



Progress Report #2

Corflu Pangloss

The best of all possible Corflus, under the circumstances

March 18-20, 2022

Best Western+ Sands Hotel

1755 Davie Street Vancouver, British Columbia V6G 1W5 Canada

2022 FAAN AWARDS

By Nic Farey

The FAAn (Fanzine Activity Achievement) awards for excellence in the hobby will be announced in a ceremony at Corflu Pangloss. Awards will be given in seven categories:

FANZINE CATEGORIES:

Genzine (A publication with multiple contributors)

Perzine (A publication primarily by a single individual)

Special Publication (A "one-off" issue not part of a numbered title)

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

Best Fanwriter

Best Fanartist

Best Letterhack (Harry Warner, Jr. Memorial Award)

Best Fanzine Cover

The fanzine categories are for issues published in the calendar year 2021, and the individual categories are thus for those whose work has appeared in any such fanzine.

The awards are determined through voting by any interested persons. Voters do not have to be a member of Corflu or anything else. The ballot pro forma will be printed in *The Incomplete Register*, a FAAn awards listzine which will be issued in early January. This will also include more detailed voting instructions and a listing of known fanzines by category. Voters are not limited to the contents of the lists - all votes are taken in good faith.

The closing date for receiving votes will be midnight Pacific time on Friday, February 25, 2022.



Fanzine Auction and Sales

By Andy Hooper

Most of the 38 versions of Corflu seen so far have devoted some part of the weekend to an auction of vintage fanzines, art, books and other prized pieces of fannish memorabilia. Proceeds benefit the convention's budget, as well as fannish endeavors like the Transatlantic and Down-Under Fan Funds and the Corflu 50. Our auctions have sometimes been quite entertaining and competitive, but there have also been years where relatively little money was raised and donors saw their heirlooms sell for the minimum bid, or worse still, not at all.

And as inflation has increased the cost of everything we do at SF conventions, auction income has remained static or decreased, to the point where it contributes relatively little to the event's overall budget. We now have auctions more in the interest of fun and finding new homes for old fanzines, than because we hope to offset the expense of the convention. The income made from the auction can usually be replaced by just 3 or 4 more attending memberships.

A lot of time and effort goes into the auction as well. We have published a catalog of auction items in advance of the convention, but people also like to bring donations to the con and see them auctioned; so, there are always things left out of the listings. Even though the auction is usually allotted 90 minutes to two hours of the program, we're seldom "done" by that time, and things usually just fizzle out as most of the audience leaves for dinner expeditions.

We have also conducted experiments with allowing fans watching the con remotely to bid in the auction, but bids are often delayed and arrive after the auction has been gavelled. We could certainly do a much better job of allowing distant members to participate, which might increase the amount of money raised.

All of this is leading me up to the conclusion that maybe we could find better things to do with that prime late afternoon Saturday time slot, where the auction usually occurs. The traditional format also puts a great deal of pressure on the volunteer accountants, who are expected to create invoices and cash people out as soon as the auction ends.

We propose to address many of these issues by changing the Corflu Auction to a Sealed-Bid or Blind format. In this type of auction, bidders submit their bids without any knowledge of other offers and all bids are opened and compared at a designated time. TAFF and DUFF mail auctions have sometimes been conducted this way. For Pangloss, the highest bid submitted wins the item; but the winning bidder actually pays \$1.00 more than the closest competing bid, or \$5.00 if the bid is above \$50.00.

Therefore, I might bid \$500.00 for an item, but if no one else offered more than \$15.00, my actual price would be just \$16.00. (That would be a risky strategy, however, as it would be very possible for someone else to do the same thing, leaving one of us holding a \$500 bag.) Ties will be broken by a coin toss, with the winner paying the full amount of their bid. Winning bidders not at the convention will be expected to arrange to have their winnings delivered and provide additional money to cover any postage costs

Auction items will be on display from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening, after which the bids will be opened. The winners will be revealed on Sunday morning. To prepare for the event, I am gathering a collection of fanzines and other treasures and planning to photograph and describe each item, organizing them into auction lots. The catalog of these items will be published on the Web about two weeks before the convention. Bids may be made at any time after the catalog is posted, up to midnight Saturday, March 19th, 2022. We will also publish a bidding form, with a line for each lot; there will be a drop box for bids made at the con and those in other places can submit their bids by email. If a bidder wishes to change or cancel their bids, they may do so, but their new or altered bids must still be received by midnight Saturday. It is obviously not in your interest to share the amount or object of your bids prior to the end of bidding.

