

Scientifiction

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

New Series # 35, 1st Quarter 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nominations for First Fandom's Awards

Each year, our organization presents the First Fandom Hall of Fame Awards and the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award.

Please send your award nominations to John L. Coker, III, before **May 15th**.

First Fandom Survey

We have several important matters that require input from all of our members:

Are you willing to receive future copies of the newsletter as a PDF file sent via email? We could save hundreds of dollars each quarter by avoiding the ever-increasing costs of printing and postage. It would also allow us to publish larger issues in full color. Printed copies would also still be available to members who prefer them.

Do you have any **updates to the latest First Fandom Membership Directory?**

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and set-up the **First Fandom Display** at the upcoming Worldcon in San Antonio.

Please complete the enclosed survey and return it to me **before May 15th**.

Award Update

We learned recently from Donn Albright that Ray Bradbury's First Fandom Hall of Fame Award is now proudly hanging on display at the Bradbury Center at Indiana University in Indianaopolis, IN.

AMAZING STORIES Relaunch

Visit <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/> to learn more about the latest incarnation of the world's first STF magazine.

Photographs Now Available

If you are interested in seeing some wonderful genre-related pictures, please visit Mary Ellen Daugherty's excellent website: <http://www.waltdaugherty.info>.

Information Needed

We have been unable to get in touch with member **John Dalmas** of Dublin, Ohio. Please provide any information that you might have for reaching him.

Birthdays

- David A. Kyle - February 14th
- Jack Robins - February 17th

In Passing

We have learned of the recent death of long-time science fiction fan **John Hull** (Chula Vista, CA). Members who knew John are invited to send appreciations and photos of him for the next issue.

Correction

Please note the following update to the First Fandom Hall of Fame Awards for 1982, as it is listed in the Membership Directory. The recipient's name should be listed as "William L. Crawford."

*President's Recommended Reading List***DOC SAVAGE – HORROR IN GOLD**

by Will Murray & Lester Dent writing as Kenneth Robeson. Published by Altus Press (2011), it is available in a trade paperback edition for \$24.95, ISBN 9781618270238. One of a half dozen titles in the series of "All-New Wild Adventures of Doc Savage," this latest fast-paced novel is as exciting and well-crafted as the tales of the Man in Bronze with which we are familiar from our childhood. Featuring a color cover by artist Joe DeVito, it is available in local bookstores and it can also be ordered online at www.adventuresinbronze.com.

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND

#265 (Jan/Feb 2013). While there are always good reasons to buy each issue of this magazine, the current title offers a solid line-up, including two fascinating groups of material. "J.R.R. Tolkien & Fantasy" features a fine retrospective on Robert E. Howard and an interview with Peter Jackson. In another section are five articles devoted to Ray Bradbury. I was delighted with Forry Ackerman and Ray Bradbury's appreciations of each other. Ray revealed a lot about his experiences with Mr. Electrico, and the time he spent working with director John Huston on the making of MOBY DICK. Available at newsstands for \$9.99, or at www.famousmonstersoffilmland.com.

First Fandom Archive Seeking Material

We are interested in preserving any old photos, slides, letters, fanzines, artwork, program books and convention badges. Please send them (**INSURED**) via U.S. Post Office to: John L. Coker, III, 3701 Glen Garry Lane, Orlando, FL - 32803.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Big Name Fans and Pros at the First National Science Fiction Convention, Newark (1938). L-R: Otis Adelbert Kline, Frank Belknap Long, Robert D. Swisher, John W. Campbell, Jr., Otto Binder, L. Sprague de Camp, Dr. John D. Clark and Manly Wade Wellman.

(Photograph provided by Robert A. Madle)

New Address

Sam Basham can be reached at 5130 Bardin Drive in Westerville, OH – 43082.

