



WSFA Journal
Follows the Apollo
13 Precedent

Review of *The Mortal*
Word

Rarity: *The*
Incomplete
Enchanter

ArmadilloCon
Complained
Capclave Spoiled
Martha Wells

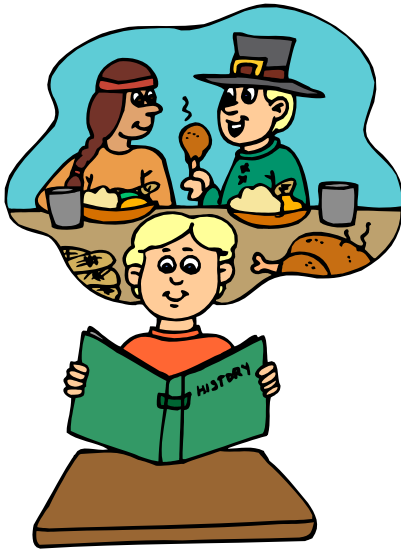
Drafting Starship
Deckplans

Mark Roth Turns Pro;
Sells Story

Carolyn's Trip to Australia Part VI

Zambia Comes to Capclave!

WSFA Journal Follows the Apollo 13 Precedent



Let's get started said Prez Bob opening the 11-1-19 meeting. It is the First Friday in November. Last meeting at Capclave we had a quorum and introduced people to WSFA.

Sam S reported the treasury had almost \$\$\$ and said year over year is up relative to this time last year, \$\$\$ because we haven't yet paid hotel bill from Capclave. Sam S said Collette put it on her credit card and they haven't finalized the bill yet. They gave her a preliminary bill and then a second final that didn't match so they are finalizing it.

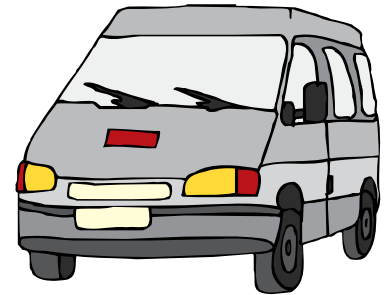
Sarah read Capclave report from Bill's email. We have a surplus.

The general response online has been positive. There was one complaint about the sign in the con suite to refrain from discussing politics. We will review and discuss this for next year as we will be less than a month from the general election.

Total Registration was xx up from xx. Paid registration was xx up from xx. There were xx new attendees.

Please get any remaining outstanding receipts in to Sam S. so he can close the books before the end of the year. It looks like we will have a surplus for the year.

I have requested that we budget for a rental van for Kathi Overton to bring in tech for 2020. With some additional needs, I don't want Kathi having to make several trips to get AV.



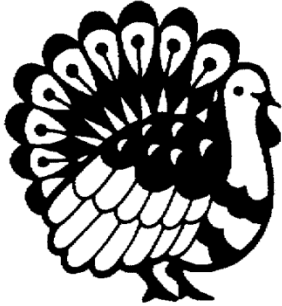
Thank you to all of the people who volunteered this year. Which brings us to 2020. We will need everyone to pitch in during Capclave 2020. It can be as simple as letting people know that there are 5 minutes left and to stop. It can also be helping to get guests from and to the airport. Everyone will need to help advertise the convention as well. Especially once we have bookmarks and other materials.

The meal next year will be a Saturday morning breakfast, not Thursday evening dinner.

I've asked Kate Secor to run Program this year and she plans to do it. We are shifting to the same program that Balticon and several other conventions are using. We'll need program plans and ideas.

See you some time in the future.

Sam S said that registration was up ## from last year, not up to 2014 level. About half of attendees are regulars, a quarter brand new. Every year some of the new people become regulars. Sam has records going back to 2006, about ## went to all. Elizabeth suggested a ribbon for people who have been to all of them. People hear about us from all sorts of ways.



George Shaner for Capclave 2021 said we will be hosting 1632 minicon. Eric Flint has said yes. Zen Lizard will be programming chair and hopefully Collette will be talking to the hotel. My main philosophy, this may turn into Capclave lite, but shouldn't be relaxacon as we'd lose too much momentum. This time next month will start sending inquiries for the other GoH.

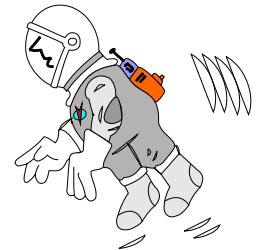
Trustees, election next May, trustees are planning (for a coup said Kathi) a slate, said Rodger, we expect some openings. Bob said may need new VP due to George's jobs.

Entertivities – Kim said F&SF discussed Netflix animated Love Robots anthology which has adapted two of Ken Liu's stories. Courtni said algorithm different. Sam L said Baltimore Book Festival coming up. Football Groupouns.

Sam L gave schedule of the Committee to Talk about SF

No old business. We do have a guest. So please keep new business to a minimum. New business. Kim noted there will be a fifth Friday this month, the day after Thanksgiving.

Sam L said usually at this point he implores people to write for the WSFA Journal and list what cannot be sent, including sport scores. But according to the Apollo 13 precedent that allowed the movie to win the Hugo despite being factual, events involving spacemen count as SF. So following that precedent the Astro-Nats matchup counts as SF. Applause and laughter.



Kathi wants to thank WSFA members who came to the Bungalow Haunt on Halloween.

Meeting adjourned 9:44. Tom Crepeau read from his co-authored book, *Wandmaking 101: A Sunshine Mystery Magic Club Adventure*.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burselson, Rodger Burns, Apurva Desai, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, David Keener, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Kathi Overton, Aaron and Angela Pound, Mark Roth, Judy and Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Tom Crepeau, and Joe Radko.



