

Scientifiction

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, everyone!

From the reports I received on the Worldcon, everyone seemed to have a great weekend, spending time with friends, enjoying programming and hearing the announcement of First Fandom's Awards. David A. Kyle spent a lot of time greeting fans at the First Fandom exhibit table.

Next year, the Worldcon will be held in London. They will be celebrating three quarters of a century since the first Worldcon was held in 1939.

Remembering

During the past several months, Richard Matheson and Frederik Pohl both passed away. These dear men were giants in our field, and they will be missed. Please see their obituary notices on pages 8-10 in this issue.

FAPA

I prepared a long contribution for the latest mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. "Stories from the First Fandom Archives (Vol. II)" feature interesting articles with photographs and illustrations, based on interviews that I have done with First Fans Murphy Anderson, Robert A. Madle, Jack Robins, Julius Schwartz and Wilson "Bob" Tucker.

First Fandom Website

During the next few months, Keith W. Stokes and I will be updating the

First Fandom website. The new look will feature photographs, articles, interviews and a history of our awards. Please send your ideas and any contributions directly to me.

Change of Address for the Cokers

My wife Linda and I are nearly finished moving into our new home! Please reach us 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL 32808. Our new telephone number is (407) 532-7555.

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We Need Your E-Mail Address

We are asking all members who are still receiving paper copies of the newsletter to **please** provide me with an e-mail address, so that they can enjoy the expanded, full-color versions of SCIENTIFUNCTION. It will also help us lower our quarterly variable printing and mailing costs.

Closing

Finally, after a long, hot summer, the weather is beginning to turn cooler. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Halloween and autumn season, and I look forward to hearing from you!

John L. Coker III

CONVENTION REPORTS***LONESTARCON3*****(By Keith Stokes)**

Linda and I flew to San Antonio on Thursday so we could be there that evening for a small private reception in honor of Guest of Honor and First Fandom member, James Gunn. It was good seeing Jim honored and catching up with many friends among his former students and colleagues. Nearly half of the panels which I attended during the convention were devoted to Jim and his impact on our field.

This was only my third convention this year and I split my time between photographing the convention for the MidAmerican Fan Photo Archive and staffing the First Fandom table in the exhibit hall. The convention assigned us a table with a wonderful location on a corner where everyone traveling to the Dealers Room, Bid Tables, or autograph sessions passed right by and said hello.

John Coker sent along a new First Fandom banner and several posters with information about First Fandom for the display at our table. David A. Kyle (accompanied by daughter Kerry and son Arthur C. Kyle) alternated spending time at the table with me so that it was staffed for several hours every day. Many people who have been active in fandom for decades stopped to chat.

One of the visitors to our table said that they will be in charge of programming for Detcon I, and that they want to have more First Fandom related programming at the NASFiC than there was at

LoneStarCon. They will contact us very soon as the event grows closer.

Another person who visited was Kim Williams of Marcon, who said that they loved having First Fandom members at their convention a few years back and may invite First Fandom to Columbus in 2015 for the 50th anniversary convention, providing memberships and rooms for original members who attend. She said that she will be contacting John Coker about extending an invitation to the membership.

There were two contested site selection races this year. Three cities competed for the chance to host the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention in 2015 and two cities competed for the North American Science Fiction Convention in 2014. NASFiC will be Detcon 1 to be held in Detroit, and the WorldCon will be Sasquan, to be held in Spokane.

During the weekend, I had a chance to talk to many Associate Members of First Fandom, but David A. Kyle and Earl M. Korshak were the only original members who I saw. I believe Bob Madle was also there.

David and Earl were the first presenters before the Hugo Awards Ceremony on Sunday night. David was there to present the Big Heart Award (Tom Veal was the recipient), but he was preceded by Earl's announcement that Sam Basham, Earl Kemp, Lester Mayer and Norman F. Stanley were inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame; Thaddeus E. Dikty and Raymond A. Palmer were added posthumously to the First Fandom Hall of Fame; and Howard Frank was the recipient of the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award.

Despite long periods of time being given to things like the designer of this year's Hugo Award base and the previously presented Seiun Awards, no time was available to explain anything about the First Fandom Awards, why the recipients were honored or to allow them or their representatives to acknowledge the awards. We were told that Earl had been allotted just forty-five seconds to announce all of the recipients.

