

# Sol Rising

Winter 2014/15 FREE



Issue # 50

# Sol Rising

Winter 2015

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Sol Rising is a bi-annual zine put out by the Friends of the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation & Fantasy and is published by the Friends of the Merrill Collection, c/o The Merrill Collection, Toronto Public Library.

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## The Friends of the

**Merril Collection** is a volunteer organization to support and promote the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation, and Fantasy, a public access collection consisting of science fiction, fantasy, gaming materials, graphic novels, and other related items.

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# Events

## January 29th at 7pm -Friends AGM and *The Canadian Fantastic in Focus!* book launch

The FOMC will report on activities, review the latest financial statement, hold a Q&A and 2015 elections. Prof. Allan Weiss will also present the launch of *The Canadian Fantastic in Focus*.

**March 6th at 7pm -Nnedi Okorafor**  
World Fantasy Award Winner Nnedi Okorafor will be with us! Co-sponsored by the Friends & ChiZine Publications.

**March 20th -Rachel Hartman**  
Canadian YA author Rachel Hartman will be with us talking about her new novel *Shadow Scale*.

**March 21th at 7pm, -3rd Annual Filk Concert**  
Co-sponsored by Friends & FilkOntario, additional details TBA

**April 30th -Tesseracts 18**  
The Tesseracts 18 anthology *Wrestling With Gods* book launch

**May 9th -Fantastic Pulp Show & Sale**  
The annual Merrill Fantastic Pulp Show

**June 5-6th -2015 Academic Conference on Canadian SF and Fantasy**  
Sponsored by York University and the Friends, ACCSFF is conference featuring academic papers, guest speakers, and panel discussions.

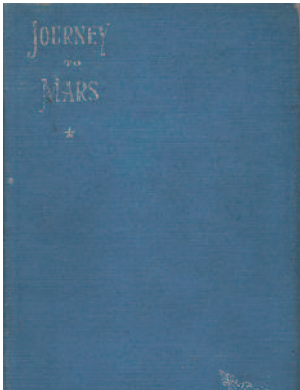
# The Collection

The ever-growing Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation & Fantasy resides on the third floor of the Lillian H. Smith library and boasts over 75,000 items, most of which are stored on rolling stacks that allow for the Collection's continued expansion. The staff at the Merrill dedicate considerable effort to seeking out and implementing methods to preserve old and/or rare books and other materials that might otherwise succumb to the slow decay of paper (a.k.a. "the death of the book," as Lorna once put it), storing them in the best possible conditions in terms of heat, humidity and light.

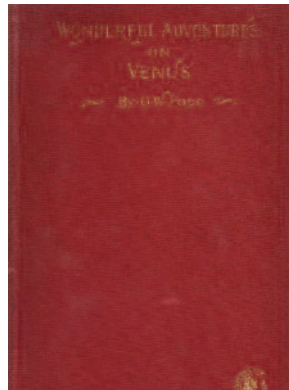
## >>>>Collection Highlights

Gustavus William Pope's *Romances of the Planets*

A two book series, both of which are considered to be scientific romances. In the first book, *Journey to Mars*, an American officer visits Mars and falls in love with a princess. The Venus volume follows the same hero and heroine as they travel to Venus. The books have been considered, by many, precursors to the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs.



Pope, Gustavus  
***Journey to Mars: The Wonderful World; Its Beauty and Splendor; Its Mighty Races and Kingdoms; Its Final Doom***  
New York: G.W. Dillingham,  
1894



Pope, Gustavus  
***Journey to Venus: The Primeval World, its Wonderful Creations and Gigantic Monsters***  
Boston: Arena Publishing Co.,  
1895

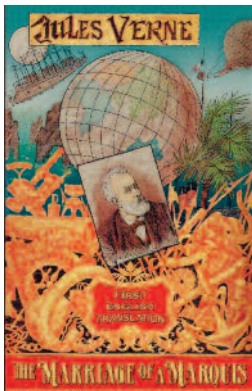
There is limited information on The Portland Gazette, however it is the oldest vampire fiction in the Merrill Collection and one of the earliest pieces published in North America.



***The Portland Gazette. Vol.V, No.1,***  
Portland, Maine  
November, 1875.

## >>>>>The Palik Series of Jules Verne

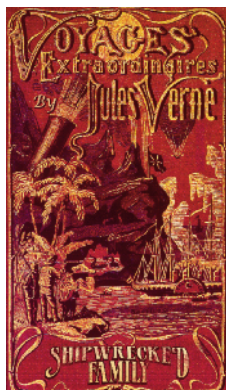
The Merrill collection recently acquired eight of the planned twelve volumes of the Palik Series of Jules Verne published by The North American Jules Verne Society and BearManor Fiction. The series includes first time English translations of stories and plays by Jules Verne, which was completed by an editorial team that included distinguished translators and Verne scholars. The volumes have been illustrated with the original 19th century Hetzel edition engravings with only slight changes to the title portion. This method allows for the art to be left intact and is the first time this has been done in any US edition.



