
COSMOPOLIS

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2000

Welcome To Cosmopolis

Allow me to welcome you to the first issue of *Cosmopolis*: the public voice of the *Vance Integral Edition*, a.k.a.: the *VIE*.

What is Cosmopolis?

Cosmopolis is the voice of the *VIE*. Volunteers and subscribers of the *VIE* receive *Cosmopolis* automatically. If you don't wish to subscribe or volunteer to the *VIE*, you are still welcome to receive *Cosmopolis*: send an e-mail to lacovara@infohwy.com and state your desire. You may also use this e-mail address to be removed from the *Cosmopolis* mailing list. We hope to publish *Cosmopolis* on a monthly basis.

What is the *Vance Integral Edition*?

The *Vance Integral Edition* is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to help bring the works of Jack Vance into the literary mainstream. It is also the name of the publication towards which we work: a sixty-volume hardbound set of the stories, novellas, and novels of Jack Vance. The motivation behind the *VIE* is the conviction, not that Jack Vance should be recognized as a star in the genres where he is already somewhat known, but that he is, quite simply, one of the best authors of the twentieth century.

Of course, our limited edition of Vance's work will not, all by itself, bring wider attention to his work. It is also the unprecedented, world-wide, internet-based, volunteer nature of the *VIE* project, which will contribute importantly to our basic goal. The *VIE* will also provide authoritative texts for future Vance publications, as well as offering Vance's work in a format appropriate for serious appreciation and study.

The *VIE* project is coordinated and directed almost entirely through various mechanisms of the Internet. With a few exceptions, like the Oakland work festival, the *VIE* project work is carried on electronically.

For general information on the *VIE*, to subscribe, or to learn about volunteer activities, point your browser at www.vanceintegral.com.

All are welcome! No special skills are needed, just interest in Jack Vance and his work.

Bob Lacovara, Editor of *Cosmopolis*

From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Volunteers and Subscribers,

With this first issue of *Cosmopolis*, the *VIE* enters what we call *Phase 2*. We are now a non-profit corporation. We have nearly completed Text Digitization. Alun Hughes and members of his Textual Integrity team have researched the manuscripts available in both the Mugar Library in Boston, and in the Vances' possession in Oakland. The Textual Integrity Team is preparing to begin the process of removing, as far as possible, all trace of editorial meddling.

The Work Festival

From about January 17th to 23rd, the Vances hosted the " *VIE* Work Festival." About twenty of us gathered in Oakland. This meeting was the foundation for Phase 2. Much manuscript work also was accomplished, and there are many exciting discoveries, of which I will mention two:

An unpublished work:

The *VIE* will include the long lost outline for the unwritten novel: *Wild Thyme and Violets*. This outline, of twenty-four manuscript pages, has only been published in Dutch translation. It is a unique work in the Vance *oeuvre* set in a quasi-mythological past on an island modeled on Sardinia.

An illegitimate chapter removed:

Credit goes to John Schwab, who perceived that a bowdlerizing chapter had been added to *Gold and Iron*. Jack confirmed John's suspicion. *Gold and Iron* now has a fully Vancian ring.

Though mighty work was accomplished, there was also plenty of fun. Most notable of the festivities was the Gala dinner,

where Jack and Norma presided from either end of a long, candle-lit table. Seventeen guests, from three continents, graced the two sides. Norma served a wonderful paella, and Tammy Vance made one of her unforgettable salads as well as three deserts: pecan pie, flan, and lemon cake decorated with flowers. Three Mediterranean wines were served (not to mention Tanglefoot ale and other English beers) brought especially by our British volunteers. A single toast was proposed: "to the absent *VIE* volunteers" — and, as you all should know, I count subscribers as volunteers; for only subscriptions make the *VIE* real.

So, though not present in body, you were with us in spirit.

Meeting Robert Silverberg

Several days later Norma hosted a cocktail / buffet. The guest of honor was Robert Silverberg. Silverberg, long-time Vance enthusiast, has taken an interest in our project — thus his presence.

