

The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 75 Number 2

February 2016

Special Time Machine Issue

Thanks to a minor editorial error, our time line has become scrambled. The March issue has already been published, in February. It is now March, so to make up we are publishing the February issue. Trufen will take this irregular progression through time as a perfectly normal state of affairs.

Support the N3F

Lauren Rae writes us: How about a social media campaign to get new members? How many members of the N3F Facebook group are also members of N3F? We could post links on our own FB pages and in the N3F group. I was also a member of a couple other SF-related FB groups, until I grew disenchanted because they were all about self-promotion. Some members may also belong to other groups where they can post links.

Fanthology

Yes, in honor of our Association's 75th anniversary, we will publish a collection of fiction "This Sea of Stars Like Diamond Dust". All N3F members, amateur or professional, are invited to contribute. There will be an editing pass with right of declination, though we realize that most of us are not pro writers.

On advice of some of our pro writers, this will be treated as a fan publication, so you will retain all rights other than letting us publish your tale in our volume. We plan to publish via Kindle and Smashwords. All contributors will get an equal share of the (hypothetical) income; the N3F will get a share to cover costs. Submission instructions are later in the issue on page 10.

2016 Neffy Awards Nominations Invited

Based on input, the Neffy categories for this year are listed below. All members are invited to nominate. Categories that do not receive at least two nominations will be dropped.

"Paper" publication is a book from a traditional publishing house. "Electronic" publishing is modern self-publishing via SmashWords, Amazon Kindle, etc. but includes "Print on Demand", e.g., Third Millennium. The length divisions for written

works are based on the published recommendations of Eric Flint on his blog. Series novels must have had at least one novel published in 2015.

- Best Paper Novel (> 100,000 words)
- Best Paper Short Work (< 100,000 words)
- Best Electronic Novel (>100,000 words)
- Best Electronic Short Work (< 100,000 words)
- Best Paper Series Novel (> 3 volumes)
- Best Electronic Series Novel (> 3 Volumes)
- Best Fan Author
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fan Editor
- Best Fanzine
- Best Fan Web Site
- Fan of the year
- Best Pro Author
- Best Pro Artist
- Best Pro Editor
- Best Live Film
- Best Animated Film
- Best Video (includes TV series)
- Best Comic Series
- Best Comic Single Issue
- Best Paper Game
- Best Electronic Game
- Heroic Achievement

2015 Short Story Contest Results

The Results of the 2015 National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) Amateur Short Story Contest are here.

The First Prize winner is "The Bazaar of Forbidden Dreams" by Sean Gillhoolley. This is a sterling example of the "cyberpunk" genre, with two really memorable and personable protagonists, a lovely pair of adventurers who have been twisted by their environment...and go out and do some twisting right back.

The Second Prize winner is "The Last Ordeal of James Willoughby" by Jeff Spitzer, a solemn and thoughtful story about a different kind of "First Contact," where a naturalist finds an alien colony struggling for survival in the Appalachian hills, and has to figure out what to do about it.

The Third Prize winner is "Fabiana's Fairy Godmother"



Contributions Needed! We need more reports! We need more art! We need more letters and comments, and fannish news of every sort. Please send to the Editor of this, our Official Organ: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA



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 Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films.

Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

The National Fantasy Fan (Bonfire), Vol. LXXV, No. 2, February 2016, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

by Kristin Janz. Here, an eager and bright-eyed Fairy Godmother finds herself assigned to a poor girl living in a Brazilian slum, trying to bring joy to the heart of someone in the midst of grinding poverty. This clash of cultures makes the story both heart-warming and very sad.

The Honorable Mention goes to "Track Invasion" by Deborah Rocheleau. This is a saucy satire on the service economy, where a nice chap, hired as a waiter, has to cater to the needs of a most remarkably unsavory clientele. In this story, "Biting the hand that feeds you" can be taken literally!

There were sixteen stories submitted to this year's contest, most from the U.S.A., but also some from Canada and one from Malaysia. It is wonderful to have such a diversity of entries. The stories ranged from conventional science fiction, to "social" science fiction, from "cyberpunk" to "first contact," with a healthy dose of fantasy, and several humorous stories with very surprising twist endings.

The stories in this year's contest show that imagination is still vibrantly alive in the fannish community. The stories are strong and mature, with advanced narrative and dialogue skills, and most especially thoughtful and clever plotting and inventive depiction of backgrounds. We will see some of these writers in the future, selling to magazines and publishing books of their own. For now, let us celebrate good writing, creative imagination, sparkling wit, the depth of insight and empathy, and the living art of the authorship of short science fiction and fantasy fiction.

N'APA

N'APA is our amateur press association. Members submit their own individual zines. The Editor assembles them into a bimonthly issue and sends them to all members. N'APA was founded in 1959. We just reached issue 221. The Table of Contents reads:

Cover Art... A photograph from Jefferson Swycaffer. We thank him for sending artwork.

