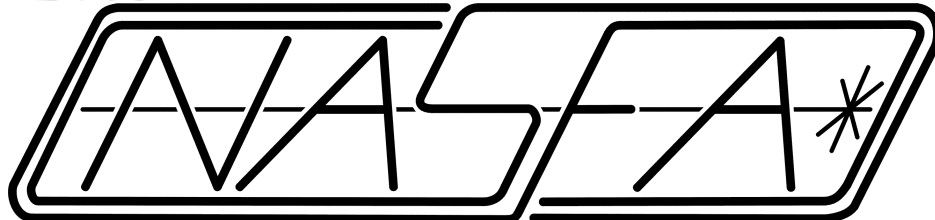


The



Shuttle

April 2015

The Next NASFA Meeting is 6:30P Saturday 18 April 2015 at the Regular Location

Concom: 3P Saturday 18 April 2015, at the Church

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6:30P Saturday 18 April 2015**. Note that this is a **week later than normal** to accommodate MidSouthCon. The meeting will be at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

PLEASE NOTE that per a vote at the October 2014 meeting, the start of the Business Meeting has changed from 6P to 6:30P. Programs are still scheduled to start at 7P.

APRIL PROGRAM

The April program is to be determined at press time.

APRIL ATMM

The April After-The-Meeting Meeting will be hosted at the church by Doug and Mary Lampert. The usual rules will apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink. Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETING

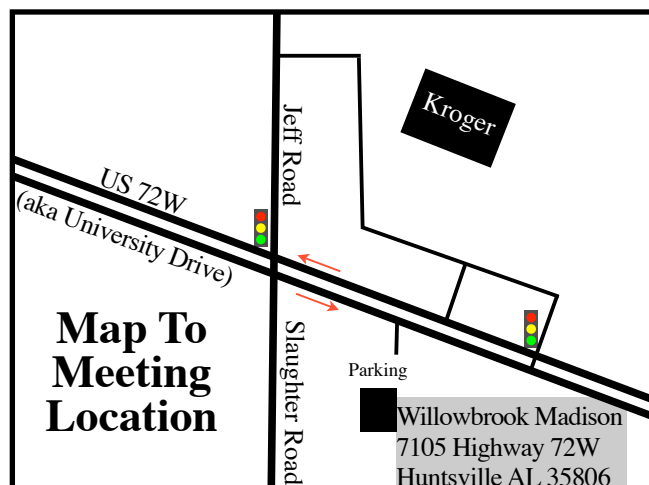
The next Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting will be at 3P on 18 April 2015—the same day as this month's club meeting. It will be held at the same place as the club meeting, Willowbrook Baptist Church. There will be a dinner break between the Concom Meeting and the NASFA Business Meeting.

The intent going forward is for the concom to meet on club

meeting days, at least until we get close enough to the con to require going to two meetings a month. Stay tuned, though, and consider all meeting dates past February as tentative until confirmed.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

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



Continuing Our 35th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

News & Info	2
Minutes of the March Meeting	2
NASFA Calendar	2
Hugo Awards Finalists.....	3

Awards Roundup	5
<i>No Need for a Questing Beast</i> —Chapter 13	6
Letters of Comment	7
Art by Jean-François Robert	9

Deadline for the May 2015 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 27 April 2015

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 for 2015 are TBD at press time. We need ATMM volunteers all remaining months in 2015 except possibly November.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All but one remaining 2015 NASFA meeting dates are currently scheduled on the normal 3rd Saturday. The July 2015 meeting has been shifted to the 4th Saturday (25 July 2015) to avoid a conflict with Con Kasterborous.

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>.

News & Info

TAFF WINNER

Nina Horvath has won the 2015 westbound Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <taff.org.uk>, in a well-contested race with Wolf von Witting. This appears to be the first westbound TAFF race with no UK candidate; both candidates being from the European continent. The final tally was:

Nina Horvath	46
Wolf von Witting	35
No preference	18
Hold Over Funds	1

The total of 100 votes was down a bit from the 2014 total of 139 in an eastbound year. The previous westbound year (2013) had 121 votes. Both candidates posted thoughts about the race and TAFF in general in the comments on the *File 770* blog at <file770.com/?p=21806>.



