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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: Brad W. Foster. Available for SAE, boko-maru, foma, sinfookas or a stuppa.

The Grand Ah-Whoom

Enid Blyton was fondly remembered as only British newspapers can do it: 'Golly! Today marks the 50th anniversary of Enid Blyton's death. More than half a decade has passed, then, since she was at the height of her literary powers ...' (*Daily Telegraph*, 28 November) [PE]

John-Henri Holmberg shared the major Translator Award given along with other prizes by Sweden's Samfundet De Nio ('The Nine Society'), and will receive SEK 100,000 – close to £9,000. [AE] His translations into Swedish include much sf and crime, 22 books by Stephen King, and Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

George Orwell is commemorated by the Orwell Prize for political writing – until now nonfiction-only, but with a fiction category 'including short stories, graphic novels and YA' added in the 2019 awards for 2018 work. See orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-prizes/. [ESF]

Adam Roberts's timbers were shivered by a new literary term for the female bosom: 'Slowly one by one, he unfastened the hooks and eyes and slid the dress from the sorceress's shoulders. After that he utterly devoted his hands and attention to a pair of galleons under full sail. Galleons one would search for in vain on all the maritime routes, harbours, ports, and registers of the admiralty.' (Andrzej Sapkowski, *Season of Storms*, 2013; translated 2018) Naturally all this nautical excitement involves the lady's bed: 'An enormous one. The bed was huge and had a canopy. The bed linen was of silk. It's no exaggeration to say that they made use of the entire bed, of every single inch. Every inch of the bed linen. And every fold of the sheets.' (Morphosis blog, 30 November) After which, no doubt, they needed to lie down for a bit.

Sara Taylor, whose story cycle *The Shore* (2015) has magic-realist and post-apocalyptic sections, won the £20,000 Eccles British Library Writer's Award (fiction) for 2019 – to help research her next book. [L]

Confloption

Until 14 Jan • **Alasdair Gray** exhibition, Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities, 11 Mare St, London, E8 4RP. Admission £6. Closed Mondays.

Until 26 Jan • **The Art of the Gestetner** (exhibition by art group exploring retro tech), Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU. Opening hours 1pm-5pm Wednesday-Sunday every week. Free.

12 Jan • **Writing Fantastic Tales** (workshop), QUAD Centre, Derby. 2pm-5pm; £13. Also 'Writing Fantastic Plots And Players' on 19 January and 'Writing Fantastic Worlds' on 26 January: same venue, price and time. See www.derbyquad.co.uk/whats-on/get-creative/adults.

18-20 Jan • **Redemption** (multimedia), Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield. £70 reg; concessions £50; under-18s £25; under-3s free. *Advance booking closes 5 January: £75 (concessions £50) at the door*. For online booking (5% fee) and day rates, see redemptioncon.org.uk.

1-3 Feb • **31-ET** (filk), Best Western Hotel, Marks Tey, Colchester. £38 reg or £28 unwaged plus booking fees; under-18s £1/year of age; under-5s free. Further details at www.contabile.org.uk/31et/.

8-10 Feb • **SF Ball** (media), Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton. £135 reg or £15/day; child £45 or £5. See sfbevents.com/sfball.

16 Feb • **Picocon 36**, Blackett Building, Imperial College, London. Several guests of honour. £12 reg; £10 concessions; £8 for ICSF members; past GoHs free. See www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/icsf/picocon/.

1-2 Mar • **Frightfest** (film), Glasgow Film Theatre. Tickets £75 weekend, or (limited numbers) £11.50 per film: on sale 14 January at www.frightfest.co.uk/filmsevents.html. Also London events at Leicester Square: 22-26 August plus a Hallowe'en special on 2 November.

10 Mar • **Birmingham International Horrorshow**, Victoria pub, John Bright St, Birmingham. See www.birmingham-horror.co.uk.

