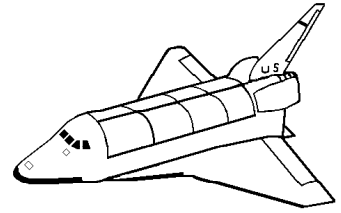


The



SHUTTLE
February 2008

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 16 February
2008 at the Regular Time and Location*

*No Concom Meeting in February — Stay Tuned for
Time and Date of March Concom Meeting*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be Saturday **16 February 2008** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Manda Freeman has reluctantly resigned as NASFA Program Director for this year — just too much stuff to do in too little time. At the February NASFA meeting there will be a Special Election to fill this office. If you have any interest in the position please come to the meeting, or get word to President Mary Lampert or any other officer. Mary says “Remember this is a chance to display your interests and creativity. Also, if this seems a daunting prospect, there is no reason you can’t appoint yourself an assistant, or minion(s) to help out.”

PROGRAM

In honor of Valentine’s Day, the February **program** will be a group Show-and-Tell on the subject of “Love, Romance, and Lust in Science Fiction.” Please come prepared with examples (both good *and* bad) of books, movies, graphic novels, or other sf/fantasy works that fill that bill.

ATMM

The February **After-The-Meeting Meeting** will be at **Doug and Mary Lampert’s house** — 127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridiaville. That’s in the far north of the metro area, about 12–15 miles north of BookMark. Directions will be available at the meeting.

Volunteers for future ATMMs are always needed.

CONCOM MEETING

There will *not* be a Con+Stellation XXVII: Cassiopeia concom meeting in February.

There probably *will* be a concom meeting in March, but not before the NASFA meeting as it might normally be. Stay tuned to email and the next *Shuttle* for the date and location.

News and Info

HUGO NOMINATING DEADLINE

All members (including Supporting Members) of this year’s 66th World Science Fiction Convention (in Denver) and last year’s Worldcon (in Yokohama) are eligible to cast nominating ballots for the Hugo Awards (and the John W. Campbell

(continued on page 3, column 2)

Inside this issue...

Minutes of the January Meeting	2
NASFA Calendar	2
Golden Raspberry Awards Nominations	4

Academy Awards Nominations	4
Awards Roundup	4
No Need for a Ring — Chapter 20	6
Letter of Comment	7

Deadline for the March 2008 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 29 February 2008.

January Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The January meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, January 19, 2008 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:22:19P by President Mary Lampert. As usual, the crickets were shaken awake.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Club dues are due. Prior to the official start of the meeting, Sam read a list of people who had already paid. There was a digression about people with initials for names. Sam showed off his One Laptop Per Child laptop.

Mary confirmed that voting to move the March meeting to a different weekend was taken care of last month.

Sam read his pile o'crap, i.e., various spammish emails. Shelby Vick warns about a scam, and Roddenberry.com now offers something new called "Gene's journal." (Blogging from the dead? Not Gene Simmons.) Jason Bailey, con chair for Chibi-Pa anime festival in West Palm Beach, Florida, is offering to rent us their dance and video equipment for \$1000 plus hotel room and travel expenses. Mike K. calls it a "capital S Scam." [Well, that sounds harsh in retrospect but would at the least be a significant overcharge for such equipment. -ED] New Orleans-area fan Joey Grillot died. Shelby Vick wishes everyone a Merry Christmas from *Planetary Stories*. Roddenberry.com sent us something else — an ad for the complete first season of *Star Trek: The Original Series* in HD-DVD, the "Roddenberry Prosper" t-shirt, the "Trek Chicks Rock" messenger bag, and Roddenberry's Intergalactic Word Scramble. They also license a casket shaped like a photon torpedo, but that's not in these ads.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

We have a proposed weapons policy.

