



Ansible® 421 August 2022

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Not This August

Ron Goulart (1933-2020) was remembered in the latest San Diego Comic-Con souvenir book, where his full-page obituary is dominated by a large photo of – still happily with us – Joe Haldeman. [SE]

Joanne Harris tweeted: 'I'm so honoured to have been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature today...' (Twitter, 12 July) One familiar name in the lesser list of Honorary Fellows for 2022 was Julian May, who however is not *our* Julian May. (Rsliterature.org)

George R.R. Martin appears in an *Onion* spoof slideshow, 'Famous Authors Describe Their Biggest Rejections', where the unreliable quote beneath his photo is: 'I have two completed *Game of Thrones* manuscripts on my computer, but I can't convince anyone to take them.' *Ansible* also liked R.L. Stine's 'Nobody would publish my 40,000-page *Goosebumps* manifesto, so I had to break it down into 235 smaller books.' [JG]

John Scalzi tweeted BEHOLD MY FEARFUL POWER in response to a claim that 'The entirety of the whole culture war nonsense that plagues America today can be traced back to one article that John Scalzi wrote ...' (Twitter, 29 July) I'm not sure whether it was a definite or an indefinite article.

Betsy Wollheim and **Sheila Gilbert**, co-publishers at DAW Books (founded by Don Wollheim in 1971), announced the sale of the company – with all current staff retained – to the Beijing-based Astra Publishing House, formerly Thinkingdom Ltd. (*Clarkesworld* via Twitter, 13 July)

Conventicle

Until 18 Sep • **In the Black Fantastic** (Afrofuturist art), South Bank, London. 11am-7pm Wed-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun. See tinyurl.com/4uxfefuk.

5-8 Aug • **Continuum** (RPG), John Foster Hall, Manor Road, Leicester University, Oadby. £175 with single room (self-catering only); day pass £15; more rates at continuumconvention.co.uk, 'Other Stuff'.

CANCELLED. 5-7 Aug • **TitanCon**, Belfast. Cancellation first announced on Facebook, 27 May; memberships to be refunded. See titancon.com.

6-7 Aug • **Surrey Steampunk Convivial**, Epsom. £20 plus booking fee. See bumpandthumper.wixsite.com/steampunkconvivial.

12-14 Aug • **TFnation** (*Transformers*), Birmingham NEC. Day rates only; e.g. Saturday is £45 or £80 for early access. See tfnation.com.

SOLD OUT. 19-22 Aug • **Discworld Convention**, Hilton Metropole, Birmingham NEC. £85 reg, £60 concessions. Waiting list at dwccon.org.

23-28 Aug • **Outdoor Cinema**, Barbican, London. Includes sf and fantasy. See barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2022/series/outdoor-cinema-0.

25-29 Aug • **Frightfest** (film), Leicester Square, London. £200 full festival; day passes and single-film rates at frightfest.co.uk/tickets.html.

26-29 Aug • **The Asylum** (steampunk), Lincoln. Weekend tickets £48 (child £24); for day rates see asylumsteampunk.co.uk.

POSTPONED. 28-29 Aug • **Stars of Time** (media), Tropicana, Weston-super-Mare. 10am-5pm. £9; under-12s, OAP and disabled £5; under-4s free. Family of 2+2 kids £22; 2+3 kids £24. See www.starsofetime.co.uk.

1-5 Sep • **Chicon 8** (80th Worldcon), Chicago, IL, USA. \$240 reg; other rates at chicon.org. Note that Hugo voting closes on 11 August.

1-4 Sep • **Oxonmoot** (Tolkien Society), St Anne's, Oxford. £100 reg (members £90); child £50 (members £45); online £50 (members £40). See www.tolkienociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2022.

3 Sep • **Whooverville 13** (*Doctor Who*), QUAD Centre, Derby, DE1 3AS. Tickets £55; concessions £38; under-12s £10; online booking at www.derbyquad.co.uk/Whooverville13.

16-19 Sep • **Fantasycon 2022**, Radisson Red, Heathrow. Smaller replacement for former 17-19 September event. £65 reg (BFS members £55). See www.britishfantasyociety.org/fantasycon/fantasycon-2022.

1-22 Nov • **Writing Science-Fiction** (online course by Alex Davis), 6:30-8:30pm each Tuesday plus one-to-one session. £55. See eventbrite.com/e/writing-science-fiction-4-week-course-tickets-385656658447.