The Official Organ #221 George Phillies - 1 page

Archive Midwinter Jefferson P. Swycaffer - 2 pages

Notes from a Galaxy Far, Far Away Lorien Rivendell 4

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

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pag-
es



The Silver (State) Age Kevin Trainor - 3 pages

Robot Octopus vs. Vampires from Mars Jeff Barnes - 3 pages

The Murdered Master Mage #4 George Phillis - 4 pages

APAs (properly, APAe) are a long-time fannish tradition. In those long-gone days, soon after paper and ink replaced stone tablets and clay bricks, members actually printed the pages and mailed them to the Editor, who collated the pages for each issue and mailed them via the Post Office back to the members. Under modern conditions, members send PDF files to the Editor, who types commands into his computer (I use Nuance PDF Create Assistant, but there are lots of alternatives) and combines all the PDFs into one big PDF, which is sent to all members. You are all invited to join.

Electronic Round Robins

To date we have only one active ERR - Bookwyrms. The other ERRs are seeking members. They are:

- The Marvel Universe
- DC Superheroes and Villains
- All Things Star Wars
- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror on TV
- Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and on TV

If you wish to join any of these ERRs please contact Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange

Wanted! Needed! Desired!
Short Stories!!!!

If you have EVER felt there was a STORY in you and you wanted to let it OUT - NOW is the TIME to do so. Contact Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Art Contributors

Art, Page 3 "Rick Hunter" by Jose Sanchez
Art, Page 7, Literary Dragon, Cedar Sanderson
Art, Page 9, Cute Cthulhu, Cedar Sanderson
Poetry, Page 3 Sasha Kasoff

Poetry

The Dying Girl
(Me, Earl, and the Dying Girl – movie)

Her mother said
Scissors were her favorite toy
She cut her father's books when he left them.

On the wall her shears arc
A steely congregation whispering
The one like a stork
Brings to mind deft hands, cutting

In the silence of her empty room
Opening books to little hidden worlds
Carved out, ignoring the words.
...Sasha Kasoff

Welcomittee

A few days ago while sitting alone in this room, with the WELCOMITTEE sign securely attached to the front door, my mind mulling over which book to read next - I thought I heard something outside the door. I paused briefly, head tilted toward the door. Nah, it's nothing - just the wind knocking the tree branches against the door. I've heard that lots of times before. Just as my mind was settling back into my deep thoughts, I heard the sound again. This time it was kind of a consistent rapping. Except for the occasional tree rapping it's pretty quiet around here. I decided to go to the door and see what was making that sound - anything to break the monotony. I opened the door expecting to see a small child running away laughing or a dog thumping it's tail against the door. To my shock and surprise there was an actual, real, live, adult, person, at the door. For a brief moment my heart jumped and the thought pushed it's way to the forefront of my mind, "This person is here to help!" But a rapidly moving doubt popped up in front me, "No, just asking directions to another activity." Putting on my sunniest smile and calming my voice so no disappointment could be detected, I said, "May I help you?" The reply, "Hi, I just received the newest TNFF and read your message. What specifically could I help you with.?"

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to introduce the newest member to the Welcomitte -

Denise Fisk

Thank You, Denise. Your help and support is greatly appreciated. If anyone else would like to join the Welcomitte you know where you can find us. We'll be sitting in this room laughing and having a good time greeting new members and visiting with 'old' members.

To join contact
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Membership Changes

by David Speakman

Please fill out our online membership form at any time to update your fannish activity to get it published in this list.

EXPIRED/EXPIRING - RENEW NOW!:

Jean Lamb - EXP Feb. 2016
 Ray F. Nelson - EXP Feb. 2016
 Kent McDaniel - EXP Mar. 2016
 June E. Vigil-Storm - EXP Mar. 2016
 Steve Snyder - EXP Mar. 2016
 Thomas McGovern - EXP Mar. 2016
 Jeff Barnes - EXP Mar. 2016

RENEWING:

Lauren Clough - EXP Jan 31, 2017 - Regular Voting
 Ruth Davidson - EXP Dec 31, 2016 - Regular Voting
 David & Rich Speakman - EXP Nov 30, 2019 - Regular Voting/Family

REINSTATED:

K.V. Moffett - Public Member, Non-voting
 DOB: May 25
 Former member of N3F, returning as a public member,
 Fan Interests: Books, Computers and technology, Editing , Writing
 Fan for: 50+ years
 Fandom activity: 38 years
 Clubs: LASFS (Hi, Lorraine!)
 Cons: LOSCON, Westercon, TreasureCon, Phil & Ed's Excellent Convention, 1996 Worldcon
 Fave genre: Space opera
 Fan of: Jack Vance, CJ Cherryh, the whole Stargate crew, all three series
 N3F interests: Writing for club publications , Corresponding

NEW MEMBERS:

Robert Runte - Public Member, Non-voting
 runte@uleth.co

Jim McCoy - Public, Non-Voting
 thatjimboguy@yahoo.com
 DOB: Dec. 15
 Occupation: Sales
 Interests: Blogging, Books, Collecting, Comic books, Fanzines, Games and video games, Online activities, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Role-playing games, Television, Writing
 Fan for: 30+ years
 Fandom since: 2010
 Cons: PenguiCon 2011 and 2012
 Fave genre: Epic fantasy

Fan of: Tom Kratman, Sarah Hoyt, David Weber, Margaret Weis, Tracy Hickman, Mercedes Lackey, Harry Turtle-dove,

N3F Interests: Writing for club publications , Conventions at the Raleigh Convention center and other very close events

Michelle Ristuccia - Public, Non-Voting
 michelleristuccia@pemndragonvariety.com
 DOB March 14
 Occupation: Author, Homeschooler
 Interests: Audio, Blogging, Books, Reviewing, Teaching science fiction, Writing
 Fan since: Over two decades
 Fandom since: Over 2 decades
 Cons: StellarCon, Oak City Comicon (2016), Otakon, Animazement

Zines: I'm a reviewer for Tangent Online and read many zines; Intergalactic Medicine Show, Uncanny Magazine, you name it.