Review of *The Mortal Word* by Genevieve Cogman Reviewed by Sam Lubell

The Mortal Word is the fifth book in The Invisible Library series about universe-hopping, book stealing librarians who act on alternate worlds as spies, diplomat, and whatever else they need to be keep worlds in balance between chaos and order in the face of dragons, the fae, and steampunk technology by acquiring and keeping books from the alternate worlds. Librarians can use a form of magic, the Language which forces inanimate objects to obey the speaker and has some smaller effects on living beings.

The main characters throughout the series are Irene Winters, a junior librarian (although one with an increasing amount of experience), Kai Strongrock, a Dragon

noble who was Irene's apprentice at the library, and the great detective Peregrine Vale. In *The Mortal Word*, Irene and Vale are asked to investigate a mysterious death in the middle of peace negotiations between the Fae and the Dragons. Naturally, everyone is keeping secrets and trying to blame the other side. Even the Library itself is not above suspicion as there is some evidence that a very rare book is involved.

After a summary of the previous book in the form of a letter from Kai to his father, the dragon king, the book opens with an action scene in which Irene has to escape a locked torture chamber on a charge of witchcraft in 16th century Germany in order to steal a rare book for the Library and freeing all the other prisoners on the specious rationalization that they would be a big distraction. Returning to her home base, a steam-powered Victorian England analog, Irene is with Kai and Vale when another librarian hires Vale to investigate the murder of the second negotiator on the dragon side before the peace talks turn into a war.

When Irene reports to her superiors, already on site in pre-Revolutionary Paris, they tell her they may need a cover up and that some Librarians, including her parents, are being held hostage by both sides. She learns that the murder may have political implications in the Dragon court, that one of the Senior Librarians wants the Library to exert more control over the worlds in the Multiverse, and that the notorious Blood Countess may be involved. Irene must confront assassins, impostor policemen, anarchists, kidnappers, old enemies, and mind-controlling Fae. The Fae have the power to cause real life to fall into archetypes from fairy tales so everything becomes more dramatic than necessary.



The whole series is a lot of fun. Irene is an engaging heroine, very competent in both magic and unraveling complex situations. Her relationships with Kai and Vale are not the cliché romantic triangle as the three act as a team without the growing romance between Irene and Kai getting in the way.

The Mortal Word works as a mystery as well as a fantasy novel. It probably will not stand alone to those new to the series. Although the author does an excellent job providing information from previous books to remind the reader, since this is the fifth book in the series, there's just too much past history with the characters. Readers should start with the first book, *The Invisible Library*. Highly recommended.

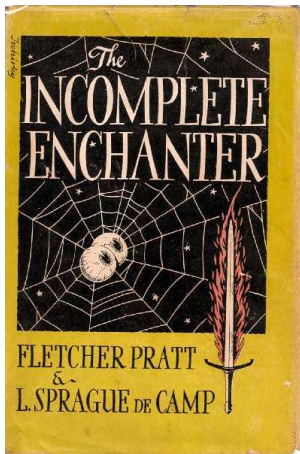
Rarity: *The Incomplete Enchanter* by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt
By Sean Wallace

I just found a paperback edition of *The Incomplete Enchanter* (<http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/pl.cgi?231117>) at a local used bookstore, Second Story Books.

Chalker lists it with this state reference: Points: "Eshbach lists fifty trade paperbound. We have never heard of this elsewhere, including from Train, and deCamp doesn't remember one, either, but we note it here."

This is basically part of a limited run of ten paperback copies, according to the penned inscription on the front endpaper, signed by Sprague De Camp, James Williams, and Oswald

Train, and given out at the very first Disclave to celebrate its launch. It is even dated for April 1950. I can take photos later this week, if you wish.



If I had to take a guess, they bound some of the hardcover signatures, slapped the hardcover dustjacket on it (the glue has failed to some extent), and there you go. Quite a few Prime, Shasta, Gnome, and more were originally dumped on this store earlier this year, and so I suspect someone associated with Disclave had it in their possession when their collection was broken up. I'm looking into it, maybe WSFA has some records from that time period. (Iffy, at best.) Only seventy-five people attended that first Disclave, so . . . I wonder who passed away recently connected to Prime Press or Disclave.

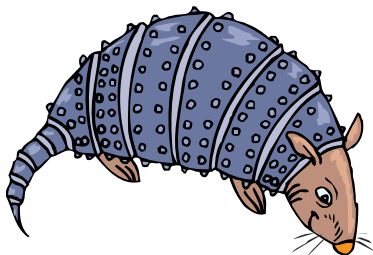
A very unusual associational item, either way. Bought for \$3.00. Obviously the bookstore owner considers paperbacks to be worthless, and priced it like any other paperback. And ignored the de Camp signature entirely. Sigh.

Editor: Do any long-time members know of a Disclave regular who might have passed away recently or sold his/her collection. Can you help Sean?

ArmadilloCon Complained Capclave Spoiled Martha Wells

Bob chaired the 11-15-19 WSFA meeting. "Alright folks, attention in the front, meeting time," said Bob. "Isn't that next month," asked Madeleine. Third Friday meeting in November, the year is almost over. Cathy asked about paying next year's membership.

Sam L. read the minutes from last meeting. Discussion of the pit and pendulum at the Bungalow Halloween.



For Capclave present, Bill said he sent a report last meeting. I will be in Albuquerque, NM next First Friday. We will do a Capclave looking back meeting at Jan 3rd at Sam S.'s. We were up in memberships. The only other thing is a preemptive early send to some of our program people. We are against Multiversecon again in Atlanta and want to get on their radar so they don't commit to that one. Nothing else to report for Capclave 2020. That's great I only have to do one. Everyone has to send in their receipts. Cathy said she hasn't done hers yet. She brought business cards. Bill said contacted Sharrin Nicole about bookmarks for coming year. Talking to John Scalzi. Saw some past guests at World Fantasy. All good. Mike Walsh said people at WFC from Armadillo con complained that we treated Martha Wells so well that we spoiled her for them. Capclave 2021 not here.

