

**Founders of
The National Fantasy
Fan Federation**

by

**Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.,
N3F Historian**

and

**George Phillies, D.Sc.,
N3F President**

N3F Fandbook #8
Published by
The National Fantasy Fan Federation
N3F.org

Copyright 2020 by
The National Fantasy Fan Federation

N3F Fandbooks

Fandbook No. 1 -- *A Key to the Terminology of Science Fiction Fandom* by Donald Franson (1962)

Fandbook No. 2 – *The Amateur Press Associations in S-F Fandom* by Bob Lichtman (1962)

Fandbook No. 3 – *Some Historical Facts About S-F Fandom* by Donald Franson (1962)

Fandbook No. 4 – *The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund* by Len Moffatt and Ron Ellik (1963)

Fandbook No. 5 – *Pseudonyms of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Authors* by Jon D. Swartz (2010)
[Introduction by Ray Nelson]

Fandbook No. 6 – *The Hugo Awards for Best Novel* by Jon D. Swartz (2013)

Fandbook No. 7 – *The Nebula Awards for Best Novel* by Jon D. Swartz (2016) [Foreword by George
Phillies]

Fandbook No. 8 – *Founders of the National Fantasy Fan Federation* by Jon D. Swartz and George
Phillies (2020)

Introduction

Greetings from N3F President George Phillies

Four score – less two – years ago, fen from across our Republic came together to create that which had not previously existed, a fan-based national federation of scientifiction fans. The nation, of course, was the nation of fantasy fans, men and women and boys and girls from anywhere in the world who were fans of tales of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and the occult, expressed in novels and films and comic books and shorter works. They expressed their views in letters, in fanzines, in speech and print and song, at conventions and in public media.

Our sixty-four founders – as I type, one of them is still with us, 78 years later – came together to create The National Fantasy Fan Federation, whose first zine *Bonfire* is still with us, now under the title *The National Fantasy Fan*.

The Federation has had good times and less favorable times. There have been years when we had hundreds and hundreds of members. In the depths of World War Two, at one point we sank to two dues-paying members. Nonetheless, we perservered. We again have hundreds of members in America and around the world, linked by paper mail, the wonders of modern electronics, and (as I type) our nine fanzines.

We had a beginning. At the beginning, we had sixty-four members. Some are almost forgotten. Some of them will be remembered as long as there is science fiction in the world. Here we recall fifteen of our founders, people who went on to do great things for scientification. They become great fanzine publishers, great editors, great authors. We choose to remember them here because, above all, they were great fen.

Fifteen Founding N3F Fen

In the first years of science fiction (SF) fandom in the United States, the late 1920s and early 1930s, fans contacted and kept in touch with each other mainly by means of the letter columns in the professional magazines, magazines that fen later referred to as promags and still later as prozines. Fan contacts formally began in the late 1920s with the appearance of readers' letters in the "Discussions" column of *Amazing Stories*. Some fen had earlier communicated with each other via letters in the fantasy magazine *Weird Tales*, which began publication in 1923. This pioneering pulp magazine, though emphasizing fantasy and supernatural stories, was a training ground for SF writers; over the years it even published some SF stories. *Weird Tales* is still published, although in a somewhat different form.

In these letter columns, readers commented upon and compared their favorite – and not-so-favorite – stories, authors, artists, other fen, and so forth. This fan communication via letters to the prozines continues today. In the 1920s-1930s, however, such correspondence also led to the formation of local SF clubs (some of which were more *science* clubs than *science fiction* clubs), the publication of amateur magazines and newsletters (later called fanmags, and still later fanzines), and the organization of local, regional, and even national conventions. Some of these early clubs were sponsored by the SF prozines. Out of these clubs came a new generation of SF writers, artists, editors, critics, agents, and at least one publisher, Donald A. Wollheim.

In 1941 SF fan (and neophyte SF artist/author as well as member of The Futurians of New York) Damon Knight suggested that it was time to create a national organization of SF and fantasy fans: "I sincerely believe that a successful national fantasy association is possible, that it could offer a needed service to every fan, and that it could be established today." The N3F was organized by elements of The Stranger Club of Boston, Massachusetts, stimulated by Knight's article "Unite – Or Fie!" Knight was respected in SF fandom at the time, being a member of the Futurians and known throughout the country. He subsequently became famous in the genre as an author, critic, editor, and teacher of SF/fantasy. People across the nation responded to his suggestion. The National Fantasy Fan Federation (later abbreviated as the NFFF, and then as the N3F) was the result, with 64 charter members. Prime movers in founding our national science fiction club included Art Widner and Louis Russell Chauvenet. Knight soon lost interest in the national club project, and left the subsequent development of the club to Widner, Chauvenet, and others.

The brief biographies collected here were originally published in *The National Fantasy Fan* over a period of years as separate articles.

The 64 Charter Members of The National Fantasy Fan Federation

- 1) Forrest J Ackerman
- 2) Henry A. Ackermann
- 3) Charles A. Beling
- 4) Ray D. Bradbury
- 5) Donn Brazier
- 6) Lynn Bridges
- 7) Phil Bronson
- 8) James Bush
- 9) Louis Russell Chauvenet
- 10) Edwin F. Counts
- 11) E. Everett Evans
- 12) Larry B. Farsaci
- 13) Scott Feldman
- 14) Jack Fields
- 15) Joseph Fortier
- 16) Joseph Gilbert
- 17) Jack Gillespie
- 18) Lou Goldstone
- 19) Mary C. Gray
- 20) Charles Hansen
- 21) Earl Barr Hanson
- 22) Fred Hurter
- 23) Harry Jenkins, Jr.
- 24) Robert Jones
- 25) Robert Jordan
- 26) Eugene Jorgensen
- 27) Nicholas E. Kenealy
- 28) Damon F. Knight
- 29) H. C. Koenig
- 30) Cyril Kornbluth
- 31) Richard J. Kuhn
- 32) Gertrude Kuslan
- 33) Louis Kuslan
- 34) David Kyle

- 35) Robert A. W. Lowndes
- 36) Robert A. Madle
- 37) Lew Martin
- 38) John Michel
- 39) John L. Millard
- 40) Chris E. Mulrain
- 41) Francis Paro
- 42) Elmer Perdue
- 43) George Robson
- 44) Ross Rocklyne
- 45) Milton A. Rothman
- 46) Phil Schumann
- 47) Arthur Sehnert
- 48) Ray J. Sienkiewicz
- 49) Clarissa M. Smith
- 50) Edward E. Smith
- 51) Jack Speer
- 52) Robert Studley
- 53) Robert D. Swisher
- 54) Charles Tanner
- 55) Dale Tarr
- 56) Donald B. Thompson
- 57) Hyman Tiger
- 58) Wilson "Bob" Tucker
- 59) Julius Unger
- 60) Harry Warner, Jr.
- 61) Art Widner, Jr.
- 62) Richard Wilson
- 63) Donald A. Wollheim
- 64) Thomas Wright

About the Founders

A very distinguished group of SF enthusiasts founded the National Fantasy Fan Federation, as evidenced by the above list. From New York (Wollheim and the other Futurians) to California (Ackerman and other LASFS members), and with prominent fans from states in between (Evans, Speer, Tucker, Warner, Widner), fandom membership across the nation was well represented in this group. While many of these early fans are unknown today, others became famous as authors, editors, publishers, dealers, and agents.

