

Scientifiction

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First Fandom at Chicon 7

The World Science Fiction Convention was amazing! It was great getting to spend time with so many of our friends during the weekend. A lot of fans visited the First Fandom display in the exhibit area. Please see the convention reports and photographs throughout this issue.

First Fandom Awards, 2012

This year's inductees into the First Fandom Hall of Fame are: **Ray Bradbury, Larry Farsace, Claude Held, Rusty Hevelin (Posthumous)** and **Jack Robins**. The Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for Excellence in Collecting is presented for 2012 to **Donn Albright**. The recipients were given wooden plaques, each of which featured a new full-color adaptation of the classic Paul design for *scientifiction*.

Rusty Hevelin's award was sent to his son, Bruce, in Union City, CA. At the request of the Bradbury family, Donn Albright has arranged for Ray's award to be on display at the Bradbury Center.

News Items

Les and Es Cole have been very busy. "Spithead," an alternative universe, is Les' fourth novel. "Baker's Dozenth" is a spy story set against the American Civil War. "Neighborhood Watch" is a murder mystery with a light touch, and it is Es' first novel at age 88. Look for their books, available at Amazon.com.

Earl Kemp and son Terry were guest speakers at the San Diego October Comic Fest (19-21). Topics included: freedom of speech, sleaze books, and science fiction/comic fan Ken Krueger.

Congratulations to **Laura Freas**, who was married on June 17, 2012. Her new full name is Laura Brodian Freas Beraha. (Visit www.kellyfreas.com.)

Fred Prophet informed us that **George Henry Young** died in August, 2009. And, Robert C. Peterson reported the recent death of **Conrad B. Peterzen**.

Recommended Reading

John C. Tibbetts has authored "The Gothic Imagination – Conversations on Fantasy, Horror and Science Fiction in the Media." This is a fascinating book, scholarly and entertaining, lovingly woven together by a genuine enthusiast. Excellent interviews are embellished with fine illustrations and photographs. Published by Palgrave Macmillan, it is available in hardcover and paperback editions. ISBN: 978-0-230-11816-4.

Jerad Walters (Centipede Press) has issued "The Best Horror Stories of Karl Edward Wagner" in a hardcover trade edition (two volumes), and in a beautiful deluxe, single volume slip-cased edition signed by many of the contributors. Edited by Stephen Jones, illustrated by J.K. Potter. ISBN: 978-1-933618-97-5.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of FAPA

Several members of First Fandom contributed to the 300th mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. **David A. Kyle**, **Frederik Pohl** and **Jack Robins** wrote letters of congratulation and reflected on the past seventy-five years. **Robert A. Madle** (one of the three original members) wrote an informative article that recalled events during the 1930s which led up to the formation of the FAPA. This milestone issue featured more than 400 pages of great material, and a highlight for me was "Sonnets for the Space Age," written by the late **A. Langley Searles**.

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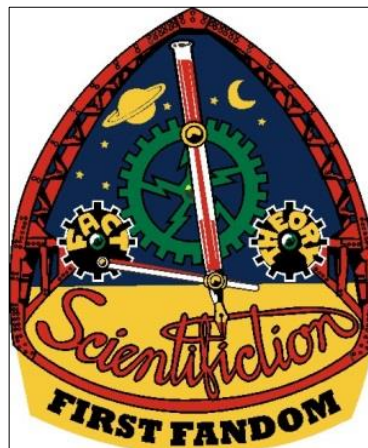
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Membership Dues

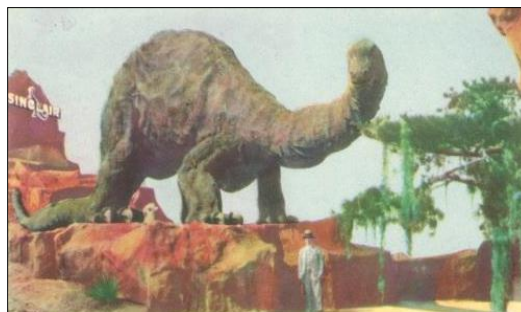
Thanks to all of the First Fans who have paid dues for their annual membership. And, if you haven't done so yet, please mail a check to Keith W. Stokes, 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215.