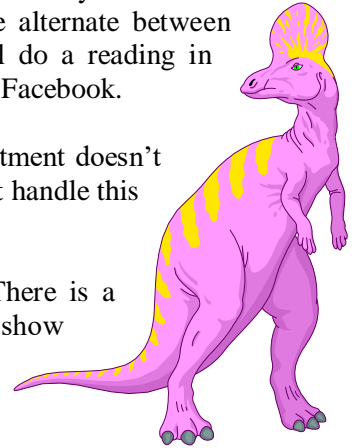
Trustees – Elizabeth said we have six months before elections in May. If interested, speak to a trustee. Lots of jobs available.

Publications. Rodger said uploading of past WSFA journals to our website. Back issues will be going up soon. New issue of *WSFA Journal* out. Elizabeth said Yahoo groups are discontinuing email lists, so if want to go on eWSFA list from Google groups see her or Sam L.

The Committee to Talk SF discussed schedule of upcoming discussions. First Friday we alternate between *Asimov's* and the *Magazine of Fantasy & SF*. For Third Friday we alternate between *Clarkesworld* and *Uncanny*. Bill said Mary G Thompson, a YA author, will do a reading in February First Friday and he will organize a dinner. He will set up something on Facebook.

Small press committee. Cathy said she will organize a meeting when her apartment doesn't look like a FEMA site. Carolyn said we need to make tweaks because she cannot handle this many stories again.

Entertivities. Cathy said Michelle Obama will speak at Politics and Prose. There is a dinosaur museum near Eva's apartment. Mike said, and some of us fossils can show up.

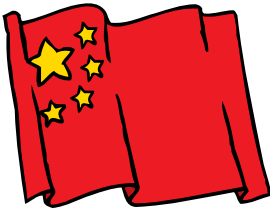


No old business.

New business. Bill said, as people may know, stuff happened at Capclave. We need a better structure in place should something happen in the future. We may want to do a committee. My initial thought is the chair or vice chair, prez or vice prez, and one other member of the board of a different gender so not three men or three women, the optics looks bad. Three people. If the prez or chair is involved the vice can be on the board. If the three feel they need to go to the board they can take it there or decide among themselves. Cathy volunteered for a committee.

Carolyn suggested a committee should be the motion. Bill said the prez can do a committee. Elizabeth said we need to have a procedure in addition to the code of conduct. Suggested a committee and a meeting on it in March. Time for the trustees to talk. Bill suggested Elizabeth as a trustee should head it. Bob said I will give you freedom, but will have to have a drop dead date. Elizabeth said interested parties should see her. Bob said, committee is now formed. Bob said code of conduct is there, clear, and give people who make decisions the flexibility that a lot of codes do not. Cathy said, it would be useful to have a book of procedures.

New people, for first second third meetings. Alex Wallace, here for first meeting, heard about us from flyer at now closed Hole in the Wall books. I'm vaguely known in online alternate histories as Spanish-Five. Run Facebook group for alt-hist. Richard Sprague. Saw us on meetup.com. Looking for like-minded people. Does models. Introvers. Lisa Adler-Goldin. Board of BSFS. Runs programming at Balticon. Head of programming for Discon III. People can talk to me about being involved in programming. Local brainstorming groups. Lives in College Park.



Announcements: Courtni had Nnedi Okorafor deface the whitewashed cover of her book. Sam L. announced his new job. Mike Taylor said Spike MacPhee died. He ran a SF bookstore in Cambridge, Mass called the Million Year Picnic until 1989.<Your humble editor bought many a book there.> Bill said, buy Capclave memberships. If it looks like we will hit 500 people, we may need to get more space. At World Fantasy, chatted with Sharon Thomas, about a new thing Malachi Older is involved in at Serial Box. Buy memberships for

Worldcon. Bill will not be at first Friday, but will be at Smofcon. Invited to Chengdu in China for Asiacon. Will speak on Friday and do panels for Discon III.

Bob said, if you want Capclave shirt for the holiday, see him now and he will bring them on Third Friday next month. Frances said there was Jeffrey Ford article in Slate and Tor.com picked it up. Mike Ikeda said his books are being reprinted. Mike Walsh has a box of books.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock on the nose.

Attendance: Courtnei Y Burleson, Rodger Burns, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Mike Taylor, Elizabeth Twitchell, Eva Whitley, Ivy Yap, Alexander Wallace, Richard Sprague, and Lisa Adler-Gorden.

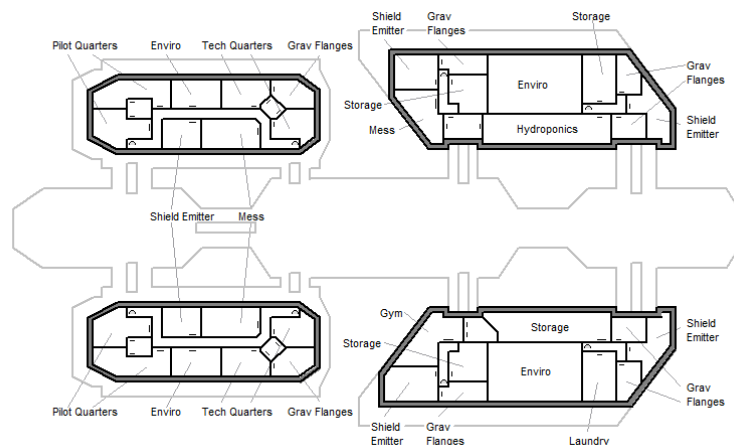
Drafting Starship Deckplans By Rodger Burns

The Afreet-class starship is a drafting exercise I did mainly just for fun and practice. Like all exercises in applied mapmaking, it basically sits at the juncture between artistic aesthetics and the common-sense planning that goes into all creative world building.