A few professional authors of the time, including E. E. "Doc" Smith (as well as his daughter Clarissa), were charter members. Smith had been interested in fandom for some time, and was the Guest of Honor at Chicon in 1940. Many of the other charter members were budding writers. Some went on to become important authors in the field -- including several of the Futurians, either publishing under their own names or using pseudonyms. Here we offer biographic notes on fifteen of our founders.

These notable founders, in alphabetical order, are:

Forrest James Ackerman
Ray Douglas Bradbury
Louis Russell Chauvenet
E. E. Evans
Damon Knight
Cyril Kornbluth
Dave Kyle
Robert A. W. Lowndes
Ross Rocklynne
Edward E. Smith
Jack Speer
Bob Tucker
Harry Warner, Jr.
Art Widner
Donald Wollheim

Forrest James Ackerman

Forry Ackerman (1916 - 2008) began reading science fiction (SF) in 1926, with the October issue of *Amazing Stories*. He was a SF fan and collector for the rest of his life. He was also an agent, editor, anthologist, and writer. He was an associate editor of one of the first SF fanzines, *The Time Traveler*, and film editor of *Science Fiction Digest* in the early 1930s. In 1934 he was a founding member of LASFS, the oldest local SF fan organization still in existence today. From 1939-1947 he was associated with the publication of the club's fanzine *Voice of the Imagi-nation* (VOM).

Over the years, Ackerman used scores of pseudonyms, including 4. E van Ackerman, Terri Abrahams, Dr. Acula, Jack Erman, Jacques DeForest Erman, Laurajean Ermayne, Alden Lorraine, Aime Merritt, Vespertina Torgosi, Claire Voyant, Hubert George Wells, and Weaver Wright. He was known in SF fandom by many nicknames, including 4E, 4e, 4SJ, Forry, and FJA. He served in the United States Army during World War II, and came home with yet another nickname: Sergeant Ack-Ack. In fan circles he was referred to as both "Mr. Science Fiction" and as "Science Fiction's Number One Fan."

Ray Bradbury once called Ackerman "the most important fan/collector/human being in the history of science-fantasy fiction." Ackerman early embraced the cause of Esperanto. His other eccentricities included a fondness for simplified language, neologisms, and puns. He always insisted that no period appear after his middle initial when using his "official name", Forrest J Ackerman. His first SF publication was "A Trip to Mars" in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (1929). His first professional SF publication was "The Nymph of Darkness" (1935) [with C. L. Moore]. His first edited SF book was *The Frankenscience Monster* (1969).

Ackerman's honors/awards were many, including: GoH, First International Science Fiction Convention (London), 1951; First Hugo Award, 1953 (Number One Fan Personality); FGoH, Worldcon, 1964; Inkpot, 1974; GoH, Lunacon, 1974; Saturn, 1975; GoH, First Pan-Germanic Con, 1957; many other awards, including a World Fantasy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2002. In addition, he is credited with many "firsts" -- such as inventing convention nicknames like Chicon, Nycon, and Philcon. He was the first to wear a futuristic costume at a convention, thereby starting the costume ball tradition. He created the term *sci-fi* (now used mainly to identify SF in the media), and is credited with the creation of monster fandom due to the enormous success of his magazine *Famous Monsters of Filmland*.

Ackerman wrote several non-fiction books and edited many anthologies of fiction and non-fiction, including *Science Fiction Worlds of Forrest J Ackerman and Friends* (1969), *Amazing Forries* (1976), *Best Science Fiction for 1973* (1973), *Gosh! Wow! (Sense of Wonder) Science Fiction* (1982), *Lon of 1000 Faces* (1983), *Mr. Sci-Fi's Scientifiction Cards* (1991) [set of 45 collector cards featuring SF movie lobby cards from the Ackerman archives]; *New Eves: Science Fiction About the Extraordinary Women of Today and Tomorrow* (1994) [with others], *Reel Future* (1994) [with Jean Stine], *Ackermanthology: 65*

Astonishing Rediscovered Sci-Fi Shorts (1997), and *Forrest J Ackerman's World of Science Fiction* (1997). More recent Ackerman works were *Rainbow Fantasia: 35 Spectrumatic Tales of Wonder* (2001); *Famous Forry Fotos: Over 70 Years of AckerMemories* (2001); the illustrated anthology dedicated to Edgar Rice Burroughs, *Martianthology* [edited by Anne Hardin] (2003); and *Worlds of Tomorrow: The Amazing Universe of Science Fiction Art* (2004) [with Brad Linaweaver].

He was to have been editor of the magazine *Sci-Fi*, announced in 1956, but the publisher-to-be went bankrupt and the magazine never appeared. *Wonder Magazine* #7 (1993) featured a tribute to Forry Ackerman and a look inside the now-closed Ackermansion. Ackerman on his legacy: "I have devoted my life to amassing over a quarter million pieces of sf and fantasy as a present to posterity and I hope to be remembered as an altruist who would have been an acceptable citizen in Utopia."

At the time of his death, he was a member of LASFS, First Fandom, and the N3F, the only Lifetime Member of our club at that time.

Ray Douglas Bradbury

Famous author Raymond Douglas Bradbury (August 22, 1920 – May 6, 2012) began to publish science fiction (SF) stories in fanzines in 1938. At that time he was invited by Forrest J Ackerman, later his agent, to join the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS) – and he attended meetings of this SF club for most of his life.

Bradbury's first published story was "Hollerbochen's Dilemma," which appeared in the fanzine *Imagination!* in January, 1938. He started his own fanzine, *Futura Fantasia* in 1939, and wrote most of its four issues by himself.

He published dozens of books and hundreds of short stories during his career. His first book was *Dark Carnival*, published by Arkham House in 1947, and consisting of some of his early horror stories. It was reissued, with many stories revised, as *The October Country* in 1955. His other notable books include *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), *The Illustrated Man* (1951), *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), *Dandelion Wine* (1957), *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (1962), *Farewell Summer* (2006) [a sequel to *Dandelion Wine*], and *Now and Forever* (2007). He also edited two paperback collections of genre stories for Bantam in the 1950s: *Timeless Stories for Today and Tomorrow* (1952) and *The Circus of Dr Lao and Other Improbable Stories* (1956).

