



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Things are starting to gear up for OASIS 23. I will be doing promoting the convention at Worldcon and Mini-Megacon this month. Hope to see some of you there.

Next month we will have the Hugo Winners. There may be an Anime Festival Orlando report.

I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFiS). See you next month.

Charles Brown

Publisher, editor and founder of *Locus*, Charles Brown died on July 12, 2009 at the age of 72. He was on his way back home from Readercon.

Twenty-two years ago, a friend recommended that I read *Locus*. I got my first subscription in 1987 at Conspiracy, the Worldcon in Brighton, England. I have not regretted it since. Brown and his team put together a top notch publication. *Locus* provides the latest news in the field, reviews the notable works of speculative fiction (both long and short format) and presents top notch commentary on the science fiction and fantasy field. It is far ahead of its competition. It is well-organized and easy to read. I am grateful that Brown arranged to have *Locus* go on without him.

I usually saw Charles Brown every year at Worldcon. At panels, he shared his extensive knowledge of the field. He was a very gracious winner at the Hugos. I will miss his presence at Worldcon, along with his monthly editor/publisher column in *Locus*.

Events

Mizucon

August 21-23

Hyatt Regency Miami

400 South East Second Avenue

Miami, Florida, USA 33131-2197

Guests: Vic Mignogna (Edward Elric,

Full Metal Alchemist)

David Williams (ADR Director ADV films)

If you register to stay 2 nights or more at the Hyatt Regency Miami during the convention, you will receive 1 FREE adult 3-day badge and each additional badge will be \$35.

\$45 at the door for a three day membership

www.mizucon.com

Mini-Megacon

August 22-23

Orange County Convention Center Hall E1

9899 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

Guests: Sylvester McCoy (*Doctor Who*, Seventh Doctor)

Peter Facinelli (Carlise Cullen, *Twilight*)

Michael Welch (Mike Newton, *Twilight*)

Emma Caulfield (Anya, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*)

Amber Benson (Tara, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*)

Dick Giordano (editor/inker DC Comics)

\$34.02 for both days

www.megaconvention.com

Award News:

Mythopoeic Awards

(source *Locus* website)

Winners of the 2009 Mythopoeic Awards were announced at a banquet during Mythcon XL (July 17-20, 2009) in Los Angeles CA.

ADULT LITERATURE

Flesh and Spirit and Breath and Bone, Carol Berg (Roc)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Graceling, Kristin Cashore (Harcourt Children's)

INKLINGS STUDIES

The History of the Hobbit, Part One: Mr. Baggins; Part Two: Return to Bag-end, John Rateliff (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

MYTH AND FANTASY STUDIES

Four British Fantasists: Place and Culture in the Children's

(Continued on page 3)

August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 16, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss the works of Neil Gaiman

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 22, 6:00 PM, Fiddler's Green (544 W. Fairbanks Avenue, Winter Park, FL). Come join us and discuss *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Jane Austen and Seth-Grahame-Smith. For more info contact Steve Grant

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan

Review

Enemies and Allies

By Kevin J. Anderson

The time is the late 1950s. The Soviet Union has started the Space Age by launching Sputnik. This adds a new layer of tension to the Cold War. A few months earlier, two heroes make their debut. Clark Kent (aka Kal-El) starts his never-ending battle over the skies of Metropolis as Superman. At the same time, in Gotham City, Bruce Wayne begins his war against crime and corruption as Batman. These two men have similar goals, but their views of the world are very different. Can they work together against a common enemy or will they fight each other.

After beginning his crusade, Wayne discovers corruption closer to home. Wayne's Board of Directors have been compromised. Apparently several board members have been selling Wayne Industries' secrets to their biggest competitor, LuthorCorp. In Metropolis, *Daily Planet* reporter Lois Lane is investigating the deaths of several LuthorCorp workers. Lex Luthor is having secret meetings with a KGB general. They plan to keep the Cold War tensions as high as possible to further their own interests. The general shows Luthor a meteor crater near the work camp he commands. Several prisoners have been mutated by the green meteor fragments. Luthor sees financial potential in the green meteorites. Both Batman and Superman begin to look into Luthor's activities. When Batman and Superman meet, they do not trust each other. Can they work out their differences before Luthor launches his plan?