### **Volume 1 — *The Marriage of a Marquis***

Translated by Edward Baxter, Kieran M. O'Driscoll

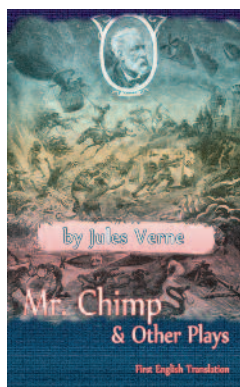
Foreshadowing such classics as *Around the World in 80 Days*, this inaugural volume focuses on two of Verne's earliest humorous stories. In one, a foolish student attempts to live according to dictums in classical Latin.



## **Volume 2 — *Shipwrecked Family: Marooned with Uncle Robinson***

Translated by Sidney Kravitz

Shipwrecked Family was rejected by Verne's publisher, so he entirely rewrote it—and that became the classic, *The Mysterious Island*, in which Captain Nemo made his last appearance.



## **Volume 3 — *Mr. Chimp, and Other Plays***

Translated by Frank Morlock

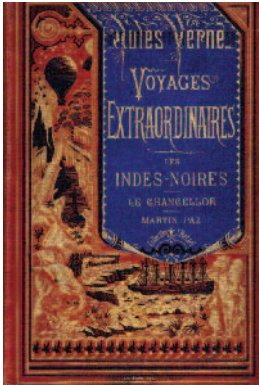
Before becoming an author of best-sellers, Verne was a playwright, and four of his plays are included in this volume, anticipating some of the themes of his novels, such as the resemblance of human and ape.



## **Volume 4 — *The Count of Chanteleine: A Tale of the French Revolution***

Translated by Edward Baxter

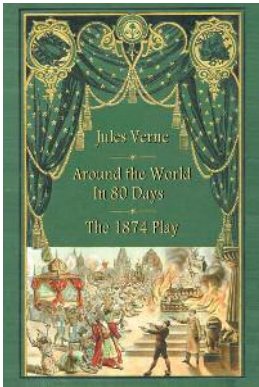
A swashbuckler of the French Revolution for everyone who has thrilled to the adventures of *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, or *Scaramouche*. A nobleman leads a rebellion as his family is menaced by the guillotine in this re-creation of the Reign of Terror.



### **Volume 5 — *Vice, Redemption and the Distant Colony***

Translated by Kieran M. O'Driscoll

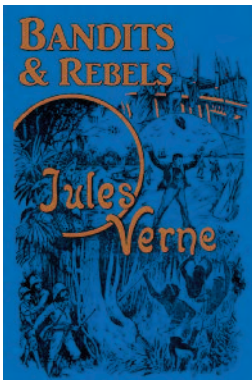
Literary fraud or filial devotion? Jules Verne's son, Michel, significantly revised over a dozen of the stories published under his father's name, and even originated some himself. Here are stories by both Vernes -- compare for yourself.



### **Volume 6 — *Around the World in 80 Days — The 1874 Play***

Translated by the producers of the original Broadway presentation.

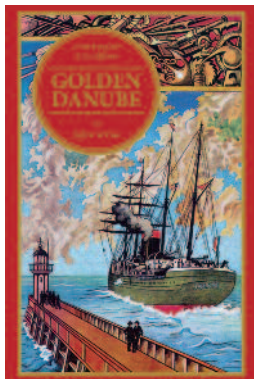
Verne's novel also had great success as a stage hit, running for literally thousands of performances. Understanding the needs of a new medium, Verne's play was a distinct variation on the novel, with many different characters and episodes



### **Volume 7 — *Bandits & Rebels***

Translated by Edward Baxter

Captain Nemo's Nautilus was not the first undersea craft imagined by the prophetic author; in this volume is his first story, along with Verne's last words, on the submarine.



## **Volume 8 — *Golden Danube***

Translated by Kieran M. O'Driscoll

Travel down the entire length of the Danube, where the police pursue smugglers, and a champion fisherman is abducted and forced to prove his courage.

Upcoming volumes:

### **Volume 9 — *A Priest in 1835***

Translated by Danièle Chatelain and George Slusser

### **Volume 10 — *Castles in California (with A Nephew from America)***

Translated by Kieran M. O'Driscoll

### **Volume 11 — *Scheherazade's Last Night and Other Plays***

Translated by Peter Schulman

### **Volume 12 — *Worlds Known and Unknown***

Translated by TBA

## **>>>>>Can you Identify this Story? by Kim Hull**

This is one of the many queries the Merril staff have received, in which they have been asked to identify a story read by a patron during their childhood.

A man lives in a giant's mouth, and after many months discovers a whole group of people also living there. They carve caves into the giant's teeth, and attach ropes to swing from so that they won't be swallowed. This is obviously a very large giant. The person asking the question does not believe it is *Pantagruel* by Rabelais, but did say it might have been an abridged retelling. It has a folktale/children's picture book quality to it, so it may in fact be a children's story, rather than an adult fantasy.