In addition to SF and fantasy stories, Bradbury wrote poetry, mysteries, essays, and plays; and he both wrote and consulted on screenplays and television scripts, including the feature films *It Came from Outer Space* (1953) and *Moby Dick* (1956). Beginning in the 1950s, many of his stories were adapted to comic

book, television, and film formats. François Truffaut's film version of *Fahrenheit 451*, starring Julie Christie and Oscar Werner, was a popular film in the 1960s.

Bradbury won many awards, and was nominated for many others. In the late 1940s, he was given an N3F Laureate Award, the predecessor of the Neffy, for being the outstanding “professional ex-fan”. He received the Invisible Little Man Award in 1950, the Forry Award in 1966, a World Fantasy Award (Lifetime Achievement) in 1977, the Balrog Award in 1979, a Prometheus Hall of Fame Award in 1988, the Bram Stoker Award for Life Achievement in 1988, and the SFWA Grand Master Award in 1989. He was Guest of Honor at Confederation, the 1986 Worldcon.

In 1992, an asteroid was named after him. He won an Emmy in 1994. In 2007, he received a special citation from the Pulitzer board for his “distinguished, prolific and deeply influential career as an unmatched author of science fiction and fantasy.” In 2002 he was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

Bradbury used several pseudonyms during his 70+ years of professional writing. Some of his pen names were D. R. Banat, Edward Banks, Don Reynolds, William Elliot, Leonard Douglas, William Spalding, Douglas Spaulding, and Leonard Spaulding.

He probably wrote more horror stories than stories in other genres; but he is remembered today mainly for his impact on the field of science fiction/fantasy.

Bradbury once said: “Collecting facts is important. Knowledge is important. But if you don't have an imagination to use the knowledge, civilization is nowhere.”

Louis Russell Chauvenet

Russ Chauvenet was born February 12, 1920, and died June 24, 2003. With Damon Knight and Art Widner, he is credited with co-founding the National Fantasy Fan Federation. He was N3F President in 1941-1942, and at one time in 1944 was one of only two members of the club in good standing. According to Harry Warner, Jr.: "Chauvenet, despite his total deafness, conceived the brilliant name for the official organ, Bonfire, derived from Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (BONFFF)." When Chauvenet ran for President, his platform urged freedom for the club from control by any individual or clique, and stated that he did not want anyone associated with fan feuding to occupy an important club office.

Chauvenet was also a founder of Boston's The Stranger Club, and hosted its first meeting at his home in 1940. The members of The Stranger Club were guests of honor in 1987 at Noreascon 3, the 47th Worldcon, in Boston. In addition, he was one of the original members of First Fandom.

Chauvenet coined the word *fanzine* in the October, 1940 issue of his fan magazine *Detours* ("We hereby protest against the un-euphonious word 'fanmag' . . . and announce our intention to plug 'fanzine' as the best short form of 'fan magazine.'"). The term probably became a permanent term in science fiction fandom because of its adoption by the popular project "Fanzine Service for Fans in Service" during World War II. He later also coined the term *prozine* for professionally published magazines containing SF stories.

For many years Chauvenet was a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA). In the 1960s, he published the FAPA fanzine *Spinnaker Reach*. He published several other fanzines, including *Nachgemachte Schildkrotensuppe* (1941-1942), *Fanzine Digest* (1942, with Harry Warner, Jr.), *Sardonyx* (1940-1945), *Silver Spring Science Fiction*, *Root Beer and Go Association* (a one-shot, 1965, with Ron Ellik), *Zizzle-Pop* (1942-1944), and *A* (a one-shot in 1939).

Chauvenet lost his hearing at the age of ten after suffering from spinal meningitis. He attended Central Institute for the Deaf, but then went on to receive his bachelor of science degree in biology and master of science degree in chemistry. Starting in 1948, he worked until he retired on computers as a civilian employee of the U. S. Department of Defense.

His photo appears on page 171 of Warner's famous history of SF fandom in the 1940s, *All Our Yesterdays* (1969).

Chauvenet was also an avid sailor and an accomplished chess player. He built his own Windmill class sailboat and participated in regattas. In chess, he was the United States Amateur Champion in 1959, as well as state champion for Virginia from 1942 through 1948, and for Maryland in 1963, 1969, and 1976.

E. E. Evans

Edward Everett (Ev) Evans (November 30, 1893 – December 2, 1958) was a science fiction (SF) fan and author.

He helped organize the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) and was its second president in 1942. He was elected President again for 1943-1945, edited the club's first fanzine, *Bonfire*, in 1942-1944, and was the founding editor of *The National Fantasy Fan* in 1945.

Evans published his own fanzine, *The Time Binder*, in the 1940s, and was responsible for several one-shot fannish publications such as *What is S-F Fandom* in 1944. After he moved to California, he became a member and director of the Los Angeles Science-Fantasy Society (LASFS). He was chair of the first Westercon (West Coast Scienti-Fantasy Conference), held in Los Angeles in 1948.

In the early 1940s he was one of the principal occupants of the famous Slan Shack in Battle Creek, Michigan, a mecca for SF fans from all over the United States. Evans' room was called the Temple of the Old Foo, and many N3F crises were resolved in it. A photograph of Evans and other Slan Shack members appears on page 34 of Warner's excellent history of SF fandom, *All Our Yesterdays* (Advent, 1969). While living in Michigan and staying in the Slan Shack, Evans was also a member of the Galactic Roamers.

After being a SF fan for years, he became a SF writer. His works included the novels *Man of Many Minds* (1953), *The Planet Mappers* (1955), *Alien Minds* (1955), and the posthumously-published collaboration with E. E. "Doc" Smith, *Masters of Space* (1976), and the collection of Evans' short fiction, *Food for Demons: The E. Everett Evans Memorial Volume* (1971). Smith wrote, in this memorial chapbook published in Evans' memory: "His passing has left a void in my life that can never be filled." Bradbury wrote: "I was proud, I am proud, I will always be proud of the old man with the young enthusiasms who wrote this book." This book was set up and printed, though not bound, as early as 1959; it contains what was considered to be Evans' best short fiction.

Ev Evans began to publish relatively late in life, his first story of genre interest being "Perfection" for *The Vortex* #2 in 1947. He had mixed success writing, although there is no doubt of the affection in which other SF writers and fans held him.

His novels were readable for his time. The adventures of Esper spy George Hanlan in *Man of Many Minds* (1953) and its sequel, *Alien Minds* (1955), are entertaining, but not especially memorable. Evans's juvenile novel, *The Planet Mappers* (1955), on the other hand, won the Boys' Clubs of America annual award for "most enjoyable book." With input from his wife and fellow SF fan Thelma D. Hamm (whom he married in 1953), he collaborated with E. E. "Doc" Smith on one story which Smith expanded into *Masters of Space* (1976). Hamm inspired and helped Evans with much of his later work.