19-22 Apr • **Ytterbium** (Eastercon), Park Inn, Heathrow. £80 reg, rising to £90 on 1 April; £30 concessions; £25 under-18s; under-5s free. Some bursaries are available to help low-income members with hotel costs: see ytterbium.org.uk/about/convention-policies/bursaries/.

25-26 Aug • **Stars of Time** (media), Tropicana, Weston-super-Mare. 10am-5pm. £7.50; under-12s, OAP and disabled £4; under-4s free. Family of 2+2 kids £18; 2+3 kids £19. See www.starsofetime.co.uk.

25-27 Oct • **Festival of Fantastic Films**, Pendulum Hotel, Manchester. £85 reg. For hotel rates see fantastic-films.com/festival/.

31 Oct - 3 Nov • **Edinburgh Horror Festival**, The Banshee Labyrinth, Niddry St, and other city venues including Lauriston Castle. Poethemed in part. Many events are free. See www.edhorrorfest.co.uk.

7-8 Dec • **For the Love of Sci-Fi** (comics), Trafford Park, Manchester. Tickets at various prices from fortheLoveofsci-fi.com.

Rumblings. *Dublin 2019*: this Worldcon's Special Hugo – and also Retro-Hugo – category will be Best Art Book. (Twitter, 30 November) • *Concentric 2020* is an Eastercon bid with the Hilton Metropole Hotel (Birmingham NEC) as venue and dates 10-13 April 2020; its fate will be decided at the 2019 Eastercon. See www.concentric2020.uk.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others See Us. A futuristic parallel-world virtual reality system in *Come With Me* by Helen Schulman narrowly avoids the taint of all-out skiffyness: 'This perhaps suggests that Schulman has left behind the hyper-realism of her two most recent novels for the realms of speculative fiction. Fortunately, that's true only in a small way. Multiverse theory functions primarily as a thematic framework here, and the headphones and glasses make only a few appearances.' (*NY Times*, 19 December) [JB]

UK New Year Honours. Listed names of genre interest include Margaret Atwood (Companion of Honour, for services to literature), Julia Donaldson (CBE; literature), Thandie Newton (OBE; film, charity), Christopher Nolan (CBE; drama), Sophie Okonedo (CBE; drama), Michael Palin (knighted; travel, culture, geography), Philip Pullman (knighted; literature) and Chris Riddell (OBE; illustration, charity).

Futurology Masterclass. 'I predict that the farsightedness of many persons in Wyoming will make them the safest persons in the atomic holocaust of 1987. They will have shelters, and, after the brief but costly war, we will depend on the many survivors who live in Wyoming to help rebuild many cities of the country.' (*Criswell Predicts*, 1968)

R.I.P. *John Allard* (1928-2018), UK comics artist, writer and editor long associated with the *Daily Mirror* sf strip *Garth* and at one period co-author of *The Perishers*, died on 7 November aged 90. [SH] • *Paul Dale Anderson* (1944-2018), US author of much horror, sf and fantasy including the 'Winds' series of supernatural thrillers opening with *Abandoned* (2015), died on 13 December aged 74. [PDF] • *Peter Armitage* (1940-2018), UK actor in *The Second Coming* (2003 tv), died on 4 December aged 78. [SG] • *Terry Bave* (1931-2018), UK comics artist whose first children's fantasy strip was *Sammy Shrink* for *Wham!* in 1967 and who later ghosted *Grimly Feendish* for Leo Baxendale, died on 6 December. His illustrated autobiography is *Cartoons and Comic Strips* (2013). [SG] • *Ken Berry* (1933-2018), US actor whose credits include *Herbie Rides Again* (1974), *The Cat from Outer Space* (1978) and episodes of *Fantasy Island* (1978-1982), died on 1 December aged 85. [JP]