If you recognize this story or have any additional details to add, please contact the staff at the Merril Collection at [info.friendsofmerril@gmail.com](mailto:info.friendsofmerril@gmail.com) or drop us a line on our [Facebook group](#)/[Twitter](#) page under the hashtag **#Merrilmysteries**

## >>>>Recommended Series Reading Order

Staff at the Merrill Collection are often asked in which order the books of a series should be read. Accordingly, the Merrill Collection series list covers pretty much all of space and time.

The series selected for this issue was written by Alastair Reynolds, an author well known for writing compelling hard science fiction and space operas, many set in what's called the Revelation Space universe. A personal favourite of Sol Rising's Editor, Revelation Space is recommended for it's immersive future possibilities, and subsequent tragedies.

In accordance with Alastair Reynolds' website and personal notes, the Inhibitor trilogy recommended reading order is as follows:

1. *Revelation Space* '00
2. *Redemption Ark* '02
3. *Absolution Gap* '03

Revelation Space Universe novels/novellas that can be read in any order:

*The Prefect* '07  
*Chasm City* '01  
*Diamond Dogs, Turquoise Days* '02  
*Galactic North* '06 (collection)

A more comprehensive recommended reading order, found on Goodreads, goes as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Great Wall of Mars (Galactic North)</i> | 10. <i>Grafenwalder's Bestiary (Galactic North)</i> |
| 2. <i>Glacial (Galactic North)</i>            |   |
| 3. <i>A Spy in Europa (Galactic North)</i>    | 11. <i>Turquoise Days</i>                           |
| 4. <i>Weather (Galactic North)</i>            | 12. <i>Revelation Space</i>                         |
| 5. <i>The Prefect</i>                         | 13. <i>Nightingale (Galactic North)</i>             |
| 6. <i>Diamond Dogs</i>                        | 14. <i>Redemption Ark</i>                           |
| 7. <i>Monkey Suit (Death Ray #20)</i>         | 15. <i>Absolution Gap</i>                           |
| 8. <i>Dilation Sleep (Galactic North)</i>     | 16. <i>Galactic North</i>                           |
| 9. <i>Chasm City</i>                          |   |

For more info on this breakdown please visit:

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/56392-revelation-space>

## >>>>>The Merrill Vote by Astra

In each issue of Sol Rising, one Merrill staff member or Friend of Merrill member will recommend a book, or several, depending on what they're reading and think people might enjoy. In this issue one of our members has recommended the novel *Written in Red* by Anne Bishop. Check out their review below!

### **How did I love thee? Let me count the reads.**

How many of us have found ourselves totally caught up in a book, couldn't put it down, then forgotten all about it within a couple of weeks. It was entertaining, it was readable, but it really had no substance. And in case you're thinking that when I say 'substance', I'm talking about [shudder] lit-ra-chure, rest assured that I'm not. I'm talking about that elusive something that has you thinking about and wanting to talk about a book for weeks, if not months, after you've finished it. Sometimes despite some very obvious flaws.

Recently, (OK, not very recently, it's been over a year, but why quibble?) I sat in the reading room at the Merrill and read a book, *Written In Red*, that I thoroughly enjoyed. I didn't analyze the book, or my enjoyment of it. I'm a reader. Enjoying books is what I do.

A week later, I found myself picking the book off the shelf and reading it again. I've never done that before. Yes, I re-read books. I have a number of go-tos for when I'm in the mood for whatever they are. (In fact, I don't understand why people bother BUYING books if they're not going to re-read them, but that's a separate topic.) But I've never just picked up a book and re-read it so soon after an initial read. Then, a couple of visits after I finished it for the second time, I picked it up again. Then I found myself telling everyone how much I loved this book, and that they should really give it a try. I realized I had to own this book, I had to share this book. I recommended it to my brother. My brother only reads hard SF, preferably space opera. This book is a sort of urban fantasy with a twist. I said, "Give it two chapters. If you don't like it, fine." A few weeks later, I got an e-mail. "Did you say there was a sequel?"

So, yeah. I love(d) this book. Since it's come out, I've probably read it about fifteen times. And I can't tell you why, although I suspect it's something about the characters.

Anne Bishop's latest series, *The Others*, of which *Written in Red* is book one, takes place in a world very similar to ours, except...(and it's the 'except' that makes for urban fantasy, isn't it?). Before there were humans, there were The Others, *terre indigene*, earth natives. The Others do include the two urban fantasy mainstays – shape-shifters and vampires, although technically, they're all shape-shifters. They all shift into human. And that, I think, is the biggest difference from the usual. These are not people who go furry or fangy. They are predators who take human shape because it can be convenient to have opposable thumbs.

I particularly liked the historical twist at the beginning of the book where Bishop presents 'A Brief History of the World'. You see, when the first explorers arrived from across the Atlantik[sp] Ocean, they found not a native population that had been practically wiped out by disease, but a thriving and powerful population of Others. The outcome? I'll quote from the book.

