

FANAC Fan History Project

Newsletter 22

December 7, 2023

Happy almost-Saturnalia. In our last newsletter of 2023, we'll give you the news plus a perspective on APAs, an update on the archive, and a preview of the changes coming on FANAC.org.

Behold, the timebinding: We've now exceeded 22,000 fanzines on the archive, with almost 400,000 pages of material. Over 3,000 of those fanzines were published in the 1930's-1940's.

News! Chicon 8 has awarded FANAC a very generous grant of \$3,500! Another \$2,000 was directed towards Geri Sullivan's Video Archeology project. Our thanks to Helen Montgomery and the Chicon 8 committee for their support of FANAC and the Fan History Project!



FANAC at SMOFcon

For the first time, FANAC had a scanning station at SMOFcon, run by Mark Olson and Laurie Mann. Since SMOFcon is the convention for convention organizers, our (unsurprising) focus was on scanning convention publications. Mark and Laurie scanned close to 3,000 pages of pubs which will be posted over the next couple of weeks. In addition to printed contributions, FANAC was given access to digital material archived by Norwescon and Readercon, materials scanned by Don Glover and by Linda Deneroff. Leslie Turek brought a wealth of Boskone pubs, David Ennis a nearly complete set of Eriecon PBs and Gary Blog a trove of Arisian materials. Thanks for these and thanks to the others that brought in materials. More on our convention pubs project later in the newsletter.

Back to the Future: Joe on APAs

What was it like to be a fan in the 40s or 50s, and get a big fat FAPA mailing? One of our recent software updates has given us the ability to recompile old APA mailings. As we scan fanzines and identify which APAs they were originally from, Mark Olson's software is allowing us to "reconstruct" mailings. That is, on FANAC.org, you can browse the zines in a mailing together, as if you had received the mailing. As we add more scans to the archive, the mailings will become more complete. https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA_Mailings/

We've just really started this and can only do it if we can identify which mailing a fanzine issue was distributed in. So far, we have made good progress with early FAPA mailings, some OMPA zines, SAPS and, as Rich discusses below, SFPA. If you can help us identify fanzine titles that are already online with a specific APA mailing, please write to fanac@fanac.org

We are also putting some similar mailings, which are not technically APAs online. Fannish publications like *Ipsa*, *Futurian War Digest*, *The Cult* and early *Worldcon fan collections* will also be available.

Futurian War Digest (*FWD*), affectionately known as *Fido*, was an early fanzine published by J. Michael Rosenblum during World War II, thus the eminently appropriate title. Rosenblum really helped keep UK fandom alive by including short zines from other fans when he mailed *Fido*. Not technically an APA (no OO or mailing comments, for example), *Fido* unusually grouped a variety of zines that probably would never have been printed without it, let alone circulated. These zines were often on poor quality paper, sometimes on office forms and second sheets sent over by American fans. Rob Hansen and I have been scanning some of these zines and we will be including them in the bundles with *FWD*. Rob says, "During WWII it [*FWD*] was pretty much the glue that held British fandom together."

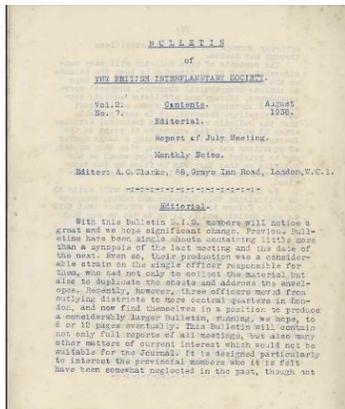
Although there were other fanzines printed during the war in Europe, it does give some feeling for the difficulty of fanac in wartime and the dedication of fans.

Want More Frequent Updates?

If you want more frequent, and detailed updates, send a note to FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io. We'll send twice a week updates with "What's New" on the site.

Outstanding Additions since the last newsletter

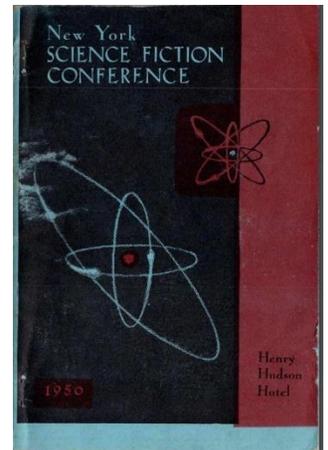
We've added more than 1,000 publications since the last newsletter in July, and about 3,000 fanzines in 2023. Here are some highlights.