Over 400 photographs from the convention have been posted at <http://www.midamericon.org/photoarchive/lonestarcon3/>

KEITH STOKES

CONTEXT

(By Joe Martino)

This is a regional convention held annually in Columbus, OH. It's strictly a readercon. No media, no gaming, heavy emphasis on reading and writing. Here are several panels.

Ancient Astronauts

Carl Sagan once stated that it was possible that Earth may have been visited by aliens, and artifacts may still exist. Such evidence would look like:

- Artifacts out of place
- Recognizable artifacts beyond the capabilities of contemporary humans
- Artifacts found in a disputable context.

Archeologists have traced Hernando DeSoto's path through the American Southwest by abandoned chain mail, after the Spaniards realized that an

atlatl-thrown spear could penetrate their armor.

The Nasca geoglyph in South America is not an airfield but part of a bird.

To understand the Serpent Mound (in Southwestern Ohio) requires that we first understand the culture that built it. Unfortunately, we don't understand their culture, but the Mound itself was well within the capabilities of the Indians who lived there at the time.

Cartography and World Building

I had volunteered to be on a panel on world building. Usually this topic covers things like the chemistry and physics of alien worlds, and I enjoy these panels. However, this panel turned out to be on cartography (mapping), and I was the panel moderator. Fortunately there were a couple of amateur cartographers on the panel. All I had to do was ask them questions. The panel went well.

Maps are functional artifacts. They are intended to be used for a specific purpose. A road map differs from a nautical chart, because each has a specific purpose.

Maps provide a framework for a story. Things happen in specific places, with certain distances apart, with specific topography, conditions, and resources. Not every reader needs a map, but the writer may.

One of the panelists mentioned a mapping program intended for gamers but usable by authors, *Campaign Cartographer*, available from <http://profantasy.com>. I intend to get a copy.

How I Wrote My Novel

This was an interesting panel by a first-time novelist, who described how he'd gone about selling his novel. After striking out on his list of top-10 agents, he sent it to a small press, which bought it. If there was any take-away message, it was that persistence pays off.

Joe Martino

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

(By John L. Coker, III)

SUPER BOYS: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER – THE CREATORS OF SUPERMAN
(Written by Brad Ricca)

The author spent a decade looking through Cleveland libraries, archives and private collections as he lovingly assembled a bittersweet history of the creators of Superman. A lot of the story is told in third-person using the words of Siegel and Shuster, as carefully footnoted by the book's author. The book features dozens of previously unpublished photographs and rare illustrations which add considerably to the narrative.

Even though the character Superman is usually thought of in association with comic books, fans of science fiction's history will find plenty of material that is of interest.

The author gives a lot of attention to Siegel and Shuster's SCIENCE FICTION, the rare fanzine that they published in the early-1930s. A number of big-name fans such as Forrest J Ackerman, Otto Binder, Julius Schwartz and Sam Moskowitz are mentioned throughout the story.

This book has received high praise from people in the industry, such as Neal Adams and Stan Lee. The ISBN is 978-0-312-64380-5. It is available in hardcover (\$27.99 from St. Martin's Press, New York, 2013).

FILMFAX – The Magazine of Unusual Film, Television and Retro Pop Culture (Summer 2013, Issue 134).

This issue contains a profusely illustrated 12-page interview with the late special effects genius (and long-time member of First Fandom) Ray Harryhausen. There is also an important ten-page article about the lost Spider Scene from King Kong (1933) with mentions of Ray Bradbury and Forrest J Ackerman. These two pieces would make the issue desirable, but there is also other material that is interesting reading, such as the story of the premier of the motion picture DRACULA (1931) and Christopher M. O'Brien's solid interview with comic book artist Carmine Infantino

Available at most newsstands for \$9.95, or online at www.filmfax.com.