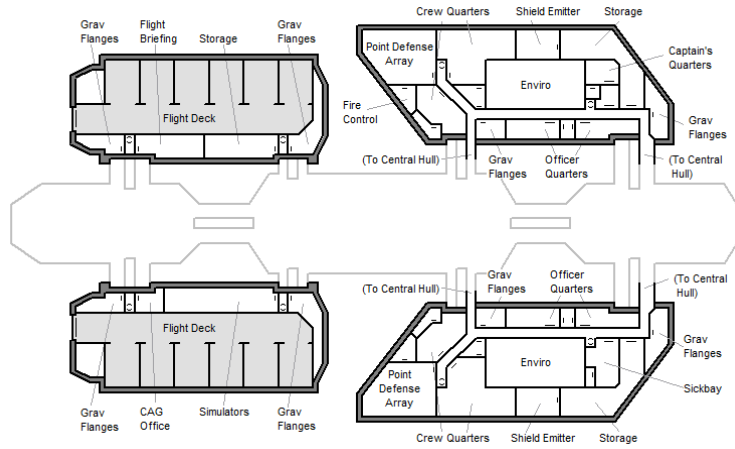
The start of the Afreet-class was a hull outline -- not necessarily a required jump-off point, but useful for providing a set of boundaries and considering overall proportion. Assigning the placement of major locations came next -- along with thinking about what would be considered 'essential' for a starship in-universe, what pieces would need to be placed close together for self-consistency, and how to most efficiently ensure that human crew could, in fact, get to every location on the ship.

About halfway into the drafting work, my brain settled on a backstory of a 'modular' build process, fabricated in parts and assembled later into a single vessel. This helped to define a few different design details (such as the superabundance of 'enviro' spaces; overbuilt to guarantee redundancy in case of bad welds between sections, or missing enviro in a different module). It also led me to imagine and plan out an alternate pod design, built around dedicated beam arrays rather than a flight deck. This alternate deckplan really showcases the meeting of aesthetics with world building - - to make a power plant fit effectively into the 'pod' physical footprint required some lateral thinking, and leaves a distinctive silhouette.

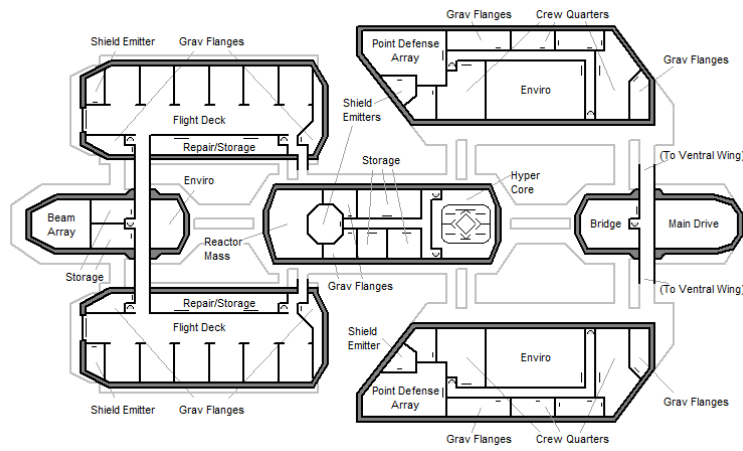
Drafting up deckplan for the Afreet-class starship was an interesting and entertaining exercise. I'd love to get feedback on what you think I did right, what you think I could have done better, and any elements you think I overlooked.