FAAN AWARDS

Winners of the 2015 FAAn Awards (for fanzine work in 2014) <corflu.org/history/faan.html> were announced during Corflu 32 <corflu.org>, held 27–29 March 2015 at the Vermont Hotel in Newcastle upon Tyne UK. The winners are:

Genzine	<i>Banana Wings</i> , Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, eds.
Personal Fanzine	<i>Vibrator</i> , Graham Charnock, ed.
Single Issue	<i>Trap Door #31</i>
Fan Writer	Mark Plummer
Fan Artist	Steve Stiles
Letterhack	Paul Skelton
Fanzine Cover	<i>Banana Wings #56</i> , D West
Fan Website	eFanzines.com
Lifetime Achievement Award	Peter Weston

2015 WOLLHEIM SCHOLARSHIP

The New York Science Fiction Society (aka Lunarians) has given a scholarship to **Julia Wetherell** from the Donald A. and Elsie B. Wollheim Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund is for persons from the greater New York metro area to help them participate in such writers workshops. Ms Wetherell will attend the 2015 Clarion West Writers Workshop.

March Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The March meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, March 28, 2015, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:36:04P by Vice President Mike Kennedy using Thor's hammer Mjölñir as a gavel. [Does that make me worthy? Of what? -ED] "Mary and Doug are off chasing foul balls." Electronic iPad crickets filled in for Mary's crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Sam checked to confirm that everyone at the meeting had paid their 2015 NASFA dues.

Would anyone like to railroad a 2016 Con†Stellation con chair? There were no attempts at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The next Con†Stellation, Coma Berenices, will be held October 16–18, 2015.

Mike K. noted that, "There's no business..."

Adam completed the sentence with, "... like show business."

CON BUSINESS

Shelly, Con†Stellation 2015 co-con chair, announced that we got Orson Scott Card for Guest of Honor. They are working on other guests.

The concom (Con†Stellation convention committee meeting) got some business done. They set prices on dealers' tables.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46:19P.

March's program was a presentation from Jeff Hester of Five Fans Productions about his iPad game "Fliggles" and how he developed it in his spare time. Adam and Maria Grim hosted the After the Meeting Meeting at the meeting location.

NASFA Calendar

APRIL

- 01 April Fools' Day.
- 02 Jueves Santo.
- 02–05 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
- 03 Good Friday.
- 03–05 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
- 03–05 MTAC in Love—Nashville TN.
- 03–05 Taiga Con—Atlanta GA.
- 04 First Day of Passover.
- 05 Easter.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 07 World Health Day.
- 09–12 Furry Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
- 10 Orthodox Good Friday.
- 10–12 221B Con—Atlanta GA.
- 11 Last Day of Passover.
- 12 Orthodox Easter.
- 13 BD: Thomas Jefferson.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.

- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
15 Tax Day.
17-19 JordanCon 7—Atlanta GA.
17-19 Anime St. Louis—St. Louis MO.
17-19 LexiCon—Lexington KY.
18* Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison.
18* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: Mary and
Doug Lampert.
21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
21 National Library Workers' Day.
21 Queen's Anniversary.
22 Administrative Professionals Day.
24-26 Tattoo Arts & Horror Fest—Huntsville AL.
24-26 Trek Trax—Atlanta GA.
24-26 Catan Con—Nashville TN.
25 Geek & Meet—Augusta GA.
25-26 Marble City Comicon—Knoxville TN.
26 BD: Chloe Airoldi.
30 BD: Mark Maxwell.
30 Día del Niño.

JUNE

- 13–14 Shatterdome Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
14 Flag Day.
14 BD: Ali Scanland.
17 BD: Jeff Freeman.
18 Ramadan starts.
19–21 Hypericon—Nashville TN.
19–21 Gameroom Expo—Atlanta GA.
20* Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. **TENTATIVE**.
20* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
21 BD: PieEyedDragon.
21 Summer Solstice.
21 Fathers’ Day/Fête des Pères/Día del Padre.
26–28 Hamacon—Huntsville AL.
26–28 LibertyCon 28—Chattanooga TN.
JULY
02 BD: Deb Stone.
03 Independence Day (observed).
04 Independence Day.
09–12 Play On Con—Birmingham AL.
09 Nunavut Day.
10–12 Anime Blues Con V—Memphis TN.
10–12 ShudderCon—Chattanooga TN.
11 Nashville Comic & Toy Day—Nashville TN.
18–19 Con Kasterborous—Huntsville AL.
24–26 ArmadilloCon 37—Austin TX.
25* Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. **TENTATIVE**.
25* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
PLEASE NOTE that this is a week later than usual,
due to a convention conflict.
18 Eid al-Fitr.
26 Parents’ Day.
29 BD: Mark Paulk.