26-27 Nov • **Other Worlds** writing weekend, Nottingham Writers' Studio, Hockley, Nottingham. *New dates: postponed from 16-17 July*. £62.50 or £35/day plus booking fees. See tinyurl.com/2p983f9n.

7-10 Apr 2023 • **Conversation** (Eastercon), Hilton Metropole, Birmingham NEC – venue revealed in July. £70 reg; £40 concessions; £35 supp

or online only. *Rates will rise soon*. See conversation2023.org.uk.

8 Jul 2023 • **Edge-Lit 9**, QUAD, Market Place, Derby. £35 reg. See www.derbyquad.co.uk/EdgeLit9.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others Invoke Us. 'I do hope you're enjoying the triennial Conservative party leadership contest, which has frequently resembled tipping-out time at Arkham Asylum. Various insane claims have been made [...] and the UK remains very much in search of a costumed vigilante to rescue it.' (Marina Hyde, *Guardian*, 15 July)

Awards. *Arthur C. Clarke* shortlist: *Deep Wheel Orcadia* by Harry Josephine Giles; *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro; *A Desolation Called Peace* by Arkady Martine; *A River Called Time* by Courtia Newland; *Wergen: The Alien Love War* by Mercurio D. Rivera; *Skyward Inn* by Aliya Whiteley. Award ceremony on 26 October at the Science Museum. • *Mythopoeic: ADULT LITERATURE Or What You Will* by Jo Walton. CHILDREN'S *Pahua and the Soul Stealer* by Lori M. Lee. SCHOLARSHIP: *Inklings Tolkien's Modern Reading* by Holly Ordway. SCHOLARSHIP: *Other The Modern Myths* by Philip Ball. • *Premios Kelvin* for best translation into Spanish: *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke, translated by Antonio Padilla Esteban. [F770] • *Prometheus* (libertarian): *Rich Man's Sky* by Wil McCarthy. HALL OF FAME *Citizen of the Galaxy* (1957) by Robert A. Heinlein.

As Others See D&D. Russell Moore's view of what's wrong with the USA today is so last century: 'Fantasy role-playing is hurting America / How the cult of imagined heroism is bringing down our nation's institutions'. (Christianitytoday.com headline and subhead, 21 July)

R.I.P. *Mary Alice* (1941-2022), US actress who was The Oracle in *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003) and videogame spinoffs, died on 27 July aged 80. [LP] • *Rebecca Balding* (1948-2022), US actress in *The Boogens* (1981) and genre tv series including *Charmed* (1998-2006), died on 18 July aged 73. [LP] • *Jered Barclay* (1930-2022), US actor with many genre credits from *War of the Satellites* (1958) to *Howling VI: The Freaks* (1991) – including voice work for *Smurfs* (1982-1989) and *Transformers* (1986-1987) – died on 23 July aged 91. [AIP] • *Taurean Blacque* (1940-2022), US actor in *Beyond Death's Door* (1979) and *DeepStar Six* (1989), died on 21 July aged 82. [LP] • *Peter Brook* (1925-2022), noted UK director whose films include *Lord of the Flies* (1963, which he also scripted), died on 2 July aged 97. • *James Caan* (1940-2022), US actor in *Countdown* (1967), *Rollerball* (1975), *Alien Nation* (1988) and *Sicilian Vampire* (2015), died on 6 July aged 82. [SG] • *Pat Carroll* (1927-2022), US actress who voiced Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* (1989) and many spinoffs, died on 30 July aged 95. [MMW] • *Bernard Cribbins* (1928-2022), long-time UK actor whose genre credits include *The Mouse on the Moon* (1963), *Daleks – Invasion Earth 2150 A.D.* (1966), *Jackanory* (narrator, 1966-1995), *The Wombles* (narrator, 1973-1975), *James and the Giant Peach* (1976), *The Water Babies* (1978) and several *Doctor Who* stories (2007-2010), died on 28 July aged 93. [LW] • *Tony Dow* (1945-2022), US actor in *The Adventures of Captain Zoom in Outer Space* (1995) and others, who directed multiple episodes of genre tv series including *Swamp Thing* (1990-1993), *Harry and the Hendersons* (1991-1992) and *Babylon 5* (1997-1998), died on 27 July aged 77. [LP] • *Al Evans* (1946-2022), US creator of the 1980s Apple III and Mac sf videogame *Cap'n Magneto* (released 2020 as freeware), died on 19 July aged 76. [LP] • *Bruno Falcon* (1964-2022), US breakdancer who acted in *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* (1991) and choreographed *Thumbelina* (1994), died on 2 July aged 58. [LP] • *Eric Flint* (1947-2022), prolific and popular US author whose first novel was *Mother of Demons* (1997) and whose *1632* (2000) launched Baen's now immense alternate-history 'Assiti Shards/1632' shared-world sequence – with many contributors and collaborators, and the spinoff magazine *Grantville Gazette* – died on 17 July aged 75. He received a special Sidewise Award for alternate history in 2018. [RJS] • *Herbert W. Franke* (1927-2022), Austrian-born German author whose first sf books were the collection *Der grüne Kommet* (*The Green Comet*, 1960) and the novel *Das Gedankennetz* (1961, trans 1974 as *The Mind Net*), died on 16 July aged 95. A multiple Deutscher SF and Kurd Lasswitz award winner, he was honoured as ESFS Grand Master in 2016. [F770] •