• *John D.F. Black* (1932-2018), US writer and producer who wrote *The Uearthly* (1957), the Hugo-nominated 'The Naked Time' for the original *Star Trek* (1966; he was associate producer for ten episodes), *Wonder Woman* (1974) and *The Clone Master* (1978), died on 29 November aged 85. [F770] • *Morgan J. Bolt* (?1991-2018), US author of the young-adult 'Tamyth' trilogy (2013-2015) and dystopian sf novel *The Favored* (2018), died on 18 December. [PDF] • *Ian Cameron* (Donald Gordon Payne, 1924-2018), UK author whose first sf novel *The Lost Ones* (1961) was filmed as *The Island at the Top of the World* (1974), died on 22 August aged 94. [GC] • *Graham Connor*, UK fan, convention-goer and event organizer who co-edited *SF² Concatenation* from its 1987 print-format launch to the current web incarnation, died in late December; he was 61. [SF²C] • *Penny Cook* (1957-2018), Australian actress whose genre film was *The Dreaming* (1988), died on 26 December aged 61. [GC] • *Emeka Walter Dinjos*, Nigerian sf/fantasy author with several short stories published and forthcoming, died on 12 December aged 34. [F770] • *Hugues Douriaux* (1947-2018), French author of both sf and fantasy novels (sometimes erotic), died last March; this was not reported until November. [AS] • *Larry Eisenberg* (1919-2018), contributor to *Dangerous Visions* and author of the 'Emmett Duckworth' sf comedies – many

collected as *The Best Laid Schemes* (1971) – died on 25 December aged 99. [GF] From 2008 he gained new fame by posting over 13,000 verse comments to the *New York Times* website, mostly limericks; he contributed one to *Ansible* 371. ● **Wendy Freeman** (1939-2018), long-time UK fan and cheerful presence at many past conventions – inducted into the Knights of St Fantasy in 1967 – died just before Christmas. She is survived by her husband Keith Freeman, to whom all sympathy. ● **Toshiko Fujita** (1950-2018), Japanese voice actress whose animes include *Fist of the North Star* (1984-1987) and *Digimon Adventure* (1999), died on 28 December aged 68. ● **Audrey Geisel** (1921-2018), widow of Theodor ‘Dr Seuss’ Geisel who ran his estate since his death in 1991 and had executive producer credits for the film adaptations *Horton Hears a Who!* (2008), *The Lorax* (2012) and *The Grinch* (2018), died on 19 December aged 97. [CH] ● **Norman Gimbel** (1927-2018), Oscar-winning composer and lyricist whose many film soundtrack credits include *V for Vendetta* (2005), *Repo Men* (2010) and *Logan* (2017), died on 19 December aged 91. [AL] ● **Jorge Grau** (1930-2018), Spanish screenwriter and director whose films include *The Legend of Blood Castle* (1973) and *The Living Dead at the Manchester Morgue* (1974, aka *Let Sleeping Corpses Lie*), died on 26 December aged 88. [SG] ● **Fred Isaacs**, US convention-running fan in the Boston area whose many roles included being treasurer of the 1971 Worldcon and chairing Boskone 9, died on 26 December. [SS] ● **Quentin Kenihan** (1975-2018), Australian disability advocate with acting roles in *Dr. Plonk* (2007) and *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), died on 6 October aged 43. [GC] ● **Ringo Lam** (1954-2018), Hong Kong director and screenwriter whose films include *Esprit D’Amour* (1983), *Mad Mission 4: You Never Die Twice* (1986) and *Replicant* (2001), died on 29 December aged 64. [MMW] ● **Jane Langton** (1922-2018), US author best known for crime fiction, who also wrote children’s fantasies such as the Hall Family series opening with *The Diamond in the Window* (1962), died on 22 December aged 95. [L] ● **Giuseppe Lippi** (1953-2018), Italian editor and translator who worked on *Robot* magazine from 1977 and was best known as editor of the major sf magazine *Urania* from 1990 to 2018, died on 14 December aged 65. Authors he translated include H.P. Lovecraft and Robert E. Howard. [F770] ● **Sondra Locke** (1944-2018), US actress and director who appeared in *Willard* (1971), died on 3 November aged 74. [PDF] ● **Don Lusk** (1913-2018), US animator who worked on Disney productions 1938-1960 – including *Pinocchio*, *Fantasia*, *Bambi*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *101 Dalmatians* – and later directed many tv series and films for Hanna-Barbera, died on 31 December aged 105. [PDF] ● **Galt MacDermot** (1928-2018), Canadian-American composer whose musicals include *Hair* (1967), the Grimm-based fairytale *Isabel’s a Jezebel* (1970) and the sf *Via Galactica* (1972), died on 17 December – one day short of his 90th birthday. [MMW] ● **Penny Marshall** (1943-2018), US actress and film-maker who directed *Big* (1988), co-produced *Bewitched* (2005) and had a voice part in *Scooby-Doo! and Kiss: Rock and Roll Mystery* (2015), died on 17 December aged 75. [JS] ● **Peter Masterson** (1934-2018), US director and actor seen in *The Exorcist* (1973) and *The Stepford Wives* (1975), died on 18 December aged 84. [F770] ● **Donald Moffat** (1930-2018), UK actor whose credits include *The Terminal Man* (1974), *Exo-Man* (1977), *Logan’s Run* (1977-1978 tv), *Popeye* (1980), *The Thing* (1982) and *Monster in the Closet* (1986), died on 20 December aged 87. [S] ● **Billie Sue Mosiman** (1947-2018), US author of suspense novels and dark fantasies such as *Banished* (2011), died in late December aged 71. [AIP] She edited the all-women anthology *Fright Mare: Women Write Horror* (2016). ● **Bill Sellars** (1925-2018), UK tv producer who directed the four-part *Doctor Who* storyline ‘The Celestial Toy-maker’ (1966), died on 19 December aged 93. [DWN] ● **Barbara Brooks Wallace** (1922-2018), US author of young-adult mysteries whose seven fantasies include a five-book series about the witch Miss Switch – opening with *The Trouble with Miss Switch* (1980) – died on 27 November aged 95. [MMW] ● **June Whitfield** (1925-2018), UK actress whose genre credits include *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* (1979), *Wyrd Sisters* (1997, as Nanny Ogg) and *Doctor Who*: ‘The End of Time’ (2009-2010), died on 28 December aged 93. [FM] ● **Lia Wyler** (1934-2018), award-winning Brazilian translator of J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter saga as well as books by Margaret Atwood, Arthur Conan Doyle, Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, John Updike and others, died on 11 December aged 84. [PDF]