Hugo and Campbell Awards Finalists Announced: A Kerfuffle Begins

Finalists for the 2014 Hugo awards and the 2014 John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer have been announced. The winners will be announced and the awards presented at Sasquan <sasquan.org>, the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in 19–23 August 2015 in Spokane WA.

viewed as controversial.

For the last few years, a shifting group of writers has been promoting works and persons for the Hugo/Campbell Awards under the Sad Puppies banner. This year the 3rd version of Sad Puppies was joined by the similar but distinct Rabid Puppies. While their rhetoric differs, both are at least partly motivated by what they term Social Justice Warriors and a belief that certain types of works/persons are discriminated against by either the publishing industry, the awards process, or both.

The two Puppies lists had a lot of overlap but not 100%. The Sad Puppies list is not *quite* presented as a slate by this year's leader, though the title of the article presenting it does use that term <bradrtorgersen.wordpress.com/2015/02/01/sad-puppies-3-the-2015-hugo-slate>. The Rabid Puppies list <voxday.blogspot.com/2015/02/rabid-puppies-2015.html> is quite clearly presented as a slate ("I encourage those who value my opinion on matters related to science fiction and fantasy to nominate them precisely as they are").

The power of slates in the Hugo nominating round—as opposed to generic recommendation lists which often list 10 or more works in a category—is that they can focus the vote of smaller groups. Each person following the slate can nominate the same 5 works. Persons not following the slate will tend to scatter their 5 nominations over a much larger group of works/persons.

It also seems likely—at least based on online comments—that the slate(s) motivated people with little or no prior history of Worldcon activities to buy Supporting Memberships in Worldcon specifically for the purpose of following the Puppies' lead in the Hugos. It looks like that may have been successful in that the number of nominating votes in this year's Hugos set a record (2122), even though this year's convention promises to be much smaller than Loncon 3 last year—the previous record holder.

The results were pretty overwhelmingly successful for the Sad/Rabid Puppies. 61 of the 85 slots (~72%) on the Hugo/Campbell final ballot appeared on one or both of the slates. So, either the various Puppies were *exceptionally* talented in picking candidates that voters independently supported, or they were pretty darn successful in getting out votes for their selectees.

All of this has led to a great deal of *sturm und drang* online. There are calls from some folks, for instance, to vote a straight "No Award" ticket, even in categories with little or no influence by the Puppies—sort of a "burn down the village to save it" approach. More nuanced versions of this call for selective No Award voting—sparing nominees who were not on either slate. Some Puppies supporters counter by saying that multiple No Award wins would be a victory for the Puppies. Others go further—calling for a full scorched earth policy that would "destroy" the Hugos.

There are many, many more aspects of this I haven't even touched. Readers interested in how this type of campaigning—on all sides—may affect both this year's awards and the future of the Hugo/Campbell Awards are invited (even urged) to research it further. Personally, I think it is a sad devolution toward the type of purely partisan arguing seen between the major political parties in the US. I am, in fact, somewhat fearful for the future of the Hugos/Campbells. For a somewhat centrist view (by a self-proclaimed political liberal) I recommend a series of entries <grm.livejournal.com/417125.html> by George R.R. Martin on his "Not A Blog" as one source of information.

Whew.

All that said, the finalists by category for the 2014 Hugo and Campbell Awards are:

NOVEL (1,827 nominating ballots)

The Goblin Emperor, Katherine Addison (Tor)
The Dark Between the Stars, Kevin J. Anderson (Tor)
Skin Game, Jim Butcher (Roc)
Lines of Departure, Marko Kloos (47North)
Ancillary Sword, Ann Leckie (Orbit US; Orbit UK)

NOVELLA (1,083 nominating ballots)

"Flow," Arlan Andrews, Sr. (*Analog* November 2014)
Big Boys Don't Cry, Tom Kratman (Castalia House)
One Bright Star to Guide Them, John C. Wright (Castalia House)
"Pale Realms of Shade," John C. Wright (*The Book of Feasts & Seasons*)
"The Plural of Helen of Troy," John C. Wright (*City Beyond Time: Tales of the Fall of Metachronopolis*)

NOVELETTE (1,031 nominating ballots)

"The Journeyman: In the Stone House," Michael F. Flynn (*Analog* June 2014)
"Championship B'tok," Edward M. Lerner (*Analog* September 2014)
"Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust, Earth to Alluvium," Gray Rinehart (*Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show* May 2014)
"The Triple Sun: A Golden Age Tale," Rajnar Vajra (*Analog* August 2014)
"Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," John C. Wright (*The Book of Feasts & Seasons*)

SHORT STORY (1,174 nominating ballots)

