



Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

#31 November 2022

61871 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252 - www.spacecowboybooks.com

Letter from the Editor

In this issue we bring you an interview with Justin Sloane, editor of the Starship Sloane family of magazines, as well as poetry from the award winning Mary Soon Lee, and of course new from the small press. It's a busy time at Space Cowboy, and we also have some great events coming up, so be sure to check the website about upcoming programming. As always, we'd love to hear from you, get in touch at spacecowboybooks@gmail.com Jean-Paul L. Garnier



What motivated you to start the Starship Sloane family of magazines?

I have always loved magazines. When I was young, I wanted to work for a magazine. I was crazy about the now largely defunct *Omni* and envisioned working there, in any capacity. Life took me on its own trajectory, but my

love of magazines remained. They are an art form that inspires me. Finding one's inspiration is the much-vaunted secret of life, in my view. I read voraciously as a kid. All books, all genres, and all forms. *The Adventures of Tintin* by Hergé is probably the single greatest literary influence in my life. I also enjoyed reading *Asterix* by Goscinny and Uderzo, as well as comic books, particularly *Conan* and the *X-Men*. Science fiction has always been my favorite genre. It called to me in a way that nothing else did, although I have an appreciation for all genres. When I learned that my great-great-grandfather, towards the end of his long career in science, had worked with Hugo Gernsback – a fellow inventor and lover of all things scientific – at *Amazing Stories*, eventually becoming its editor, I was further hooked on SF. My grandfather was Asimov's editor at Doubleday. His work being among the first SF that I recall having read. I felt that if they could do it, I could do it. During the pandemic shutdown, I decided that it was time to finally pursue my dreams of being directly involved in art and literature and to put together a magazine or two... or more. I needed to immerse myself in the arts, in literature, in the creative process. It is an element of my being that howled long and persistent to be reasserted into my daily existence and into the world around me. Nobody was knocking at my door to let loose my dreams, but for the dreams themselves! So, I had to do it for myself. Time flies and there is no time like the present, so I overcame my sometimes-pathological cheapness and spent some money to allow my dreams to take flight. Thank Odin and his great beard that I did. It's what I've always wanted to do. It inspires me. I love that it inspires others and that I get to help them realize their dreams of seeing their creative work published. I can't imagine not having embarked on this journey of discovery and creativity. I only wish that I'd started it sooner, however, I have learned that everything comes in its own good time – and so I am content.

Several of your magazines focus on the niche of speculative poetry, what inspired you to take on this underappreciated part of the field of SFF?

I love poetry and I love science fiction. Always have. To combine the two is like rocketing to Mars! It is a realm of unlimited exploration, discovery, creativity, and inspiration that transcends the daily humdrum of the human experience and gets into new territory and asks big questions. I often found myself bored with non-SF poetry. Though it explores and processes the nuances of the human condition and human existence, which is of course, important, it bored me silly; everyday stuff, everyday themes, everyday emotions, everyday human interactions, everyday experiences, boring. Just plain boring and often, so played out. The endless chatter of emotion and feelings, he said, she said, just stuck in the mud, at the exclusion of something fascinating and far greater and ultimately, evolutive. I love SF poetry in part, because it is not constrained by the self-absorbed and utterly mundane parameters of a daytime TV talk show. Give me science fiction and its speculative future, its advanced technology, alien species and civilizations, its epic scale, its spirit of discovery, its can-do problem solving, and the cosmos to explore! Big ideas. New and interesting thinking. Now that's exciting! I'm a Campbellian more than a Goldellian. Hard science fiction over social science fiction. Within that context, though, some socioemotional-driven stuff might be necessary, humans figuring themselves out, sure, but it's part of something greater than the limitations of such on humanity's collective aspirations. An overarching theme of progress and discovery, invention and innovation. It's not self-limiting, trivial, swimming in endless circles within a fishbowl social of the mind, never gaining advance nor altitude. As well, I felt that specpo needed another venue in the market to publish more work and further expand its audience. I thought that in providing that, I could perhaps better and more quickly establish my publishing venture.