“Centuries passed. Humans were smart. So were the Others. Humans invented electricity and plumbing. The Others controlled all the rivers that could power the generators and all the lakes that supplied fresh drinking water. Humans invented steam engines and central heating. The Others controlled all the fuel needed to run the engines and heat the buildings. Humans invented and manufactured products. The Others controlled all the natural resources, thereby deciding what would and wouldn't be made in their part of the world.”

I love it!

The other big difference is that the animal shifters are not practically immortal. You don't need a silver bullet to kill one, a regular bullet in the right place will do just fine. I like that bit of vulnerability. Yes, they are faster and stronger, but they can still be killed.

*The Friends of the Merril are excited to announce Astra will be joining the Sol Rising team as our story reviewer. She will also be starting an online book discussion forum where Friends members can connect and talk about their favourite stories. Look for more of her work in our 2015 Summer issue!*

## >>>>>The Collection's Guest Book



The Merrill Collection's new guest book, pictured above, was inspired by the Northern Lights and created by Toronto artist and bookbinder Robert Wu in 2010. It is a beautiful and powerful demonstration of craftsmanship featuring a lining of marbled paper (produced by the ancient art of painting on water and transferring the image onto paper). Its cover is pieced from fine British Oasis Goat Skin leathers, hand-tooled in gold and silver, and the pages are German Hahnemuhle paper.



Since its inception, the guest book and the Merrill has had the pleasure of receiving many signatures by authors, scholars, and visitors alike. The collection recently had Toronto Horror writer Frederick D. Brown, author of *Twisted Dreams*, *Twisted Streams*, in to sign, pictured right.



Toronto author Frederick D. Brown

For more information on Robert Wu's work please visit: [www.studiobertwu.com](http://www.studiobertwu.com)

For more information on Frederick D. Brown's novelette visit: [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM3041750&R=3041750](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM3041750&R=3041750)

## The Friends of the Merrill



### >>>>>The Merrill Remembers Farid Sajid by Kim Hull

Farid started coming to the Merrill Collection about 17 years ago, to read novels and graphic novels. As time went on, he became one of our “regulars”, and we all got to know him better than most of the patrons who walk through our door.

Farid had lead a difficult life and was ill for a number of years, and he said he found a haven with the Merrill Collection. On at least one occasion he said we had saved his life, by being here with an open door, a place to sit and read safely.

He had a big personality; we always knew when Farid came in; “Hey guys! How’s it goin’? Anything new you can recommend?” and he’d bend your ear for a while. Farid was a spiritual seeker and was deeply interested in exploring the world and all spiritual practices.

Even though he had few possessions, he was a generous and kind-hearted, warm person. I’ve seen him lend someone \$20 when he only had \$60 in his pocket, and if he could do nothing else, he’d adjust your chakras, or make you a beaded bracelet.

### **IN MEMORIAM: Farid Sajid Oct. 10, 1957- Oct 5, 2014**

#### **By Annette Mocek**

I’ve been on staff here at the Merrill Collection for over twenty-five years. So many people pass through our doors, to enjoy our collection, to discuss favourite books, and to share conversations with us over the reference counter. Some return again and again. Many of them become treasured friends. It’s one of the things I love the most about this job.

I want to tell you about one such library patron who became a treasured friend. Someone who does not have very many people to remember him, but someone whom I feel should be remembered.

Mr. Farid Sajid, a regular patron of the collection for over 17 years, and a member of the Friends of The Merrill Collection, passed away on Sunday October 5, 2014, in hospital, after a long illness. He was 56.

Farid Sajid became a frequent visitor to the Merrill Collection soon after we opened the doors of our new building back in 1995. His friendliness, exuberance and “very big personality,” as Kim Hull described it, made him stand out from the crowd.

An enthusiastic fan of science fiction literature, graphic novels and television, Farid preferred complex, challenging works with a generous dose of dark humour. His favourites included Katherine Dunn’s *Geek Love*, Garth Ennis’ graphic novel series, *The Boys*, and the long-running *Battlestar Galactica* TV series. Farid loved to visit the Merrill Collection to see our latest acquisitions, always eager to discuss them and share enthusiastic recommendations with us over the reference desk.

A native of Pakistan whose parents had emigrated to the United States, Farid grew up in Portland, Oregon, travelled to various states and countries, but always considered California his spiritual home. In the late 1990s, Farid arrived in Toronto hoping to find work, but could not obtain citizenship due to a loophole in the Citizenship Act known as the “Lost Canadians” issue. As a person who could neither work nor receive social assistance, Farid had a difficult time for many years. By the time new legislation was passed in 2008 which confirmed his Canadian status, Farid’s health had declined to the point that he had qualified for disability insurance. His condition was incurable and he was often in pain.

It is a testimony to Farid’s love of science fiction in general and the Merrill Collection in particular that he chose to purchase a membership in the Friends of the Merrill Collection during the years 2009-2010, out of affection for our branch. The Toronto Public Library’s Merrill Collection of SF and the Sanderson Branch with its adjoining community centre, Scadding Court, were among his favourite haunts. Farid’s dear friend Krista Fry, of the Scadding Court Community Centre, was a rock of stability and kindness in his life, and we had the privilege of meeting her during Farid’s final illness.