"On a Spiritual Plain," Lou Antonelli (*Sci Phi Journal* #2 November 2014)
"Goodnight Stars," Annie Bellet (*The End is Now*)
"Totaled," Kary English (*Galaxy's Edge* July 2014)
"Turncoat," Steve Rzasa (*Riding the Red Horse*)
"The Parliament of Beasts and Birds," John C. Wright (*The Book of Feasts & Seasons*)

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG (1,285 nominating ballots)

Captain America: The Winter Soldier
Edge of Tomorrow *Guardians of the Galaxy*
Interstellar *The Lego Movie*

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT (938 nominating ballots)

Doctor Who: "Listen"
The Flash: "Pilot"
Game of Thrones: "The Mountain and the Viper"
Grimm: "Once We Were Gods"
Orphan Black: "By Means Which Have Never Yet Been Tried"

RELATED WORK (1,150 nominating ballots)

Letters from Gardner, Lou Antonelli (The Merry Blacksmith Press)
"The Hot Equations: Thermodynamics and Military SF," Ken Burnside (*Riding the Red Horse*)
"Why Science is Never Settled," Tedd Roberts (Baen.com)
Wisdom from My Internet, Michael Z. Williamson (Patriarchy Press)
Transhuman and Subhuman: Essays on Science Fiction and Awful Truth, John C. Wright (Castalia House)

GRAPHIC STORY (785 nominating ballots)

Sex Criminals, Volume 1: One Weird Trick, Matt Fraction; art by Chip Zdarsky (Image Comics)
The Zombie Nation Book #2: Reduce Reuse Reanimate, Carter Reid (The Zombie Nation)
Saga, Volume 3, Brian K. Vaughan; art by Fiona Staples (Image Comics)
Rat Queens, Volume 1: Sass and Sorcery, Kurtis J. Weibe; art

by Roc Upchurch (Image Comics)

Ms. Marvel, Volume 1: No Normal, G. Willow Wilson;
art by Adrian Alphona and Jake Wyatt (Marvel Comics)

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, LONG FORM

(712 nominating ballots)

Vox Day Sheila Gilbert Jim Minz
Anne Sowards Toni Weisskopf

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, SHORT FORM

(870 nominating ballots)

Jennifer Brozek Vox Day Mike Resnick
Bryan Thomas Schmidt Edmund R. Schubert

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST (753 nominating ballots)

Julie Dillon Jon Eno Nick Greenwood
Alan Pollack Carter Reid

SEMPROZINE (660 nominating ballots)

Abyss & Apex
Andromeda Spaceways In-Flight Magazine
Beneath Ceaseless Skies
Lightspeed
Strange Horizons

FANZINE (576 nominating ballots)

Black Gate *Elitist Book Reviews*
Journey Planet *The Revenge of Hump Day*

Tangent Online

FANCAST (668 nominating ballots)

Adventures in SF Publishing
Dungeon Crawlers Radio
Galactic Suburbia Podcast
The Sci Phi Show
Tea and Jeopardy

FAN WRITER (777 nominating ballots)

Dave Freer Amanda S. Green Jeffro Johnson
Laura J. Mixon Cedar Sanderson

FAN ARTIST (296 nominating ballots)

Ninni Aalto Brad Foster Elizabeth Leggett
Spring Schoenhuth Steve Stiles

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD (851 nominating ballots)

Wesley Chu* Jason Cordova Kary English*
Rolf Nelson Eric S. Raymond

* Second and last year of eligibility

BSFA AWARDS

The British Science Fiction Association <www.bsfa.co.uk> announced the winners of the 2014 BSFA Awards at Eastercon Dysprosium <www.eastercon.org>, held 3–6 April 2015 at the Park Inn Heathrow (London area) UK. The winners are:

Novel *Ancillary Sword*, Anne Leckie (Orbit)

Short Fiction “*The Honey Trap*,” Ruth E J Booth
(*La Femme*, Newcon Press)

Non-Fiction “*Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers in the Great War*,” Edward James (fantastic-writers-and-the-great-war.com)

Art “*The Wasp Factory*” (sculpture),
Tessa Farmer (after Iain Banks)

LFS ANNOUNCES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Libertarian Futurist Society <www.lfs.org> has announced that **F. Paul Wilson** will be awarded a **Special Prometheus Award for Lifetime Achievement** at Marcon 50 <marcon.org>, to be held 8–10 May 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus OH.