We have a bunch of positions which are filled, some which are not yet confirmed, and a couple which are definitely not filled. Sam is down for Treasurer, per the Bylaws, but nothing else. We need people to be in charge of Registration and Dealers. Doug has sent a letter to Kerry, asking him if he wants to do dealers for us on non-convention-type stuff. We definitely need a registration head. Sunn and Sue have said they'd be willing to work at the registration table, but that's not the same as being in charge. We need an insane maniac who's obsessive-compulsive, and apparently not named Sam Smith, to take charge of registration. Poor Mike Stone couldn't run fast enough, due to foot trouble. He could spend the whole convention sitting down! However, he wasn't actually picked for Registration head — at least not this time.

Listed but not confirmed: Manda for Masquerade, Kevin for Ops, Tim for Hotel Liaison. Anime is listed as no one. Steve chimed in that Basil says Anime is covered, as of last night. So, Basil is confirmed for Anime. More listed but not confirmed: Anita for T-Shirts, and Uncle Timmy for Spades Tournament, although someone (probably Gary Shelton) said he might want to hold a coup. Doug thinks Sue should be the Basil-wrangler.

Bill Savage has revamped the website a little bit.

Other than finding a sucker for Registration and Dealers, and getting the other people confirmed who aren't here, that should conclude Convention Business... but not so fast... There's next year's con.

For next year's convention, we talked with the Holiday Inn at Research Park. They want five thousand dollars. It's still

a lot less pricey than anyone else Doug has talked to.

The Con Chairs for 2009 have started discussing which constellation to pick. There are no elephant, monkey, banana, or velociraptor constellations. There is a toucan. Mike Stone claims that Middle Earth is located in the bill of the Toucan. Doug thought it was in New Zealand.

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35:44P.

There was no program, because Manda had a debilitating migraine. The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's house, extra early.

NASFA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 03 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
- 06 Ash Wednesday.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Pigs Don't Fly*, Mary Brown; 6P.
- 07 Chinese New Year.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 08–10 Atlanta Comics Expo — Atlanta GA.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 15–17 Furry Weekend Atlanta 2008 — Atlanta GA.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Show and Tell — Love, Romance, and Lust in Science Fiction. ATMM: Mary and Doug Lampert's house.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 18 President's Day.
- 21 BD: Susan Stockell.
- 22–24 ConNooga — Chattanooga TN.
- 22 BD: George Washington.

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Rendezvous with Rama*, Arthur C. Clarke; 6P.
- 08 BD: Bill Payne.
- 09 Daylight Saving Time begins.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 14–16 DeepSouthCon 46/Stellarcon 32 — High Point NC.
- 14–16 OmegaCon — Birmingham AL.
- 15–16 MomoCon — Atlanta GA.
- 16 Palm Sunday.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 19–23 29th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts — Orlando FL.
- 20 First Day of Spring (19th in Mountain time zone and westward).
- 20–23 Frolicon 2008 — Atlanta GA.
- 21 Purim.
- 21 Good Friday.
- 21–23 FantaSciCon 2008 — Chattanooga TN.
- 22* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at

Locus also publishes a lengthy Recommended Reading list. This is available online at <www.locusmag.com/2008/2007RecommendedReading.html>.

URSA MAJOR AWARDS NOMS OPEN

Nominations for the 2007 Ursa Major Awards (for Anthropomorphic fiction) are open through 28 February 2008. Nominations can be made online at <www.ursamajorawards.org/nominations.htm> or by mail (Ursa Major Awards, c/o Furry Stuff, P. O. Box 1958, Garden Grove CA 92842-1958). Up to 5 nominations can be made in each of 10 categories.

Razzies Noms Announced

Nominations for the 28th Annual Golden Raspberry Awards (aka the Razzies) have been announced. The Razzies “honor” the worst in film and are timed so that both the nominees and the winners are announced one day before those respective milestones for “those Other Awards” (aka the Oscars).