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS**Hall of Fame**

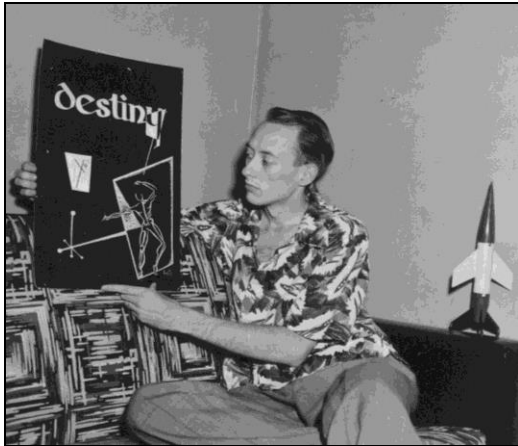
- Sam Basham
- Earl Kemp
- Lester Mayer
- Norman F. Stanley

Posthumous Hall of Fame

- Thaddeus E. Diky
- Raymond A. Palmer

Sam Moskowitz Archive Award

- Howard Frank

Award Recipients Photo Gallery

(Earl Kemp holding the cover painting by Robert Johnson of *DESTINY*, Vol. 1 # IX, Winter 1954)



Raymond A. Palmer
(Photograph by Ben Jason)



L-R: Howard and Jane Frank, Forrest J Ackerman
World SF Convention (San Antonio, 1997)

From Julian May

25 September 2013

On behalf of my late husband, T.E. Dikty, I thank you and First Fandom for your 2013 Posthumous Hall of Fame Award.

I myself belong to "First-and-One-Half" Fandom, having entered the field in 1947. I regret that you won't be seeing me at any SF conventions any more, although I recall my experience as chairman of the 10th World Science Fiction Convention with some bemusement.

Perhaps you will eventually see some of my SF books transmogrified to film or TV: they have been optioned. My novels also live on as ebooks.

From Sam Basham

I was introduced to fandom by Bob Tucker and while in the Navy during WWII was stationed at the River Rouge plant in Dearborn. While there in Radio Tech school I spent many wonderful weekends at Slan Shack. After the War was over, I went to the first Midwestcon and stayed a regular for many years. I met many great people, including Don and Margaret Ford, Charlie Tanner, Lou Tabaco, Howard DeVore and on and on. The fundamental pleasure I got from fandom was the many great friends I made over the years. I should mention Slan Shack people Al and Abby Lou Ashly, Thelma Morgan, Walt Leibscher, Ed Counts and many others. Also, I attended PulpCon which is now replaced by Pulpfest run by Jack Cullers and it is held here in Columbus, OH. Sadly, Rusty Hevelin is no longer with us.

I wrote some articles for fanzines, but only a very few. My most ambitious fan project was a detailed bibliography of Bob Tucker's writings with much help by Bob, Howard DeVore and Bob Madle. It was published in "Books Are Everything," a fan publication for paperback collectors by book dealer R.C. Holland. As a result of this item I became a friend with Phil Stephensen-Payne, a British bibliographer and SF expert.

I received the award on September 16 and it is hanging in my study. It looks quite elegant there. I expect Bob Madle and David Kyle had something to do with this. I want to express my thanks to First Fandom.

From Earl Kemp

ADRIFT IN SPACE

I have always lived in a fantasy world. I know this to be true because there is no way the reality could have actually happened. I grew up in a strange, foreign place where people neither read nor wrote, and spoke a bizarre form of English that was difficult even for them to understand.

Alone, I found myself surrounded by fantasy. Pulp magazines saved whatever there was of me for the future. I walked the yellow brick road with Toto and swung, with Cheetah, on Tarzan's vines. I knew what the Shadow knew and, with John Carter, kicked the red sands of Mars off our flipflops (before Arthur Clark got there), and papa Hugo gave me a future target out there somewhere lost in space.

In the early 1950s I began to feel my feet touch ground for the first time, or at least to recognize that might be

happening. And the mentors found me, the ones I didn't force myself upon at any rate. I remember being pushy and obnoxious and intruding without invitation into the faces of my designated heroes. It is a miracle they survived my presence, much less, for reasons I've never comprehended, actually working to make me much more than I ever was, tenuously hanging onto false realities with fragile, gossamer threads stretching way beyond eternity.

A list of who they were and what they did for (never to) me would read like science fiction's all-time Who's Who but I would be negligent if I did not give credit to some of them, especially now as they resurface from the past and make their presence known to me once again. (And apologies to those masses my poor memory neglects here.)