SFWA ANNOUNCES SOLSTICE AWARDS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <sfwa.org> has announced that **Joanna Russ** and **Stanley Schmidt** will be awarded 2015 **Solstice Awards** (for individuals who have had “a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape. It is especially meant to recognize the non-authorial figures in the industry, who are all too often taken for granted in regards to lifetime achievement”). The awards will be presented during the Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held 4–7 May 2015 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago IL.

TIPTREE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award Council <tiptree.org> has announced that **Monica Byrne** and **Jo Walton** have won the 2014 **James Tiptree, Jr. Award** (for “science fiction or fantasy that expands or explores our understanding of gender”). The winning novels are *The Girl in the Road* (Crown) and *My Real Children* (Tor) respectively. The awards (including \$1000 for each author) will be presented during WisCon 39 <www.wiscon.info>, to be held 22–25 May 2015 at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor’s Club in Madison WI.



CLARKE AWARD SHORTLIST

The shortlist for the 2015 Arthur C. Clarke Award (for the “best science fiction novel of the year [...] whose UK first edition was published in the previous calendar year”) has been announced. The winner will be announced 6 May 2015, at an award ceremony at Foyles Bookshop, London UK. This is effectively part of the SCI-FI-LONDON film festival. The nominees are:

The Girl With All The Gifts, M.R. Carey (Orbit)
The Book Of Strange New Things, Michel Faber (Canongate)
Europe In Autumn, Dave Hutchinson (Solaris)
Memory Of Water, Emmi Itäranta (HarperVoyager)
The First Fifteen Lives Of Harry August, Claire North (Orbit)
Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel (Picador)

Awards Roundup

PHILIP K. DICK AWARD

The 2015 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> (for “distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States”) was presented during Norwescon 38 <www.norwescon.org>, held 2–5 April 2015 at the



DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac (Seattle area) WA. The winner was *The Book of the Unnamed Midwife* by Meg Elison (Sybaritic Press). A special citation went to *Elysium* by Jennifer Marie Brissett (Aqueduct Press). Judges for 2015 were

James Glass, David Higgins, Lisa Mason, and Jack Skillingstead.

Just a Walk in the Park

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 13

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 somewhat less time "on camera" in this adventure, but still plays a major part.]

On Wednesday, Luna arose early and descended from her temporary lodging in Ravenclaw Tower. After eating a light breakfast in the Great Hall, she put several soft cookies into her bag. Exiting the castle, she walked down the road (avoiding some of the incoming repairmen) and out the main gates. She waved at Mundungus Fletcher, who seemed to be haggling with one of the masons, and proceeded into Hogsmeade. There she knocked at the door of what once was Zonko's Joke Shop, but was now a part of Weasley's Wizard Wheezes. After several minutes, someone finally opened the door and let her in.

Ron: Sorry, Luna. Just got here. The most incredible things were in the *Prophet* this morning!

Luna: Was it about the dragon? Rita Skeeter said she was going to wait a day before breaking the story.

Ron: Yeah. Do *you* know how much is truth? This *is* Rita, after all. But those *pictures*!

Luna: Oh, I met the dragon at Hagrid's on Monday. We had tea together there with Professor McGonagall.

Ron: Really? Is it as civilized as all that? That one Hagrid hatched bit me and poisoned my hand.

Luna: Oh, yes. She was quite pleased at Hagrid's invitation to tea.

Ron: And Hagrid was in heaven, I'll bet! I wonder why Fred didn't say anything.

Fred Weasley (portrait): I'm here, Ron. They wouldn't let me leave sooner.

Ron: Luna, Hermione told me to send you right along. Ginny and her kids are already there. There are some boxes of muggle stuff there for the store there. Please bring some along when you return.

Luna: OK. (She goes over to the fireplace, collects some powder from a jar on the mantle and tosses it onto the fire. Emerald green flames blossom up. Luna steps into them and says) "Ron and Hermione's." She shortly steps out into a sitting room occupied by two women, two infants, one cat, and one toddler. The women are chatting as they pack this and that into large diaper bags.

Young James Potter looks up from the cat, spots Luna, and says "Bikkee, Loonee?"

Luna looks to Ginny Potter, who nods, takes a cookie from her bag, and hands it to the toddler.

James Potter: *Bikkee!* (waving said cookie in the air and then starting to chew on it).

Hermione: Glad you could make it, Luna. I just have to get out in the air sometimes.

Ginny: I told her a walk in the open would help. Are we going to Hyde Park, then?

Hermione: Does anyone have any preference?

Luna: Could we maybe go to Kensington Gardens, instead?

Hermione: Well, it's right next to Hyde Park. That's no problem. Why Kensington?