While genre films did “well” in this year’s Razzie noms, they perhaps fell a little short of previous year’s “glory.” The top nominee was supernatural thriller *I Know Who Killed Me*, but the other top multiple-“award”-nominees were of clearly non-genre character. Stretching the definition to include straight horror, genre (and related) nominees include:

- I Know Who Killed Me* — 9 noms (Worst Picture, Worst Actress (twice, for Lindsay Lohan as both twins), Worst Supporting Actress (Julia Ormond), Worst Screen Couple (Lindsay Lohan and herself), Worst Remake or Rip-Off, Worst Director (Chris Siverston), Worst Screenplay (Jeffrey Hammond), and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie)
- Captivity* — 3 noms (Worst Actress (Elisha Cuthbert), Worst Director (Roland Joffe), and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie)
- Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem* — 2 noms (Worst Prequel or Sequel and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie)
- Hannibal Rising* — 2 noms (Worst Prequel or Sequel and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie)
- Hostel: Part II* — 2 noms (Worst Prequel or Sequel and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie)
- Pirates of the Carob-Bean: At Wit’s End* — 1 nom (Worst Supporting Actor (Orlando Bloom))
- Evan Almighty* — 1 nom (Worst Prequel or Sequel)
- The Number 23* — 1 nom (Worst Actor (Jim Carrey))
- Next* — 0.83 noms (Worst Actor (Nicolas Cage) split with his work in 2 other movies, and Worst Supporting Actress (Jessica Biel) split with her work in 1 other movie)
- Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* — 0.66 noms (Worst Actress (Jessica Alba) split with her work in 2 other movies, and Worst Screen Couple (Jessica Alba and Ioan Gruffudd) split with Alba’s work in 2 other movies)
- Awake* — 0.66 noms (Worst Actress (Jessica Alba) split with her work in 2 other movies, and Worst Screen Couple (Jessica Alba and Hayden Christensen) split with Alba’s work in 2 other movies)
- National Treasure: Book of Secrets* — 0.58 noms (Worst Actor (Nicolas Cage) split with his work in 2 other movies, and Worst Supporting Actor (Jon Voight) split with his work in 3 other movies)
- Ghost Rider* — 0.33 noms (Worst Actor (Nicolas Cage) split with his work in 2 other movies)
- Transformers* — 0.25 noms (Worst Supporting Actor (Jon Voight) split with his work in 3 other movies)

Oscar Noms

Nominations for the 80th Annual Academy Awards have been announced. As usual (not counting the *LotR* years) genre and related films were shut out of the major categories (Lead/Supporting Actor/Actress, Director, Best Picture) but did pick up several noms in other categories. The winners will be announced at a televised ceremony Sunday 24 February — well, assuming the Writer’s Guild of America strike has really been settled, as seems likely at press time.

Among genre/related films the standout was clearly *Ratatouille*, with 5 nods, for Animated Feature Film, Original Score, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Original Screenplay. *Transformers* also did well, recognized in 3 categories (Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects). *Enchanted* also got 3 noms, but all in the Original Song category (for *Happy Working Song*, *So Close*, and *That’s How You Know*).

Two genre works got 2 nominations — *The Golden Compass* was recognized in Art Direction and Visual Effects while *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End* got nods in Visual Effects and Makeup.

Four genre/related works received a single nomination — *Surf’s Up* (Animated Feature Film), *Madame Tutli-Putli* (Animated Short Film), *Peter & the Wolf* (Animated Short Film), and *August Rush* (Original Song; *Raise It Up*).

Awards Roundup

GAYLACTIC SPECTRUM AWARDS 2007

At the 2007 Gaylaxicon only the Novel category for the Spectrum Awards was announced, reportedly because the judges were overloaded by the huge quantity of material. Full results (including Sort Lists) for all categories are now available online at <www.spectrumawards.org/2007.htm>. The winners are:

