

# The Pdf Dragon #8



**January 2017**

**“Let’s hope the new year brings a few good Dragons our way.”**

**An efanzone in the 9<sup>th</sup> Fandom mode**

**Appeals to Ghu**

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“Keep the dog far hence, that’s friend to man”—Eliot

## **Editorial**

A wizard is likely to have a formula that will change the weather. Similarly, a scientist has his mathematics and physics, but will his mathematics affect the world the way a wizard’s will? Let’s have Einstein’s  $e=mc^2$  out of it—this did not create the atomic bomb and was not commissioned to do so. One might be more interested in his equations of relativity. People evaluate other dimensions out of this, and who knows, if you believe something it might come to pass. (Schopenhauer, Berkeley, Descartes.) Einstein was something of a wizard. Put him in a 409 and see what it does.

## **Apparitions**

The two stood side by side in the early shadows of evening. Said the one, “Where are you looking?”

“Acrow the river.”

“It be the same on the other shore.”

“Nay, for out of the mists arises a most strange apparition. There be many a building there, and all are lit up as the evening hits. As it seems, there is mechanical industry within there, and science of various kinds being practiced. Now, I have seen it before, and in the day time, and perhaps it is of no interest then, seeming to be part of the landscape; but as night falls, there are all its windows alit, and it remains so even unto the eleventh hour, then many of these lights fade, but in the third hour of the morning there are still a few. One could easily wonder what they do there, that is done at night as well as in the day.”

“Why have none gone there?”

“it is as if it were lost in a maze, and also where the people who people it are not known as to their places of residence, and nought is known of their coming and going, the forms of the layouts of the streets being odd and irregular. Some have gone out, and rendered these ways dangerous, and the places have defenses, which are maintained, whereby the observer is made most unwelcome at first sight of the place, the former visitors having been of an abusive intent, and the action has been so thick that no one is able to distinguish one person or purpose from another.”

## Fanzines in View

Scroll down to where it says The Pdf Dragon 7, October, My, I've got a lot of catching up to do. Zine comments is what I mean. X-Rayer 125, File 770 116, Cybercozen,

**Fugghead, 9 October.**—Read with interest, not much to feed back, but I can't imagine Ted White arguing with anyone.

**Counterclock 26,** hm, black magic on the cover. Fits the title. # Everyone started saying cosplay at the same time, is my observation. Somebody seems to be sending words forth to the cats. My brother appears to be picking up the words at the same time. # To Bob Dylan: Some books are songs.

**Tightbeam**—Nice to see this back. Bob Jennings is doing a fine job as editor.

**Shitgibbon** and **Rat Sass** don't seem like respectable enough titles.

**SF Commentary 93** has a splendid cover. Hm, I wonder if any of these zines mention my own. If I mentioned them when they mention me, I'd be playing a game a whole lot of faneds here aren't playing. Editor of **My Back Pages** should go back and check out Bob Dylan's receipt of the Nobel Prize news in Counterclock.

**Breaking It All Down**—Hey, Jose, maybe I could use some of your art in the Dragon!

Old Owl on **TRF**.

Denny Marshall on the cover of **Tightbeam**, what, did he join the N3F or something?

Well, that's my scan of the zines—bot's all, folks!

Oh, one last comment, **Journey Planet 32**'s cover, seeing it's the Boskone edition, maybe the cover represents Washington crossing the Delaware and he sees the British are coming? A dimensional flaw places him in Boston Harbor. You folks in Boston ever read Lovecraft's "Pickman's Model"?

## War Games

It seem war games practically have a fandom of their own, distinct enough from science fiction fandom that the sf acquaintance the wargamers have comes from wargames in a science fiction and fantasy tradition, with perhaps movies and television thrown in. Some writers boast to be writing wargames, and some seem to write those mostly, with occasional sf short stories or even novels from time to time, but the novels are often Star Wars and Star Trek novels. With net potentialities, the war games seem to be where a lot of people are at. Seems to me that would be pretty tough to maintain and to do on the net. I did a war game on Planet SF when that

site existed, but only got one move accomplished successfully, then the next move had me wiped out. The game lasted a little longer, but seemed to end in chaos. It wasn't too much after that that the site collapsed. I played a D&D game once but was out of it pretty early. The SF club I was with kept getting in trouble; one time a janitor tried to eject them from the building they were in over at Purdue, but then after that they were the ones that held the WabashCon in the same building. But they were not the same people. That club kept getting resurrected with different people in it after calamities swept over the earlier ones. Something seemed to perpetuate the club other than the members of it. I suppose the rotation also had to do with graduation, since they all spoke of being students. Von's Bookshop at Purdue sold wargames set in Barsoom as far back as 1976. One time there were four sf groups here in Lafayette, Indiana all at once—the Lafayette Interstellar Society, the SS Voyager Society, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and the Purdue Wargamers. One time I went out to the jousts with the Society for Creative Anachronism, held in the 4H park. Had to wear one of the outfits they had, kind of a cheap shift. That's my own

history of wargaming, a thing I gave up a long time ago and since then have just watched develop in my view. There were a couple of game writers interviewed at SciFi/Analog's Author Chat, one of them named Hickman, which was interesting to see the business they were in. They seemed to relate to it a whole lot. It was something like what the counterculturalists were getting into.

## Letters

**Joe Napolitano** Hello, John, just read Pdf Dragon 7. # Pro mags: It takes quite some time to read them but is it worth it? Well, sometimes. # F&SF Forum: No, thanks. # E-fanzines: one of the best web sites in fandom, on par with Dave Langford's Ansible. # TRF: Read the latest issue but still haven't written a loc. Ozymandias: Well John, most literary works are soon forgotten. But if they are posted online, they might be preserved? Or at least they would have a better chance of being preserved, especially if it's a fanzine. As for Ozymandias himself? He's remembered for all the wrong reasons. But the less said about him the better. Kind of reminds me of that guy who died in a bunker. I wish you wouldn't spend so much time on war games. Seems you have better things to do.

*I read the promags because I'm interested in what the story tellers will come up with. I like to see if I can figure out the motives and intended*

*meanings of the stories. It's at least worth it research-wise. # efanzines did get an award nomination for Bill Burns, so it's not being overlooked how out in front it is. # I don't think works online are coherently preserved, they're very difficult to locate. Some of them might be likened to writings in bottles cast into the sea. # You see me sort of diminishing the war games approach in this issue.*

**X-Rayer** Thanks for the mini-review of my zine, Ray X X-Rayer, in PDFD #7. You asked if there are any photos of Hugo Gernsback as a child. With a quick Google I found one. No childhood shots, but this seems to show Hugo in his late teens or early adulthood.

You mentioned you didn't like the floating doll photo in #122. What was the problem? I thought the photo really showed how polluted the water was in Rio. Luckily no Olympians became sick.

*Thanks for the Gernsback photo, I used it on the back cover of my Annish. Pablo Lennis, that is. Also showed it in my N3F zine for N'APA, Synergy. An interesting photo and well-taken. # The floating doll picture was one the Doll took offense at, no reflections on you intended. I just had to mention that it wasn't one I liked to calm her.*

Well, amigos, it's time for me to split. I hope I get some response to this issue of the Dragon.



Bobo says farewell.