Farid was widely read, intellectually curious, and knowledgeable in an eclectic variety of subjects: chemistry, alternative medicine, computers, history, philosophy, religion and poetry. His opinions were passionate, often controversial, and always boldly stated. He was an intensely loyal friend and a compassionate listener, and his conversation often revealed an optimistic idealism buried under a world-weary exterior.

Farid felt that humankind already had the answers to many of the world's ills but was being misled by political and financial agendas. He loved to devise possible inventions, such as an ingenious scheme for building acoustic guitars out of blown glass. I often wonder what would have happened if he had had the resources to pursue some of these ideas.

Due to a turbulent childhood, Farid was estranged from his family, but had managed in recent years to renew contact with several relatives, especially his beloved half-sister Iffath Sajid Lotallah and his favourite cousin, Haroon Tahir. Farid's younger half-siblings remember him as a mysterious, handsome older brother with a brilliant mind, a wonderful singing voice and a talent for playing guitar.

Farid was a caring and compassionate friend to me over the years, always stopping to ask after my own health and that of my family, to recommend herbal remedies, chide me for not taking care of myself, bring samples of vitamin drinks, and to remind me to drink my yarrow tea when I caught colds. He was a staunch advocate of alternative therapies, massage, reiki and rolfing. He truly believed that there was a natural cure for anything and everything. As time passed, however, such dreams faded as his energies were focused on battling the chronic illness which eventually took his life, five days before his 57th birthday.

Farid's favourite cousin and childhood friend, Mr. Haroon Tahir, recently described Farid's life as "poetic and wondrous and sad." What a perfect description. Today, as I was digging through the emailed messages and photos that are all that is left of my remarkable friendship with Farid Sajid, I came upon this poem, written and shared with me, four years and one month before his death:

I sit on the green, green grass, now...everyday. I meditate.  
I bring up the Earth - I Will it into all the little channels of my subtle body -  
I meditate....I ground...I heal.  
I breathe deep - I listen to the Wind ...and feel it blow thru the tops of the  
tree I'm leaning against...I feel the sun. I feel its warmth, its  
joyousness....and I bring Him into me...I channel His energy into all the  
little meridians and pathways of my subtle body...into my hand chakras.  
I feel a glow. I feel my body glow.  
And I am healthier, than I have been in years.  
I breathe - deep.  
And - I get up - to live the rest of my days, until I cannot, anymore.  
I breathe - deep.

Peace, my friend. Rest well.

# The 2015 Friends of the Merrill Short Story Contest



Send us your best fantasy, science fiction and speculative short stories!  
1st prize \$500, with two runner-up prizes of \$50 each.

Entries accepted until February 15th, 2015

Final judging by Leah Bobet, Julie Czerneda & Caitlin Sweet

Entry fee \$5, in support of the Friends of the Merrill Collection at the Toronto Public Library

For full rules and guidelines, visit <http://friendsmerrilcontest.com/>

## >>>>>The 2015 Friends of Merrill Short Story Contest

The 2015 annual Friends of the Merrill Short Story Contest is on and open to submissions for it's 4th year! Organized by the talented Charlotte Ashley with local judges and authors Leah Bobet, Julie Czerneda and Caitlin Sweet.

Submissions for speculative short fiction up to 6000 words will be accepted until February 15th, 2015 (11:59pm EST). The contest is open to everyone (international) and writers of all levels (published, unpublished, emerging, etc.), without restriction.

The top prize up for grabs is \$500 CDN with two additional honourable mentions of \$50 CDN. Both multiple, and simultaneous submissions are welcomed!

Each entry requires a \$5 CDN submission fee (payable by PayPal) which will be put towards supporting the Friends of Merrill's many activities such as author readings, book launches, panel discussions, and new additions to the collection itself.

To enter, send submissions to [fomsscontest@gmail.com](mailto:fomsscontest@gmail.com) and complete the entry fee payment form (payable through Paypal): <http://friendsmerrilcontest.com/entry-fee/>. *Note: Please make sure the name of the story on your payment matches the story you have submitted to us!*

Titles and authors of the winning stories will be posted to the Friends of the Merrill Short Story Contest website after the winners have been notified. This information is left online indefinitely to provide exposure to both current and past finalists and winners of the Friends of the Merrill Short Story Contest.

For full contest rules please visit the [friendsmerrilcontest.com](http://friendsmerrilcontest.com) page.

## Scholarly Pursuits

Science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction are well-known and treasured in fandom and the academic community alike. Both communities have a strong sense of involvement with and admiration for authors and artists of the genres, and oftentimes come together at events to share their love and discuss how they view the works. The Merrill Collection, being a major international reference hub, caters to both groups and makes its Collection available to all via in-house visits, panel events, and specialized lecture series.

### >>>>>ACCSFF '15 Call for Papers by Allan Weiss

The 2015 Academic Conference on Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy will be held Friday and Saturday, June 5-6, 2015, in Toronto, Ontario, at the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy, one of the most important collections of fantastic literature in the world.