- Best Novel** *Vellum*, Hal Duncan (DelRey)
- Best Short Fiction** (tie) **“In the Quake Zone,”**
David Gerrold (*Down These Dark Spaceways*, SFBC);
“Instinct,” Joy Parks (*The Future Is Queer*, Arsenal Pulp); and **“The Language of Moths,”**
Christopher Barzak (*Realms of Fantasy*)
- Best Other Work** (tie) *The Future Is Queer*
(anthology), Richard Labonte and Lawrence , eds.
(Arsenal Pulp); *Torchwood Season 1* (TV),
Russell T Davies, et al. (BBC); and
V for Vendetta (film),
James McTeigue, et al. (Warner Bros)

GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER

Winners of the Golden Globe Awards were announced Sunday 13 January 2008. A press conference was held in lieu of the usual gala ceremony, due to the Writer’s Guild of America strike. The only genre winner was *Ratatouille* for Best Animated Film. Other genre/related nominees can be found in the January *Shuttle*.

DGA WINNERS & NOMS

Winners of the Director’s Guild of America Awards were announced Saturday 26 January 2008. The only genre winner was *Pushing Daisies* for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Comedy Series (Barry Sonnenfeld). Honored with nominations were two episodes of *Lost*, both of which got nods for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Dramatic Series

— Jack Bender for “Through the Looking Glass” and Eric Laneuville for “The Brig.”

PGA WINNERS & NOMS

Winners of the Producer’s Guild of America Awards were announced Saturday 2 February 2008. One genre film, *Ratatouille*, won in the Animated Film category. Other genre/related works that received nominations were *Bee Movie* (Animated Film), *The Simpsons Movie* (Animated Film), *Heroes* (Episodic TV Drama), and *Lost* (Episodic TV Drama).

BAFTA NOMS

The Orange British Academy Film Awards <www.bafta.org> take place on Sunday 10 February at the Royal Opera House in London’s Covent Garden. Genre/related nominees include four movies in the Special Visual Effects category (*The Golden Compass*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End*, and *Spider-Man 3*) and three movies in the Animated Feature Film category (*Ratatouille*, *Shrek the Third*, and *The Simpsons Movie*).

BSFA NOMS

The British Science Fiction Association <www.bsfa.co.uk> has announced the nominees for their annual awards. Nominees are selected by a vote of the BSFA membership; the winners are selected by a vote of BSFA plus members of the British national sf convention. Nominees in each category are listed below. The awards will be announced and presented on Saturday 22 March 2008, in a ceremony at the British natcon (Eastercon), Orbital <www.orbital2008.org>.

BSFA Best Novel

Alice in Sunderland, Bryan Talbot (Jonathan Cape)
Black Man, Richard Morgan (Gollancz)
Brasyl, Ian McDonald (Gollancz)
The Execution Channel, Ken MacLeod (Orbit)
The Prefect, Alastair Reynolds (Gollancz)
The Yiddish Policemen’s Union, Michael Chabon (Fourth Estate)

BSFA Best Short Fiction

“Lighting Out,” Ken MacLeod (*disLocations*; NewCon Press)
“Terminal,” Chaz Brenchley (*disLocations*; NewCon Press)
“The Merchant and the Alchemist’s Gate,” Ted Chiang (*F&SF*, September 2007)
“The Gift of Joy,” Ian Whates (*TQR*)
“The Sledge-Maker’s Daughter,” Alastair Reynolds (*Interzone* #209)

BSFA Best Artwork

“Cracked World,” Andy Bigwood (cover of *disLocations* anthology, NewCon Press)
“H P Lovecraft in Britain,” Les Edwards (cover of chapbook by Stephen Jones, British Fantasy Society)
“Lunar Flare,” Richard Marchand (cover of *Interzone* #211)
“Metal Dragon Year,” Kenn Brown (cover of *Interzone* #213)

BSFA Fiftieth Anniversary Award: Best Novel of 1958

A Case of Conscience, James Blish (first published by Ballantine)
Have Spacesuit, Will Travel, Robert A Heinlein (first published in *F&SF*, August–October 1958)
Non-Stop, Brian Aldiss (first published by Faber & Faber)
The Big Time, Fritz Leiber (first published in *Galaxy*, March/April 1958)
The Triumph of Time, James Blish (first published by Avon; subsequent UK title *A Clash of Cymbals*)
Who?, Algis Budrys (first published by Pyramid)

STOKER AWARD PRELIMS RELEASED

The Preliminary List for the Stoker Awards <www.

horror.org/stokers.htm> has been released. The Stokers are for Superior Achievement in various Horror Fiction (and related) categories. Items that made the Preliminary List in each category are listed below.