Windy City Pulp & Paper Convention

I will be attending this year's show, which will be held during April 12-14 just outside of Chicago. The theme will be "Celebrating 90 Years of Science Fiction and Fantasy Magazines." There will be special displays, events, programming and an outstanding dealer's room. Visit www.windycitypulpandpaper.com

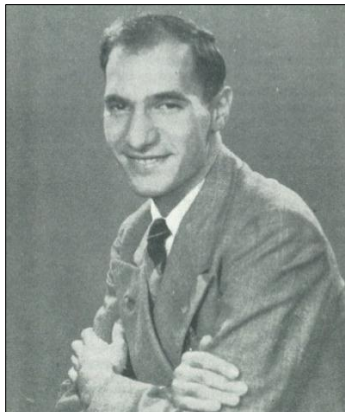
2013 World Science Fiction Convention

This year's Worldcon will be held in San Antonio, August 29 - September 2. For information, write: LONESTARCON 3, P.O. Box 27277, Austin, TX - 78755.

Please sign-up to participate in the programming. Hope to see YOU there!

*Obituary***Larry Farsace (Litterio B. Farsaci)**

February 11, 1921 – January 9, 2013



Often referred to as “Grampa”, Larry passed away at the age of 91 after a long and happy life. He always wrote to newspapers about what was on his mind. No matter what was going on in someone’s life, he was always there with a fascinating story about his amazing past. Larry meant a great deal to many people. For over two years he battled cancer and never knew he was stricken with it, until it was too late. Larry was a wonderful husband, grandfather, uncle and friend and he will always live in our hearts and memories.

At the early age of 9, Larry was giving lectures at the University of Rochester, and was called a child prodigy. His interests were Science Fiction and Poetry. Larry’s infamous collections of writings include: *Starbound* (1944 -- a book of poems for which he received letters from people around the world) and the *Golden Atom*. Named for Ray Cummings’ series that began with *The Girl in the Golden Atom*, the first issue appeared in October 1939. The first ten issues (published 1939 - 1943) were in letter-sized mimeographed format; two special issues, appearing in 1955 and 1959, were letterpress format.

Science Fiction writer and contributor Sam Moskowitz regarded *Golden Atom* as “arguably the most valuable repository of new research and reference on SF” during the time it was initially published.

Larry was commended in the pages of *AMAZING STORIES* for his work on this publication, and letters of praise came from Forrest J Ackerman, Robert H. Barlow, Ray Cummings, H.P. Lovecraft, Robert W. Lowndes, Robert A. Madle, Erle M. Korshak, Mark Reinsberg, Milton A. Rothman, Clark Ashton Smith, John W. Campbell, Charles D. Hornig, Harry Warner, Jr., R.D. Swisher, Donald A. Wollheim, Jack Speer and many others.

Larry was a WWII army veteran and retired postal clerk. He was given an overseas assignment after the atom bomb was dropped, then after that he was sent back to the U.S. to do paperwork. He learned shorthand and continued for the rest of his life to fill notebooks with his poetry, articles and letters to editors. Among his most cherished items was a letter of praise from the Queen of England. Larry Farsace was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2012.

(Compiled from information provided by Larry’s family and entries appearing in ZineWiki and Fancyclopedia 3)

*Obituary***Richard E. Geis**

Geis was one of the finest fan writers and fanzine publishers SF fandom ever produced. His own writings, primarily in his schizophrenic “Alter-Ego” editorial role in his numerous fanzines, which were notoriously wont to change their names in mid-publication, are famous. His fanzines attracted contributions from the finest writers and artists, and gained him many Hugo nominations and wins.

His thousands of reviews of current books gave publishers quotes they used in their promotion and advertising efforts. Geis was a columnist and book reviewer for professional magazines *Galaxy* and *IF*.



(Photograph by Rick Hawes, 1983)

Geis was a Fan Writer Hugo nominee in 1970 and 1971, and every year from 1973 to 1986, winning Best Fan Writer Hugos in 1982 and 1983. His fanzines were Hugo nominees from 1968 to 1971, and 1974 to 1983. His *Science Fiction Review* won the Fanzine Hugo in 1969, 1970, 1977 and 1979. *The Alien Critic* won the Fanzine Hugo in 1974 and in 1975. Altogether, Geis received 30 nominations for the Hugo award, winning eight times.