Bulletin of the British Interplanetary Society (1930s): Amongst the archive's earliest fanzines, we now have 10 issues of the *Bulletin of the British Interplanetary Society* dating from 1934-1939. While these are not science fiction fanzines, they mention scientification, and with Arthur C. Clarke and Ted Carnell as editors, they are certainly related publications. The *Bulletin* can easily be seen with (although hopefully more accurate than) such fanzines as *Space Magazine*. Many thanks to David Ritter for the scans, which were taken from issues from the collection of Alistair Durie.

Hydracon Program Book (1950): The 1950 New York Science Fiction Conference aka Hydracon, was run by a committee which included some of the best-known names in science fiction. Among them were Judith Merrill,

Fred Pohl, Martin Greenberg, David Kyle, and Fletcher Pratt. The book art, layout and production were by Harry Harrison. Lester Del Rey was in part responsible for editorial. We're accustomed to seeing now well-known professional names in early fanzines, but it's rarer to see these pros represented in the convention running world. For more on Hydracon, see <https://fancyclopedia.org/Hydracon>.



Apparatchik (1990s): Edited first by Andy Hooper, later co-edited with Victor Gonzalez, and finally adding in Carl Juarez, *Apparatchik* was nominated for a Best Fanzine Hugo and twice won the FAAn award for Best Fanzine. Since the last newsletter, we've added 50 issues of *Apparatchik*. From **Plokta 8**, bylined Victor Pokta, "The fanzine was noted for its hard-hitting reports of current events, professionally covered by the silver-tongued pen of Victor Gonzalez, and leavened with light-hearted tales of fandom past and present from multiple Egoboo Award winner Andy Hooper."

Joe on: Bill Rotsler

Everyone knows Bill Rotsler, don't you? Possibly the most prolific fan cartoonist ever. Interesting science fiction writer in his later years. Wrote everything from adult novels to YA fiction. His ISFDB.org bibliography only covers a fraction of his writing. And of course, he was a photographer and adult filmmaker. His best-known fanzines

are collections of his art and probably the twenty or so issues of his genzine, *Masque*, most of which we have online at <https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Masque/>. However, he was a fairly prolific fan WRITER as well a fan artist. His personalzine *Kteic*, started as a letter substitute which I came to very late in its production. They are often fascinating. In them, Bill rambles about anything that is on his mind, seemingly randomly but usually



fascinatingly. It might be an art exhibit or a production he is doing or a recent model or... We have 33 available for you to discover at https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Kteic_Magazine/. I'd love to see the other hundred or so.

As always, we do our best to find the editor or organization, and get permission before archiving publications. If you have scans or other digital copies of your fanzines, we'd be glad to get them.

Con is short for *convention*

Convention: a gathering of fans and pros from near or distant points. They're usually held in a hotel, frequently for more than a single day and often discussing science fiction, where they have programs. The attendees join the con as members, not ticket buyers. Modern SF conventions continue to be run by volunteers and are the result of almost 90 years of convention evolution.

FANAC's mission, of course, includes preserving convention history. Today, we have over 4,000 convention publications, totaling almost 75,000 pages of material. The earliest is the program book of the 1936 convention held in Philadelphia, and the most recent is the Member Guidebook of the 2023 Worldcon in Chengdu.

Context is everything, and our Fancyclopedia site provides it. On the 1936 convention: According to Sam Moskowitz, "It was suggested by John B. Michel that the club [the NYB-ISA] plan a social outing of some sort; this was agreed to, great controversy ensued as to the destination. Philadelphia was decided upon, chiefly because Wollheim had hit upon the novel idea of meeting with out-of-town fans and thereby calling the affair a science fiction convention."



The photo above at the right (which you can [see better](#) in Fancyclopedia) is a photo of that first 1936 convention. Most of the attendees are in the photo. From left: Oswald Train, Donald A. Wollheim, Milton A. Rothman, Frederik Pohl, John B. Michel, William S. Sykora (holding the NYB-ISA flag), David A. Kyle, and Robert Madle. They're standing in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Not pictured: Herbert E. Goudket, who took the photograph, and John V. Baltadonis, who had not arrived at the time the picture was taken.

Our interest in conventions shouldn't be a surprise. The FanHistory Project is convention born - it's an outgrowth of the MagiCon, the 1992 Worldcon. The members of the FANAC board have worked on hundreds of conventions, including chairing four Worldcons. Documenting our convention history is essential in showing the growth and change of science fiction fandom.

Check [Fancyclopedia.org](https://www.fancyclopedia.org) and see if your convention is documented. If not, you know the drill. (That means send us the information!).