Stoker Superior Achievement in a Novel

The Gardener’s Tale, Bruce Boston (Sam’s Dot)
Mr. Hands, Gary Braunbeck (Leisure)
Generation Loss, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)
Heart-Shaped Box, Joe Hill (William Morrow)
Ghoul, Brian Keene (Leisure)
The Missing, Sarah Langan (Harper)
Dead Man’s Song, Jonathan Maberry (Pinnacle)
The Midnight Road, Tom Piccirilli (Bantam)
The Terror, Dan Simmons (Little, Brown)
The Dust of Wonderland, Lee Thomas (Alyson Books)

Stoker Superior Achievement in a First Novel

I Will Rise, Michael Calvillo (Lachesis Publishing)
Heart-Shaped Box, Joe Hill (William Morrow)
The Memory Tree, John R. Little (Nocturne Press)
Dying to Live, Kim Paffenroth (Permuted Press)
The Hollower, Mary SanGiovanni (Leisure Books)
Vacation, Jeremy Shipp (Raw Dog Screaming Press)
Roses of Blood on Barbwire Vines, D. L. Snell (Permuted Press)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Long Fiction

“Afterward, There Will Be A Hallway,” Gary Braunbeck (*Five Strokes to Midnight*)
“Almost the Last Story by Almost the Last Man,” Scott Edelman (*Postscripts*)
“Survival of the Fittest,” Scott Edelman (*Summer Chills*)
“You Never Got Used to the Needle,” John Everson (*Needles and Sins*)
Blood Coven, Angeline Hawkes and Christopher Fulbright (Dead Letter Press)
General Slocum’s Gold, Nicholas Kaufmann (Burning Effigy Press)
Placeholders, John R. Little (Necessary Evil Press)
Blood Wish, Michael McBride (Delirium Books)
Frayed, Tom Piccirilli (Creeping Hemlock Press)
Lost in Translation, Gord Rollo (NYX Books)
“An Apiary of White Bees,” Lee Thomas (*Inferno*)
“Trolling Lures,” Steve Vernon (*Hard Roads*)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Short Fiction

“The Death Wagon Rolls On By,” C. Dean Andersson (*Cemetery Dance* #57)
“The Heart Of The City,” Sandy DeLuca and Michael McCarty (*Hungur* #4)
“Longtime Gone,” Kurt Dinan (*Chizine* #34)
“Letting Go,” John Everson (*Needles and Sins*)
“Hungry for the Flesh,” Lisa Manetti (*Space and Time* #100)
“The Wizard of Ooze,” Michael McCarty and Linnea Quigley (*Midnight Premiere*)
“Mr. Creator,” Joe McKinney (*The Sound of Horror*)
“The Teacher,” Paul G. Tremblay (*Chizine*)
“There’s No Light Between Floors,” Paul G. Tremblay (*Clarkesworld*)
“The Gentle Brush of Wings,” David Niall Wilson (*Defining Moments*)