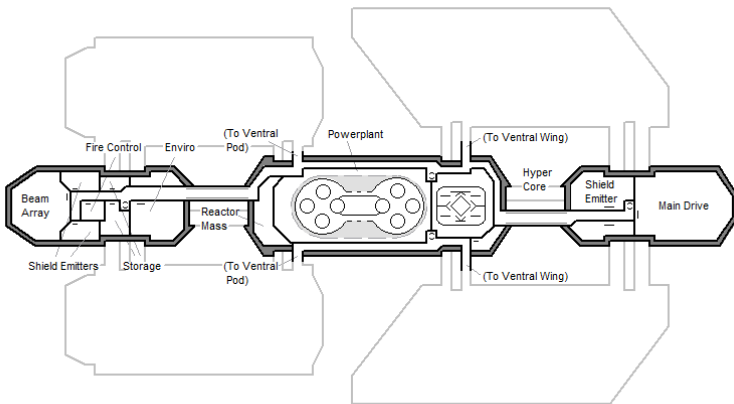
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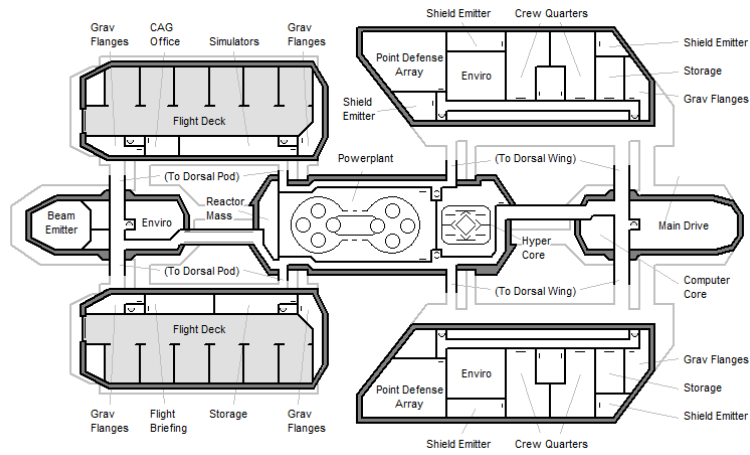
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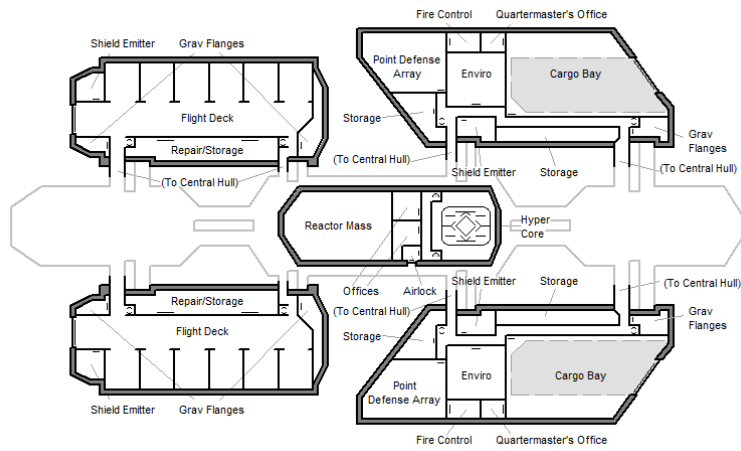
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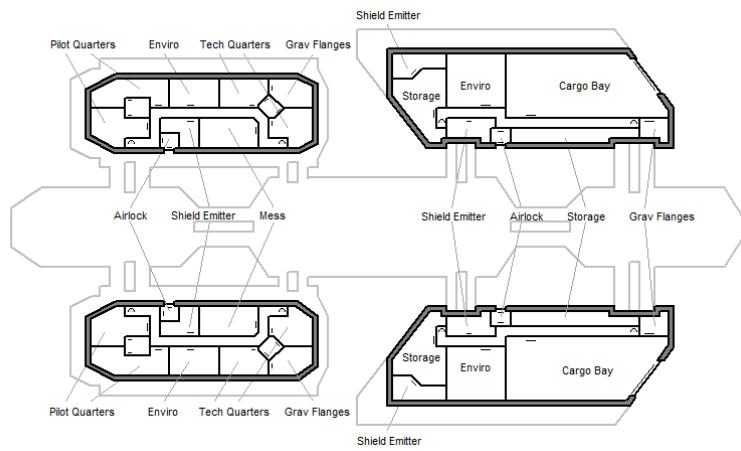
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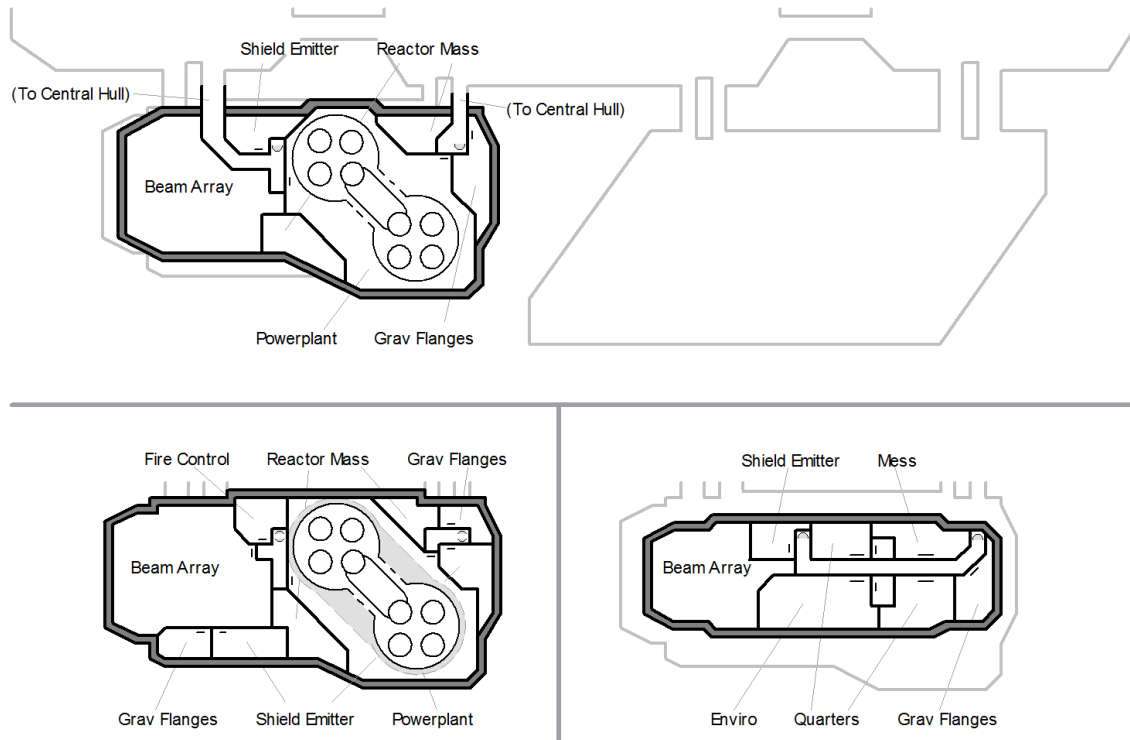
Deck 5



Deck 6



Deck 7



Deck 8

Mark Roth Turns Pro; Sells Story to 1632 Magazine

The first meeting in December (12/5/19) of WSFA is called to order said Veep George. Sam L. summarized minutes. Treasurer said not quite \$\$\$ in our bank, mostly WF money. \$\$\$ (year over year \$\$\$) Can pay dues to Sam S. after the meeting. \$20. We paid the hotel bill.

Cap past. Sam S. for 2019, books are closed, everything paid. Surplus of \$\$\$\$. This hotel is a lot cheaper than our last hotel. Kim liked using atrium. Nice letter from Filthy Pierre. And he offered to distribute fliers.



Cap Future (now really Capclave present), Sarah said Capclave meeting before first Friday in January to plan. Feb First Friday is Mary G Thompson reading with dinner at Raga. Sam said ## people signed up. Ahead of pace by ## (including one new person). Usually have around ### members, so this many registrations this early may mean we can go to ###.

Capclave Far Future George said will be sending out an inquiry to first choice for GoH. Subcontracting out part of the program to 1632 minicon. Eric Flint will be coming. Discussion of how many 1632 books out there, 1632.

Small Press Award, Cathy gave us a choice of three dates this month for a meeting. Paul said possibility of book for 2020. Madeleine said they make great presents. We have plenty. Said Paul, so buy two Turtledoves.