He was a legendary recluse, living his early and later life in Portland, Oregon, and in Venice, California during his period of hyper-activity in the 1960s and 70s. Geis was also known for writing soft-core pornographic novels, of which he claimed authorship of 110. He had another four novels published in other genres. Local Portland fans are currently trying to determine the disposition of his collection, if any, as well as his many Hugo Awards.

(Summarized from a longer tribute by Andrew Porter)

Obituary

jan howard finder (“The Wombat”)

Finder will likely best be remembered as a science fiction writer, filker, hostelling tour guide, costumer and fan. He often spelled his name in lower case, and his last name is pronounced *finn-der*.

Born March 2, 1939 in Chicago, Finder became a devotee of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien in 1964. He studied academic administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and while there organized the "First Conference on Middle-earth" in 1969. Two years later, he held a second conference at Cleveland State University, where he was working as an assistant dean. He worked most of his life as a career counselor.



(Photograph by Batho, Batho, and Devrell, August 1999)

He was a frequent guest of honor at cons, including ConFrancisco. Finder edited the fanzine *The Spang Blah* and his short fiction writing appeared in several anthologies. In 1982, he edited *Alien Encounters*. After Finder organized the "3rd Conference on Middle-earth" in 2011, he retired from academia and began battling prostate cancer. He died on February 26, 2013, just five days before his 74th birthday.

(Summarized from information appearing in Wikipedia)

WE GET LETTERS

Hi Joe –

Got the latest issue today, great job. I was amazed at the number of Original Members on the roster with terrestrial addresses - I corresponded with Jack Cordes decades ago, had no idea he was still with us. Excellent photos.

I must say that I don't agree with your idea that the eternal interest in horror stories disproves "cultural relativism". Only supernatural horror traditionally assumes the existence of "evil" - the monster in the "Alien" movies (based on Van Vogt's Couerl) is merely a predator like the shark in "Jaws", with no concept of "evil", which is a human societal concept. All the fascination with horror proves is that there are always things that are very frightening.

H P Lovecraft always said his Mythos stories were SF, not horror - because he did not assume that the Great Old Ones had any interest in our notion of "evil".

Even within our own Anglo-American culture there are sharp divisions of opinion on what is "horrible", most notably with snakes and spiders. I myself have a "kill-it-now" reaction to spiders but only the same rational caution of snakes that I would have for any potential hazard.

Traditionally both spiders and snakes have been used to represent evil - but this is just a projection of the human imagination onto an alien creature.

In actual practice I am far more likely to be attacked by a dog, and far more likely to be killed by one of the mad NASCAR wannabees on the local expressway.

Ned Brooks

[Editor's Note:

I was reporting what the speakers at the 'con said, not necessarily expressing my own opinion. -- Joe Martino]

ML8 ML8

That's what the White Rabbit said. Between getting a novel finished, getting taxes done, and installing two new computers, I'm a bit late with this newsletter. I have some letters from you that I'll get in the next issue.

Joe Martino

FIRST FANDOMPresident

John L. Coker, III, 3701 Glen Garry Lane, Orlando, FL 32803, Tel: (407) 894-4425, jlcoker3@bellsouth.net

East Coast Vice President

David A. Kyle, 3099 Maqua Place, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

West Coast Vice President

Arthur L. Widner, Jr., P.O. Box 5122, Gualala, CA 95445

Vice President at Large

Erle M. Korshak, Shasta/Phoenix Publishers, 950 South Winter Park Drive, Suite 320, Orlando, FL 32707

President Emeritus

Robert A. Madle, 4406 Bestor Drive, Rockville, MD 20853

Secretary-Treasurer

Keith W. Stokes, 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS 66215 sreader@sff.net

Editorial StaffEditor, SCIENTIFICTION

Joseph P. Martino, 905 South Main Avenue, Sidney, OH 45365-3212, jpmart@bright.net

Special Features Editor

Jon D. Swartz, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750-2101

SCIENTIFICTION is published quarterly by First Fandom. The name First Fandom, the slogan "The Dinosaurs of Science Fiction," and the First Fandom logo are all trademarks of First Fandom, and may not be used without the expressed permission of First Fandom. Copyright © 2012 by First Fandom and the individual contributors.