Stoker Superior Achievement in an Anthology

Five Strokes to Midnight, Gary Braunbeck and Hank Schwaeble, eds. (Haunted Pelican Press)
Horror Library Volume 2, R. J. Cavender and Vincent VanAllen, eds. (Cutting Block Press)
Inferno, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Dark Delicacies 2: Fear, Del Howison and Jeff Gelb, ed. (Carroll & Graf/Avalon)
High Seas Cthulhu, William Jones, ed. (Elder Signs Press)
Horrors Beyond 2, William Jones, ed. (Elder Signs Press)
Astounding Hero Tales, James Lowder, ed. (Hero)
History is Dead, Kim Paffenroth, ed. (Permuted Press)
Midnight Premiere, Tom Piccirilli, ed. (Cemetery Dance Publications)
Gratia Placenti, Jason Sizemore and Gill Ainsworth, eds. (Apex Publications)
Stoker Superior Achievement in a Collection
Proverbs for Monsters, Michael A. Amzen (Dark Regions Press)
The Imago Sequence, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)
Darker Loves, James Dorr (Dark Regions Press)
Needles and Sins, John Everson (Necro Publications)
When it Rains and Other Wreckage, Christopher Fulbright (Doorways Publication)
Voyeurs of Death, Shaun Jeffrey (Doorways Publication)
No Further Messages, Brett Alexander Savory (Delirium)
Sparks and Shadows, Lucy Snyder (HW Press)
5 Stories, Peter Straub (Borderlands)
Defining Moments, David Niall Wilson (Sarob Press)
Stoker Superior Achievement in Nonfiction
Encyclopedia Horrifica, Joshue Gee (Scholastic)
The Science of Stephen King, Lois H. Gresh and Robert Weinberg (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)
The Portable Obituary: How the Famous, Rich, and Powerful Really Died, Michael Largo (Harper)
The Cryptopedia: A Dictionary of the Weird, Strange & Downright Bizarre, Jonathan Maberry and David F. Kramer (Citadel Press/Kensington)
Storytellers Unplugged, Joe Nassise and David Niall Wilson (Storytellers Unplugged)
Stoker Superior Achievement in Poetry
Being Full of Light, Insubstantial, Linda Addison (Space and Time)
Mary Falls: Requiem for Mrs. Surratt, Christopher Conlon (The Word Works)
Tango in the Ninth Circle, Corrine de Winter (Dark Regions Press)
Heresy, Charlee Jacob (Bedlam Press [Necro Publications])
Vectors: A Week in the Death of a Planet, Charlee Jacob and Marge Simon (Dark Regions Press)
Phantasmepedia, Mark McLaughlin (Dead Letter Press)
Sometimes While Dreaming, Marcie Lynn Tentchoff (Sam's Dot)
Your Cat & Other Space Aliens, Mary Turzillo (VanZeno Press)

Dreams, Visions, and Sightings

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 20

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the fourth chapter in the second part of the NNFAR trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 4 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

The mixed party approaches the Bounder's station. Beerin

is already deep in conversation with the Bounder. After a while, he beckons to the party. The guardsmen turn and begin riding back northward. Three horses and three ponies, two with baggage, approach Beerin. The Bounder gives a deep, shaky bow as the royal party passes. None of them were Men; or, not mainly.

— O — O — O —

She glided through a marvelous flower garden. Her papa would have thought it grand. She saw twenty different kinds of flowers, many with colors or patterns never seen elsewhere. The flowers were all unfamiliar to her, and she had been all over the Shire, and from Lake Evendim south through Eriador all the way to Lórien, Ithilien, and the Bay of Belfalas.

She wandered into a well tended open area and saw that it looked like some sort of graveyard. There were three small statues in the center. They rested on three blocks of polished stone, but they seemed to be made of gold... solid gold, she was sure. They were about three feet tall, each. The central one rested on a higher block. There were flowers around it and the nearer one. She went closer.

The pedestal of the first one had carved writing that said:
RING-BEARER SAMWISE GAMGEE SR 1380-1492

She looked closer at the statue and saw that it was; indeed, her papa.

The pedestal of the second one had writing that said:
RING-BEARER FRODO BAGGINS SR 1368-1423

She looked at the statue of the younger Hobbit and saw that one hand had only four fingers.

The pedestal of the third one had carved writing that said:
**RINGWINNER/RING-BEARER
 BILBO BAGGINS SR 1290**

This was a statue of a much older Hobbit, wearing a hooded dwarven cloak. Why did "Mad Baggins" have no flowers; and no second date?