Fave genres: Hard SF and short stories
 Fan of: Orson Scott Card, Dan Simmons, Ursula K Le Guin, Greg Bear, Roger Zelazny, Stephen R Donaldson, Alethea Kontis, Leah Petersen (Impact Velocity), etc.

N3F Interests: Writing for club publications , Conventions at the Raleigh Convention center and other very close events

Lesiie McCrea - Public, Non-Voting
 Halliebaer@yahoo.com
 DOB: --
 Occupation: Former Librarian
 Interests: Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Comic books, Computers and technology, DVDs and videos, Games and video games, Reading and book clubs, Television
 Fan since: 50 years

Alicia Ibarreta - Public, Non-Voting
 Aliciabradibarreta@gmail.com
 DOB: Sept. 16
 Interests: Art, Audio, Blogging, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Computers and technology, Conventions and clubs, DVDs and videos, Fanzines, Online activities, Reading and book clubs, Teaching science fiction
 Fan since: the 1970s
 Fandom since: the 1970s
 Fave genres: The good stuff ;)
 Fan of: Heinlein, Hoyt, Butcher

CONVERSIONS:

Robert L Miller: Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting - EXP: Nov. 2015
 Dorothy Kurtz: Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting - EXP: Jan. 2016
 Kevin Wei: Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting - EXP: Jan 2016
 Patt Demetri: Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting - EXP: Jan 2016

Treasurer's Report

February:

\$2,610.33 (Feb 16, 2016)

+ 18.00 Paypal Dues

+ 4.00 Cash Dues

+ 0.00 Check Dues

- 49.00 Reimbursement Round Robin postage - Patsy

King

- 0.82 PayPal Fees

+ 0.00 Interest

2,582.51 (Mar. 18, 2016)

Directorate Report

by David Speakman

Motion 2016-04 - Postage Reimbursement

(Submitted by G. Phillies)

President requests \$49 be sent to Patsy King to purchase one roll of forever stamps for use in the Round Robin Bureau.

Yes: Swartz, Swycaffer, Tutihasi, Speakman

No: -

No vote: Row

PASSED. Treasurer mailed check to Patricia Williams-King on March 19, 2016

Motion 2016-05 - URL Reimbursement by Membership Extension (Submitted by D. Speakman)

Ruth Davidson is the keeper of the N3F.org domain. She has not asked for reimbursement for a few years. I propose as a thank-you that we reimburse this expense by extending her regular voting membership for 2 years, though Dec. 31, 2017

Yes: Swartz, Swycaffer, Tutihasi, Speakman

No: -

No Vote: Row

PASSED.

Birthday Bureau

8 birthday cards were sent out in February.

And if you want to be sure of getting a birthday card, send David Speakman your birthday date.

Letters of Comment

Editor:

Thanks for sending the zine.

I guess I am old fashioned about Hugo nominations. I read more recent short fiction since last year's Worldcon and nominated the ones I liked the most. I did not consult any recommendation lists or voting slates.

Best wishes,

Tom Feller

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for Vol. 75, No. 3 of The National Fantasy

Fan, and as we've done for some months now, happy 75th anniversary to the N3F. Two new Fandbooks sound very good, and I hope I might have the opportunity to get them myself. Anything about the history of fandom is of interest to me.

Good to hear that Robert Madle is still out there, but a shame about the passing of Jack Robins. His writing survives him. We need more articles like this one to tell newer fans that fandom is not about the books or the movies, but about the social community we form when we gather to share our common interest. It is vital.

So many familiar names and faces have passed away this deadly year of 2016. I don't need to list them, just look at Ansible's monthly list of those who have left us. Good letter column...indeed, you have to sell the N3F to give it some level of awareness in fandom as a whole. The problem is, it costs, and we have yet to find any fountain of money we could all take from to do all the great things we want to do.

As for ourselves...we are going out to a 35th anniversary party this evening, and we are preparing for our dealers' table (Penney's Steampunk General Store, on FB) at a comic convention in Kitchener, Ontario, just 90 minutes down the highway from us, on April 2. On the last weekend of April, our home convention, Ad Astra, which we have attended for the past 35 years. We were on the committee for 30 years, and now, we are vendors in their dealers' room. I guess it will be a while before they get rid of us.

Done for now, and off it goes! Many thanks for this issue (I must assume there was no Vol. 75 No. 2), and I will keep an eye out for the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Editor:

So far as your comments on Palmer, he was viewed by a lot of science fiction fans in his day as a braggart who hyped his magazines, and their stories when those issues often contained sub-par material. His wholehearted jump into the world of the paranormal alienated many people who regarded the "Science" part of science fiction as essential, and felt that forays into pseudo-science should be avoided at all costs. SF was already regarded as weirdo-lit by the majority of mundane people, and having it linked to even weirder stuff like little men living in subterranean caves with ray machines that caused wars, train wrecks and who engaged in stealing beautiful young women from our upper world was clearly regarded as being way over the edge. The fact that Shaver claimed to have gotten his 'messages' from work tools or machines that spoke to him was also pretty upsetting, since inanimate objects "speaking" are one of the classic signs of schizophrenia.