The Weakest Link. *Jeopardy!* ‘Posthumous Books’ answer for which the correct question had to be supplied: ‘After death, this horror author still talked about the *Necronomicon* in his novel, *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*.’ Contestant: ‘Who is Asimov?’ (11 December) [AIP]

Magazine Scene. Jason Sizemore of *Apex Magazine* announced the immediate end of its print edition – after one trial and 11 monthly issues – and reversion to digital-only publication. (Blog post, 10 December) [L]

As Others Avoid Us (But Politely). ‘... when I get time to read on my own, I prefer something that provides a bit of an escape. That said, I don’t need to escape too much – I’m not looking to travel to outer space or a fantasy world. Science fiction isn’t really for me.’ (Michelle Obama, *New York Times Book Review*, 12 December) [JB]

The Dead Past. *70 Years Ago*, a humble British Interplanetary Society member made good: ‘Congratulations to Arthur C. Clarke, B.I.S. councillor and s-f author, recently appointed Assistant Ed. of technical journal *Science Abstracts*.’ (*Science Fantasy News* 1, January 1949) ● *20 Years Ago*, ‘Ned Brooks discovered Revealed Truth in his local paper *The Atlanta Constitution*: “J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) was the creator of the imaginary *Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*, which spawned the entire genre of fantasy science fiction.”’ (*Ansible* 138, January 1999)

Fanfundery. *TAFF 2019* voting began in December and continues to 22 April 2019. See taff.org.uk for the ballot and online voting form.