I've already mentioned papa Hugo, but his sons Sam Moskowitz and Ed Wood (not the movie nut even though he, too, was personally involved in making me me), were also there. The dearly beloved Robert Bloch and his twin brother Bob Tucker. The ever lovely Bea Mahaffey and her crotchety boss, nut-fringe Ray Palmer. Margaret Brundage. My gaggle of supporters from the University of Chicago Science Fiction Club who pushed me way beyond my capabilities for a solid decade. The boys of Advent and the Diktys of Shasta. The Midwest Nomad fans like Doc Barrett and the adorable Leigh Brackett, and my brother Howard DeVore and my sister Martha Beck, Nick and Noreen Falasca, Honey Wood, Roger Graham. Dirce Archer, Kelly Freas,

Sky Miller, Ed Emshwiller, Doc Lowndes, Hugh Hefner, Frank Robinson (and Dave Kyle who lets me sit wherever I want to) and, by no means least, the irascible William Hamling who, alone, propelled me orgasmically into outer space, with a little help from Frances Yerxa and her son Richard.

And here we are, finally, in 2013, and John L. Coker, III (and my science fiction son Terry) tells me that I've been inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame, along with a host of my best friends and at least a few old loves of my lives, coddled at last, snuggled warm in the arms of posterity where I never fantasized that I might, finally, reside. *Home!*

From the bottom of my heart I thank First Fandom, Bob Madle, and old Chicago icon Erle (no relation) Korshak for championing me so thoroughly, and welcoming me among the people I have always loved the most.

From Howard Frank

Dear John,

I was very pleased to receive your letter regarding the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award. I gladly accept this honor. I knew Sam and respected him greatly so I am especially pleased to receive the award that bears his name. I am enclosing a photo that shows Forry Ackerman, my wife Jane and me. It was taken at an earlier LoneStarCon.

I've been a book collector for many years, having taken over from my father who was also a science fiction and fantasy book collector. When I was growing up, the best birthday present I could get was another

bookcase (and the space to put it) in our small apartment. My collecting habits moved from a pleasant hobby to an enthusiastic passion. As we moved from house to house, my collection expanded until it required three different libraries to house it all. In recent years, I have been working backwards from the 20th Century into the 18th and 19th Centuries and from books in English to ones in French and Latin languages where some of the earliest S.F. and Fantasy books have been published.

Throughout my career, I have lived in two worlds. In my professional life, I have been a professor, an entrepreneur, the chief executive officer of three technology companies, the director of information technology in the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, and most recently, the dean of one of the top business schools in the country. I have written numerous professional articles, received many awards including election to the National Academy of Engineering and served on a number of company Boards of Directors. I was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense (the Defense Department's highest civilian honor).

In my private life, I have been a dedicated collector of science fiction books for 65 years. As a small child, my father told me stories about John Carter, Miles Cabot and other s.f. heroes. I learned to read early so I could read about them. We started attending s.f. conventions in the early 1970s and my book collecting expanded rapidly. In parallel with our book collecting, we discovered that we could buy some of the books'

original illustrations. Subsequently, my wife Jane and I built a major collection of original science fiction illustration art. We also sponsored a number of art exhibits. My wife Jane and I are the authors of two books on the Frank Collection.

Once again, thank you for the award.

OBITUARIES

Frederik Pohl

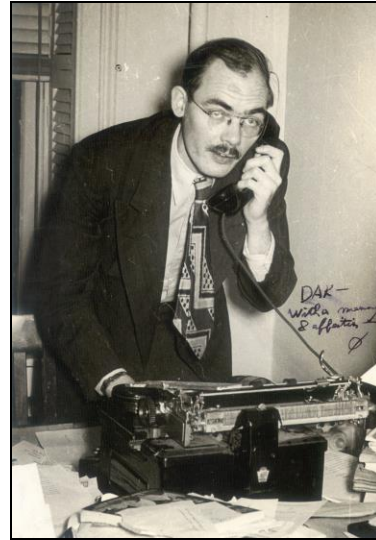
“SFWA Grandmaster, author, editor, agent, and fan Frederik Pohl, 93, died September 2, 2013.