It is also traditional for Corflu to have a sales table, where trip reports, fanthologies and other rarities are offered, with the money collected going to a Fan Fund or potentially passed on to the next year's committee. We'll set up a space for sale items at Pangloss and collect money for the designated recipients.

By changing the auction format, we will lose a little of the fun of watching Corflu members agonize over outbidding one another. But the auction items will still be on display for the first two days of the convention, giving ample time for study. And we would suddenly have two

hours – plus accounting time – where we could do something less likely to descend into tedium. (I also envision going through the bids late Saturday evening to come up with the winners, much as we once tabulated FAAn Award ballots at the con.)

If you have something you'd like to donate to the Sealed Bid auction, feel free to contact me at fanmailaph@aol.com and we'll arrange a way to get it to Seattle by the 1st of March.



Woo, Canada! A Memoir and Site Visit Report

By Ulrika O'Brian

I first fell in love with Vancouver by accident. I was flying to Germany for a visit with my boyfriend's family while still a poor college student. But I had one very clever travel agent. (No, sad to say, she was not our dear Lucy Huntzinger. This was a different clever travel agent, long before I met Lucy, and I think even long before Lucy ever dreamt of becoming a travel agent.) My wizard travel agent found a magic bargain airfare from Los Angeles to Frankfurt for less than half the high season price, available as long as travel started in May. Unfortunately, all the seats for the transatlantic leg were sold out for May. On the other hand, the route involved changing planes in Vancouver. My genius travel agent figured out that if I flew into Vancouver on May 31st, spent the night in a hotel, and then caught my connecting flight to Frankfurt the next day then there would be plenty of seats on the flight, and I could still get the magic fare, because travel had started in May. Bonus: the flight to Germany was nearly empty with the price jump. I got a whole row to myself. Those were the days, eh?

I had another, fannish, travel agent who was possibly more helpy than clever. (No names, but folks familiar with Los Angeles fandom may readily guess who.) He was the one I used to book a hotel for the overnight in Vancouver. I asked him to find me something inexpensive near the airport. My best guess is that he only paid attention to the first half of the request. Or didn't consult a map at all. The hotel was certainly inexpensive. It was also in North Vancouver. That's roughly twenty-five miles from the airport by the most direct route, which snakes right through the congested center of town and across the Lion's Gate bridge. The direct taxi route wasn't the fastest way to go, but boy did it give a person the chance to admire the city, threading as it did past the leafy, stately homes on Granville, the Persian rug district and similarly exotic-seeming

ethnic neighborhoods, the quirky, gleaming skyscrapers of downtown, the sudden vast forest wilderness of Stanley Park, the breathtaking views and heart-stopping terror of Lion's Gate bridge, all with the wide blue Pacific and snowy mountains as backdrop and all at the stately sight-seer's pace necessitated by Vancouver afternoon traffic. It wasn't what I originally planned for my layover, but the all-Vancouver taxi tour did not suck. Vancouver ravished me. But then, Vancouver was determined to seduce me at first sight.

My flight came in on a gray and gloomy day, but just as we dropped below the lid, the westering sun broke free under the clouds, lighting the city and everything around it in glittering halos of gold and white. The towers of downtown shone like polished chrome, and on the sparkling waves way, way down below, a toy-tiny hovercraft was doing donuts and cutting figure eights for sheer joy. (Or maybe it was full of eels...) The whole scene was ineffably charming. It felt like a special welcome laid out just for me. The icing on the cake came the next morning with a light, sugar-dusting of utterly unseasonable snow to greet the day. Magic! (Living in California meant snow was little more than a twinkling childhood memory for me.) And then, even on top of that, I was able to get a genuinely decent cup of tea with my breakfast at the frigging Denny's, of all places! Apparently the BCers took the "British" in "British Columbia" quite seriously. At least seriously enough to know how to brew a proper pot of tea, even at a middle-brow chain coffeeshop.