Luna: I think I want to look at something, there. Are we still traveling as Muggles?

Hermione: Yes. The practice will be good for us. That's why the diaper bags are so huge. It would look rather odd if I started pulling all sorts of things out of my little beaded bag. You can

tell us all the news from Hogwarts. Is there really a dragon there, now?

Luna: Yes. I walked past her this morning where she was sleeping by the gate. I want to talk to you about some things she told me over tea.

— O — O — O —

They walk down to the corner and board the next Muggle bus. Exiting at Lancaster Gate Station, Hermione takes out some kind of camera and starts taking photos like all the Muggle visitors. They cross Bayswater Road and enter Kensington Gardens by Marlborough Gate (pausing there for a brief visit to the lavs).

They speak only of (rehearsed) inconsequential items until they start strolling in the park beside The Long Water. Under a surreptitiously cast Muffliato spell, Hermione and Ginny open up. Amazed that the monster is so genteel, Hermione's attention is particularly caught by the references to tailor-made creatures and the "something extra" allegedly present in Luna's flesh. Hermione confirms the peculiar place that mitochondrial DNA occupies in human heredity.

Very soon, they reach the Peter Pan statue. They hang back until they can approach it with no others nearby. The base contains figures of mice, rabbits, squirrels, and so-called fairies. As they get closer, the monument alters slightly, in their sight, like the memorial in Godric's Hollow. Other creatures, and portions of creatures, are now revealed: mermaids, bears, birds... and something that could be part of a crocodile... or a dragon. Luna stretches up, looking out across the park as if searching for something... a rare trace of sadness in her eyes.

Ginny: What are you looking at, Luna?

Luna: My mom used to live over that way; but someone else owns the old Darling house, now.

— O — O — O —

Hermione: Luna, you and Ginny pose there for a moment, please [fumbles with camera]. OK, thank you.

Luna: (Holding up her hands) Hermione, do you see anything odd about my hands?

Hermione: No, not at all. Why?

Luna: Look at the shadow of them on the bronze.

Ginny: I see it, Luna! Your left forefinger's shadow is only as long as that ring finger! How is that?

Luna: It's always been that way; at least since before my mum died. What do you suppose it means? Before Bill and Fleur's wedding, I was admiring your garden gnomes and one of them bit me there. They do seem to be aware of such odd things.

Hermione: I've never heard of such an aberration. Didn't the dragon say she was looking for a witch with something extra and something missing? You're missing a tiny bit of shadow. I read that Peter Pan lost his entire shadow at least once. Luna, do you believe this statue may be a good image of Peter?

Luna: (Studying the sculpture closely) Only partially. I seem to recall that Peter's face had a bit of a wicked streak, like all children. He *is* a child after all... bound to never grow up. Children can be very cruel. This bronze statue doesn't show the Devil in Peter. Remember what Aberforth told you about the Muggle boys who tormented his sister Ariana, not to mention what Harry told us about Tom Riddle himself; and some of our own classmates. Myrtle had her own list of tormentors.

Hermione: I think I really *must* go and have a look at this dragon. But I will do a little preliminary research, first.

Ginny: Off to the library again, Hermione?

Hermione: No and yes. I will start by looking into the Muggle internet. I keep wishing there was *some* way of storing the Hogwarts library in digital form. Months of research could be

covered in mere hours.

Luna: Computers don't work so well for wizarding folk.

Hermione: They do if you can shield the devices from magical interference. I know how to do that. The Iron Mountain storage facility fire makes me nervous about physical libraries. Legal documents, business records, hospital patient information—all completely gone. The flames were so high, you could see them all across London! It reminded me, in a way, of the ancient Library of Alexandria, burning.

Ginny: Hermione, Harry told me a wizard-fireman on the scene spotted, and captured, a Salamander.

Luna: Well, it would have been attracted to the blaze. It's in their innocent nature.

Ginny: This Salamander *started* the fire. The Aurors are very interested in finding out how it *got* there.

Hermione: Deliberate! Do they think someone put it there?

Ginny: With the very strong smell of pepper, they are quite certain; and are working on the *who* question.

Hermione: And anything destroyed by Salamander fire is gone for good. Dragon-fire damage can sometimes be reversed.

— O — O — O —

Back at home, the witches feed the children and put them down for nap time. Hermione opens the door to her library and then opens a cupboard-like door to reveal the metal mesh window that opens into the den, so she can hear the children. She sits down at the desk and moves her latest Diana Tregarde novel to the shelf before placing her wand into an open mesh cylinder like a short umbrella stand. Ginny and Luna add their wands and pull up chairs to sit beside her.