● *GUFF*: voting in the 2019 race from Australasia to the Dublin worldcon also began in December and continues to 22 April 2019. The candidates are Lynelle Howell, Simon Litten and Nicole Murphy; the online ballot can be found at ozfanfunds.com/?page_id=127. ● *DUFF*. Administrator Paul Wiemer writes: ‘There will be no 2019 Down Under Fan Fund delegate, with the expectation that the 2020 race will send a delegate from North America to Worldcon in New Zealand in 2020.’

SFWA has ‘decided to formally and publicly acknowledge the multiple complaints and expressions of concern made both publicly and privately in recent months by former Writers of the Future finalists who state that they have had negative experiences during or after the event.’ (SFWA.org, 3 December) No sordid details are given. In August 2018, *WotF* was removed from the list of SFWA qualifying markets.

Outrageous Letters. *Matthew Davies* reports a rarity missed by bibliographers and by *Maps: The Uncollected John Sladek*: ‘Nearly 20 years too late for the anthology, but here’s another piece by John Sladek.’ – in *Strange Faeces* #10b (1973/4), readable online at tinyurl.com/yrcj5slh. Which reminds me of how long it’s been since Sladek prophetically published ‘The Great Wall of Mexico’ (in *Bad Moon Rising*, 1973).

Convention Woes. ‘Reconstitution’ of the loss-making *Nine Worlds* Geekfest (see A374) has gone so slowly that – as supporters complained in tweets – the November deadline to take up the 2019 repeat booking option for the established Novotel London West venue in Hammersmith was missed. Thus there may be a ‘small, one day interim event’ this year, but no full-scale *Nine Worlds* until 2020. (Twitter, 16-22 December)

Cult Crosswords. Easy clue in a Christmas prize puzzle: ‘Cruise into this colony? It’s e.g. “swinging”.’ (11) (*Private Eye*, 22 December)

Editorial. Happy New Year to all readers of *Ansible*, which has its (gulp) fortieth anniversary in August. I hope to see some of you at Picocon (possibly) and Ytterbium (probably), but for tiresome personal reasons don’t expect to attend the utterly wonderful Dublin Worldcon.

Chog’s Masterclass. *Channelling T. Lobsang Rampa*. ‘With all my eyes I stared at him.’ (A.M. Williamson, *The House by the Lock*, 1899) [PB] ● *Anatomy Dept.* ‘Jack felt a twitch of fear working its way up her legs from the base of her spine.’ (Annalee Newitz, *Autonomous*, 2017) [MM]

● *Whatever Turns You On.* ‘Trails of exquisite fire were licking his loins, his abdomen, spreading upwards to tantalise his throat and the tips of his fangs ...’ (Freda Warrington, *The Dark Blood of Poppies*, 1995) [BA]

● *Guinness Book of Records Please Copy.* ‘The bodyguard [...] was a half breed, the result of a cross between an ogre and a dwarf. The result was a bald dwarf with a height of well over seven feet.’ (Andrzej Sapkowski, *Season of Storms*, 2013; translated 2018) [AR] ● *The Smile That Wins.*

‘Sorel Degerlund grinned a vicious smile, a smile calling to mind centipedes queezing through gaps under doors.’ (*Ibid*) ● *Astrogation Dept.* ‘I noted, as I shot past it, a constellation to my left very near, and my astronomical knowledge informed me that it was one of the remotest in our solar system.’ (Nictzin Dyalhis, ‘The Eternal Conflict’, October 1925 *Weird Tales*) [DL] ‘On and on, past planets and suns and constellations, galaxies and nebulae and asteroids, into, through, and beyond the great solar system hurtled that Spirit-Spark that was I.’ (Nictzin Dyalhis, ‘The Dark Lore’, October 1927 *Weird Tales*) [DL] ● *The Morning After the Night Before.* ‘Billie’s legs are noodles. The ends of her hairs are poison needles. Her tongue is a bristly sponge, and her eyes are bags of bleach.’ (Kelly Link, ‘Secret Identity’ in *Get in Trouble*, 2015) [MM]

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