On the other hand most science fiction readers are almost by definition, interested in the paranormal and things beyond the realms of known science. ESP, UFOs, time travel, disintegrater ray guns, faster than light space ships, these are all pure fantasies so far as most scientists are concerned, yet they have been essential parts of the genre almost since the beginning. Most of the people in the realm of science fiction who suggested that para-normal materials might be interesting, possible, and worthy of study didn't have the

same flamboyance or belligerent flair Palmer demonstrated on a regular basis. He seemed to enjoy the Me against the World of Pompous Authorities image and he cultivated it constantly.

I agree that the Fred Nadis book on Palmer is the best overview of his character and history ever written, but even so I think he neglects the very broad brush of influence Palmer had on the world of science fiction and especially his impact (negative impact mostly from the early 1940s onward) that he had on science fiction fandom.

---Bob Jennings

SF Magazines Marvel Science Fiction

by
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

Marvel Science Fiction, the magazine my friends and I read and collected in the early 1950s, began as Marvel Science Stories in the late 1930s. It was a pulp science fiction (SF) magazine that was published for a total of fifteen issues in two separate runs, both of which were edited by Robert O. Erisman. It began as a quarterly, and then was published less and less frequently during its first run.

The publisher for the first run was Postal Publications, and the second run was published by Western Publishing; both companies were owned by the brothers Martin and Abraham Goodman.

Marvel first appeared in August, 1938, carrying stories with more sexual content than was usual for the SF genre at that time, including some mildly erotic stories by Henry Kuttner. Reader reaction to this content was generally negative, however, and the magazine was cancelled after the April, 1941, issue. A highlight of this early run was "The Dead Spot" by Jack Williamson, appearing in the November, 1938, issue. Issues in this first run sold for 15¢.

A boom in SF in the early 1950s motivated the publishers to revive the magazine. The first issue of the new series was dated November, 1950; a further six issues appeared, with the last one dated May, 1952.

The quality of stories in the second incarnation of the magazine was considerably better than the first, mainly due to the editorial work of SF author Daniel Keyes; but the magazine still was unable to compete with the new, higher-quality magazines that had appeared since Marvel's first series, especially *Galaxy* and *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*.

Highlights of the 1950 - 1952 Marvel run consisted of debates among SF writers on such topics as where the first spaceship will go, the truth or fiction of Dianetics, and whether or not population should be controlled. Other contents of issues in the new series included interior illustrations (by SF artists such as Hannes Bok, Vincent Napoli, and Frank R. Paul), contests, quizzes, letters to the editor, rankings of stories, science fact articles, and various photo features. Ray Bradbury's "Embroidery" appeared in the November, 1951, issue. Issues in this latter run sold for 25¢.

Among the articles included was one by Judith Merrill on New York's Hydra Club, illustrated with cartoon sketches of the club's members by SF artist/writer Harry Harrison.

Title Changes

The magazine changed titles several times during its two runs. As noted above, it began as *Marvel Science Stories* (five issues), changed to *Marvel Tales* (two issues), and then to *Marvel Stories* (two issues). After the nine-year publication hiatus, it began again as *Marvel Science Stories* (three issues), and then concluded its fifteen-issue life as *Marvel Science Fiction* (the final three issues).

It was during these final three issues, emphasizing science fiction, that most genre historians feel it reached its peak in quality, with two memorable front covers by Bok.

Some of the most popular SF authors of the day, including Isaac Asimov, A. E. van Vogt, Arthur C. Clarke, Richard Matheson, William Tenn, Murray Leinster, Kris Neville, Jack Vance, Mack Reynolds, and Raymond F. Jones had stories in these issues. On the other hand, other SF magazines of the time were also featuring these same authors and Marvel ultimately could not compete.

A contributing factor to Marvel's demise was the increased publication of SF books in the early 1950s, something with which the earlier run of the magazine did not have to compete.

Dynamic Science Stories

A sister pulp magazine, *Dynamic Science Stories*, was published in 1939 for a two-issue run. No editor was listed, but genre historians believe Erisman also served in this capacity. Covers of the two issues were by Paul and Norman Saunders, respectively, two popular artists for SF pulps of the 1930s-1940s. Stories in the two issues, however, were not especially memorable. *Dynamic* sold for 15¢.