She now saw an elf, who was certainly Legolas. Leaning on him was an ancient dwarf — whom she was almost certain was Gimli, Lord of the Glittering Caves. An old Hobbit sat with his back to the third statue. Holding a pen and paper, he wrote; in a thin wandering hand: "So comes snow after fire, and even dragons have their ending!"

He paused, and then added a little more to the paper so that it now read: "So comes snow after fire, and seven more dragons have their ending! To be continued..."

He sighed, closed his eyes, and sank back against the statue, and he and his pen disappeared. The little paper fluttered like a moth, never touching the ground.

The pedestal now said:
**RINGWINNER/RING-BEARER
 BILBO BAGGINS SR 1290-1544
 HIS PART IS NOW ENDED**

Three more people approached and she hid behind the statues. A tall elf-woman, with long blond hair, knelt down by her papa's grave. She wore a mithril ring with a single white stone that flickered like a frosty star. She dug a small handful of dirt from the grave and placed it into a little box of plain gray wood; there was a single silver "G" rune upon its lid. It was very like Papa's little Elven box. She handed the box to a tall elvish man, who wore a gold ring with a great blue stone. The Elf man placed a white gem and circlet into the box. The gem was just like the Star of the Dúnedain that the old King had given to Papa. The third figure, a bearded, bent looking old man, caught the fluttering paper and put it into the box. He, too, wore a ring; with a single stone red as fire. Closing the box, he reached high to hand it to an unseen someone behind her, and

gave her a smile and a wink.

— O — O — O —

Elfstan “Stan” Fairbairn: Grandma? Grandma? Sorry to wake you but it’s late morning and you have company.

Lady Elanor: Eh? Boy, I’ve had company every day all year. Who is it, more Diggles and Rumpoles?

Elfstan: No, Grandma. Cousin Beerin has brought the Crown Princess of Gondor and Arnor; and her aunt, Princess Gilraen, and an Elf! They’ve brought a message from the King. I’ve been promoted to Counsellor!

Lady Elanor: And high time. Now, bring them in. I think I have something to tell them. I’ve had the same dream now for seven days. It *demands* to be told!

(The royal party spent a few hours that afternoon reading passages from the Red Book. Elanor, firstborn of Sam and Rose Gamgee, died the next morning.)

— O — O — O —

Later, the party visits Michel Delving to see the Mayor, then on to Tuckborough to deliver the message and spend a day researching old Númenorean/Gondorian books of history there at Great Smials. Mayor Ray Bolger had asked them, with a touch of fear, about certain sightings of something large that had flown at night across the Shire in the early morning of January 19. With the approximate times and general directions, they had marked the path on a large map with small stones in this order: Long Cleeve, Oatborton, Brockenbores, Budgeford, Whitfurrows, Stock, the Marish, and finally Standelf in southern Buckland. These formed a line running roughly southeast across the eastern Shire. The creature had been only dimly seen, like a high cloud catching the last beams of a sun already set. It had a faint glow. At two places, the observers thought they saw one or two white gleams, as of eyes.

Very few Hobbits had ever sighted one of the legendary great eagles. It was generally thought this was one of them. Later, traveling dwarves brought news of a much more disturbing nature. The sighting of a... *dragon!*

Beerin insisted they visit his cousin Holfast Gardner at Bag End, and his son Harding, before turning toward Buckland.

They send a message by post to be relayed to the King and determined to follow this track, though months old. It was no great comfort that the last sighting seemed to indicate the creature turned to follow the Witherwindle River up into the Old Forest!

— O — O — O —

On March 19, the royal messengers reach Brandy Hall. It rains that day and the next so they wait for better weather. On the 21st they round the edge of the High Hay at Haysend and slowly advance into the forest. Glorfindel leads. Princess Gilraen, elf bow in hand, stalks along the left flank. Eowyn does the same on the right. Beerin stays in the center, leading the animals and watching the sky above and behind them. They advance very slowly, examining every tree and bush for any sign. At midday they stop and make a cold camp, eating from their stores.