You have many imprints under the umbrella of Starship Sloane, how do these magazines differ from each other, and what are the reasons for multiple imprints rather than one?

Right. One is only poetry and art about the UFO phenomenon. One is just scifaiku and minimalist art. One is SF. One is all genres. Leave it to me to totally overcomplicate everything. My thinking in doing it this way was that by creating magazines with distinct areas of focus, each might establish itself as a recognized and go-to publication in a given genre, form, or forum of creativity and

thought – as an imprint should. I also liked the idea of being able to pursue a diverse range of interests through the magazines broadly, while focusing on a specific area of interest in a given magazine. Even a magazine featuring all genres is a category in my mind that facilitates entry into a different and unique headspace that best serves the creative vision and intent of that magazine. This approach allows me as a generalist to specialize my thinking and creative output for each category while keeping all my other interests open and active. It's just how I operate and perhaps it makes little sense to someone else, recognizing that the rationale behind my approach can easily be deconstructed. It just works for me, though it also has various drawbacks. Every approach has its advantages and disadvantages, but on the whole, it is productive for me.

Tell us about the various awards that Starship Sloane offers?

Starship Sloane has a few in-house awards. I call them that because at this time I am not accepting submissions of work to the awards and there is no third-party judge or panel of judges, no award voting, etc. Rather, the awards are entirely reflective of what I like and deem to be particularly noteworthy, my artistic sensibilities and so forth. The work is drawn from what has been submitted to the magazines for publication. So far, actor and artist Dave Vescio has received an award for his photography. I plan on getting more awards out there to deserving writers and artists. These awards are not prestigious, but they are legitimate and have meaning.

Starship Sloane also plans on releasing books, how will these differ from the magazine and what are your goals and plans for this form of publishing?

I hope to build the book publishing into a profitable endeavor. The books will be published as eBooks and traditional paper books. The current mags probably won't ever see paper except, perhaps, in the form of an omnibus. Big plans here and so much to do to make it happen.

What themes and issues do you think will become increasingly important in science fiction?

Great question. I suppose anything that addresses the future of humanity on this imperiled planet will become increasingly important. Awareness must be achieved universally before we can even begin to hope to solve the problems we are confronted with as a species. Science fiction can play a vital role in presenting what is possible. Of what is scientific fact disguised in fiction. It can be used as a tool for future building and future fixing.

What's next for you, and what are you currently working on?

Starship Sloane is working on a revival of *Worlds of IF* science fiction magazine. A solarpunk mag called *Dreadnought SF*. Books to be published. The magazines and more. Thank you for this interview, Jean-Paul!

<https://starshipsloane.com/>



Find many of the books mentioned in our newsletter at our online shop www.bookshop.org/shop/spacecowboybooks

Poetry by Mary Soon Lee

What Electrons Read

Notes from fellow anarchists:
how to speed faster than light
in a dielectric medium

reports of attempts to defy
the Pauli exclusion principle.
No success thus far.

Anything that admits
a multiplicity of meaning:
metaphor, symbolism, allegory

embracing the ambiguity
of their own plurality.
Particle. Wave. Mystic.

The Relativity Times:
scouring the social column
for news of the lepton clan

lingering over the obituary
of another young luminary
annihilated by a positron.

What Photons Read

Radio broadcasts
to diagnostic X-rays:
across the spectrum.

Across the spectrum,
embracing diversity,
wave or particle.

Wave or particle,
microwave recipe books
and rainbow banners.

New from the Small Press

Bones of Starlight

By Eva L. Elsigue

A sweeping turn-of-the-age epic of fantasy aliens in an intergalactic imperium, *Bones of Starlight* by Eva L. Elsigue is both gritty and soaring, with an array of characters from all corners as Scion Princess Soleil goes on a journey to get to the heart of the matter. 1: *Fire Within* & 2: *Abyss Surrounding* are widely available from new booksellers, while 3: *Greater Beyond* concludes its serialization now on [bonesofstarlight.com!](http://bonesofstarlight.com/)

Get your copy at <https://bookshop.org/a/197/9781944416126>