Rich Lynch on: The SFPA Project

Digital preservation of old amateur press association (APA) mailings is an important part of FANAC's online archiving of printed fan materials. Past APA mailings often contained information that chronicled how fandom related and reacted to what was going on in the world, and this provides important context as well as snapshots of what fandom was like back when those APA mailings were collated. As was described in *FANAC Newsletter 20* (Dec. 2022), I have scanned several years of Southern Fandom Press Alliance (SFPA) mailings, all of them dating back to the late 1990s and early 2000s, as a kind of pilot project to determine the feasibility of large-scale digital preservation of APA mailings. It's still a work in progress, but so far, the quality of the scans has been encouraging enough that I will be doing more of them, including the

CONTENTS	
1. Book's Bookend (6/12/00)	Lillian 17
2. Snow Post News (6/12/00)	Boston 21
3. This is Not a Kinship #100 (7/5/00)	London 22
4. Tropicopolis: East End Review Quarterly #1 (7/18/00)	Chicago 23
5. Realities #1 (7/27/00)	London 24
6. Spiritus March 175 (7/27/00)	Lillian 25
7. First Book and More #56 (7/24/00)	Schicago 26
8. Fragments Flyer (7/24/00)	London 27
9. Online Reader Volume 1 Issue 17 (7/24/00)	London 28
10. Reviews #2 (7/24/00)	Schicago 29
11. Galaxy Postcard (7/26/00)	Boston 30
12. Once Lost's Unofficial Review #22 (7/26/00)	Boston 31
13. Online No. 826 (7/26/00)	Boston 32
14. Comments # (7/26/00)	London 33
15. "Tropicopolis Review" AKA Other Quarterly #6 (7/27/00)	London 34
16. Postcard #6 (7/27/00)	London 35
17. Home with the Actinidia #12 (7/27/00)	L. Copeland 36
18. Cook Book (7/27/00)	L. Copeland 37
19. The Insect Working 1 (7/27/00)	London 38
20. The Sphinxes: 101 No. 1 (7/27/00)	London 39
21. Avalon Press #8 Vol. 3 (7/28/00)	London 40
22. Tropicopolis: East End (7/28/00)	London 41
23. Overgrowth: Show de Actual M.C.s in Honor! (7/29/00)	London 42
24. CS #1 (7/29/00)	London 43
25. First Book and More #57 (7/31/00)	London 44
26. First Book and More #58 (7/31/00)	London 45
27. The Southerner	London 46
TOTAL PAGES:	527

By including PDFs, Page 2

very first mailings which date back to the 1960s. Watch this space for updates!

Also: since each APA mailing is comprised of fanzines from many different contributors, an “opt in” procedure is in place to ensure that individual apazines are not archived at the FANAC.org website unless consent of the publishers of those apazines has been obtained in writing. Because of this, it may be that complete mailings cannot be preserved. I can say, however, that nearly everyone I have contacted for permission has agreed. This bodes well for the overall success of the project.

Do You Have These Titles?

In our [1 Issue - Maybe More to Come](#) directory, we currently have 255 “orphan” fanzines. For a long time, we held on to these scans, unwilling to dedicate an index page to a singleton. Rather than keep them to ourselves, we created this “1 Issue – Maybe More to Come” page. From time to time, if you look at the web site updates, you’ve seen zines rescued from the obscurity of this list and given their own page as we find and scan additional issues.

Do you have any more issues of any of these titles? Here are the A’s alone, below, ranging from 1950 to 1998. Help us shorten the list by getting these titles into their own page. If you have additional issues you can scan, please send them to us! If you KNOW that these were one-shots, let us know that, and we’ll put them elsewhere.

Issue	Editor	Country	Whole	Volume	Number	Month	Day	Year	Pages
4SJ's Sci-Fi Kaleidoscope	Forry Ackerman	US	20			December	25	1996	2
Abanico 2	Bill Bowers	US	2			November		1961	16
Ad-O-Zine 5	Butts	US	5			September		1950	14
Afterburner 11	Binker Hughes	US	11			July		1998	2
American Defenestrator 1	Mike Glycer	US	1			January	24	1974	8
Amoeba 2	Norman Hartman	US	2	1	2	January		1951	6
Another Fan's Poison 1	Curt Philips	US	1			January		1986	30
Anghalac 1	Fred Patten	US	1			November		1964	10
Angmar 1	Bruce Pelz	US	1			August		1980	6
The Annex 1	A. Langley Searles	US	1			Fall		1987	12
As Flies 1	Marc Ortlieb	AU	1			January		1978	14
Aw 1	Dean Grennell	US	1					1974	8

To see the rest of the zines on this list: https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/1_Issue-Maybe_More_to_Come/ .

YouTube channel:

If you like to enjoy your history through audio and video, the FANAC YouTube channel is there for it.