Martin Goodman

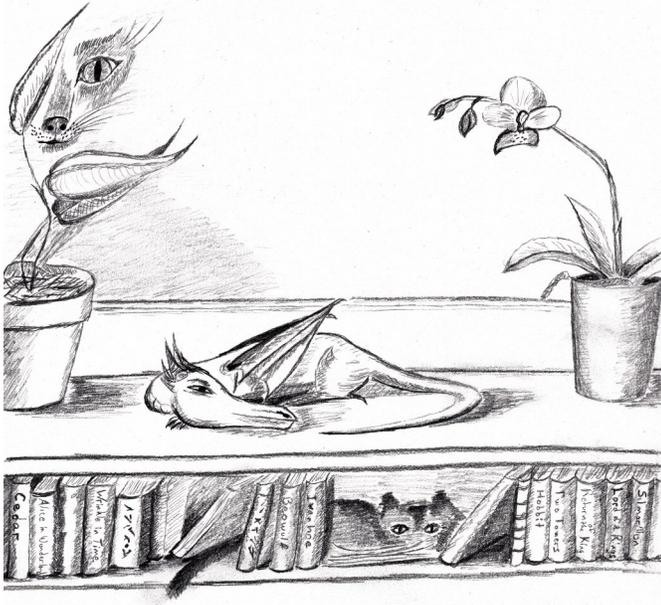
Martin Goodman (1908 – 1992) was an American publisher of pulp magazines, paperback books, men's magazines, humor magazines, movie magazines, cartoon digests, and comic books, launching the company that would become today's highly successful Marvel Comics/Marvel Entertainment, LLC. Known as a practical publisher, Goodman once said: "If you get a title that catches on, then add a few more; you're in for a nice profit." He published over 50 different pulp magazines before he concentrated on other types of publications, especially comic books.

Robert O. Erisman

Erisman was the editor of *Marvel Science Stories* (i. e., *Marvel Science Fiction*) during its run from 1938 until 1953 (not published during 1942-1949), for its total run of fifteen issues. He was probably also the uncredited editor of *Dynamic Science Stories* during its two-issue run in 1939. In addition, during 1939-1941, he edited two other genre magazines for publisher Goodman: *Uncanny Tales* (1939-1940) and *Uncanny Stories* (1941).

Daniel Keyes

Daniel Keyes (1927 – 2014) was an American SF author and editor best known for his Hugo award-winning short story and Nebula award-winning novel *Flowers for Algernon*. His later novel, *The Minds of Billy Milligan*, won the Kurd Lasswitz Award for best foreign novel in 1986. Keyes was given the Author Emeritus honor by the Science Fiction & Fantasy



Writers of America in 2000. As a teenager during World War II, he left college and joined the United States Maritime Service where he served on an oil tanker. After the war, he attended Brooklyn College and earned a degree in psychology. When Marvel Science Fiction ceased publishing, Keyes was offered a job by publisher Goodman at Atlas Comics (a forerunner of today's Marvel Comics). While there Keyes worked on the Atlas SF and horror comic books being edited by Stan Lee. Lee was related to publisher Goodman.

Reprint Editions

According to Tuck, there was a British reprint of the February, 1951, issue, pulp-sized, dated May, 1951. Early science fiction bibliographer Brad Day listed five other British reprints of the second series of Marvel Science Stories, but no copies are recorded by more recent bibliographers.

Some Conclusions

The second run, especially those digest issues titled Marvel Science Fiction, and edited by Keyes along with Erisman, was an entertaining SF magazine. Arthur Lane was also listed as an associate editor for these second-run issues.

Even today, reproductions of the cover art by Bok can be seen on several products sold on eBay.

When the magazine went back to pulp size for its final issue in 1952, it was probably to use up its inventory of stories. None of the stories included in this final issue were memorable, despite a contribution from popular SF and non-fiction author L. Sprague de Camp.

Today, genre historians credit Marvel Science Stories as being the first new, professional all-SF magazine to be published in the United States since 1931 -- and then point out that the post World War II stories it published were superior to the ones published in the 1930s.

After acknowledging these two facts, however, historians/critics don't have many positive comments to make. On the other hand, I feel that the digest issues titled Marvel Sci-

ence Fiction published in 1951 were as entertaining as any SF magazines that were appearing at that time.

Sources

Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. London: Orbit, 1993.

Goulart, Ron. *Great History of Comic Books*. Chicago, IL: Contemporary Books, 1986.

Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 3: Miscellaneous*. Chicago: Advent, 1982.

Tymn, Marshall B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.

Note: In addition to the above sources, several Internet sites were consulted, especially Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, and Wikipedia.

Our Founding Members

N3F Founding Member: Ross Rocklynne

by

Jon D. Swartz

N3F Historian

Ross Rocklynne (February 21, 1913 – October 29, 1988) was the principal pseudonym used by Ross Louis Rocklin, a science fiction (SF) fan and author who was active during the Golden Age of Science Fiction.

While at boarding school, he wrote for his school's monthly publication. As a young fan, he was a member of The Hell Pavers -- the informal pre-World War II group of Cincinnati, Ohio, fans that much later became the Cincinnati Fantasy Group (CFG) -- of which he was one of the founders.

Born in Cincinnati, Rocklynne was a regular contributor to several SF pulp magazines including *Amazing*, *Astounding*, *Fantastic Adventures*, *Startling Stories*, and *Planet Stories*. He once said that he sold his first story "after four years of spasmodic writing." This first SF publication of his was "Man of Iron" in the August, 1935, issue of *Astounding*.

Rocklynne was a professional guest at the first World Science Fiction Convention in 1939. Despite his numerous appearances at conventions and solid writing, however, he never quite achieved the fame of many of his contemporaries such as Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, and L. Sprague de Camp.

Nevertheless, Rocklynne was a popular author, and wrote such well-known stories as 1938's "The Men and the Mirror" -- which was part of his "Colbie and Deverel" series in *Astounding* -- and 1941's "Time Wants a Skeleton," which has been reprinted in several anthologies, including Asimov's *Mammoth Book of Golden Age Science Fiction*.