Ginny: I'd never have thought you one to be bitten by Muggle romance novels.

Hermione: Well, and it wouldn't be obvious, but the more of her works I read: I'm convinced that she is *not* a Muggle. I got her *Blood and Roses* to read while I was pregnant and was spending so much time in the loo. It has a very historically accurate basis in the Spanish Civil War. My curiosity was aroused.

Pressing buttons on the computer, Hermione waits a few moments until the image of a neatly dressed, bald, smiling butler appears—standing in front of library shelves. A question is displayed: What can I help you find?

Hermione starts typing her requests. Then click, click, click as the search goes deeper into cyberspace. Luna watches, quietly fascinated. Ginny has seen this before and is almost bored.

Luna: "Pie-eyed Food and Drink"... "The Lizard of Oz"... Wait! What was that one? "The *Lair* of the PieEyed Dragon."

Click, click...

Luna: (Reads, then starts howling with laughter.) What bloody incredible *cheek*! And she *admitted* she was from Iceland, too!

Hermione: She has her own website? Amazing! What's this one?... Tolkien! Really? Maybe she was just having you on.

Luna: Look at the pictures. That one is definitely her!

Hermione: (Dreamily) Those old Egyptian wizards did some amazing stuff, but did they ever come near the Atlanteans? I have *got* to go have a talk with your long, scaly friend when she wakes up. Ron says Charlie and Percy were called there for something. Loads of wizards are starting to pour into Hogsmeade. The Express has scheduled specials.

Ginny: As a goods train, they have to transport loads of food and such, beginning well before the start of term.

Luna: Charlie is there for the Dragon Research and Restraint Bureau. I do hope they don't try to send someone from the Committee for the Disposal of Dangerous Creatures. They were talking about restricting access to the grounds, except for

school or Ministry business. I have a special library pass.

Hermione: Well, I need to go and check on the house elves before term starts. I am only on maternity leave from my position with the Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures. And, I've been meaning to take Rose to see where her daddy works. Thank goodness for the Floo Network! I wouldn't dare apparate with my baby. What if she got splinched!

Ginny: Me neither; not with my babies. I'll talk to Harry about Hogsmeade. How can I get into Hogwarts, then? Quidditch correspondent for the *Daily Prophet* is scarcely a Ministry job.

Hermione: I am allowed an assistant. You can be with me.

Ginny: Right, then. I suppose we should avoid the new weekend rush. Let's try to go this Friday. We'll all know more then.

— O — O — O —

[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?)]

Letters of Comment

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Margaret Middleton
550 Waterworks Road
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27 March 2015

Surprisingly, this issue arrived completely intact. The last issue had lost most of its outermost page, and there have been past issues when nothing arrived except the outermost page, and that enclosed in one of the Post Orifices "Oops, this got damaged" envelopes. (I'll have to remember the "bodybag" term.)

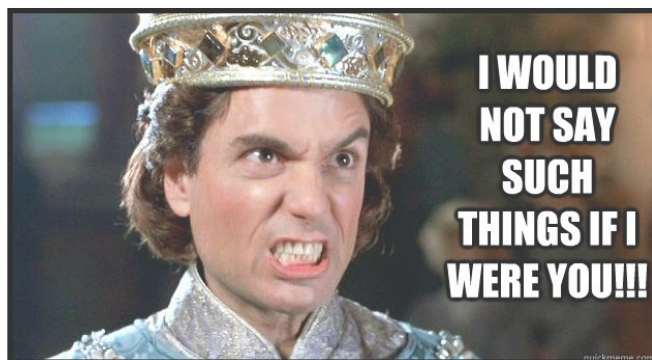
I had to chuckle at the "If I were you, I wouldn't" quote, apropos of the seconding of a nomination as chaircritter for Con†Stellation 2016. Having been a conchair in my misspent youth, I totally sympathize with the speaker.

I'm enclosing my \$15 to continue my dead-tree subscription to the *Shuttle*, despite its frequent postal misadventures.

Regarding the weather comments by Lloyd Penney and Sheryl Birkhead: east-central MS got the most snow most folks around here could ever remember seeing on the 25th of February. One acquaintance of mine reported measuring nine inches in his front yard, and lost power for several days. My yard got maybe six inches, which was enough to break a bunch of pine tree branches and knock even-more dead branches out of the deciduous trees. I think every tree on the property had branches on the ground from that storm. We also lost power, but two summers ago my husband had installed a generator big enough to power the whole house, including all his Civil Air Patrol and Ham radios, as well as keeping the freezer and the refrigerator healthy. It turns on automatically, but not quite fast enough to keep all the clocks that run on house power from requiring resetting. So I'm not at all sure exactly how long the power was officially off because I did not take notes of when the generator turned on and off.