Finally, near the end of the festival, after many of us had already left, on a cold rainy night, Norma hosted a third dinner, with the guests warmed by a fire of eucalyptus wood. Ten were present at table. Jack forcefully expressed how much he had enjoyed the festival, how impressed he had been at the high level of intellect he had encountered, and how much he regretted everyone's leaving.

Finally: please be patient as we put our Phase 2 procedures in order. This may take several weeks. However, by March work should be proceeding in full swing. There will be much to do in the coming months so; patience please...

Cordially,

Paul Rhoads

Benefactor

The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation has granted the *VIE* \$50,000 for library donations in the U.S. and other countries. That will give the *VIE* a significant presence in academic and public libraries in the English-speaking world. We'll be devising a program of donations which addresses the twin aims of accessibility and preservation. Paul Allen founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975, and Jack Vance is his favorite author. [See www.paulallen.com]

Alan Hughes

The *VIE* is incorporated January 15, 2000



Ed Winskill explains the signature process for incorporation.

Left to right: Ed Winskill; treasurer, Paul Rhoads, vice-president; Mike Berro, member of the board of directors; Norma Vance, secretary. In foreground: John Vance, president.

From the President

Dear *VIE* Subscribers,

In the last six months the *VIE* has grown explosively. Currently over one hundred people are volunteers to the project, and we have gathered over 275 private subscriptions. Most of my father's work has been digitized. Also, one of our primary goals is now assured; Mr. Paul Allen has granted sufficient funds to ensure that many of the world's most prestigious libraries will receive sets of the *VIE*.

With so much accomplished, it is important to acknowledge what has made the *VIE* possible. We owe thanks to the subscribers, the volunteers, and to Mr. Paul Rhoads, who conceived the *VIE*. Paul's contribution of vision, organizational expertise, and leadership make this project possible.

Much work remains to be done, but we will succeed!

Thank you,

John Vance II

VIE Progress Report

Hello fellow volunteers. It is with great pleasure that I offer this progress report. We have made long strides since our beginnings in August of 1999 - and seen a few changes along

the way. By and large, things are going quite well, and the numbers bear this out. We still have a long way to go, but with the willingness of our volunteers to go beyond their initial commitments, I know we will succeed.

The list below shows the current status of the *VIE* project as of 5:00 PM PST on Monday the 31st of January, 2000.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STORIES IN <i>VIE</i>	130
Assigned for digitization	116
Digitized	76
Assigned for 1st proof reading	68
1st proof completed	44
Assigned for 2nd proof	10
2nd proof completed	4
Assigned for correction	5
Completed initial correction	0
Assigned for COR review	0
Completed COR review	0
Assigned for Typesetting	0
Completed Typesetting	0
Assigned for final proofing	1

With this list I try to indicate both the scope of what we have done, and what we still have left to do. Please note that the still undigitized texts are mostly early stories. Our percentage of digitized words is therefore not the 60% this list would indicate, were all texts of uniform length. Our real percentage of digitized words is in fact over 85%.

I would like to request of all of you who will be, or currently are, doing text-entry work: please keep me appraised of your status on a regular basis. Only feedback from you allows me to properly manage work assignments. If you do not currently have an assignment, but would like one, please email me at jschwab@uswest.net

I am also starting a new policy; those of you who are working on longer stories and novels, please send me whatever you have already completed. This is an important precaution. We have had a few volunteers who have left the project, in some

cases through no fault of their own, without sending us their uncompleted, though sometimes well advanced, jobs. This means, of course, that texts they were working on must now be restarted from the beginning. The new procedure also guarantees that if a volunteer has a computer malfunction — this has also happened in the past — I will be able to help recover what might otherwise be a disastrous loss.

A final note: if, for whatever reason, you will have trouble meeting your present *VIE* commitments, or your *VIE* work will be delayed or interrupted, please contact me sooner rather than later, so we can make arrangements together.