Rocklynne specialized in space opera and time travel stories whose plots centered around scientific puzzles. A genre critic once stated that Rocklynne "had one of the most interesting, if florid, imaginations of the pulp-magazine writers of his time, and wrote very much better than most."

Before becoming a full-time writer, he worked at a wide variety of jobs, including working as a story analyst for a

literary agency and a writing consultant for Warner Brothers in Hollywood.

Rocklynne partially retired from writing in the late 1950s – when he became interested in the new “mental science” of Dianetics -- but made a notable return in the 1970s when his story “Ching Witch!” was included in *Again, Dangerous Visions* (1972), an original anthology. The story is an ironic tale about the curious morality of a man who, as a result of genetic engineering, has a lot of cat in him. This story was later nominated for a Nebula Award.

His published book-length works were *The Sun Destroyers* and *The Men and the Mirror*, both issued in 1973 by Ace. Ray Bradbury said of the first: “I particularly liked 'The Sun Destroyers'. It surely was unusual and unexpected.” The second book was a collection of some of Rocklynne's best stories, including three from his “Colbie and Deverel” series. In addition to Ross Rocklynne, Rocklin wrote under the pseudonyms of H. F. Cente and Carlton Smith.

Fellow SF author Chad Oliver once described Rocklynne as follows: “He was a major creator of the science fiction of the past, but he was also one of those who pointed the way ahead.”

Rocklynne also was, of course, one of the Founding Members of our club. His photo appears on page 99 of Harry Warner's fan history, *All Our Yesterdays* (Advent, 1969).

Rocklynne died in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 75.

Sources: The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction; The Futurians; The Immortal Storm; Twentieth Century Science Fiction Writers; and several Internet sites, including Wikipedia, Fancyclopedia 3, and ISFDB.

The Futurians—A Personal Experience

A series of Articles from the late Jack Robins

Part Three: The First (and Only) Science Fiction Commune

A number of Futurians moved into the apartment and shared the rent and meals. I wished so much to be a part of them, but previously having had so much difficulty finding a job, I knew that I could never manage it. I asked Wollheim if I could join them one evening a week for which I would pay the group \$1 each time. He agreed. Each Wednesday evening I would go there and would be given a couch to sleep in. Each Thursday morning I would leave for work. I felt delighted and honored to be a part of the Commune even for one night a week. The rest of the time I was just one of the many visitors (no one was ever barred from visiting the group).

Having the Commune, the Wollheim group of Futurians blossomed. It was my impression that the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) was invented and instituted by Wollheim. He told me that fans wrote fan magazines and newsletters and had a rough time trying to circulate them. So the FAPA served as a medium for fan periodicals. He said it would be limited in membership (I think to about 20). All of the members periodicals were sent to the Commune. I

saw Michel sort them out into large envelopes addressed to each member and send them out. There must have been a fee to pay for postage.

I was envious. I had never written a fan newsletter. I asked Michel if I could join the group by writing a newsletter. He agreed. I typed out my newsletters on mimeograph stencils, Michel ran them off and now I had a publication. I made up 3 altogether and then quit. For some reason I felt that people weren't really interested in what I wrote (my poor boy from the slums complex). About a year ago a member of N3F (whose name I lost) emailed me that a copy of the third issue was successfully auctioned off on EBAY.

Donald also instituted other fan events but, since I was not involved, I don't remember them, although some of them have been written up elsewhere.

Wollheim's father was a medical doctor and Don must have been given a big allowance. He subscribed to all the science fiction magazines and periodically had them bound. Don had one wall of shelves full of books. He lent me a copy of *The Skylark of Space* which I could otherwise not have read. He also gave me copies of Baum's Oz books. Looking over his wall of books, I asked him, "Did you read them all?" "Every One," he said. I was impressed.

By the time of the formation of the Commune, there no longer was a Futurian organization or a Futurian club. We were just a bunch of friends, mostly SF fans, who enjoyed being together. There were no officers, but Wollheim naturally became the leader. Because of his wide range of correspondence and his knowledge of what was going on, he told us of many meetings and arranged groups to attend them. There were so many of such activities that I couldn't keep up with them. For example, there was a Midwestern convention that some fans went to but I couldn't.

The best I can say is that we were a Fellowship. Some people, fans or not (no one was barred) would join us and often take part in the activities. They were of all sorts of political opinions but no one cared. We were just people who liked each other. For want of a better term, I call the group "Futurians."

Wollheim was able to help Lowndes get an editor's job and Wollheim himself got a job editing SF books.

But the best activity of the group was the walks. We would always go on walks. I will discuss them later.

Part Four: Mindsets

One day I came to the Commune and found that one of the residents, Dick Wilson (who, by the way was an anti-communist) was absolutely furious. It seems that he and Kornbluth went to a Queens SF meeting and were barred because they were "Futurians." It seems that Taurasi and Sykora had a mindset that the only purpose of a Futurian was to infiltrate a club, make trouble and destroy the club.