After his death, the E. Everett Evans Big Heart Award was created to honor outstanding service to the SF field ("typifying the spirit of science fiction writer E. Everett Evans"). It was given annually at the Hugo awards ceremony at the Worldcon, almost always to a senior fan. The award is now known as the David A. Kyle Big Heart Award. Recipients of the award have included such former N3F members as Forrest J Ackerman and Art Widner.

Damon Knight

Damon Francis Knight was born on September 20, 1922 in Baker, Oregon; and he died on April 14, 2002 in Eugene, Oregon; but most of his life he lived in other states. Both his parents were teachers; he was their only child.

He married three times, with his last marriage in 1963 to fellow science fiction (SF) writer Kate Wilhelm. He fathered four children, including a son with Wilhelm.

Knight was a free-lance writer and illustrator, editor, and critic for almost all of his life. He was the founding president of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA), and the founding editor of the *Science Fiction Writers of America Bulletin*, serving from July, 1965 until June, 1967. With fellow former Futurians James Blish and Judith Merril, he founded the Milford Science Fiction Writers' Conference in 1956. For over twenty years, he directed the Conferences. In the late 1960s he participated in founding the Clarion Science Fiction Writers' Workshop.

Knight began reading SF at an early age, with the August-September, 1933, issue of *Amazing Stories*. As a teenager he produced his own fanzine, *Snide*. This fan magazine led to his moving to New York in 1941 and joining the Futurians. He began his editing career in 1943 with Popular Publications, worked for a time for a literary agency, and then returned to Popular Publications. He left in 1950 to become editor of Hillman Publication's *Worlds Beyond*, after he had convinced the publisher to add an SF magazine to his chain. The quality of the new stories he published is attested to by the fact that two-thirds of them subsequently appeared in anthologies. Knight then wrote for television, including *Captain Video and His Video Rangers* (1952). He returned to editing in 1958 on the SF magazine *If*, which he subsequently left in 1959.

Knight also published under the pseudonyms Donald Laverty (with James Blish), Ritter Conway, and Stuart Fleming. His first professional sale was the SF story "Resilience" in *Stirring Science Stories* (February, 1941); his first novel was *Hell's Pavement* (Lion, 1955) [later titled *Analogue Men*]; and his first collection of short fiction was *Far Out* (Simon & Schuster, 1961).

During his lifetime he received many honors and awards: Hugo (Critic), 1956; Pilgrim, 1975; Jupiter (Short Story) for "I See You" in 1977; GoH, World Science Fiction Convention, 1980 (Noreascon Two); SFWA Grand Master, 1994; Retro Hugo (Short Story) for "To Serve Man" in 2001 (story originally published in 1950/later telecast on *The Twilight Zone*, and many other awards, including posthumous induction into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 2003 and having the SWFA Grand Master Award named after him. Of interest to members of our club, of course, is that he wrote the article that led to the founding of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF, N3F) in 1941.

Some of Knight's anthologies are among the best ever produced, and include the *Orbit* series of original anthologies (beginning 1966), the *Nebula Award* series (beginning 1965), *A Century of Science Fiction* (1962), *One Hundred Years of Science Fiction* (1968), *The Golden Road* (1974), and *The Clarion Awards* (1984).

His *In Search of Wonder* (1956; revised edition, 1967), a collection of essays/book reviews, is an excellent critical study of the field. Some of his other genre-related non-fiction works include *Charles Fort, Prophet of the Unexplained* (1970) and *Creating Short Fiction* (1981/revised edition, 1997). Knight also edited *Turning Points: Essays on the Art of Science Fiction* (1977).

His early novels were *The People Maker* (1959) [later titled *A For Anything*], *Masters of Evolution* (1959), *Beyond the Barrier* (1964), *The Rithian Terror* (1965), and *Mind Switch* (1965) [later titled *The Other Foot*]. The November, 1976, issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* was a special Damon Knight issue. NESFA published *Better Than One* (1980), a book of stories and poems by Knight and his wife, Kate Wilhelm -- honoring their appearance as GoHs at the 1980 Worldcon -- and *Late Knight Edition* (1985), a book honoring his GoH appearance at Boskone 22. His final book was *Will the Real Hieronymus Bosch Please Stand Up?* on the Internet in 2000.

Cyril Kornbluth

Cyril M. Kornbluth (July 2, 1923 – March 21, 1958) was an American science fiction author and a notable member of the New York Futurian Society, the club that gave us so many influential figures in fandom in the 1930s-1940s. He used a variety of pen-names, including Cecil Corwin, S. D. Gottesman, Edward J. Bellin, Kenneth Falconer, Walter C. Davies, Simon Eisner, Jordan Park, Arthur Cooke, Paul Dennis Lavond, and Scott Mariner – usually when collaborating with other members of the Futurians.

He came into SF fandom through the Washington Heights Science Fiction League, and soon joined the Futurian Society, where he lived for a time at various Futurian Houses. He was one of the six SF fans who were excluded from the 1939 Worldcon (The Exclusion Act).

The “M” in Kornbluth's name is said to have been a tribute to his wife, Mary Byers; he was acknowledging that she was a collaborator in his writing. Kornbluth's colleague, collaborator, and fellow Futurian Frederik Pohl confirmed in at least one interview Kornbluth's lack of any actual middle name.

Kornbluth started writing in 1939 with “The Rocket of 1955,” which was published in the fanzine *Escape*; but he then enlisted in the army, where he served as an infantryman and was decorated. He did not turn to professional writing until the late 1940s. During his decade of writing professionally, he excelled in short fiction, including classics like “The Little Black Bag,” “Two Dooms,” and “The Marching Morons”.

His novels included *Outpost Mars* (1952), with fellow Futurian Judith Merrill (writing as Cyril Judd); *Gunner Cade* (1952), with Merrill (again writing as Cyril Judd); *Takeoff* (1952); *The Space Merchants*,

with Pohl; *The Syndic* (1953); *Search the Sky*, with Pohl; *Gladiator at Law* (1955), with Pohl; *Not This August* (1955); and *Wolfbane* (1959), also with Pohl.

Kornbluth died at age 34 in Levittown, New York. Scheduled to meet with Robert Mills in New York City to interview for the position of editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction (F&SF)*, Kornbluth had to shovel the snow out of his driveway, which left him running behind schedule. Racing to make his train, he suffered a heart attack and died. His death, along with some others, caused fandom to refer to 1958 as the “Year of the Jackpot.” The literary reference is to the short story by Heinlein of a contemporary year of many statistical flukes, ending with the Sun about to go nova.

A number of short stories remained unfinished at Kornbluth's death; some of these were eventually completed and published by Pohl. One of them, “The Meeting” (published in the November, 1972, issue of *F&SF*), was the co-winner of the 1973 Hugo Award for best short story.