Because I loved Vancouver, I've been back to visit her many times, each visit offering new charm and discovery. There were local artists I had not previously met, current and historic – Bill Reid, Emily Carr, Susan Point, Andy Everson, and more than I can now remember – encountered in the Vancouver Art Gallery and the many, many private galleries around town. (Vancouver is an excellent city for art, especially for cultivating an interest in First Nations artists.) For lower brow pursuits, there were the always-engaging otters and tiny, thumb-size marmosets at the Vancouver aquarium, and that one time when Hal got to play tag and hide-and-seek with their remaining orca – Byossa – through the glass of the massive tank viewing window. There were always bookstores (Vancouver is a very reading town), and bakery cafes, and new cuisines to explore, plus pubs offering the fruits of the local take on the Northwest microbrew boom, all surrounded by the usual, over-the-top natural beauty that Northwesterners come to take for granted after a while.

So, it was with no small degree of anticipation that I looked forward to our Pangloss hotel site visit over Thanksgiving weekend. Like all things Pangloss, the trip was troubled by uncertainty before it finally came together. Hal had literally just started a new job, Suzle was in suspense about some medical tests, and all of us had to negotiate the right balance between how long the results from a molecular Covid test might take to come back, and how recent the test needed to be to pass the standards of the Canadian border authorities. (The labs all tell you that a PCR test can take up to 72 hours to come back, and the Canadians want a test that is not more than 72 hours old when you enter the country– it seems like a knife-edge proposition.) In the end, though, lab results all showed up in 36 hours or less, and everything came together despite torrential rains on the drive up. We made it across the border and off to V-town. WOOT!

And, on balance, we had a very successful visit. The hotel is as good as we'd hoped based on what we could ascertain remotely: more than sufficient for a Corflu-sized event, with good function space and pleasantly updated sleeping rooms. The kitchen that serves both the hotel's restaurant/bars – and not coincidentally will provide our buffet banquet – offers a very tasty, if limited, menu. The suite we'll use for hospitality is well-appointed, and even has a small view balcony where smokers might retreat if they are circumspect. The West End is still a hopping part of town, with busy sidewalks and late offerings particularly on the weekend. The selection of cuisines within an easy stroll of the hotel is both broad and deep, and the local buses appear to run quite frequently for those who wish to venture farther afield. There's a Safeway supermarket just up the block, and for those whose tastes run that way, several marijuana vendors have storefronts as well (yes, recreational use is legal).

There were some disappointments, of course. Getting to both the function space where our program will be and to the Sands' Bayside Lounge requires guests to step briefly outdoors into the weather. The former, at least, is accessed by a covered breezeway. Meanwhile the indoor-accessible restaurant bar is now also the West End's premiere destination sports bar, boasting many large screens and a boisterous crowd for (American-style) football games. Good if you're into whatever sport is being broadcast. If not, then not. But the restaurant isn't terribly busy mornings through afternoons, and even I didn't at all mind eating breakfast with curling playing in the background. Curling: the innocuous sport. Perhaps Nic Farey can con them into showing UK football matches in the early hours, for that matter.

Perhaps the biggest let down came because I had built up quite a lot of hopes based solely on the name of one of the drinking establishments nearest the hotel: The Three Brits. I pictured the kind of cleaned-up and idealized Ye Olde Countrye Pubbe that you often find in North America, featuring dark wood settles and oak paneling, cozy snugs with chintz-covered seat pads and perhaps a fireplace, plus a few horse brasses, royal wedding tea towels, and similar gimcracks splattered around for effect. I certainly pictured a reasonable array of actual British beers on tap, with perhaps a selection of local microbrews to supplement. I didn't think it crazy to anticipate the chance of bangers-and-mash or shepherd's pie on the menu. In short, I imagined the sort of place where you could plausibly gather over a pint and have a quiet chinwag and maybe a meal of an afternoon. This was not that.