Information Needed

Please help us get in contact with the **estates** of Donald Wandrei, Neil R. Jones, Oliver Saari and Ray Cummings.

Latest First Fandom Emblem

This is the design that we featured on the First Fandom Hall of Fame Awards.

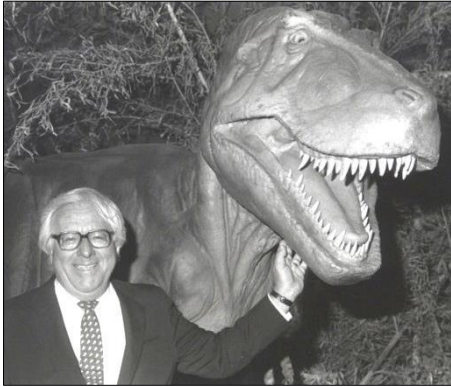
1933 World's Fair (Century of Progress)

Did you visit the Sinclair Dinosaur Exhibit?

First Fandom Photo Gallery

We have received some wonderful pictures from the collections of **Robert C. Peterson**, **Ray Nelson** and **Jack Robins**! Work continues on the book project and we are asking our First Fandom members to please loan or donate photographs, slides and other images from the "good old days." Please send any material (labeled on the back) via the US Post Office (INSURED) to **John L. Coker, III** – 3701 Glen Garry Lane – Orlando, FL – 32803.

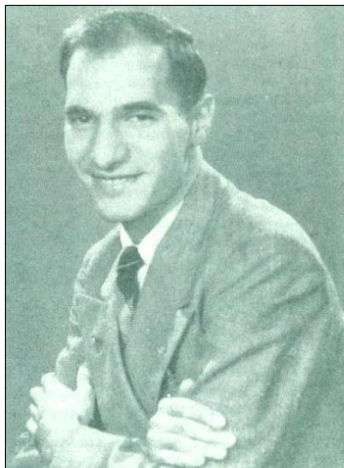
FIRST FANDOM AWARDS, 2012



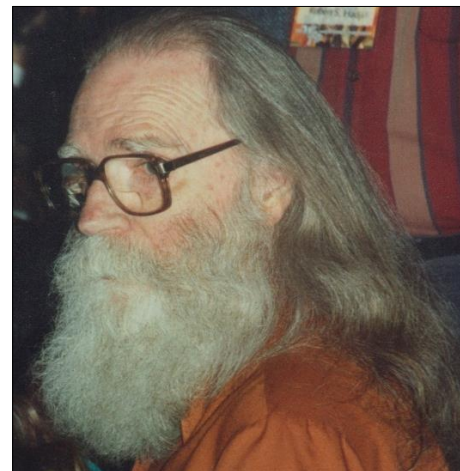
Ray Bradbury
(Hall of Fame Award)



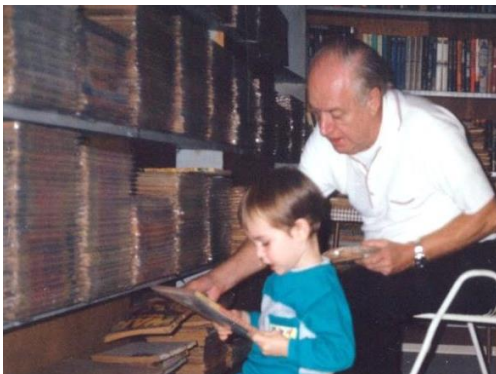
Jack Robins
(Hall of Fame Award)



Larry Farsace
(Hall of Fame Award)



Rusty Hevelin
(Posthumous Hall of Fame Award)



Claude Held
(Hall of Fame Award)