Geoffrey H. Goodwin (1971-2022), US author of genre stories for *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet* and elsewhere since 2002, died on 15 June aged 50. [PDF] ● Alan Grant (1949-2022), UK comics writer best known for co-writing *Judge Dredd*, *Robo-Hunter* and *Strontium Dog* for *2000 AD*, died on 20 July aged 73. He also wrote for DC (*Batman*), Marvel and Dark Horse. [MC] ● Alexander Gritsenko (1980-2022), Russian writer, journalist and theatre director who co-wrote the sf novel *Mustankery* (2017) as by Nick Odintsov, died on 8 July. [AM] ● Mona Hammond (1931-2022), Jamaica-born UK actress in *10,000 BC* (2008) and genre tv series, died on 4 July aged 91. [SJ] ● R.C. Harvey (1937-2022), US cartoonist and author of many books on comics and cartooning, a *Comics Journal* columnist since 1976, died on 31 May aged 85. [F770] ● Gregory Itzin (1948-2022), US actor in *Teen Wolf* (1985), *Hi Honey – I'm Dead* (1991) and *Evolution* (2001), died on 8 July aged 74. [SJ] ● Brian Jackson (1931-2022), UK actor in *Quatermass and the Pit* (1959), *Gorgo* (1961), *Shadowchaser* (1992) and various genre tv series, died on 2 July aged 91. [AIP] ● Sid Jacobson (1929-2022), long-time US comics writer/editor who co-created *Casper the Friendly Ghost* in 1952 for Harvey Comics (where he wrote for several titles including *Flash Gordon*), died on 23 July aged 92. [PDF] ● Samantha b Jeudé (1952-2022), US fan who was an early advocate for disabled access at conventions and founded Electrical Eggs for this purpose in 1986, died on 3 July aged 69. [WF] She received the 1992 Big Heart Award. ● L.Q. Jones (1927-2022), US actor in *A Boy and His Dog* (1975, which he also produced and directed), *The Beast Within* (1982), *Timerider* (1982) and others, died on 9 July aged 94. [GVG] ● Alan Kubatiyev (1952-2022), Russian sf writer who received eight genre awards for short fiction and nonfiction died on 4 July. [AM] ● Robert Lichtman (1942-2022), long-time US fan active since the late 1950s, winner of many FAAn awards – several for his best known fanzine *Trap Door* (34 issues 1983-2018) – died on 6 July aged 79. [CP] Robert was the 1989 TAFF winner, a stalwart of FAPA and other apas, and a good friend who was endlessly helpful with research for TAFF's fanhistorical ebooks. ● James Lovelock (1919-2022), UK scientist and environmentalist best known for the Gaia hypothesis in *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* (1979) – inspirational for many sf authors – died on 26 July, his 103rd birthday. His sf novel is *The Greening of Mars* (1984) with Michael Allaby. ● Pat McCallum, US comics editor who co-founded the magazine *Wizard: The Guide to Comics* in 1991 and worked for DC 2011-2019, died in July. ● Ni Kuang (1935-2022), Chinese author of 300+ sf and *wuxia* novels – the sf including the long *Wisely/Wesley* series, 1963-2004 – and 400+ film scripts, died on 3 July aged 87. [SF*] ● Nichelle Nichols (1932-2022), US actress unforgettably and inspirationally famous as Uhura in the original *Star Trek* (1966-1969) and very many spinoffs, died on 30 July aged 89. [O] Other credits range from *Tarzan* (1966 tv) to *Sharknado 5* (2017) and the coming *Renegades: Ominara*. ● Monty Norman (1928-2022), UK composer of the original James Bond theme for *Dr No* (1962), died on 11 July aged 94; other soundtrack credits include *The Two Faces of Dr Jekyll* (1960) and *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* (1961). [SJ] ● Jang-Sung Rak alias Dubu, Korean manga artist best known for the webtoon adaptation of Chu-Gong's online novel *Solo Leveling*, died on 23 July. [PDF] ● Mickey Rooney Jr. (1945-2022), US musician and actor in *The Mickey Mouse Club* (1955-1957, as a 'Mouseketeer') and *Beyond the Bermuda Triangle* (1975), died on 16 July aged 77. [LP] ● Yōko Shimada (1953-2022), Japanese actress in *Kamen Rider* (1971) and *Undiscovered Tomb* (2002), died on 25 July aged 69. ● Tony Sirico (1942-2022), US actor in *Innocent Blood* (1992) and *A Muppets Christmas* (2008), died on 8 July aged 79. [LP] ● Paul Sorvino (1939-2022), US actor whose films include *The Day of the Dolphin* (1973), *Oh, God!* (1977), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Repo!* *The Genetic Opera* (2008), *The Devil's Carnival* (2012) and the coming *My Jurassic Place*, died on 25 July aged 83. [AIP] ● Sergey Sosnovskiy (1955-2022), Russian actor in the comedy series *Central Russia's Vampires* (2021), died on 3 July aged 67. [AM] ● Larry Storch (1923-2022), US actor in *The Monitors* (1969), *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (1969-1972 plus spinoffs), *The Ghost Busters* (1975), *Without Warning* (1980) and *The Flight of Dragons* (1982), died on 8 July aged 99. [AIP] ● Kazuki Takahashi (1961-2022), Japanese writer/artist whose manga *Yu-Gi-Oh!* (1996-2004) spawned a vast franchise of anime, videogame and trading card game adaptations, was found drowned on 6 July, wearing snorkelling kit; he was 60. ● Joe Turkel (1927-2022), US actor in *Village of the Giants* (1965), *The Shining* (1980) and *Blade Runner* (1982), died on 27 June aged 94. [LP] ● Lenny von Dohlen (1958-2022), US actor in *Electric Dreams* (1984), *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me* (1992) and *World's End* (2010), died on 5 July aged 63. [PDF] ● David Warner (1941-2022), UK actor whose many genre credits include *Time After Time* (1979), *Time Bandits* (1981), *Tron* (1982), *The Man with Two Brains* (1983), *Wild Palms* (1993), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *Hogfather* (2006), *Doctor Who*