More than a dozen collections of his short fiction have been published. Some of his early pseudonymous work was collected in 1970 in *Thirteen O'Clock and Other Zero Hours*, edited by SF author and critic James Blish, another former Futurian. Kornbluth's solo SF stories have been collected in *His Share of Glory: The Complete Short Science Fiction of C. M. Kornbluth* (NESFA Press, 1997).

Kornbluth was a recipient of The Prometheus Hall of Fame Award in 1986, and was elected to the First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame in 1995.

Dave Kyle

David Ackerman Kyle (February 14, 1919 – September 18, 2016) started as a SF fan in the 1930s. He was a member of one of the leading New York City fan groups, The Futurians.

At the first Worldcon in 1939, there was a rift between The Futurians (who had originally been chosen to lead the convention) and members of New Fandom (who replaced them). It was expected that there might be some friction between the groups at the convention. Anticipating this, Kyle published a small warning pamphlet. He hid the copies in the lobby when he entered the hall where the convention was being held. Other Futurians found the copies and started distributing them. When the convention committee learned of this, chairman Sam Moskowitz banned them from the convention. Those banned in this “Great Exclusion” act included Donald A. Wollheim, John Michel, Frederik Pohl, and Cyril Kornbluth. Kyle, who wrote and published the pamphlet, was not banned because he was already inside the hall.

Kyle was responsible for several “firsts.” He created a fanzine that is often credited as being the first comics fanzine. He was a partner in Gnome Press, one of the first fan book publishers. He was also part of the first Science Fiction Book Club. In addition, he wrote two illustrated books on the history of science fiction, and three sequels to the famous Lensman series of E. E. “Doc” Smith.

Kyle was chairman of the 1956 New York Worldcon (Nycon II). He headed the “Amalgamated Greater New York Fan Groups in 1953” bid and was co-chairman of the “Syracuse In 1967” bid.

His awards/honors were many. He was FGoH at ConStellation, the 1983 Worldcon. Other GoHships include the following: 1976, Novacon 6, 1982; RiverCon VII, 1989; Lunacon 32, 1990; Genericon 6, 1994; Arisia '94; Balticon 35, 2004; Alvacon 2004, 2012; Philcon 2012, and 2013; and SFContario 4. He was awarded the Big Heart Award in 1973 and took over management of the award from Forrest J Ackerman in 2000. He received the Raymond Z. Gallun Award in 1991. He was part of the group that created WSFS, Inc. He co-chaired Metrocon 1 and was a member of the Hydra Club. He was also a Knight of St. Fantony, and is the subject of the 2019 First Fandom Annual.

He married Ruth Landis, a fellow fan, in 1957. For their honeymoon, he organized the first fannish tour to the first non-U. S. Worldcon, LonCon, in 1957.

As of 2011 he had attended more Worldcons than any other SF fan or pro. He wrote his reminiscences of the many Worldcons he had attended for the *Noreascon Three Program Book*.

Robert A. W. Lowndes

Robert Augustine Ward “Doc” Lowndes (September 4, 1916 – July 14, 1998) was an American science fiction (SF) editor, author, agent, and fan. According to Damon Knight in his tell-all book *The Futurians* (1977), Lowndes' friends gave him the nickname “Doc” because he once worked as a porter at a Greenwich, Connecticut hospital. He was also known by the nickname “Rawl.” Lowndes was born and grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and once stated that he began reading SF at age 14.

Lowndes is remembered today primarily for his editorial work. He edited such SF magazines as *Future Fiction*, *Science Fiction*, and *Science Fiction Quarterly* -- among other crime, western, and sports magazines for Columbia Publications -- in the 1940s. In the 1950s he edited *Dynamic Science Fiction* and *Science Fiction Stories*. During the 1950s and 1960s, he was editor of the Avalon Books SF line, beginning with the first title they published in 1956.

Lowndes was also a horror enthusiast. As a young fan in 1937, he received two letters of encouragement from horror author H. P. Lovecraft. In 1963, Lowndes edited the *Magazine of Horror* (1963 - 1971) for Health Knowledge Inc. This magazine was popular and spawned several companion

magazines: *Startling Mystery Stories* (1966), *Famous Science Fiction* (1966), *Weird Terror Tales* (1969), and *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* (1970) – all of which Lowndes edited. The collapse of *Health Knowledge* in 1971 marked the end of these and several other popular magazines.

Startling Mystery Stories is notable for carrying the first stories of Stephen King and F. Paul Wilson. Lowndes subsequently edited Acme News' magazines *Exploring the Unknown* and *Real Life Guide*, and then went to work as an associate editor for Hugo Gernsback's non-fiction magazine *Sexology*.

With fellow former Futurian James Blish, in 1979 he edited *The Best of James Blish* for Ballantine Books.

In addition to his editing, Lowndes did a lot of writing. He was a collaborator on several stories with other members of the Futurians, under the pen names Arthur Cooke, S. D. Gottesman, Paul Dennis Lavond, and Lawrence Woods. For his solo work in the early 1940s, Lowndes used the pseudonyms Carol Grey, Mallory Kent, Wilfred Owen Morley, and Richard Morrison; later he added Carl Groener, Robert Morrison, Michael Sherman, Peter Michael Sherman, J. K. Stuart, and Jay Tyler to the list -- and he collaborated with Blish when they wrote *The Duplicated Man* in 1953 as John MacDougal. It has been estimated that, over his career, he used more than 50 pseudonyms. He also wrote many essays and poems, as well as three solo SF novels: *Believers' World* (1952), *The Mystery of the Third Mine* (1953), and *The Puzzle Planet* (1961).

He wrote some excellent reference works, including *Three Faces of Science Fiction* (1973), *The Gernsback Days: The Evolution of Modern Science Fiction from 1911 to 1936* (2004), and *Hugo Gernsback: A Man Well Ahead of His Time* (2007).

In 1948 he married Dorothy Rogalin, who had a young son from a previous marriage. The couple decided to separate in 1967, and finally divorced in 1974.

Lowndes was an early SF fan, one of the leaders of the New York Futurians in the 1930s and 1940s. His most memorable fanzine of the time was *Le Vombiteur*. He also worked for a short time as a literary agent, mostly handling the stories of his fellow Futurians. Later he was a member of First Fandom, and in 1991 was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

Ross Rocklynn

Ross Rocklynn (February 21, 1913 – October 29, 1988) was the principal pseudonym used by Ross Louis Rocklin, a science fiction 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 founding 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) .

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 edited by Harlan Ellison. 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's 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.

Edward E. Smith

Edward Elmer "Doc" Smith (May 2, 1890 – August 31, 1965) was a SF writer whose Ph.D. degree was appended to his name by editors of pulp magazines in an attempt to add some distinction to the space opera stories he wrote for their publications. Adding the degree after his name led to his being called "Doc" Smith by his many fans. Before he became a writer Smith worked at many different jobs, including stevedore, bricklayer, mill-hand, ranch hand, lumberjack, silver miner, surveyor, engineer, conductor on a horse-drawn streetcar, teamster, explosives expert, electrician, and chemist in a variety of settings.

