't be held in Toronto, and they wouldn't vote for me, anyway... I am also retired from the politics, and I am pleased about that.

Gotta get ready to go, so I will tie this one up with a bow, and say my thanks. Yvonne starts a new job in two weeks, so things are truly looking up around here. See you next issue.

[Last time I checked Toronto was in North America, and thus a valid NASFiC site. Well, an expensive one, it would seem. A recent ranking <www.cnn.com/2014/06/11/travel/tripadvisor-expensive-cities> by TripAdvisor.com put Toronto as the ninth most expensive city in the world to visit; the second most expensive (behind New York) in North America. You may well be right, though, that politics would be an issue for a NASFiC bid outside the US, but it *shouldn't* be. Removing the 2014 Con†Stellation chair was an unfortunate side effect of the way our club bylaws are written—no disrespect was meant to him. In retrospect, it would probably have been better had I proposed a change to the bylaws to make it possible for the club to cancel the convention without removing the chair first... a stupid mistake on my part. As for politics in the Hugos, it's doubtless overly optimistic of me to believe that people can generally read, enjoy, nominate, and vote for works without regard to the politics of the author—or at least with relatively little regard to that. I've certainly enjoyed works that seem to espouse socio-political viewpoints I don't share, but I can't honestly say I haven't also disliked books that seemed to preach such views too hard. -ED]





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