[That was Jim, my brother, declining the *chairity*. In my mind, a more accurate phrase might have been "I would not say such things if I were you," quoting from *The Princess Bride*. Of course, Jim may understandably not have wanted to be associ-

ated with Prince Humperdinck. Many natives of North Alabama probably also saw their *personal* record snowfall this past winter—but it wasn't a record setter over recorded history. (31 December 1963 still holds the snowfall record in Huntsville. That winter was pretty bad 100 miles south in Birmingham, too, where I lived at the time. The winter of 1963–4 lives in family lore because of the extra efforts involved in getting Mom to the hospital for Jim's birth.) I'm quite glad you enjoy the *Shuttle*—in paper form or otherwise—though I'd also be quite glad to get rid of the large majority of paper copies; making exceptions only for a few people on our list who don't have a computer/internet connection. -ED]



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

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29 March 2015

Deadline's close! So, time to get a loc written for the next issue. I have here the March issue, and here's what I thought of as I read it...

Deadline is April 1? April Fool's Day? Maybe this is an even better reason to write this letter of comment now. No one will think I'm trying to pull a fast one on anyone.

Ustream... I was on Ustream earlier today, trying to catch who won the FAAN Awards. Nope, wasn't me. I doubt I will tune in for the Hugo announcements. I don't have a vote any more, and they've become extremely political. I am sure the results will be printed in lots of places.

Ah, there's my birthday on the calendar. When that birthday comes around (a Tuesday this year), I shall be 56 years old. Starting to feel it, too.

Our congratulations to Sandra Kasturi and Brett Savory for their ChiZine Publications winning the HWA Specialty Press Award. We do know of one Hugo nominee, but he got a little overexcited at being nominated again, and put the word out on Facebook. Everything's been found and erased, but still... It's one thing to be nominated again, but also know that you have approximately zero chance of winning. Also, congrats to Helen Marshall for at least two nominations.

Greetings to PieEyed! You are offering some magic some Hogwarts professors only know as legend. I see the beginnings of a magical teachers' college here. Ah, we knew Prof. Tolkien had to get it somewhere... but if you imbued him with the idea for Middle-Earth, how were you able to visit that place? Or should I not be asking such questions? If only the exchange of information was so easy and so wished-for; we'd all be better educated, and perhaps we'd avoid a war or several.

My loc... Paul Skelton was the FAAN Award for Best Letterhack. I believe the actual voting results will be revealed shortly. I might be able to see how well I did.

It is a Sunday night, and I have to consider going to work tomorrow (yuck), so off this goes. We are still working out when to go to London, but I think we have some concrete plans set, so we can determine when we want to go, where we are going, and when we shall return. Many thanks for this issue; wish we could come down to Huntsville to visit for a Con+Stellation. Maybe one year. Until that happens, see you next issue.

[This month's deadline was shorter than usual because there were only 3 weeks between NASFA meetings. The March meeting was shifted to avoid a con that a number of people were attending. When we shift a monthly club meeting we try to avoid squeezing them so close together—but if the months fall wrong we end up with a 3-week interval no matter which way we shift (earlier or later). Yep, the Hugos got very political this year. There are some details elsewhere in this issue, but I don't plan to try to explain the *whole* kerfuffle. I will admit I am concerned about the effects of the whole Sad and Rabid Puppies thing ratcheting up politicization of the Hugos may have on the awards in the long run. (Not so much in the short run; any one year could be a blip.) It would be sad to see the prestige of such a longstanding set of awards damaged. -ED]

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Toni Weisskopf

29 March 2015

Great, as always, to get the *Shuttle*. Just wanted to say thank you for your response to Sheryl Birkhead on *Endeavour*. I've been watching and enjoying them, but did have the nagging feeling I was missing something. Now I see I was right! If you get access to those uncut versions, let me know!

[It appears that full-length versions of *Endeavour* might be available on DVD, but only in the version released in the UK. Among other possible issues, the DVDs are "region 2" encoded, which means a typical DVD player in the US will not play them. One would need a "region free" player. And, a number of reviews of that release claim that even those DVDs have edits (albeit more minor than those on US TV). All the Blu-ray versions I'm aware of originate in the US so you wouldn't have the region problem, but they are Masterpiece Theatre co-branded so I'd be suspicious about whether they are an edited version or the original. -ED]



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