He was graduated from The University of Idaho with a degree in chemical engineering in 1914, then attended George Washington University in Washington, D. C. for his graduate work (M.S. in chemistry, 1917; Ph.D. in chemical engineering, 1919). He married photographer's model Jeanne Craig MacDougall in 1915; and they subsequently had three children, a son and two daughters.

Smith's first SF publication, which took him five years to write and another seven years to get published, was his classic space opera novel about an anti-gravity substance (X) used to power a spaceship, *The Skylark of Space*. The story was serialized in *Amazing Stories* beginning with the August, 1928, issue. Smith was paid a total of \$125.00 for the entire serial. Hugo Gernsback, Publisher and Editor in Chief of *Amazing*, the first magazine devoted entirely to SF, described this first published work of Smith's as follows: "Plots, counter plots, hair-raising and hair-breadth escapes, mixed with love, adventure and good science seem to fairly tumble all over the pages." It's interesting that Gernsback should have mentioned "love" in his description of *Skylark*, because it helps explain Smith's co-author, who is usually added to later editions of the book. Smith had asked Mrs. Lee Hawkins Garby, wife of a former classmate, to help him with the "love interest" and other feminine matters in the story. Whatever Mrs. Garby's contribution to the story, Smith split with her the money he received for the tale.

The success of *The Skylark of Space* resulted in a writing career that ended only with Smith's death in 1965. In particular, it led him to write more "Skylark" novels, several novels in his even more popular "Lensman" series, and a half-dozen standalone novels. During his 50-year writing career Smith created several memorable characters, notably Marc "Blackie" DuQuesne. Of his many stories, *Spacehounds of IPC* was his favorite.

Many of the writers of the Golden Age of SF were friends and/or admirers of Smith. Isaac Asimov, the most prolific author of the Golden Age, had the following to say: "From the late 1920s and through the

1930s right up to the rise of Heinlein, Doc Smith was the most towering figure in science fiction, thanks to the enormous scope of his novels.”

At the very least, Smith can be credited with popularizing two major themes in SF writing: 1) interstellar flight (*The Skylark of Space*, 1928); and 2) the unification of the stars into a community (*Galactic Patrol*, 1937). SF writers would exploit these two concepts for many decades to come. Smith was not called The Father of Space Opera for no reason. His ideas also found a broader audience. According to his daughter Verna Jean, several of Smith's fictional ideas were adopted/adapted by the United States military, including his Combat Information Center sub-nano-second computer system from the Lensman flagship *Z9M9Z*.

His daughter Clarissa was also one of our founding members.

Jack Speer

John Bristol (Jack) Speer (August 9, 1920 – June 28, 2008) was an attorney who practiced law for over 60 years. He was also a judge and a member of the Washington House of Representatives.

As a young man, he was a science fiction fan and early historian of SF fandom, writing *Up to Now: A History of Science Fiction Fandom* in the 1930s. This small book had originally been published in *Full Length Articles #2* in 1939, and distributed through FAPA and at the first Worldcon in New York in 1939. It was reprinted by Dick Eney in *A Sense of FAPA* in 1962, and was then reprinted again by Arcturus Press in 1994.

Besides writing *Up to Now*, Speer developed a system of Numerical Fandoms, which was later expanded by other fan historians such as Robert Silverberg and Ted White.

Speer followed these fannish accomplishments with *Fancylopedia 1* (updated in the late 1950s by Dick Eney as *Fancylopedia 2*). Harry Warner, Jr., also a fan historian, said that Speer was “the first to stress fandom's subcultural aspects.”

At Chicon I, the second Worldcon, Speer distributed a set of SF songs he had written, now called filk music, as the *Science Fiction Song Sheet*. Also at Chicon Speer and Milt Rothman suggested a costume party or masquerade, which is still a part of Worldcons today.

By inventing the persona of John Bristol, he perpetuated one of the more successful hoaxes in the history of fandom. He also invented FooFoo.

His photo appears on page 128 of Harry Warner Jr.'s *All Our Yesterdays* (1969) and on page 19 of Warner's *A Wealth of Fable* (1992).

Bob Tucker

Arthur Wilson (Bob) Tucker was born November 23, 1914, in Deer Creek, Illinois, and died October 6, 2006, in St. Petersburg, Florida. An orphan, he was educated at Normal High School, Normal, Illinois. He married Mary Joestine in 1937, and they had two children before divorcing in 1942. He then married Fern Delores Brooks in 1953. He and Fern, who died in 2006, had three children together. Tucker worked as a motion picture projectionist, electrician, reporter, and editor while writing his science fiction (SF) and mystery stories part-time.

Tucker was an early fan, once saying that he had liked SF since he learned to read. He stayed active in fandom his entire life, publishing several fanzines of his own: *The Planetoid*, 1932; *The Bloomington News Letter/Science Fiction Newsletter*, *D'Journal*, and *Le Zombie*, 1938 - 1975; *Fantasy and Weird Fiction*, 1938 - 1939; *Yearbook of Science*, *Fanewscard*, and *Fanzine Yearbook*, all during 1941 - 1948. In 1966 he published the first edition of his *Neo-Fan's Guide to Science Fiction Fandom*. He also founded the fabled SPWSSTFM (Society for the Prevention of Wire Staples in Scientifiction Magazines) and is credited with originating the term *space opera* to describe a certain type of SF story. Known in fandom as Bob Tucker, other fannish names he used included Hoy Ping Pong and Sanford Vaid.

Tucker was profiled in the August, 1954, issue of *New Worlds*, and interviewed in *Speaking of Science Fiction: The Paul Walker Interviews* (1978). *The Really Incomplete Bob Tucker*, a one-shot fanzine containing some of his fanzine writings from the years 1942 through 1971 -- with an introduction by Robert Bloch -- was published in 1974 to help raise money to send Tucker to the 1975 Worldcon in Australia. In 1979 *The Tucker Transfer*, a one-shot fanzine edited by Gail Burnick (Mrs. George R. R. Martin at the time), was issued to help send Tucker to Brighton, England for the 1979 Worldcon.

He was interviewed in issue #7 of *Lan's Lantern* (1977). Issue #46 of this fanzine (dated November, 1997) was "A Bob Tucker Special," with the entire contents devoted to Tucker's life and work. The February, 2004 issue of *SF Commentary* 79 was a tribute to Tucker's seven decades as a fan and pro. An article by Jon D. Swartz on Tucker and his work appeared in *Paperback Parade* #70 (July, 2008).