I don't know what three Brits they were thinking of, but I imagine ones most likely found stumbling their way through A Bad Night Out in Leeds. The Three Brits proved to be loud, crowded, boisterous, and loud, with tiny cocktail table- or bar stool-seating only, superciliously oblivious wait staff, a blaring thumpa-thumpa soundtrack, over-priced, watered cocktails, clouds of cigarette smoke wafting in off the porch where the addicts huddled, and walls lined in bad 1970s pseudo-Venetian gold-shot mirror tile clearly salvaged from the retro-nightmare cottage of someone's twee maiden auntie. There were literally no British beers on tap, and there might have been a disco ball in the ceiling. It wouldn't surprise me to find that The Three Brits exactly replicates some very authentic British pub experience, but it wasn't the authentic pub experience I was looking for. Not recommended.

But it's not a fanzine article if you don't have some calamity to report, right? The Three Brits was our calamity. It could have been so much worse. Nobody caught Covid (indeed every indoor venue was punctilious about checking ID and vaccination cards), nobody had to quarantine, or got turned back at the border, and everything went pretty much as planned. We slept well, ate and drank very well, enjoyed a bit of exploratory strolling around the neighborhood, admired a dizzying array of public art and architecture around town, had an excellent outing for dim sum (at Western Lake – recommended if you have a car and a navigator) and a stop at White Dwarf books for Science Fiction (also recommended, particularly if you're taking a bus to the Museum of Anthropology anyway). So overall, a good time had by all. Recommended.

I hope you all can join us in March, so you, too, can fall in love with Vancouver.



Three Fun Things to Do in Vancouver

By Fran Skene

As a local, I have a lot of touristy faves in Greater Vancouver. I chose the following three because they are among the sights that are easy to get to on city buses, plus a small ferry in the case of Granville Market. You can get additional info by googling each place. For bus info, including how to pay on buses plus the train from the airport, go to www.translink.ca. Look especially for the Trip Planner link.

COVID guidelines: likely, even in March, you'll still need face masks for indoor areas, and also proof of full vaccination plus picture ID in restaurants and such like.

Chinatown

Vancouver's Chinatown is one of the largest in North America, due in part to Canada and Hong Kong's mutual connection to the British Commonwealth. In my (long ago) youth, we finished many a night out with a trip to a restaurant in Chinatown. And the bakeries, oh my, and the stores with spices, tea, seafood, clothing, pottery, and on and on.

From the hotel, take the bus to the Dr. Sun-Yat Sen Garden, which is worth a visit in itself, and start walking from there.

Granville Island

This was an industrial site, now transformed into an artsy neighborhood with a public market, docks, quaint shops, cafés, theaters, bookstores, and art galleries, including indigenous art. There's also a marina and a houseboat area. A story by William Gibson, "The Winter Market," is set there. It's in his short story collection, *Burning Chrome*.

You can get to Granville Island all the way by bus, but you can also take a cute little commuter ferry part of the way. As well, you can tour the whole False Creek area on one of those ferries, hopping on and off as it suits you. For ferry info, Google False Creek Ferry.

Capilano Suspension Bridge Park

If you have a bit more time, consider taking a city bus to this very scenic North Shore park. The bridge hangs 450 feet across and 230 feet above the Capilano River. The bus takes you through Stanley Park and over the Lions Gate Bridge to get there. Other attractions in the park are a Cliffwalk and a Treetops Adventure, the latter having a series of suspension bridges through the canopy.

Have fun!

Another Fun Thing to Do in Vancouver

By Jerry Kaufman

The University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology

Far to the west of downtown Vancouver, the University of British Columbia sits in a pleasantly wooded preserve. Continue west through the campus, and you arrive at the Museum of Anthropology. I've visited it at least twice, finding it fascinating each time. It's inarguably one of my five favorite museums in the world, and I look forward to encountering it again.