Anderson puts a modern Superman and Batman in a '50s story. The 1950s Batman was very different from his contemporary self. In the 1950s, Batman's adventures were very fantastic. When Batman was not being sent to far-off worlds, he would fight outlandish villains. This was because of the backlash from the publication of *Seduction of the Innocent* by Dr. Frederic Werthram. One of the things the book criticized was the dark nature of comic stories. As a result, DC decided to

lighten up Batman. Superman in the 1950s had little internal conflict. The modern Superman questions his place in the world. The modern Superman also knows there are limits to how much he can do to help the world. In the '50s, Batman and Superman had a very friendly relationship. They even had a monthly title dedicated to their team-ups. Comic book writer Frank Miller added conflict to the Batman and Superman relationship in the '80s. Miller and other writers saw that, given their backgrounds (Kent's idyllic mid-west upbringing and Wayne's traumatic childhood), they would not see the world in the same way. Now their team-ups would include clashes in their methods. Anderson seamlessly brings this current relationship into the past.

The novel also presents a modern Luthor. The Luthor of the 1950s was a mad scientist driven to destroy Superman for personal reasons. In the '80s, Luthor was turned into a ruthless business man to whom Superman was an obstacle to his plans to dominate the world. Before leaving office, President Eisenhower warned of the dangers of the military-industrial complex. Anderson personifies that danger with Luthor. Luthor is more concerned with his profits than with America's security.

Anderson gets the feel of the period right. Most of the secondary characters are uncomfortable questioning traditional institutions. Although he has the people's trust, there are some fears associated with Superman's alien origins. Luthor tries to take advantage of this fear to further his aims. Anderson has included several cameos of celebrities of the period. These include Eleanor Roosevelt, Marilyn Monroe, and Rock Hudson. Anderson does tweak a few things to help the plot, but he explains these changes with notes at the end of the novel.

This was an interesting look at these classic characters. It feels like Anderson is setting up the beginning of the Silver Age of DC Comics. After the book, one can imagine the coming of the Flash, Green Lantern and the Martian Manhunter. It has the same feel as Darwyn Cooke's *Justice League: New Frontier*, which was also set in 1950s. This novel creates a story set at the end of one era, and the beginning of a new exciting time.

Moon

(POTENTIAL SPOILERS)

Moon is an independent science fiction film being distributed by Sony Pictures. Duncan Jones conceived of the story for the film, Nathan Parker wrote the screenplay, and Jones directed the film. ***Moon*** debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and has received limited release in the United States.

In the near future, Earth's energy problems are solved by Lunar Industries' mining of helium-3 on the moon. Sam Bell (Sam Rockwell) supervises mining operations at moon base Sarang. Sam's only company is Gerty (voice by Kevin Spacey), Sarang's robot helper. Sam is two weeks short of the end of his 3-year tour on the moon. He eagerly awaits returning to his wife Tess and their two-year old daughter, Eve. Sam's main feed from Earth is damaged and gets time-delayed communications. Sam's life is fairly routine, consisting of exercise, eating, gardening, checking the helium-3 harvesters, and sleeping. For recreation Sam is building a model of his hometown. While investigating a damaged harvester, Sam has an accident with his rover. Sam wakes up and is checked out by Gerty. Sam does not feel right. Sam goes back to the damaged harvester and examines the crashed rover. He finds a body, an exact copy of himself. Sam brings the copy back to Sarang and the two Sams try to figure out what to do. Lunar Industries informs Sam that a rescue team is being sent to assist him with the damaged harvester. The new Sam worries what will happen when the team arrives and find two Sam Bells. The older Sam's health is rapidly deteriorating.

This feels like a good old-fashioned hard science fiction story that one would find in *Analogue*. The film does not have fast-paced action and multiple explosions. The two Sams have to figure out what to do when they discover each other. Michael Bay would have turned the film to thriller, having the Sams fight hostile Lunar Industries' operatives coming to get them. The Sams think out the problem and come up with a solution which does not need a huge body count or expensive property damage.

Rockwell does a great job of playing two distinct people. He helps the viewer feel the stress both Sams is under. How the Sams react to the situation is believable. They start off with denial and anger. They both eventually come to accept they are not the original Sam Bell.