Tucker's first published SF story, "Interstellar Way-Station," appeared in the May, 1941, issue of *Super Science Stories*. From 1941 until his death he published over two dozen short stories in the leading SF magazines, including *Astounding/Analog*, *Fantastic Worlds*, *Future Fiction*, *Galaxy*, *If*, *F&SF*, *Other Worlds*, *Planet Stories*, *Science Fiction Quarterly*, and *Universe*. Ten of his stories were collected in *The Science-Fiction Subtreasury* (1954); nine of his stories appeared in *The Best of Wilson Tucker*

(1982). Tucker also had a story, “Dick and Jane Go To Mars,” accepted for *Last Dangerous Visions*, but this anthology was never published.

He had several SF novels published, including *Prison Planet*, 1947; *The City in the Sea*, 1951; *The Long, Loud Silence*, 1952; *The Time Masters*, 1953; *Wild Talent*, 1954; *Time Bomb*, 1955; *The Lincoln Hunters*, 1958; *To the Tombaugh Station*, 1960; *The Year of the Quiet Sun*, 1970; *Ice and Iron*, 1974; and *Resurrection Days*, 1981.

Several of Tucker’s mystery novels contained SF elements. For example, in his first published novel, *The Chinese Doll*, Tucker mentioned not only SF fandom and fanzines but also began his practice of naming fictional characters after SF personalities. This practice became known as “Tuckerisms” in fandom.

Tucker received numerous honors and awards in his lifetime, including the following: Hugo (Best Fan Writer), 1970; The Bob Bloch Black Block Award, 1970; John W. Campbell, Jr. Memorial Award (Special) for *The Year of the Quiet Sun*, 1976; Skylark Award, 1986; FGoH, World SF Convention, 1967; Toastmaster, World SF Convention, 1976; First Fandom Hall of Fame, 1985; E. E. Smith Memorial Award, 1986; SFWA Author Emeritus, 1996; Science Fiction & Fantasy Hall of Fame, 2003; Retro Hugo in 2004 for Best Fan Writer of 1954; various other awards/honors, including being commissioned a Kentucky Colonel in 1993. Archcon 31, held in August 2007 in St. Louis, was also called the TuckerCon in his honor.

Harry Warner, Jr.

Harry Warner (December 19, 1922 – February 17, 2003) was a journalist. He spent 40 years working for a Hagerstown, Maryland newspaper. He was also an important science fiction (SF) fan and historian of SF fandom.

Warner was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Due to poor health, he dropped out of high school in the tenth grade. Despite his lack of formal education, he was well-read and taught himself several languages. In 1962 he wrote: “Always liked writing, monkeying around with words. You meet a lot of people you'd never know otherwise. It's given me a chance to express my talents.”

He became active in SF fandom in 1936, although he was extremely reclusive, earning the nickname “The Hermit of Hagerstown” by the 1950s. He rigidly kept his professional life and his science fiction world separate. Few people in his hometown knew of his SF activities until after his death. He disliked to travel, and rarely attended conventions. Although in the 1930s he welcomed such visitors as Jack Speer, Bob Tucker, Fred Pohl, and Russ Chauvenet to his home, he discouraged visits from other fans.

Warner had his first LoC published in *Astounding* in 1936. In 1938, he published the first issue of *Spaceways*, one of the important SF fanzines of its period. Beginning in 1939, he supplemented it with *Horizons*, which was for decades a mainstay of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. *Horizons* had its first issue in October, 1939 and its 252nd (and final) issue in February, 2003. Warner also wrote prolifically for other fanzines, winning Hugo Awards for Best Fan Writer in 1969 and 1972.

Fanzine fans revered him for his letter writing. His home at 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, became the most famous mailing address in fandom. Using a manual typewriter, he wrote tens of thousands of letters commenting on fanzines. His reputation became such that fanzine publishers all over the country sent him free copies of their work as a matter of course. Almost without fail, Warner would reply with a thoughtful letter of at least two pages in length. Fanzine editors have described getting their first letter from Warner as a rite of passage.

Warner was associate editor of the professional SF magazine *Odd Tales* in the 1940s. In the 1950s, he tried his hand at professional SF, publishing more than ten stories in various prozines and even editing an issue of *Other Worlds*.

He was the fan guest of honor at the 1971 Worldcon, a tribute he accepted with reluctance. He also won a *Locus* fan writer award in 1971. In addition, The Faan Award, formerly known as Best LetterHack, is now called The Harry Warner, Jr. Award for Best Fan Correspondent.

A member of First Fandom, in 1995 he was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame. He remained active in fanzine fandom until the end of his life.

He is remembered in SF fandom today primarily for his two book-length histories of fandom, essential reference works in the field: *All Our Yesterdays*, about fandom in the 1940s, and *A Wealth of Fable*, covering the 1950s. His second book won the Hugo in 1993 for Best Related Book. "All Our Yesterdays" was also the title of a series of historical columns Warner wrote over the course of his career.

A classical music lover, he played the piano and oboe and performed in radio recitals, as well as reviewing local performances for his newspaper. He never married. On his death, he left most of his possessions to a Hagerstown Lutheran church. His demise received a bare death notice in his own newspaper, until outraged friends contacted the paper. Finally, after an indignant fellow journalist called the paper's editor on such shameful treatment of a veteran hometown journalist, the paper belatedly ran a farewell column. More happily, his many SF accomplishments are acknowledged here and on several Internet sites.

As a fan historian, he had a lot to say about our club. In part, he wrote as follows: "It would be hard to find a fan organization with a more turbulent history than the National Fantasy Fan Federation." On the

other hand, in addition to being one of our club's founding members, with Art Widner he published the first issue of *Bonfire*, our original fanzine.

Art Widner

Art Widner, an original member of First Fandom, was born September 16, 1917. He was a SF fan most of his life. He is credited with organizing the first SF fan club in Boston, The Stranger Club, in 1940. One of the pioneers of Boston fandom, he chaired Boskone I (1941) and Boskone II (1942), the first two Boston SF cons. He was also one of the five people who attended Boskone IV.

In the early days of SF fandom, he published the clubzine *FanFare*, put on the first proto-Boskones, and invented the first SF board game, *Interplanetary*. The game was never published commercially, but handmade versions were played at Boskone III and many other later conventions.

He published over 160 fanzines, the longest running of which was *YHOS* (1940-1945 and 1979-2001). As a member of the N3F, he edited the club zine *Bonfire* in 1941 and again in 1944, and was club President in 1947. His *FanFare* had published Damon Knight's "Unite or Fie!" the article that was the start of the N3F. Widner briefly ran Bodacious Publications and published Poll Cat. He investigated the Pseucid, and was a member of the FAPA Brain Trust. He was also on the Board of Directors of The Fantasy Foundation.