(‘Dreamland’, 2009) and *Star Trek* films, died on 24 July aged 80. ● Patrick Watson (1929-2022), Canadian broadcaster, director and author whose sf novel is *Alter Ego* (1978), died on 4 July aged 92. [JC]

The Weakest Link. Ben Shephard: ‘Solar wind is a term for a stream of particles emanating from which large celestial object in our solar system?’ Contestant: ‘The Moon.’ (ITV, *Tipping Point*) [PE]

Magazine Scene. *Sci-Fi Magazine*, official organ of the Syfy channel, has ceased publication with the Summer 2022 issue (Vol 28 #2). [GRM]

As Others ... A speechwriter for the 1980 US Libertarian Party campaign explained the choice of corporate lawyer Edward Clark as presidential candidate: ‘to try to run somebody who looked like an actual politician, a normal person, not your typical *Star Trek* convention wannabe like most party members were.’ (New York Times, 18 May 2014). [MMW] Some attitudes never change: a July *Private Eye* crossword clue went ‘Brenda [the Eye nickname for HM the Queen] squeezed by new heart-throb, like a Trekkie (7)’, leading inexorably to the answer NERDISH. (15 July)

The Dead Past. 40 Years Ago, ‘Brain of Britain’ (radio) lately featured strange questions – eg about ‘Reindeers of the Lost Ark’ – and strange answers also. ‘Billion Year Spree. New Maps of Hell. What do these books have in common?’ “Er ... Drug addiction.” (Ansible 28, August 1982)

More Award Shortlists. Booker longlist works of genre interest: *Glory* by NoViolet Bulawayo; *Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies* by Maddie Mortimer; *Treacle Walker* by Alan Garner; *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka. Karen Joy Fowler also appears, with a historical novel. [F770] ● *British Fantasy* novel categories: FANTASY (Holdstock) *The Black Coast* by Mike Brooks; *The Jasmine Throne* by Tasha Suri; *She Who Became the Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan; *Sistersong* by Lucy Holland; *This is Our Undoing* by Lorraine Wilson; *The Unbroken* by C.L. Clark. HORROR (Derleth) *The Book of Accidents* by Chuck Wendig; *A Broken Darkness* by Premea Mohamed; *A Dowry of Blood* by S.T. Gibson; *The Last House on Needless Street* by Catriona Ward; *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* by Stephen Graham Jones; *Nothing but Blackened Teeth* by Cassandra Khaw. Full list at tinyurl.com/y9bhjs5s. ● Ursula K. Le Guin (inaugural award for book-length fiction): *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger; *The House of Rust* by Khadija Abdalla Bajaber; *Appleseed* by Matt Bell; *Summer in the City of Roses*, by Michelle Ruiz Keil; *How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu; *The Employees* by Olga Ravn, translated by Martin Aitken; *Elder Race* by Adrian Tchaikovsky; *The Past Is Red* by Catherynne M. Valente; *After the Dragons*, by Cynthia Zhang. ● *Sidewise* (alternate history): SHORT ‘Hitchcock’s Titanic’ by Matt Kresal (*Tales from Alternate Earths III*); ‘Gunpowder Treason’ by Alan Smale (*Ibid*); ‘Billie the Kid’ by Rick Wilber (*Asimov’s* 9/21). LONG *Civilizations* by Laurent Binet, translated by Sam Taylor; *Broadway Revival* by Laura Frankos; *The Apollo Murders* by Chris Hadfield; *The Kingdoms* by Natasha Pulley. ● *World Fantasy* novels: *Black Water Sister* by Zen Cho; *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djéli Clark; *The City Beautiful* by Aden Polydoros; *The Jasmine Throne* by Tasha Suri; *The Last House on Needless Street* by Catriona Ward. For all 43 nominees in eight categories see www.wfc2022.org/world-fantasy-award.

King Kong has returned to Birmingham after 50 years. On 22 July, vaguely in honour of the Commonwealth Games, they unveiled a 23-foot version of the long mourned 18-foot ape statue that was a popular landmark in 1972 and achieved the ultimate skiffy accolade of appearing on the front cover of Peter Weston’s fanzine *Speculation*. (i, 23 July)

Thog’s Masterclass. *UK Railway Terminology*. ‘The first time Eliza Grey laid eyes on the baby was at dusk in a slow-moving boxcar on a rain-swept stretch of the line three miles west of Bury St Edmunds, in Suffolk, England.’ (J.M. Miro, *Ordinary Monsters*, 2022) [PO] ● *Or All the Seas with Oysters*. ‘In the history of the bicycle, ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny.’ (Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 23 May) [PE] ● *Doc Savage Battles Striking Similes and Magical Metaphors*. ‘Soon he was hurrying along in a wild, devil-ridden way, as if on a carpet of sticky spider silk.’ ‘Doc read disquiet on his features as if it were written there in Braille.’ ‘A few hairs grew out of his chin like wheat.’ ‘Perspiration was appearing on Gah’s head like droplets of nasal secretion.’ ‘Waves traveled across the sea toward the vessel like puffs of air moving under a soiled bedsheet.’ (Kenneth Robeson [Lester Dent with Will Murray], *Flight Into Fear*, 1993 [drafted 1952]) [BA] ● *Explosive Dept*. ‘The abruptness of his erecting caused the snow to explode about him.’ (*Ibid*) [BA] “‘I think these must be the first wild strawberries of Spring.’” I said as her breasts burst into my eager hands.’ (Edison Marshall, *The Viking*, 1951) [MMW]