When I lived in Allentown, PA, many years later, I once bought a wooden desk sign which I kept on my desk at work. It said, "MY MIND'S MADE UP. DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH FACTS." It was a lot of fun. I eventually gave it to my son, who felt that whatever he believed in was fact and he would argue angrily if you tried to contradict him. Recently (Sept 2015) he met his match when a member of an

organization contacted him that believed the earth is flat. That organization claimed that they had actual proof that the earth really was flat. If asked about the trips to the Moon and back they said "That's all fake, made up by Hollywood." My son called one of the flat earth proponents an idiot and the guy wanted to find where my son lived and beat him up for denying what the fellow believed was true.

I once heard a pastor claim that only members of his church would go to heaven. That was his mindset.

We all have mindsets (a set of beliefs which defy challenge). I had the mindset that I was the poor kid from Brooklyn Slums and was not really on the same level as the other Futurians.

Because of having been barred from the Queens SF group meetings, Dick Wilson, Cyril Kornbluth and Jack Gillespie got busy writing articles and newsletters attacking and making fun of Sykora and Taurasi. I had no part in this.

The fact was that Michelism, the idea that SF fans really were incipient social activists, was dead by 1937. Michel finally became convinced that SF fans just wanted to be fans and nothing else. This fact didn't matter to Sykora and Taurasi.

At no time, from the time I joined the ISA to the present, did I ever see a Futurian join a club and try to destroy it. The only person I saw destroy a club was Sykora when he locked us out, ending the ISA. Wollheim and Michel, the supposed villains, joined many clubs and were welcomed as members with no attempt made by them to convert people to any kind of philosophy. Fred Pohl was once a chairman or co-chairman of a New York Con. Wollheim was once guest of honor at a Lunacon. They were all well respected fans.

Part Five: The Futurian Walks

The Futurian Commune got lots of visitors (no one was ever turned away) both SF fans and non fans for one reason only: They were lots of fun. There were artists like Hannes Bok; Herb Goudket of ISA days came all the way from the Bronx; there were writers like Damon Knight. Even Sam Moskowitz came and he was welcomed. At no time did anyone try to indoctrinate anyone else with some kooky idea.

Then there were the walks! These were an essential part of Futurian life. Essentially a group would walk together with no particular destination in mind, and during the walks there would be discussions of stories, authors (like the meetings after the meetings of the old ISA days) and sometimes entertainment. We would end up at a place where we could buy sodas and then we would disperse to our homes.

Walks were a part of Futurian life from the earliest Futurian days. During the early days, some of us would sing songs (remember, during those early days we were teenagers). Wollheim and Michel would be amused but they would not join in. But I and Fred Pohl did sing. Our favorite was the "vanishing John Brown's body" to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The words were simple: John Brown's Body lies amouldring in his grave//John Brown's Body lies amouldring in his grave//John Brown's Body lies amouldring in his grave//But his soul goes marching on. After going through the song once, we would repeat it but drop "in his grave" using a pause instead of the words. Next, we would repeat the song but also drop the words "lies amouldring". The song ended (with laughter) when we fi-

nally omitted "John Brown's Body." We implied that his body had vanished completely due to decomposition.

During one walk there was a discussion of a famous author, Lovecraft, whose works I hadn't yet read. I happened to be alongside Fred Pohl and I asked him "What is so unique about Lovecraft that makes everybody talk about him?" He said, "Let me give you an example. Some people were digging a

hole deep in the ground when they suddenly came to a level where there was a lighted area. Roger, one of the crew, volunteered to drop down to this level and report what he found. He was slowly lowered, chattering all the way on the phone, until he got to his destination. He told them there was a flat area that looked very interesting and he would step out and then report on what he saw. He left and they waited and waited and waited, and kept calling 'Roger' to no avail. Finally they heard the phone being picked up and they asked excitedly, 'Roger? We were calling you and calling you. What happened? What did you see?' A deep bass voice said, 'Roger isn't here,' and the phone was disconnected." That was it, that was the story. It gave you a feeling of horror. Later I had occasion to tell Wollheim how Fred had described the type of story Lovecraft wrote. Wollheim said, "That wasn't Lovecraft. That was Fred Pohl." Years later I came to the conclusion that in a way both were right. Lovecraft wrote stories of strange beings coming into our planet (New England), doing what they wanted and earth (New England) couldn't do a thing about it. Also years later, Pohl wrote stories which ended with the narrator having two choices, both of them bad, and left it to the reader to decide which choice the narrator finally chose.

Lowndes raided the old published SF magazines that Wollheim had had bound and, on rainy days, would read portions of bad writing that had us laughing, wondering how the stories got published. For example, a robot butler would serve drinks. When asked to partake of a drink himself, he would say (over and over in the story) "It would hurt the delicate enamel of my teeth and once that is gone, the rest soon follows." We argued whether the statement meant that the rest of the robot would fall apart or that the rest of the teeth would be gone.

While we were still teenagers, Fred and I had been walking and talking until well after midnight. I told Fred I had never seen the dawn. Fred said, "let's do it." Fred lived about 3 miles from me (of course in a better district) and we slowly walked towards



his home, chatting away until the first glimmerings of the sun. Then we parted and I returned to my place fully satisfied and thrilled that I had finally seen the dawn. My mother told me how worried she had been when I hadn't returned home at a reasonable hour.

After the formation of the Commune, the walks continued regularly. Not only were they sometimes educating but often full of fun, especially when Kornbluth was with us. He would relate a shaggy dog story (the same one over and over) in his baritone voice full of pathos that sometimes filled us with laughter.