I would like to thank all digitizers for your diligence and hard work. I know I speak for everyone working on all aspects of the project when I say: you are doing great work!

John Schwab

***VIE* Communications**

The Directive to Digitizers and Proofreaders

We will shortly issue a new version of *Directive to Digitizers and Proofreaders*. This is a document which details the functions of the volunteers who either digitize text or proofread it.

The *Directive* will also contain help sections on recovering from a damaged *vie.dot* file, and detailed directions on setting highlights and endnotes.

Communication inside the *VIE*

Management of the *VIE* becomes more and more difficult as our job becomes both larger and more complex. To the work of Digitizing and Proofing a growing mass of texts is now added Textual integrity and Composition, to say nothing of Production. (Please note that 300 *VIE* sets, for instance, will occupy 18 cubic meters!) This, with the growing numbers or volunteers to be coordinated and guided, adds challenge to *VIE* management.

Our volunteer Management is in a constant struggle to stay on top of its ever growing task. Entering phase 2, we realize we must make changes in the way we communicate within the project.

The e-mail listservers, for instance, though useful up to this point, are not in harmony with the phase 2 effort. Some of the reasons for this: not everyone concerned in a given area is subscribed to the pertinent lists; some people who should be

'in the loop' of particular discussions resist subscribing to the list in question because they object to the "noise" level; and the dialogs which have so usefully animated the lists, are now for the most part moot, thanks to the Oakland Festival.

Issues are resolved. The Managing Editor, John Foley, is working with the team leaders to put our phase 2 processes in place. The time has arrived to concentrate on our work as we proceed towards our goal of going to press in October of 2001.

Per the Master Plan (<http://users.erols.com/jadf/vie/>), members of each team should raise issues directly with their team leader, who will determine the appropriate modes and paths of inter-team communication. Should team leaders wish to animate dialogs within their teams, with list-servers or otherwise, this is, of course, at their discretion.

A special case; our repository for errata (the Pearly Aestel) remains useful. Analysis of the traffic, however, indicates that a listserver is not the best way to handle this information. Suan Yong, our Database Administrator, will now act as our errata banker. So, as you read Vance for pleasure, if you find an erratum in any published edition, send it to Suan; suan@cs.wisc.edu. Flag your letter in the subject line with "VIE errata" and the title of the book in question. In the message; note the edition and page. Example:

Subject: VIE errata; The Face

(Message) Daw, page 24, (such and such)

General communication remains important! *Cosmopolis* will henceforth be the main channel for this. The VIE is where it is today thanks to your enthusiasm, participation and expertise. As always, we encouraged you to bring your ideas and concerns to the attention of your team leader, or, in the case of more general issues or simply to express your sentiments, write to *Cosmopolis*.

Bob Lacovara

Proofreaders' Survey

Those of you who have signed up as volunteer proof-readers should have received a questionnaire recently, which is intended to find out how comprehensive proof-readers' collections are. This will help us determine how we organise the proof-reading process.

A big thank you to all of you who have responded already - the preliminary results are both interesting and useful. To those of you who haven't responded - it's still not too late to send in a response!

If you are a volunteer proof-reader and you haven't received a questionnaire, please email me: tim.stretton@bigfoot.com. I'd also be interested to hear from anyone who is available to undertake work now but hasn't yet had an assignment:

I'll do my best to fix you up with something.

Tim Stretton, Proof-reading Team Leader

Useful Addresses

The VIE Web Page

www.vanceintegral.com

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The Fine Print

Letters to *Cosmopolis* may be published in whole or in part, with or without attribution, at the discretion of *Cosmopolis*. Send your e-mail to Bob Lacovara.

Cosmopolis is assembled, edited and transferred across the Gaean Reach from Houston, Texas, United States of America, Sol III.

Cosmopolis is delivered as an Adobe® Acrobat® PDF file. If you wish to have the most current version of the free Acrobat reader, follow this link:



<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

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