We invite proposals for papers in any area of Canadian science fiction and fantasy, including:

- studies of individual works and authors;
- comparative studies;
- studies that place works in their literary and/or cultural contexts.

Papers may be about Canadian works in any medium: literature, film, graphic novels and comic books, and so on. For studies of the audio-visual media, preference will be given to discussions of works produced in Canada or involving substantial Canadian creative contributions.

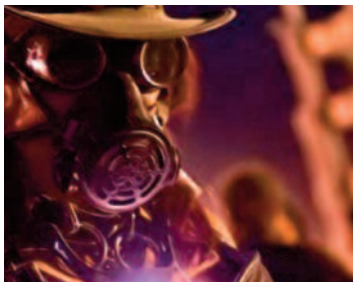
Papers should be no more than 20 minutes long, and geared toward a general as well as an academic audience. Please submit proposals (max. 2 pages), preferably By email, to Dr. Allan Weiss at [aweiss@yorku.ca](mailto:aweiss@yorku.ca). Deadline is February 15th, 2015.

### >>>>>The Canadian Fantastic in Focus

*The Canadian Fantastic in Focus* collection by Allan Weiss is being released this month and brings together papers presented at the Academic Conference on Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy from 2005 to 2013, and includes essays from Veronica Hollinger's keynote address, "The Body on the Slab," and Robert Runté's Aurora Award-winning paper, "Why I Read Canadian Speculative Fiction," along with 15 other contributions on science fiction and fantasy literature, television and music by Canadian creators.

## >>>>>The Studios Soul

Online, open-source education has been available for years, however it's only recently become a larger contender among the world's leading institutions in global learning. Courses offered range by school and professor, but a comprehensive list of subjects can be found if you know where to look. Here are a select few (from the abundance) that the Friends of Merrill recommend to you:



### Transmedia Storytelling: Modern Science Fiction

#### Open courseware through MIT

"Transmedia narratives exist across multiple storytelling platforms, using the advantages of each to enhance the experience of the audience. No matter which medium nor how many, the heart of any successful transmedia project is a good story. In this class we will spend time on the basics of solid storytelling in speculative fiction before we move on to how to translate those elements into various media."

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/comparative-media-studies-writing/21w-763j-transmedia-storytelling-modern-science-fiction-spring-2014/>



### Fantasy and Science Fiction: The Human Mind, Our Modern World

**February 2-May 23, 2015 & June 1-August 2, 2015 offered through Coursera**

"Fantasy is a key term both in psychology and in the art and artifice of humanity. The things we make, including our stories, reflect, serve, and often shape our needs and desires. We see this everywhere from fairy tale to kiddie lit to myth; from "Cinderella" to Alice in Wonderland to Superman; from building a fort as a child to building ideal, planned cities as whole societies. Fantasy in ways both entertaining and practical serves our persistent needs and desires and illuminates the human mind."

<https://www.coursera.org/course/fantasysf>



## "Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus" by Shelley: BerkeleyX Book Club

**February 2-March 2, 2015 offered through edX**

"Frankenstein is a representation of both the Gothic and Romantic movements, and is often considered to be one of the earliest novels of science fiction as well. This story has had a huge influence on literature and popular culture, and has generated many adaptations in the forms of movies and plays. The first film adaptation, in fact, appeared in 1910."

<https://www.edx.org/course/frankenstein-or-modern-prometheus-uc-berkeleyx-colwri3-3x#.VLRteCvF-So>



## "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Wilde: BerkeleyX Book Club

**June 1- June 29, 2015 offered through edX**

"This course will examine Oscar Wilde's only novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray...first published as a serial novel in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine in 1890. The Picture of Dorian Gray was immediately controversial, and was censored by the magazine's editors... This story has two important themes: the idea of selling one's soul, and the theme of living a double life."

<https://www.edx.org/course/picture-dorian-gray-wilde-berkeleyx-book-uc-berkeleyx-colwri3-4x#.VLRvECvF-So>



## Welcome to Game Theory

**February 4-March 9, 2015 offered through Coursera**

"Business competition, political campaigns, the struggle for existence by animals and plants, and so on, can all be regarded as a kind of "game," in which individuals try to do their best against others. Game theory provides a general framework to describe and analyze how individuals behave in such "strategic" situations."

<https://www.coursera.org/course/welcomegametheory>

# The Artwork of Karolina Starodub's Red Gella

## by Alicia Freeborn

Karolina Starodub's Red Gella artwork has all the essence of a fairy tale day-dream. Her use of colour and texture create dynamic, evocative images that work perfectly in the realm of all things fantasy.

The Russian/Swede artist was gracious enough to allow us to peek into her unique process explained below.

"Most of the time I draw with pencil before working with the computer. I like thin lines and the feeling of pencil on paper. However, the image *At My Side* (cover artwork) was done differently, with more texture using oils & acrylics, and aluminum foil. I look at a page, while listening to music, until I start to see shapes.