Most of the science in the film is tied to current research. The use of helium-3 as a fuel source has been discussed for years. The lunar surface looks accurate. The only concept that is a stretch is the cloning. Lunar Industries sent up several Bell clones, each one activated with base memories when the previous clone dies (either by accident or is killed after serving three years). A minor mistake is the characters' movement inside the base. The Sams move like they are in Earth's gravity.

The set design in this movie was excellent. Sarang looks lived-in and functional. Sam's quarters has personal effects which look like someone lives there. Some living quarters in many science fiction shows and films have a sterile quality. Most people like to personalize their living and working areas. Sarang does not look perfectly clean like the *Star Trek* sets. Sarang has a modular design which would be the best way to build a lunar base, since it would simplify construction.

Gerty's main unit has a screen with an yellow smiley which changes depending on the type of conversation he is having with Sam. Its great that they show the tracks on the roof which give Gerty access to the whole base. The rovers and harvesters look like real machines.

It was cool seeing a return to traditional models rather than using CGI. It gives the film a similar feel to ***2001***. CGI is a great tool, but there is a certain texture that comes with models.

The film brings up several questions. Are the clones human? Should they be treated this way? Does anyone has the right to give someone a false life to accomplish a dangerous and monotonous task? The film leaves these questions for the viewer to ponder.

It is incredible that Jones was able to make this with \$5 million. He understands that science fiction film-making needs a solid story rather than an array of effects shots. Jones is hoping to do two sequels to ***Moon***. If he does, this series off to a great start.

(Continued from page 1)

Fantasies of Penelope Lively, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Susan Cooper, Charles Butler (Children's Literature Association & Scarecrow Press, 2006).

Prometheus Awards

(source Locus website)

The Libertarian Futurist Society has released winners of this year's **Prometheus Awards** in advance of the planned awards ceremony at Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, August 6-10, 2009, in Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

Winners and finalists are as follows (winners have asterisk):

NOVEL

- ****Little Brother***, Cory Doctorow (Tor)
- ***Matter***, Iain Banks (Orbit)
- ***The January Dancer***, Michael Flynn (Tor)
- ***Saturn's Children***, Charles Stross (Tor)
- ***Opening Atlantis***, Harry Turtledove (Roc)
- ***Half a Crown***, Jo Walton (Tor)

HALL OF FAME

- ****The Lord of the Rings***, J.R.R. Tolkien
- ***Falling Free***, Lois McMaster Bujold
- ***Courtship Rite***, Donald M. Kingsbury
- "As Easy as A.B.C.", Rudyard Kipling
- ***The Once and Future King***, T.H. White
- ***The Golden Age***, John C. Wright

The Hall of Fame category includes works sometimes nominated year after year until they win; **The Lord of the Rings** has been nominated several times in the past.

The Prometheus Awards were established in 1979. Winners receive a plaque and a one-ounce gold coin.

The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Presents
Its 23rd Annual Celebration of Science Fiction and Fantasy

OASIS 23

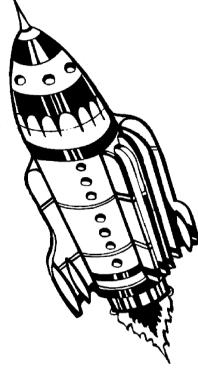
May 28-30, 2010

Writer Guests of Honor
Sharon Lee and Steve Miller

Liaden series

Balance of Trade, Fledgling,

Carousel Tides



Hotel Information

\$89/night, single-quad
through 4/30/10

Mention OASIS for rate

Orlando Marriott Downtown

· 400 West Livingston St.

· Orlando, Florida 32801

· 407-843-6664

· 1-800-574-3160

Joe Fan
123 Sesame Street
Orlando, FL 32805

Artist Guest of Honor

Richard C Livingstone

Conceptual Artist and Designer

Battlestar Galactica (2003)

Mulan, Tarzan(1999), Lilo and Stitch

Gaming info will be at

www.warhorn.org

Weekend Memberships:

\$30 until 1/1/10,

\$35 until 4/30/10,

\$40 at the door.

Make checks payable to:

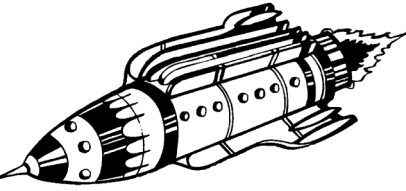
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