Donn Albright
(Sam Moskowitz Archive Award)

CHICON 7 – THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION (A REPORT BY JOHN L. COKER III)

I arrived in Chicago a day before the start of the convention, in order to set up the First Fandom display in the exhibit area. We constructed a 6' x 16' wall to put up our material, and then we sat in chairs out front at two large tables where we greeted friends and made new acquaintances throughout the weekend. Fans enjoyed free souvenirs from our table, including copies of the newsletter. We were located next to the dealer's room and the table for Shasta/Phoenix Publishers, where Erle and Steve Korshak and Robert Weinberg were on hand to discuss their upcoming book about Margaret Brundage. There were a few rare book sellers (David Aronovitz, Greg Ketter and Michael Walsh) with great material for sale, and several specialty press publishers promoting their new books.

During the weekend, many of our members stopped by the First Fandom table, including: David A. Kyle (and daughter Kerry), Keith W. Stokes, Joannie (and Jim) Knappenberger, Fred Prophet, Ed Meskys, Peggy Rae Sapienza, Robert Silverberg, Joe and Gay Haldeman, and Andrew Porter (who brought a beautiful selection of several dozen vintage worldcon membership cards to display). Among the other enthusiasts we visited with during the weekend: Stephen Jones,

John Hertz, Doug Ellis, Alex Klevitsky, Robin Johnson, "Filthy Pierre", Beth Gwinn, Joe Siclari, Pat and Roger Sims, David G. Hartwell, Steve and Sue Francis, Betsy Wollheim, Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull, Maggie Thompson, George R.R. Martin, Scott Edleman, Connie Willis, Mike Resnick and Gene Wolfe.

On Thursday, I was moderator of a very interesting panel "Origins of the Small Press," featuring David A. Kyle (Gnome Press) and Erle M. Korshak (Shasta Press). It was scheduled at the same time as opening ceremonies, but we still had seventy-five people in the room. We brought out historical information that had not previously been discussed. That evening, I walked to Billy Goat's Tavern and had their "Cheezeburger, Cheezeburger dinner. And later, after looking in on a few room parties back at the hotel I called it an early night.

On Friday, I was the moderator of a panel "The 1939 World SF Convention and New York World's Fair," and it featured two men that were in attendance at that convention: David A. Kyle and Erle M. Korshak. We had prepared two dozen oversize B&W photographs relative to the topic, and brought these for display on the tables at the front of the room. There were more than seventy-five people in the

audience. They asked lots of questions and enjoyed the conversation. The next panel that I moderated was "Looking Back Seventy Years on Chicago Fandom," with David A. Kyle and Peggy Rae Sapienza (Fan Guest of Honor). A lot of the conversation had to do with the Second World SF Convention, Chicon 1. David A. Kyle (who was part of a carpool of fans who made that trip in 1940 from New York) recalled some of the highlights of that weekend. We had a display of two dozen large B&W photographs, courtesy of Robert A. Madle. There were at least seventy-five people in the audience, and they asked interesting questions and shared personal anecdotes. We also discussed Chicago Fandom during the 1950s and 1960s, and origins of the Hugo Award.

Throughout the weekend, excellent First Fandom-related programming included tributes to the living (such as legendary Frederik Pohl) and the recently deceased (Jay Kay Klein and Ray Bradbury). For me, the best part of these historic panels was having such good participation by such a diverse audience. There were some younger fans at each of these panels and they seemed to have a real interest in the early days of fandom. I recorded all of the proceedings in which I participated, and am in the process of transcribing the tapes for publication in the future.

On Saturday evening, I joined my roommate Michael Tallan and some of our long-time friends (Larry and Kathy Hallock, Ron Larson, Bernie Goodman, Dave Willoughby and others (sixteen fans in all) for an excellent dinner at the local Chicago Chop House.