Entertivities. Time Magazine put a special Trek publication. Mark said large article on Chinese SF and Ken Liu.

Dodos are plugging Capclave online

Elizabeth can sign people up for the eWSFA list. Paul said calendar is back online, and old legacy WSFA content is now up. Thanks to Paul.

Old business. George asked about committee on harassment policy. Elizabeth said it is more doing a plan for how to respond to an incident. It will meet in March; she would love to hear from you if you have ideas. Mark suggested looking at SFWA. Elizabeth said more a model for what to do. Sam S said they don't really run anything. He suggested looking at professional societies. Worldcon has a good one. Talk to Judy Kindell she's done it for Worldcon. No other old business.



New business. None.

New people: Alex Wallace, was at the Greenbelt meeting. Found out about us from a poster at a now closed bookstore in Falls Church. Runs largest alt.history Facebook group. Doing research on an alternate history podcast about nuclear war.

Mark Roth has sold first piece of fiction, going into Grantville Gazette. He was working with Eric on it. It will be in an upcoming issue. Sam S. said Darby Patrick of Novel Books is closing down.

Sam L. announced Compton Crook Award, BSFS' contest for best first novel, WSFA members are eligible to vote in the nomination stage. Elizabeth said Philadelphia has a Herman Melville exhibit of books that he signed. Mike Walsh said critic Clive James died. Wrote 'the book of my enemy has been remaindered.'

Meeting adjourned unanimously 9:40 Friday evening.

Attendance: Courtney Y Burluson, Rodger Burns, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Sam Lubell, Sarah Mitchell, Aaron & Angela Pound, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Madeleine Yeh, Sam Hogan, Joe Radko, and Alexander Wallace.



Carolyn's Trip to Australia Part VI: Carolyn Returns from Down Under

By Carolyn Frank

Wednesday February 27 Tour to the Blue Mountains

I got up at 5:30 AM to be ready for the tour pickup in front of the Mantra on Kent hotel at 7:10. As I was the next to last pickup and I was by myself, the tour guide/driver invited me to ride shotgun. So, I got to enjoy the best seat in the 18-person minibus, although we only ended up with 10 people on the tour.

The Blue Mountains are located to the west of Sydney, but in order to get to the freeway west, we first drove north, and I got to cross the Sydney Harbor Bridge. Great views of the harbor to either side, but this only reinforced my decision to avoid both the formal bridge climb over the top of the suspension hump or just walking the mile across and back again.

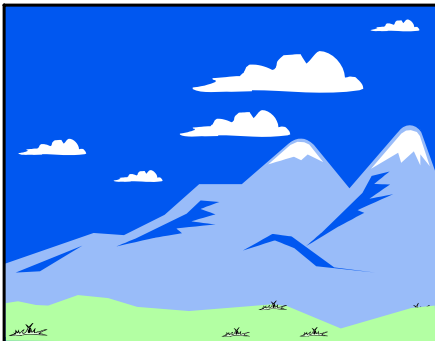
The first place we stopped was at an educational farm for our morning tea. Restrooms, coffee and water were also provided as well as some lamingtons (Australian little cakes covered in a thin layer of chocolate and coconut shavings). Being an Australian farm, they of course had koalas to pet and kangaroos to feed. But I fell in love with the wombats as these were both awake and moving around. They are cute and round and very furry, but at least twice the size of Remy. The place also had a range of Australian birds from finches to cockatoos to kookaburras.



This tour guide turned out to be an Austrian who was traveling around the world 40 years ago and ran out of money in Australia. He found work but never wanted to give up his Austrian citizenship, so is a long-term permanent resident, now with a wife and 2 kids. He actually lives in one of the small 5000-person communities of mostly writers and crafts persons and such.

He provided a highly idiosyncratic tour of the Blue Mountains, starting with a detour off the highway to see his house. Then we headed into Blue Mountain National Park and we stopped at several overlooks, most well away from the huge bus coaches. We did see all the major named geological features including the Three Sisters and the Boars Head.

These are barely mountains, maybe 3000-foot-high sandstone mesas, but the roads went up and down and around. At one town, Luera, he dropped us all at the top of the road through town and told us to find our way down to the bottom in half an hour, while he went to drop off one couple at a hotel where they were to spend the night. I stopped at a wood craft store with beautifully inlaid wood parquet boxes, tables and clocks. All the wood came from Australian trees with many unique shades and types of wood. I also shopped at a candy store, which had Australian and British style candies; I bought a package of eucalyptus and honey drops.



He drove the rest of us over to a small resort hotel for lunch: one

group to have a seated 3-course meal, one group to fend for themselves at the attached coffee shop, and me, the lone person who chose to have a picnic hike. Since I had mentioned my interest in birds, he pointed out some flying black cockatoos and some gorgeous crimson lorikeets.

He fetched my premade picnic lunch from the cafe, gave me a large bottle of water and a small backpack in which to place it all. Then instead of the standard edge of the cliff walk, which he thought I might find boring, led me to a walk down to a lookout to a waterfall. I half walked, half scrambled down very well-worn steps carved into the sandstone for a mile or so to a lookout. A 12 foot by 12 foot roughly worn square of sandstone with a chain link fence towards the front; it was a calm peaceful place to eat half my lunch, literally. They gave me two chicken wraps, each with probably 6 ounces of chicken, so I ate one, a huge pear which I ate, and a huge orange which I did not, and a container of shortbread cookies with poppy seeds of which I ate half.

I heard several bird songs/calls, saw 2 different sizes of lizards, and 2 different sizes of ants (clearly attracted to my picnic). But with the light breeze and sun poking in and out of clouds, the variety of ferns and other plants, I had a rejuvenating time. Then I scrambled back up the path to the parking lot and was greeted by the others from the group and a glass of champagne.