The largest portion of its collection is a vast array of objects from Pacific Northwest First Peoples, with large representations of other North American cultures. The totem poles, displayed in a high hall with glass walls, letting in plentiful light, are in themselves worth the trip. The museum hosts other collections from around the planet. Their current temporary exhibition, *Sankora: African Routes, Canadian Roots* will on display until March 27, 2022.

For me, the most impressive parts of the collection are the bits stored in drawers under the main exhibition cases. Visitors can pull out these drawers and inspect their contents. At the times I visited, years ago, their promotions said that this storage option allowed everyone to

see their entire collection. I suspect that the curators have now collected many additional objects that have to be stored elsewhere.

If you'd like to get a sense of the range and depth of the museum's holdings, go online to Museum of Anthropology at UBC to explore for yourselves. (Note: If you travel by public transportation, you'll have to take a long bus ride to get there. But the #99 goes right by White Dwarf Books, a purveyor of fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and crime fiction.) While you're online, look at the site for another UBC museum: Welcome to the Beaty Biodiversity Museum (ubc.ca). I haven't been there myself, but it seems to be worth my time, and yours. Blue whale!



Hotel Information for the planned Vancouver location and Pre- or Post-con Seattle options

By Suzle and Ulrika O'Brien

The Location

The Best Western+ Sands is situated in Vancouver's West End, one of the liveliest, most appealing quarters of the city. The hotel lies just steps away from the beach at English Bay, and the neighborhood offers a variety of taverns, shops, promenades, general amenities, and restaurants fancy, plain, or ethnic.

The hotel is within a 30 minute bus or Aquabus radius of many of the city's attractions, including the Vancouver Art Gallery, Stanley Park, the Vancouver Aquarium, Gastown with its steam clock, Science World situated in a giant Bucky Fuller golf ball dome, Lonsdale Quay shopping, the Waterfront station of the Skytrain's Expo Line, built to show off views of the city to visitors to Expo '86, and more shopping at the Granville Island public market. The hotel is also about a 15-minute bus from the Yaletown-Roundhouse station of Skytrain's Canada Line, which will connect you to the Vancouver airport (YVR).

Rates

The convention rate is available March 12-23, 2022 (though we only have guaranteed rooms March 16-23, so if you can, book early). Please remember we are offering programming on Sunday afternoon, so plan accordingly! For maximum fun, stay until Monday.

Room Rates:

Double Queen room (single/double occupancy): \$105 CAD per room, per night

Double Queen room (triple occupancy): \$120 CAD per room, per night

Double Queen room (quadruple occupancy): \$135 CAD per room, per night

King room with balcony (single/double occupancy): \$120 CAD per room, per night

(Quoted room rates do not include standard taxes and fees which total 15% + a \$3 Environmental Fee; nonetheless, these rates are fantastically reasonable for a West End hotel).

The room block confirmation number is 4087. Guests may reserve on the convention's secured web link or call 1-604-682-1831 or email sands@bwsands.com.

Corflu Hotel secured booking link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.62025.html?groupId=N45ZU1Y9

NOTE: When you click on that link, the Best Western page you land on will show an image of the hotel with the current rack rate listed next to it. Don't panic. Just scroll down a bit and you will see the room types and rates that are included in our block. Also, when you enter your arrival and departure dates, you must click the "update" button afterwards or the site will pre-select the full range of our room block for you.

If you're able, we encourage you to book your rooms immediately so that we can secure as many rooms on the con suite wing as possible, well ahead of the convention. Ideally, we would fill that corridor with fans so that we don't disturb the sensibilities of non-Corflu guests. Hotel policy allows cancellation without charge up to 48 hours before arrival date, in case plans change or the planet bursts into flames in the interim.