As is customary, we’ve added our Zoom sessions to the channel. Since the last newsletter, we have had “Boston in 60s”, with Tony Lewis, Leslie Turek and Mike Ward, and “Evolution of Art(ists)”, with Grant Canfield, Tim Kirk, Jim Shull, and Dan Steffan. One of the advantages of our zoom-ed world is that we are able to bring together superbly qualified panelists to address the topic of the day, and these two panels are evidence of that. Judge for yourself, and listen to the recordings. Also, congratulations to Jim Shull, who was just named this year’s Rotsler Award winner.



Thanks to the good offices of Geri Sullivan and Jeanne Gomoll, we’ve also added a hysterically funny 1988 audio recording of Jeanne’s Minicon 23 reading of her fanzine article, “Barbie’s Inferno” . It’s illustrated with

images, and is a perfect fanhistorical counterpoint to this year's movie. If you're more of a classical movie buff, take a look at "Frankenstein [a not so gory version]", a 1963 Delta Group production provided by Bill Burns.

FANAC by the Numbers

Fanzines: 22,305 issues (covering 2,403 titles) with more than 396,070 pages. This is up from the 21,208 fanzine issues and 380,923 pages reported in our July update.

Conpubs: 4,308 publications, with 72,961 pages, representing 970 conventions. This is up from the 4,035 publications, with 70,295, representing 911 conventions reported in our July update.

Fancylopedia: 29,520 pages which include 6,439 for people, 4,693 for fans (a subset of people), 8,593 for fanzines, another 1,540 for clubs and apas, and 6,367 for conventions. This is up from the 29,301 pages, the 6,404 people pages, 4,666 fan pages, 8,540 fanzines pages, 1,529 for clubs and apas, and 6,277 convention pages reported in our July update.

YouTube: 170,838 views, 1,363 subscribers and 153 recordings. This is up from 162,147 views, 1,286 subscribers and 147 recordings in our July update.

Coming Attractions

Improved Readability Plus - Changes to fanzine index pages and the "classic" list, with a touch more information and easier visibility on smaller devices

More PDFing and OCRing – Making the zines we have online more accessible

More History Zooms – The early 2024 zoom schedule is set now:

1. January 20, 2024 - 2PM EST, 11AM PST and 7PM London GMT - An Interview with Joe Green, fan, science fiction writer, NASA spokesman and educator
2. February 17, 2024 - 7PM EST, 11 AM Feb 18 Melbourne AEDT - Wrong Turns on the Wallaby Track Part 2, with Leigh Edmonds and Perry Middlemiss
3. March 16, 2024 - 3PM EDT, 2PM CDT, 7PM London (GMT) - The Women Fen Don't See - Claire Brialey, Kate Heffner, and Leah Zeldes Smith

More Fanzines, Fancylopedia articles, YouTube uploads and maybe photos – As you would expect...

Please pass this update on to any fan or online list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](https://www.fanac.org) home page.

Fanhistorically yours, Edie Stern and Joe Siclari

Selected links:

FANAC.org: <https://www.fanac.org>

Fancylopedia 3: <https://fancylopedia.org>

Fanac YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

Fanzines: https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html

References: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/References/>

APA Mailings https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA_Mailings/

Alphabetical Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical_listing_of_fanzines.html

Chronological Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html

Country Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html

Editor Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/by_editor.html

Newszine Project: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

Core List: to Scan: https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html

Contributors since the last newsletter: We've received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Gloria Albasi, Tom Becker, Gary Blog, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Sam Butler, Grant Canfield, Darrah Chavey, Greg Conley, Linda Deneroff, Vincent Docherty, Ahrvid Engholm, David Ennis, Don Glover, Mike Glycer, Jeanne Gomoll, Rob Hansen, John Hertz, Bill Higgins, Irwin Hirsh, Andy Hooper, Mindy Hunt, Bob Jennings, Steve Johnson, Chris Krolczyk, Tim Kirk, Dave Langford, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Tony Lewis, Guy Lillian III, Rich Lynch, Joseph Major, Laurie Mann, Linda Ross-Mansfield, Sam McDonald, Gary McGath, Ben McKenzie, Perry Middlemiss, Mark Nelson, Mark Olson, George Phillies, Andrew Porter, Thomas Recktenwald, Mark Richards, David Ritter, Heath Row, Alison Scott, Flash Sheridan, Jim Shull, Steven Silver, Leah Zeldes Smith, Ian Sorensen, Dale Speirs, Garth Spencer, Dan Steffan, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Alan Thiesen, Leslie Turek, Jan Vaněk Jr, Gianna Walker, Mike Ward, Taral Wayne, Ted White, and Owen Whiteoak.

The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS.

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