I usually have some specific feeling and idea before I begin, but the shapes show themselves through the process. I do not work on pictures for very long as new images start to take over my mind after a time but I do sometimes carry around and dream about an idea for days. And that is also the reason why I love working with texture, as in this case. It helps to create something unexpected and vibrant, alive even.

Another thing with this picture is that it's a bit personal which is often the case. Even if my images are not totally clear they come from what I'm feeling and listening to in the moment.



Winter by Red Gella

Music is always very important and is my partner in the process."

To hear what Karolina was listening to while creating *At My Side* check out the song [Stay With Me by Clint Mansell](#).

For more information on Karolinda Starodub's Red Gella please visit:  
[www.karolinastaroduba.com](http://www.karolinastaroduba.com)  
[redgella.deviantart.com](http://redgella.deviantart.com)

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## Sol Rising Throwback

Sol Rising, formerly known as SOL Rising, has been a free volunteer publication since the late 80's. In its 28th year, it has seen many Friends of Spaced Out Library/Merril Collection members, formats, and guest writers and authors come and go during its lifetime. To commemorate them, we have decided to introduce a new column to spotlight some of these past contributions that are still interesting to read to this day.

### >>>>Not Only A Mother: An Interview with Judith Merrill by Allan Weiss, SOL Rising Issue #18, April 1997

On March 15, 1997, I had the opportunity to chat with the founder of the Merrill Collection. Surprisingly, Judith had never been interviewed by SOL Rising before, despite the fact that neither it nor the collection would exist without her. She is currently writing her memoirs, which are anxiously awaited by everyone interested in not just her own work but also the history of science fiction, especially its Golden Age of the 1930s and 1940s.

Judith Merrill was one of the first women writers in the field, and one of the first to make a living at it. Her first published story, "That Only a Mother" (1948), brought her instant fame; during the next decade she published numerous other stories and novels both alone and in collaboration with C. M. Kornbluth (as Cyril Judd). She then went on to become editor of Dell's *Year's Best SF* anthologies.

She decided to move to Canada in 1968, after witnessing first-hand the events at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago where police violently crushed an anti-war demonstration. In Toronto, she became part of the scene at Rochdale, an alternative college that was the seedbed for new movements in many arts, notably poetry and music. It was at Rochdale that the collection's history began; she would lend out her books to friends, knowing full well many of those books would never return. Eventually she agreed to donate her collection to the Toronto Public Library.

By now her careers as fiction writer and editor were largely over, and she turned her attention to political causes, above all the nuclear arms race. But she remained part of the science fiction world, and her next important contribution to the field was the editing of the first *Tesseract* anthology in 1985.

We spoke for an hour-and-a-half; what follows is a very condensed version of our conversation, which-even during its "heavy" parts-was frequently punctuated by laughter. It provides a taste of the amazing story we can look forward to in her memoirs.... Judith's parents were intellectuals who had very high expectations of themselves and each other, they encouraged her to write, and inculcated their Zionism into her. At that time, Zionism meant more than simply Jewish nationalism; it was an idealistic, leftist movement for social reform that sought goals like the establishment of kibbutzim (cooperative farms). Her politicization, then, began early, and was reinforced at school:

**JM:** I was at a high school called Morris High School... Morris was extremely radical, and mostly Stalinist at that time. I made a move from just plain conventional Zionist to Poalei Tzion, which was social democratic Zionist. And then after a couple of years in the high school I made the next jump to the Trotskyites group.

I wondered whether the Depression, which had radicalized so many people, contributed to her own political development.

**JM:** I was practically born into the Depression. It couldn't radicalize me, I grew up in it. To the extent that there was a specific ideological radicalization it was the atmosphere in the high school.

The Depression had two main psychological effects for her. First, she became determined not to seek what seemed both unattainable and undesirable:

**JM:** I have noted that I'm a minority member in regard to Depression effects, because economically the effect it seemed to have on me was to make me uncomfortable with any kind of security, whereas most of the people I know who grew up in the same situation were desperate for security and couldn't survive in an insecure situation.

**AW:** And you were the opposite? You were afraid of security?

**JM:** By the record I was afraid of security. I mean, I was not conscious of being afraid of security, but I had a repeated pattern of dumping everything I was doing every time I was in danger of making a living.

Second, during this period, and through her involvement in radical politics, she developed an aversion to hierarchical social or other structures; when I commented on her lifelong resistance to authority and convention, she replied:

**JM:** Yes, whether it stems from my relationship with my mother or whether it stems from I don't know what, certainly rebellion against authority has been a consistent pattern. There used to be a song called the "United Front Song" that us young radicals used to sing and it had a line in it that for me was a passionate statement of where I was at: "I want no servants under me or bosses overhead." [The significance of it was that] it wasn't only rebellion against authority but it was also rebellion against being an authority, and that, too, has stuck.