When reserving, please ask that your room be on the 4th Floor, where the con suite will be located, or the 5th Floor above the Rosen Suite (which is our Con Suite, with a large balcony.) Please also note that hotel parking is not included in the room rate, so if you drive to the convention expect to pay an additional \$20 CDN/day for parking.

Want to Stay in Seattle, Pre- or Post-Con?

The pandemic eventually closed or dramatically changed much of the Seattle hotel landscape, so unfortunately many old favorites are no longer available for travelers. However, we have found the Nexus, a small Northgate hotel offering us a Preferred Partnership plan which gives Pangloss members reduced rates and several amenities. While we have no contractual obligation to use them, the discount will be available to you if you wish to book with them.

Location: The Northgate area of Seattle (8 miles north of downtown Seattle); situated near I-5. There is some public transit nearby, but the area is primarily car-oriented, unfortunately. The new Northgate Light Rail station, which connects directly to Sea-Tac Airport, is about a half-mile away. However, due to the spaghetti bowl street design the pedestrian route is a little over a

mile. The hotel hopes to reinstate their full-service shuttle by March, if possible. The Nexus is built motel-style with only exterior balcony walkways to access sleeping rooms.

Best Western Signature Hotel Nexus

For hotel info and amenities: <https://www.hotelnexusseattle.com/>

Room Rates:

Standard Single King or Queen: \$100 per room, per night

Standard Double Queen: \$110 per room, per night

King Studio w/Japanese Hydrotherapy Tub: \$140 per room, per night

Two room Queen / Queen Suite w/ Full Kitchen: \$200 per room, per night

Plus Hotel/Sales Tax – 15.6%

For reservations you must contact the Hotel Nexus *directly*. Do not use the Best Western Registration System; they do not have our Partnership Plan information. Phone 1-800-435-0754 and ask for the Sales Department -or- email directly to alexis.burley@hotelnexusseattle.com and copy nikki.brame@360hotelgroup.com. Mention Corflu 2022 to receive our Corporate Rate. For a quieter location, ask for a room at the back of the hotel as the front faces a major arterial.

Another hotel in the area, the Hampton Inn is only a block from the Northgate Light Rail Station (<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/seanghx-hampton-suites-seattle-northgate/>).

Hotels in the University District located near the U-District Light Rail Station include The Graduate (formerly the Deca, alas) just across the street; the University Inn and the Watertown, just a few blocks away. Or, for the frugal and able-bodied, a few blocks farther there is the College Inn, which boasts no elevator, offers only shared bathroom facilities down the hall (with a sink in the room), and sleeping rooms so spartan and old-fashioned (think iron bedsteads and threadbare, hand-sewn quilts) that you might think you've wandered into a John Steinbeck novel or possibly a monastery.



Membership Rates:

Attending rates: **US \$90, CAN \$110, EUR €75, UK £65**

Supporting rates continue the same: **US \$25, CAN \$32, EUR €21, UK £18**

We expect to offer an increased rate at the door. We are considering offering one-day memberships and may set different rates for different days.

Payment:

North America

Mail to: Corflu 39 c/o Suzanne Tompkins
PO Box 25075
Seattle, WA 98165 USA
US dollar denominated checks should be made payable to **Hal O'Brien**.
Note: We do not at present have a Canadian Agent, so cashing Canadian checks costs us extra.

PayPal to: hal.obrien@gmail.com (Please use the Friends & Family payment option)
Europe

Mail to: Corflu 39 c/o Claire Brialey
59 Shirley Road
Croydon, CR0 7ES, UK
Sterling denominated cheques should be made payable to **Claire Brialey**

PayPal to: claire.fishlifter@gmail.com (Please use the Friends & Family payment option)

Memberships:

As of this moment, we have 51 members, 44 attending and 7 supporting. Please see <https://corflu.org/Corflu39/members.htm> for an always current list of members.

Our COVID Policy:

All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the convention. This means you must have received all required vaccination doses no later than 14 days prior to the day you arrive at the con. You will need to present proof of vaccination. Properly worn masks covering nose and mouth are required for all convention members and guests in all convention spaces, except when actively eating or drinking.

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