Beerin: Pity we couldn’t have stayed longer at the Golden Perch. Theirs *is* the best beer in the Eastfarthing!

Gilraen: You mostly drank ale at the *Green Dragon* with your cousins.

Beerin: It’s what they were having. I was saving up for the Perch.

Eowyn: And we have enough “Beer In Stock.” (Beerin groans.) Have we learned anything at all, yet?

Glorfindel: Maybe. I have been in this forest several times.

I have experienced its moods. The feel is different, now.

Eowyn: In what way?

Glorfindel: There used always to be a background air of malice. We knew about the old Willow tree. In later years it became clear that he was a Huorn of considerable strength; close to being almost an Ent. It’s different, now. The birds and small animals act normally. We have had no trouble with roots and limbs trying to trip us, or poke us in the eye.

Gilraen: Or herd us in one direction.

Glorfindel: There is fear... paralyzing terror I would say. The forest is petrified and scarcely breathes. There are buds on many limbs that seem reluctant to open at all. The forest is watching, but not preparing anything. There is no song on the air. Let us continue up the north side of the river.

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

Letter of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
<penneys@allstream.net>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

26 January 2008

Many thanks for the *Shuttle*, Volume 28, No. 1. Let’s get to a good start for 2008 with a letter of comment on time!

The Montreal Worldcon continues its preparations, and I can now say for the first time that I am on the committee... I will be in charge of its fanzine lounge, so y’all come up and see me in 2009. We’ll see what we can do for some hospitality, see what the budget will say. I found this out by running into DUFF candidate Murray Moore on the subway. Yvonne isn’t listed on the committee yet, but is working on the space and science programming group, and will probably be working in finance as well. Hope lots of you remember to vote in the FAAn Awards, too. The nomination period for the Auroras is already underway, and I will pass along any results I hear of.

I am pleased that Peter Jackson will have something to do with the filming of *The Hobbit*. No matter how you feel about Jackson’s work as a director, it will be good to see this fine book turned into a movie with the same quality as *The Lord of The Rings*. I have some misgivings about the idea of a *Hobbit* sequel as the second movie being shot, but let’s see what happens.

Hello, PieEyed, hope you’re feeling better now. Some neat tricks you know. Wish you could teach us some of them, but we wouldn’t have the magic to actually perform them. At least you’re getting some giant-sized help to recover. Looking forward to reading more.

I’d like nothing better than to come to Huntsville for Con†Stellation. But Scotty doesn’t have the transporters up and running yet, and I am way short on transporter credits. Reality bites when you can’t do the things you want to do. PieEyed, the “friendly giant” I referred to is actually *The Friendly Giant*, a children’s show many Canadian kids grew up with in the 70s to 90s. Friendly had his friends Jerome the giraffe and Rusty the rooster visit him every day in his castle.

(continued on back cover)



P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the February 2008 edition (Volume 28, Number 2). NASFA Officers for 2008: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Open; Publicity Director Bill Savage. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,
Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,
Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

Contents Copyright, © 2008. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.

NASFA Dues = \$15/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$10/year Single copy = \$1.50 each.

It has been a busy day, traveling here and there to perform some errand or other, and now I lay me down to sleep... what a great idea. Good night folks, and see you in a month or so.

[I'd never heard of Friendly, the show was apparently a strictly Canadian thing. Similarly, I suppose you might well never have heard of Captain Kangaroo or any of his cast of charac-

ters. My age cohort — and indeed *several* following — in the US have fond memories of the Captain. (And yes, even as a child I recognized the Trickster character in Bunny Rabbit, without putting it in quite those terms, of course) I have the same trepidation as you about a “sequel” to *The Hobbit* but will keep an open mind at least until some details firm up — which may be quite a while yet. -ED]