We made a brief stop at the Blue Mountain Botanical garden, which had both Jurassic trees, Wollemi pines, and a glorious display of dahlias of many sizes, shapes and colors. In the formal gardens, a large group was setting up for a wedding, which was fun to watch as well.

Then as we turned back for the two-hour ride back into Sydney, we came through a section of volcanic soil with many stone fruit crops, each field covered in netting to protect from the apparently voracious



fruit bats. Once we had made our way through the evening hour traffic, I got dropped off in front of my hotel around 5:30 PM. I checked in for my flight home tomorrow, ate the rest of my lunch (except for the orange) for dinner and started packing.

Around 7:15, I headed out to walk to the Sydney Opera House for the sunset light and sound show that is displayed on the roof of the Opera House. I arrived at the top of the

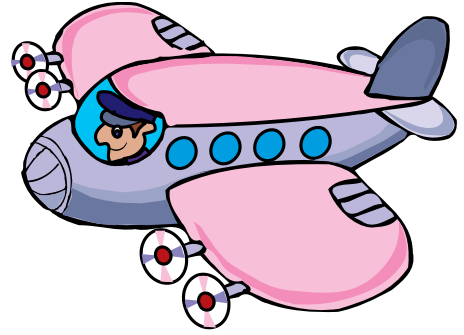
Monumental Steps (88 of them) and chatted with some folks already set up to photograph the event. Promptly at 8:03 PM, official time of Sydney sun set, a 7-minute display of ever-changing Aboriginal-based patterns and figures were displayed on the roof, with a new jazz-like sound accompaniment.

Then we watched as yet another huge cruise ship, completely bedecked with lights, and slowly entered the single cruise ship berth in the harbor. Since most everyone already had their cameras out, we all just switched to taking night shots of the ship and the Harbor Bridge. After another 25-minute walk in the reverse direction, I was back at the hotel, ready to say good bye to Sydney and Australia.

Thursday February 28 (twice) trip from Sydney to home

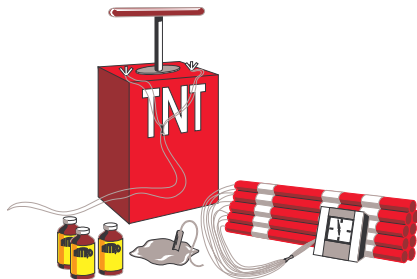
I got up at 6 AM, ate my orange, a package of nuts and peppermint tea for breakfast, and packed. I had checked out and was waiting for my Ready2Go transfer pickup at 8:10 AM. So was another couple from the same hotel. By 8:20 all were starting to get anxious, and they could not figure out how to call, so I called the transfer service, who said that our driver was caught in traffic and would be there within 10

minutes. Ten minutes later when no one had shown up, I called again and again was told that the van would be there in ten minutes. By this time, the couple was attempting to call Uber, but the van did show up around 8:35. Only one more couple was picked up from a hotel further up Kent Street, but then we ran into Sydney rush hour traffic.



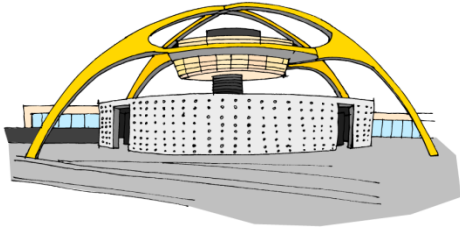
We finally arrived at the airport, the van dropped off the domestic travelers first, but we managed to get into the international departures by 9:15. And there a group of us stood, as the airlines flying out of Sydney airport have no fixed locations. An airport person passing by took pity on us and explained how to determine with alphabetical lane was for the Virgin Australia flight to Los Angeles. We got to the correct lane and inched forward in line for the next 45 minutes, as Virgin Australia required counter check in for all passengers on this 777 airplane. At 10 AM when I finally got to a clerk, she took pity on me and gave me an express pass (sort of like TSA Pre Check) to get through their security. I did take a moment at the pharmacy located next to the check in counters, to purchase my last souvenir, another package of the wonderful cough drops with anesthesia and antibiotics included.

Then I headed off through security, which went quickly except that I got caught in the random explosives check. Two other people and I had to have everything and ourselves wanded before we could move out. And of course, gate 57 was at the far end of the last concourse. I was nearly running as boarding had begun at 10:30. I had no time to do anything except find the toilets and take out my contacts. But I made it onto the plane and found to my delight that no one would be sitting in the middle seat. We were all boarded and ready to go by departure time of 11:15, but the plane just sat on the runway. Eventually we got the explanation, with favorable tail winds, our flight would only take 12.5 hours, but the Los Angeles airport does not open until 6 AM PST. Therefore, they decided we should wait on the ground at Sydney to make sure we did not arrive before 6 AM.



After we finally took off, they fed us lunch of a lamb curry and since they did not even have Fresca, some club soda with a slice of lemon. I watched Bohemian Rhapsody and The House with a Clock in its Walls. Following the flight path on the monitor, I saw we crossed the International Date Line from south to north (the only place where the Line does not divide east from west); this was somewhere before we crossed the Equator, also from south to north). I slept for a while and woke up to see the woman on the aisle eating something. I asked her to allow me out on the aisle and I asked the stewardess for a hot thingy; it turned out to be a chicken and mushroom stuffed hand pie. I also managed to nab an apple and a can of club soda to round out my evening? meal. I mostly slept in 2-hour chunks, waking once when the cabin crew came through with Popsicle stick things (in the dark all I know is that it was cool on my throat). They turned on the lights at 4 AM PST and served us breakfast of a feta cheese mini omelet and a passion fruit yogurt. As the plane was experiencing some minor turbulence, they refused to serve any hot beverages, so I had some more club soda.

The plane landed right after 6 AM but the airport was empty. Folks were around at Immigration and my Global Entry made fast work of that. They were quick with the baggage so by the time I had made it to the correct carousel, my luggage had just appeared. I grabbed it and hunted for someone to ask where to take the luggage for transfer, as it had been checked through to DCA. Customs was nowhere to be seen, and someone eventually sent me down what seemed like endless halls to the transfer location.