We talked about her beginnings as a writer of fiction. She started out writing for the school paper, doing articles for the Trotskyites, but had little thought of creative work. At this time she met her first husband Daniel Zissman—bizarrely enough, at a Trotskyite Fourth of July picnic—who was interested in science fiction. She said that she had always avoided those magazines with the terrible covers, but when she was home sick for an extended length of time, she ran out of things to read and tried one of Daniel's magazines. She was instantly hooked, although she couldn't say why; it seemed to have been all the exciting new ideas portrayed, and she agreed that ideas had always excited and been important to her. Also, there was the matter of wanting to get the other installments of the serials published in the issues she read...

She began to write fiction professionally without planning to make a major shift in her life; it just sort of happened because of pressure or suggestions from others, above all Theodore Sturgeon...In her early years, during the late 1940s, she wrote mainly conventional sports stories for Scott Meredith, the literary agent, who sold them to various pulp and general-interest magazines. She even sold a (technically inaccurate) golf story to the Toronto Star Weekly, her first connection in life with Toronto....During the 1950s she became so consumed by her editorial work that, without being completely aware of it, she stopped writing fiction. Why?

To read the rest of Allan's interview with Judith Merrill and more please visit the **SOL Rising Issue #18, April 1997** issue hosted on [friendsofmerrill.org](http://friendsofmerrill.org).

## >>>>Sol Rising Turns 50!

Not 50 years in age but 50 issues strong! Since the winter of 1987, staff and friends of the Spaced Out library, later renamed the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation, and Fantasy, have been regularly releasing a newsletter/ zine with articles, event reviews, and news of interest to the Canadian SF community.

Over the years Sol Rising has taken many forms, in newsletter and zine, in booklets and online, and been through a slight name change in the process (previously SOL RISING). It has also had many editors, writers, and Merrill Collection staff and friends dedicate their time to maintain and continue it's growth. In this issue we'd like to thank all of the contributors and readers who have supported this project over the years, it may at times feel like a small community but there is no doubt it is big in heart!

### The Friends of Merrill would like to thank:

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**And a big thank you to anyone we  
may have missed who has helped  
out over the years!**

**To another 50 issues!**



The Friends would also like to thank adfactor for their expertise and continuous years of service to small organizations such as ourselves. Check out their quality print & design services at:

[adfactor.com](http://adfactor.com)

## Submission Queries

We are always willing to consider work from members, fans, professionals, and all other interested individuals for inclusion in Sol Rising!

If you are interested in submitting articles or other projects to Sol Rising for consideration, please get in touch with us first to make sure that your proposal fits our mandate.

Sol Rising also offers ad space for purchase. For a breakdown of our advertising guidelines and fees, please use the contact information listed below.

Please address queries to:  
Alicia Freeborn, at  
[solrising.editor@gmail.com](mailto:solrising.editor@gmail.com)

## Copies of Sol Rising

The Friends of the Merrill are currently partnered with several stores in the GTA (listed below) in an effort to make it easier for people to get physical copies of Sol Rising:

Bakka Phoenix Books  
84 Harbord St., (416)-963-9993  
[www.bakkaphoenixbooks.com](http://www.bakkaphoenixbooks.com)

The Beguiling, 601 Markham St.  
(416)-533-9168,  
[www.beguiling.com](http://www.beguiling.com)

The Hairy Tarantula, 354 Yonge St.,  
2nd Floor, 416-596-8002  
[www.hairyt.com](http://www.hairyt.com)

## Volunteer with the Friends

The FoM are always looking for new volunteers. If interested, please check out the positions listed below and contact Lorna Toolis at  
[ltoolis@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:ltoolis@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

### Event Setup, Notifications, & Staffing the tables

The Friends of Merrill put on some events each year that may require furniture setup, contacting local weeklies, or helping staff the Merrill promotional tables.

### Sol Rising

Write articles for our semi-annual zine, or help with proofreading, ad sales, graphic design etc.

### Marketing/Promotion

Help spread the word by promoting Merrill events via Facebook, Twitter, and in-store listings.

### Fundraising

An *ad hoc* fundraising committee looks at ideas to raise money to support the Friends and the Collection.

**The Merrill Collection**, which was originally called the Spaced Out Library and later renamed for its founder, the late Judith Merrill, is one of the world's foremost open-access collections of Speculative, SF, and Fantasy Fiction & pop-culture, all made available to the greater public.

The Collection houses an astonishing 75,000 items, and is always growing. In the stacks you will find century-old and modern-day fiction; first and rare editions, original artworks, TPB graphic works and comic collections; 1930s pulps and this month's magazines; fanzines; authors' correspondence; critical essays, reference works and compendia—and original manuscripts donated by authors such as Phyllis Gottlieb and Cory Doctorow.

**The Friends of the Merrill Collection** is a volunteer organization providing support to the Collection through paid membership in the Friends, donations, sponsorship of related events such as readings, book launches and signings, panel discussions, and the publication of *Sol Rising*.

Memberships and donations to the Friends underwrite events and help the Collection acquire materials it otherwise could not afford. We invite you to support the Merrill collection by joining or by making a donation on our website: [friendsofmerril.org/donate](http://friendsofmerril.org/donate)



Author Hugh Howey & Collection Head Lorna Toolis visiting the stacks.