On Sunday, I attended several panels and attended the Hugo Awards Ceremony. The Convention presented

a well-deserved special Hugo Award to Robert Weinberg for his decades of service to fandom. David A. Kyle announced that Juanita Coulson was the recipient of the Forrest J Ackerman Big Heart Award for 2012. As the names of nominees for each category of the Hugo Awards were read, it was fairly easy to predict winners, based on the prior applause of audience members.

Monday, Labor Day – A quote from the pocket program: "Eighty years ago today, Ray Bradbury met Mr. Electrico who told him to live forever, causing Ray to decide to become an author. Let us pay tribute to the Grand Master from Waukegan." I joined panelists Gary K. Wolfe and Kent Nebergall and a room full of wonderful people and we talked about how we first discovered Ray's stories, and what they meant to us. We recalled the first time we met Ray or received letters from him or saw one of his plays. It was fascinating that people from so many different countries had such similar experiences and points of view, and shared such a deep sense of personal loss after Ray's recent death.

I enjoyed the Convention's hospitality, from the helpful fans working at the registration desk, and the many friendly volunteers throughout the weekend, to the complimentary deep dish pizza, shrimp and cold drinks in the con suite

First Fandom is already making plans to be part of next year's World Science Fiction Convention, which will be held in San Antonio, August 29-September 2. For information: LONESTARCON 3, P.O. Box 27277, Austin, TX - 78755. We are seeking material to include in next year's First Fandom display (old photographs, letters, fanzines, badges, etc.). Please suggest discussion topics and sign-up as a program participant.

CONVENTION REPORTS**CONTEXT**

By Joe Martino

This annual regional convention is held in Columbus, OH. This year I wasn't on any panels, but I enjoyed several.

The Real Indiana Jones

Roy Chapman Andrews, with the American Museum of Natural History, was the model for Indiana Jones. He made five trips to the Gobi Desert in the 1920s. Although his real expertise was whales, he made numerous discoveries of dinosaur fossils. The expedition travelled in Dodge touring cars. Andrews mounted a machine gun on one of the cars, to convince bandits to let them alone. In one incident he was scared by a snake, which became the basis for Indiana Jones's fear of snakes.

Exomusicology

Alien music may differ from human music. Much of human music is based on our physical capabilities: audible range from 10 Hz to 20 KHz; how long we can hold a note; vibrato in singing; the half-steps in the Western scale derived from the fact our little fingers are shorter. Aliens with different physical capabilities may have different music. However, chords are made by the way sound waves interact. They are not arbitrary. Aliens are likely to have the same chords humans do.

Our Fascination With Evil

What drives us to the horror genre? Horror fiction lets people admit that bad things happen. It would be difficult to convey horror if cultural relativism were really true. To make horror possible, we

have to say that certain things are really evil.

Don't Open the Door

If you open a horror book, you know something scary is going to happen. The problem is to get people to do something stupid to get to the scary situation. Stupid moves must be seen as in character. Some stupid actions allow the author to tell something about the culture the character has wandered into. Do something that's taboo without realizing it. The "save the cat" moment in a movie. Let's the audience have some empathy with the character. However, the character must previously have been seen interacting with the cat to make the stupid move seem plausible.

Short Stories Are Still Worth Writing

The market for short stories hasn't disappeared. However, it has moved. There are electronic outlets for short stories. An author can't make a living writing short stories, but can get his/her name before the reading public.

ARCHON

By Joe Martino

This is an annual regional convention held near St. Louis. This year it was back in Collinsville, IL.

ERB/The John Carter Movie

The movie didn't exactly follow the books but the characters were well played. Deja Thoris was more active than in the books. Not just a damsel to be rescued, but a fighter. Without CGI the movie couldn't have been made. A realistic six-armed alien costume could not have been built.

Serenity & Firefly

The series was killed after 13 episodes, yet a decade later it's still popular. It was the timeless characters that made the story. Someone you could actually meet. The popularity of the show among fans shows how starved we all are for good SF.