The story was quite simple. The hero of the story (let's call him Robert) reads an advertisement stating there was a \$1,000 reward for the return of a lost shaggy dog. Just then he sees a shaggy dog walking by. Excitedly he grabs the dog and, despite formidable obstacles, finally reaches the house indicated in the ad and rings the bell. A dour-faced man opens the door and says, "Yes?" Robert says, "I found your dog and I came for the reward." The man looks at the dog Robert is holding and says, "That's not our dog. Our dog isn't that shaggy," and slams the door shut. That's the story. But it was not the way Cyril Kornbluth told it.

Cyril had a vivid and tremendous imagination and he filled in the period between the finding of the dog and the eventual ringing of the doorbell with such obstacles and related the story with such pathos that we couldn't help laughing. For example, Robert might be robbed, or he might get into a fight and land in a hospital. Cyril's description of obstacles was endless and we all enjoyed it. The story was repeated day after day with new obstacles invented. For example, on one day, Robert may be on crutches, his face bandaged, on the day he rings the bell. We could never get tired of listening to Cyril's renditions.

The last walk I went on with Futurians was a very long one. We met outside the building they lived in and took the IRT West Side subway to the last (northern) stop. From there we walked and walked and walked many miles, finally reaching Tarrytown. I had my 35 mm camera and I took pictures as we walked through the streets of Tarrytown. (John Coker has the pictures.) At one point Kornbluth, who was carrying some books, balanced them on his head and walked for awhile that way. I took a photo. If I were writing a caption I would say "Cyril was trying an alternate way of acquiring knowledge." We reached an intersection that had a large sign saying "Dead End." I posed Wollheim in front of it and my caption would have read, "Is this really where we end?" We saw a place that had a few statues of (presumably) Tarrytown heroes. I had Lowndes pose with them as if he were one of them. My caption would have read "This is where I belong." I took a group picture. My caption? "A bunch of rogues." When I had one of them take a picture of me, the photo got so botched up I couldn't use it. So once again I became invisible. When it came time to return home, Wollheim had had enough of walking. We took a local train back to the city, went on the subway and dispersed to our homes.

Later I got a job that took me to the west coast to work on Liberty ships and I lost contact with the Futurians until years later, 1948, when I was finally able to return to New York. Then I saw some of them only at Lunacons. There I learned that Wollheim was married and living in Queens, Lowndes

was married and living in New Jersey (I think). Michel was married and living in Brooklyn. Fred Pohl was married (4th time) and living (I think) in Ohio. Cyril Kornbluth was also married and (I think) living in Chicago. The Futurian Fellowship was no more.



Novels by Neffers

Trial by Fire by Chris Nuttall: After a brief visit to the Blighted Lands, in hopes of recovering something useful from Shadye's Dark Fortress, Emily returns to Whitehall for her fourth year, bracing herself for the exams that will determine her future. But as she resumes her education, she discovers that the shadows of the past are hanging over the school. A teacher wants to break her, some of her friends are acting oddly and, worst of all, a boy intends to court her. But as she struggles to come to terms with her own past, she discovers a plot to kill her and a deadly threat that may destroy the entire school...and a fight she cannot win, but dares not lose.

Wedding Hells by Chris Nuttall

After her victory over Master Grey, Emily wants nothing more than to relax and give herself time to recover from the duel. Her magic, pushed to the limits, is no longer reliable, forcing her to learn to control it from scratch. Every time she delays using her magic, she risks headaches ... or worse. But she must return to Whitehall to complete her fourth-year exams and bid farewell to those of her friends who are not returning for fifth year. And then, she must return to Zangaria to play her role in Princess Alassa's wedding to Jade. It seems, if nothing else, a brief diversion before she goes off on a tour of the Allied Lands. But all is not well in Zangaria and the kingdom is fast approaching a major crisis.



Fanthology Submission Rules

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the N3F, we are issuing a special publication, a collection of short stories. The working title is "This Sea of Stars Like Diamond Dust" Recent winners of the N3F Short Story context will be invited to contribute their tales.

Also, all N3F members are invited to contribute short stories of their own. Works of up to 20,000 words are welcome. George Phillies with support from Jefferson Swycaffer will be the editor. We will retain right of refusal for inappropriate or entirely ill-written material. Send to President George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net.

The volume will be strictly a fan publication. Writers will sign off that they are giving us the right to keep the volume "in print", to distribute it to dues-paying members, and to sell it electronically. Writers will retain all rights to their work other than allowing us to perform fan publication. Amazon Kindle has a minimum price below which we cannot go. Any income from the book will be used to publicize the N3F Short Story Contest and its successors.

2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2016.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to do sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly between all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2016. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2015. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

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Nominations Invited—2015 Short Story Contest Results

N'APA—Electronic Round Robins—Writers Exchange

Art Contributors—Poetry - The Dying Girl—Welcommittee

Membership Changes—Treasurer's Report—Directorate Report

Birthday Bureau

Letters of Comment (Tom Feller, Lloyd Penney, Bob Jennings)

Great SF Magazines Marvel Science Fiction

Our Founding Members: Ross Rocklynne

The Futurians—A Personal Experience

Novels by Neffers—Fanthology Submission Rules

Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

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