

CFF 75 book

by Rik van Grol

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Introduction

In line with a tradition set at the occasions of CFF 25 (a 5 volume issue) and CFF 50 (a 6-volume issues) we have planned to prepare something special at the occasion of CFF 75. As explained in issues CFF 58, 59 and 60 we plan to prepare a book (hardcover) which presents material from CFF covering the past 25 years.

Frans de Vreugd and I have taken this project to the next level by checking the financial possibilities, by detailing an agenda to prepare the book and by investigating the possible size and content of the book. We will get back to these details later. The next step in the preparation process is to assemble teams that can help in the preparation.

Based on the regular preparation of 3 issues a year over the past ten years, CFF 75 will come out in March 2008. This means that there are still almost 4 years before appearance. This seems a long time, but realising that final editing, layout, proof-reading, quality control, printing and so on take 1.5 years, and that it will take a while before the actual work on the book can start there will be about 2 years available for the actual preparation. Given the planned size (400 pages) and the planned number of teams (4-6) this means that the book can be prepared with a relatively small effort (a few evenings monthly).

In the remainder of this paper we will provide some details about the planned book, an agenda, team descriptions, and some other issues concerning the preparation. A preliminary table of content is provided separately.

Proposed CFF 75 book

The original idea for this book was to cover the complete set of the 75 issues of CFF. Realising that this would require a book much bigger than 400 pages and that this would probably not be as interesting as we would hope, we decided that we would summarise the 25 years of puzzle article from CFF. The idea is to follow the puzzle categories according to Jerry Slocum and then to select articles from CFF associated with each puzzle category. Because of the selection process the result will be a much more interesting book. The puzzle categories from Jerry Slocum are the following:

- Put Together Puzzles
- Take Apart Puzzles
- Interlocking Solid Puzzles
- Disentanglement Puzzles
- Sequential Movement Puzzles
- Dexterity Puzzles
- Puzzle Vessels
- Vanish Puzzles
- Folding Puzzles
- Impossible Puzzles

When we went through all articles from the past and assigned them to a category, some categories are filled to the extreme, while some others have only a few or even none. Even after bundling of categories not each bundles has the same number of articles. This leads to two types of bundles. The first type concerns bundles that associate with a large number of articles. This type will lead to a big chapter. The second type concerns bundles with few articles and an incomplete coverage of the puzzle categories. These types need a different approach.

- Large chapter (~80 pages): In the large chapter the selection process is very important. The work will consist of selecting articles, merging articles, and partially rewriting the articles, enhancing the pictures/drawings, etc. In other words, the work is summarising and enhancing existing material
- Small chapter (~40 pages): In the small chapter not all puzzle categories are covered. In the coming year we would like to invite experts to write an article, which can also be used in a regular issue of CFF. The change will be to prepare an interesting collection of articles that covers the diversity of puzzles.

Each chapter should start with an overview of the puzzle-category, followed by a selection of articles. The following six chapters are planned:

1. Put Together Puzzles (large chapter)
2. Take Apart Puzzles (small chapter)
3. Interlocking Solid Puzzles (large chapter)
4. Disentanglement Puzzles (small chapter)
5. Sequential Movement Puzzles (large chapter)
6. Miscellaneous Puzzles (small chapter), including Dexterity Puzzles, Puzzle Vessels, Vanish Puzzles, Folding Puzzles and Impossible Puzzles

The book will start with an introduction, followed by 6 main chapters, references, several indexes (authors, subjects, puzzles, etc). The objective is to make a full colour book. Each article can make full use of this, by enhancing drawings, by adding pictures, etc.

Preparation agenda

The plan is to follow the following rough agenda. Although the agenda is rough and there is a lot of flexibility, we will need to follow the agenda as closely as possible because time lapses generally quicker than expected and the CFF 75 book should not become a rushed job.

April 2004 - July 2004	Formation of teams, each with a team leader
April 2004 - Sept. 2004	Design of the chapters (selection of articles, plans for inviting experts to write articles, schedule for the work ahead)
Sept. 2004 - Sept. 2006	Preparation of the chapters
Sept. 2004 - Sept. 2005	Bi-monthly or tri-monthly progress contact with team-leader
Sept. 2005 - Sept. 2006	Monthly progress contact with team-leader
Sept. 2006 - March 2007	Final editing, layout, indexes, etc
March 2007 - Sept. 2007	Proof-reading, spell-checking, final corrections, etc
Sept. 2007 - Febr. 2008	Printing
March 2008	Mailing together with CFF 75

Team descriptions

We envisage each team to consist at minimum of a team-leader and one team member. Obviously the team could have more team member (both to spread the work, but also to capture all required capabilities). Important is that within each team the following capabilities are present:

- Experience with Word (we use Word 97 or 2000)
- Experience with writing, editing (in English)
- Making pictures of puzzles (using photo-editing software)
- Making computer drawings

Obviously being in the possession of a computer, scanner, photo-equipment etc is an advantage, but not a necessity for all team members. For special photo's, 3D-drawings etc we have special programs and capabilities in the CFF editorial board, but preferably this should be dealt within each team.

Each team gets one full set of CFF issues as reference material. Issues 1-32 are not available electronically, so articles from these issues will need to be retyped or scanned with OCR. There is a chance that the authors will still have these articles. Most articles since CFF 33 are available electronically in Word.

For the selected articles each team should contact the authors to obtain their permission to re-publish the articles. The team might get help in updating and checking by the author.

Other issues

Co-ordination — The whole operation will be lead by Rik van Grol and Frans de Vreugd. Rik van Grol will do final editing.

Layout — Some lay-out decisions still need to be made, but overall the layout of the regular CFF issues will be followed. Therefore, the Style-Notes prepared for CFF can be used as starting point. A document template will be prepared, which will make it possible to combine all material in one big document.

Team assistance — Starting up is probably the most difficult part of a process. To help in this process Rik van Grol is willing to be present in one or more of the initial meetings of the team. Both Frans and Rik can help in identifying potential experts to contact and ask to write articles for CFF.