Have Spacesuit, Will Travel

The panel was about Robert Heinlein. He wrote about strong female characters, at a time when this wasn't common. Heinlein wrote about people rather than about gee-whiz technology. He changed SF forever with his emphasis on people. *Starship Troopers* was really a book about civic morality. It was only tangentially about the military.

History of the Hugos

This panel was about the design of the awards, not the stories that won. Some have been beautiful. Others were ugly. The Hugos are intended to represent fandom's encouragement of writers.

Space Medicine

This deals with the human body in a very bad environment – space. There are a lot of things that can go wrong with the human body, even in the environment to which we are fitted. In space we take along a miniature Earth with pressure, temperature, etc. that we're used to. Microgravity is a problem. Muscle and bone mass require gravity to retain normal levels. The trick is to maximize the margin between critical and catastrophic.

CHICON 7

By Joe Martino

Here are some of the panels I was on or attended and enjoyed.

Logic and Time Travel

Probably the real answer is that there is no logic in time travel (see movie review below). However, the panel attempted to sort things out and put as much logic as possible in time travel stories.

Airships

With the growing interest in steampunk there has been a revived interest in airships, that is, in dirigibles and similar vehicles. I was put on this panel, for reasons unknown to me. I know little about airships. However, the panel gave me an opportunity to learn a great deal about the physical principles behind airships.

The Personal Replicator

The interesting thing is that this old science fictional idea is actually coming close to realization. The 3-D printer allows people to print, layer by layer, an object described in a computer file. The printer extrudes a thin stream of plastic, and scans back and forth, like an inkjet printer, to lay down a replica of the object serving as the model. Small home versions can now be had for prices under \$1000.

Science in SF

This is a perennial panel at 'cons, and I enjoy participating. How much science is needed? How much hand-waving and smoke-blowing can the writer get away with? Does it matter if the science in the story is false? As someone remarked of Cordwainer Smith's stories, the science is so far out it's not even wrong.

The Art of Worldbuilding

This is another perennial panel at 'cons. I enjoy taking part in them, because I enjoy worldbuilding in my stories. The

trick is to get a consistent world, so the parts fit together. Not every author gets it right. When the author doesn't get it right, the story suffers.

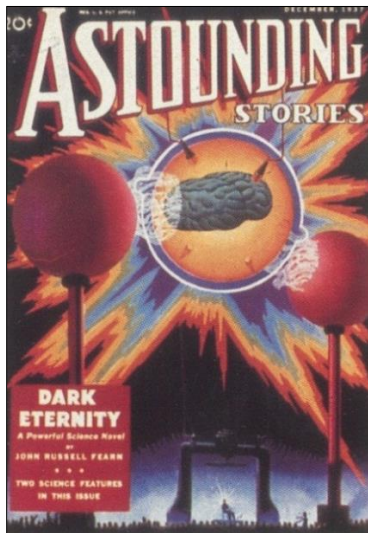
Ceres, Our Nearest "Dwarf" Planet

Ceres is the only dwarf planet in the inner solar system. It is the largest asteroid, and contains a full third of all the mass in the asteroid belt. It will be visited in 2015 by NASA's *Dawn* spacecraft.

I also attended the meetings of the Science Fiction Writers of America and the Heinlein Society.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

In December 1937, John W. Campbell, Jr. became the editor of *ASTOUNDING*.



(Cover Artwork by Howard Brown)

MOVIE REVIEW

Loopers

By Joe Martino

This is a time travel movie. In the movie, a criminal organization makes use of time travel to eliminate people who are "in the way." They are sent back to an earlier time, where collaborators shoot them and dispose of the bodies. Since

they don't exist in the collaborators' time, no one misses them. Many of the collaborators, the "loopers" of the title, are themselves sent back in time to be eliminated. That's called "closing the loop." The main character in the story finds that he has been selected to eliminate his later self, who of course has other ideas. Suffice it to say there are holes in the logic that you could drive a semi through. However, I just let myself be carried along by the action, and enjoyed the movie. I encourage you to see it.

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