They took my luggage happily enough but were too distracted to assist me in locating the domestic Delta departure check in counter. The Virgin Australia check-in clerk had checked my luggage through to DCA, had provided me with the Virgin Australia boarding pass, but said that I needed to get the Delta boarding pass in LA. No one was at any information point, but a cleaning crew person showed where to go to find the domestic

terminal 2.

It was raining and 50 degrees in LA but I headed down the outside walkway to the next terminal, which was just as empty. I figured out that departures were probably on the second floor, took an elevator up, and eventually found the Delta counter. They could not understand why I did not have a boarding pass but printed one out for me and, of course, sent me through security. But this boarding pass did not say Pre Check, so I had to go through standard TSA security. These folks wanted all phones, tablets, laptops and such laid out in neat lines in their plastic boxes, in addition to shoes, jackets, and everything else. And they had a nice long queue. And as always, my flight was at the far end of two concourses. I never found a fountain to refill my water bottles but did make it to the gate just after they started boarding.

This flight was due to leave at 8:20 AM PST and did not for some random reason. Eventually it did take off and I started to watch The Wife. But they were having major issues with their entertainment system and tossed everyone off to reboot. When the system came back on line, I could not adjust the sound, so gave up. They eventually came around to feed us some random meal, as I was completely out-of-whack by this point; I selected the cheese and fruit option.

From that point on, things more or less stayed on course. The plane landed, I found my luggage, put my contacts on, found my way to Metro, rode the Yellow and Red lines to Forest Glen, and walked home, arriving before sun set. Remy was very vocally glad to see me, and I was happy to see him.

Souvenirs

My souvenirs are earrings: kangaroos, penguins and crocodiles, all with opal chips; food and drugs: kangaroo jerky, eucalyptus and honey drops, eucalyptus oil, and the marvelous cough drops; and money: the \$5 AUS and random coins that I was unable to spend in the Sydney airport.

Zambia Comes to Capclave!

Let's get the show on the road, said Prez Bob. Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the last WSFA meeting in 2019, 12-20-19. Happy holidays! I hope everyone stays safe in 2020. I want to thank everyone who made WSFA have a successful year and for those of you who didn't, you can step up.



Capclave not really closed. Cathy may have receipts. Hotel sent a check, gave it straight to Sam S. Cap Present. Bill said Capclave Past. Rebate over \$\$\$, puts us on sounder footing. We should be in continuing good shape. Do need people to make sure Capclave happens. Should have final numbers by Feb. Sam S. won't be here for first Friday in Jan. Part of Jan Capclave meeting is wrap up, what went well and didn't and doing more planning for 2020.

Cap Present. Not a GoH, email to Malka Older who is a special guest at Worldcon to invite her and get it on her radar. Paul is working with Eric Gassier to bring Zambia tools,

the same system many East Coast cons are using, to Capclave. Haven't seen updated numbers. Need to reach out to him to get attendee list on website. Collette reaching out to hotel so people can get rooms and we can exceed the room block. For planning, some switches in room layout. Con suite and gaming moving up the hallway across from Washington Theater and Eisenhower. Programming getting a larger room. Improve the crowd flow and draw people to the dealer's room. Evaluate things to see if need another room depending on membership. Back to the Well on first floor for autographing and award ceremony.

Small Press Award. Cathy said meeting at her place next Sunday and set calendar and discussing the rules which would have to be presented to the club. Possibility of a survey. If people have ideas email at admin@wsfasmallpressaward.org or editor@wsfa.org. Carolyn said no one has sent anything in yet. Sarah said been telling people to wait until it's open. Carolyn said that hasn't stopped people in the past. Carolyn said get lots of spam. Cathy said has an Excel spreadsheet that we add or subtract as publications die or start. Notice goes out to all places where people have submitted from in the past. Sarah said when dates finalized, she'll announce it. Dodos say WSFA Press books make great holiday gifts.

Bill Aguiar pointed out that the website mentions the yahoo list, not the google list, this should be changed.

Entertivities – Kim said, tonight through Sunday choir called Thirteen, will use photos from Hubble as their background.

No old business. New business. Bob said, there will be a fifth Friday in January. Anyone who wants to consider hosting a Fifth Friday party. There were a few suggestions.

First, second, or third. Brian Bruns was here for his first meeting. He found out about us from someone who posted on a local Facebook group. Alex Wallace is new. He is an alt history guy who runs the . alternate timelines forum. Wants to talk alternate history. Bill Aguiar is here for his third meeting in seven years. Attended Capclave this year. Last meeting in 2019 so the teens are almost over. I'll start coming more often in the new decade. First weekend of January is Magfest, tabletop gaming. Largest tabletop gaming con in the area (aside from maybe Washcon). Always a trip.

Announcements: Bill showed off the Illustrated *Three Body Problem*. Will be at the Capclave Silent Auction. Cathy said business cards for Capclave. Carolyn said article in Mensa's magazine about Isaac Asimov. She brought a copy. Steve said housemate is looking for new digs. Eva is doing room party at Baltimore Marriott at New Year's Eve. Eva said her current roommate is looking for a place to stay. Can pay a little but doesn't drive. Will clean. On this day in 2002 Firefly premiered. Capclave 2022 will mark the 75th anniversary of WSFA. Originally the Washington Science Fiction Society. If anyone is thinking of chairing a Capclave in 2022 (not it, said Bill). Nicki Lynch, Olney Theater doing a one man Christmas Carol, main stage is doing Singing in the Rain. It does rain on stage.



Meeting adjourned 9:53, what passes for unanimous.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burleson, Carolyn Frank, Erica Ginter, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan Frances Holland, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Steve Smith, Mike Taylor, Michael Walsh, Eva Whitley, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Billy Aguiar, Bryan Bruns, Alex Wallace, Rich & Nicky Lynch.