His fandom awards were many. He was honored with the Big Heart Award in 1989, was the 1991 DUFF delegate and, in 2001, was selected as Past President of the Fan Writers of America for 2000. He was Fan Guest of Honor at Noreascon 3. He was nominated for the 1946 Best Fan Writer Retro Hugo at L.A. Con III in 1996. He received a Special Lifetime Achievement Award at Corflu in 2011. Also in 2011, he was honored with the FAAn Lifetime Achievement Award. ArtCon and ArtCon Millennium Edition were both held in his honor. He was a long-time member of FAPA, and in 2014 was made its first Life Member. On August 19, 2011, while at Renovation, he claimed to be the World's Oldest Living Fan. His other GoHships include: 1983, Norwescon VI; 1990, Westercon 43, Minicon 25; 1999, Corflu 16; 2007, Ditto 19.

He attended the first Worldcon in New York in 1939, and the next four, in Chicago (1940), Denver (1941), Los Angeles (1946) and Philcon (1947).

Widner drove to the Chicago Worldcon in a 1928 Dodge, the "Skylark of WooWoo" – the last model made by the Dodge Brothers. He made an epic cross-country trek to Denvention I – the Widneride -- in the FooFoo Special, a car without a trunk.

Widner married during World War II, then was drafted into the service. However, because he was “volunteered” to be a technician-guinea pig at the newly formed Climatic Research Lab in Lawrence, MA, he still got to go home nearly every weekend.

His fanac slowed while he was in the military and ground to a halt when he moved his family to Los Angeles in 1948. At that time he gafiated completely. Signifying his disappearance from fandom, although he is constantly mentioned (with his photo included) in Harry Warner’s 1940s history of fandom, *All Our Yesterdays*, he doesn’t have a single listing in the index of Warner's sequel about fandom in the 1950s, *A Wealth of Fable*. Widner didn't reappear in fandom until the late 1970s.

In 1979 he resurrected his former zine, *YHOS*, as a genzine. He was the winner of the 1991 DUFF for a trip to Australia and New Zealand (and attended the Australian NatCon).

YHOS was one of the longest running zines ever published. First published in 1940, Widner is well known for ceasing publication of *YHOS* for more than thirty years before becoming an important part of fanzine fandom again in the 1980s and 1990s. He also contributed the chapter, “Wartime Fandom,” to Joe Sanders' book, *Science Fiction Fandom* (1994).

Widner's literary output, on the other hand, was limited to a single prozine sale, “The Perfect Incinerator” (under the pen name of Arthur Lambert) that appeared in the Winter, 1942, issue of Robert Lowndes’ *Science Fiction Quarterly*.

Widner, who often signed his correspondence as R. Twidner, died April 17, 2015.

Donald Wollheim

Donald Allen Wollheim (October 1, 1914 – November 2, 1990) was a science fiction (SF) fan, author, editor, and publisher.

He was among the first SF fans, publishing numerous fanzines and editing *Fanciful Tales of Space and Time* and *The Phantagraph* in the 1930s. His importance to early fandom is chronicled in the 1974 book *The Immortal Storm* by Sam Moskowitz and in the 1977 book *The Futurians* by Damon Knight.

Wollheim organized the first SF convention. A group of fans from New York met with a group from Philadelphia on October 22, 1936, in Philadelphia. Out of this meeting, plans were formed for regional and national meetings, including the first Worldcon.

In 1937 Wollheim founded the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, whose first mailing was in July, 1937. In 1938, with several friends, he formed The Futurian Science Literary Society (The Futurians), arguably the best-known SF club. At one time or another, the membership included Isaac Asimov,

David A. Kyle, Frederik Pohl, Cyril Kornbluth, James Blish, Judith Merril, Robert Lowndes, Richard Wilson, Damon Knight, Virginia Kidd, Leslie Perri, and Larry T. Shaw. In 1943, Wollheim married fellow Futurian Elsie Balter (1910 – 1996), who would later help him found his own SF publishing company.

Wollheim edited the first SF anthology to be mass-marketed, *The Pocket Book of Science Fiction* (1943). It was also the first book containing the words “science fiction” in the title. This paperback anthology included stories by Heinlein, Sturgeon, Collier, Weinbaum, and Wells. Shortly before World War II, Wollheim edited two of the early periodicals devoted entirely to SF, *Stirring Science Stories* and *Cosmic Stories*.

In 1945 Wollheim edited the first hardcover SF anthology from a major publisher and the first omnibus, *The Viking Portable Novels of Science*. He was also the anonymous editor of the first anthology of original SF, *The Girl With the Hungry Eyes* (1947). Between 1947 and 1951 he was the editor at the pioneering paperback publisher Avon Books, where he made available highly affordable editions of the works of A. Merritt, H. P. Lovecraft, and C. S. Lewis, bringing these authors a wider readership. During this period he also edited the influential Avon Fantasy Reader and the Avon Science Fiction Reader series.

In 1952 Wollheim left Avon to work at the Ace Magazine Company and to spearhead a new paperback book list, Ace Books. In 1953 he introduced SF to the Ace lineup, and for 20 years as editor-in-chief was responsible for their renowned SF list. Wollheim invented the Ace Doubles series, which consisted of pairs of books, bound back-to-back with two “front” covers.

Among the authors who made their paperback debuts in Ace Doubles were Philip K. Dick, Samuel R. Delany, Leigh Brackett, Ursula K. Le Guin, and John Brunner. Wollheim also helped develop other important SF authors, including Marion Zimmer Bradley, Jack Vance, and Roger Zelazny. While at Ace, he and co-editor Terry Carr began an annual anthology series, *The World's Best Science Fiction*.

Upon leaving Ace, Wollheim and his wife Elsie founded DAW Books, named for his initials. DAW can claim to be the first mass market specialist SF and fantasy fiction publishing house, issuing its first four titles in April, 1972. Most of the writers whom he had developed at Ace went with him to DAW. With the help of Arthur Saha, from 1971 until his death Wollheim edited and published the popular Annual World's Best Science Fiction anthology series.

SF award-winning author Robert Silverberg said that Donald Wollheim was “one of the most significant figures in 20th century American science fiction publishing.” In 1975 Wollheim was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame honored him in 2002.

Sources

- Bleiler, Everett F. (ed). *The Checklist of Fantastic Literature*. Chicago, IL: Shasta, 1948.
- Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. London: Orbit, 1993.
- Currey, L. W. *Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors*. Boston, MA: G. K. Hall, 1979.
- Knight, Damon. *The Futurians*. NY: Doubleday, 1977.
- Hawk, Pat. *Hawk's Authors' Pseudonyms II, Second Edition*. Southlake, Texas: Author, 1995.
- Smith, Curtis C. (ed.). *Twentieth Century Science Fiction Writers*. NY: St. Martin's Press, 1981.
- Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volumes 1-3*. Chicago, IL: Advent, 1974 – 1982.
- Tymn, M. B. & Mike Ashley. *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.
- Warner, Harry, Jr. *All Our Yesterdays*. Chicago: Advent, 1969.
- Warner, Harry, Jr. *A Wealth of Fable*. Van Nuys, CA: SCIFI Press, 1992.
- Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.