Frederik George Pohl, Jr. was born November 26, 1919 in New York City. He was one of the earliest SF fans, attending the first SF convention in Philadelphia in 1936, and was one of the founders of the Futurians and the Hydra Club. He attended Brooklyn Tech, but dropped out without graduating.

From 1939-43 he was editor of new magazines *Astonishing Stories* and *Super Science Stories*. He sometimes published his own fiction, often in collaboration with fellow Futurians C.M. Kornbluth, Robert W. Lowndes, and James Blish, under assorted house names and pseudonyms including James MacCreigh and S.D. Gottesman.

He served in the Italian theaters of World War II and afterward became a literary agent, representing many of America’s top SF writers. In the ’50s he went back to writing and editing, producing his first novels in collaboration with Cyril Kornbluth, beginning with *The Space Merchants* (1953) and continuing with *Search the Sky* (1954), *Gladiator-at-Law* (1955) and *Wolfbane* (1957). He

collaborated with Jack Williamson on a number of books, including the *Undersea Trilogy*, the *Starchild trilogy*, and the *Cuckoo duology*, along with standalones *Land’s End* (1988) and *The Singers of Time* (1991). He collaborated with Lester del Rey on *Preferred Risk* (1983, as by Edson McCann).



Fred Pohl

(Photograph from the collection of David A. Kyle)

A prolific story writer, Pohl’s short fiction has been collected in more than twenty volumes, including *Alternating Currents* (1966), *The Best of Frederik Pohl* (1975), *The Early Pohl* (1980), *Pohlstars* (1984) and, most recently *Platinum Pohl* (2005). “The Meeting” (1972), with C.M. Kornbluth, won a Hugo, as did solo story “Fermi and Frost” (1985). Other notable stories include Nebula Award finalists “Under Two Moons” (1965), “Shaffery Among the Immortals” (1973), “Growing Up in Edge City” (1976), “Mars Masked” (1979), and “The Greening of Bed-Stuy” (1985); “Day Million” (1966); Hugo and Nebula Award finalist “The Gold at Starbow’s End” (1972); and Hugo finalists “Servant of the

People" (1983) and novella Stopping at Slowyear (1992).

An influential editor, Pohl edited Ballantine's original anthology series Star Science Fiction in the '50s. In the '60s, he edited notable SF magazines *Galaxy* and *If*, and in the '70s he was executive editor at Ace, then SF editor at Bantam. He won Hugo awards for editing in 1966, 1967, and 1968.

Pohl wrote about his life in memoir *The Way the Future Was* (1978). Other non-fiction includes a biography of Roman emperor Tiberius (1960), political guide *Practical Politics* 1972 (1971), *Our Angry Earth: A Ticking Ecological Time Bomb* with Isaac Asimov (1991), and *Chasing Science: Science as Spectator Sport* (2000). He also wrote non-SF novels, including *A Town Is Drowning* (1955), *Presidential Year* (1956), and *Sorority House* (1956, as by Jordan Park), all with C.M. Kornbluth; *The God of Channel 1* (1956, as by Donald Stacy); *Turn the Tigers Loose* (1956, with Walter Lasly); and *Chernobyl* (1987).

He was president of SFWA from 1974-76. He was named a SFWA Grand Master in 1992; a living inductee in the SF Hall of Fame in 1998; won a Hubbard Award for life achievement in 2000; and received the Eaton Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. He is survived by his fifth wife, Elizabeth Anne Hull.

Pohl wrote online extensively about his life in SF, politics, and other topics at *The Way the Future Blogs*."

(Excerpted from LOCUS Online)

Richard Matheson

"Richard Matheson, author of many iconic works of sf and horror, died June 23 at age 87. His death came just three weeks after he announced his health was not good enough to permit him to attend the 2013 WFC where he is a GoH.

Matheson's famous novel *I Am Legend* was made into three movies – but he wondered in an interview why it kept being optioned when no one ever made a movie that actually followed the book. The films *What Dreams May Come*, *Somewhere in Time* and *The Shrinking Man* also were based on his stories,

He wrote 14 episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, including the classic "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." For *Star Trek* he wrote "The Enemy Within" where a transporter malfunction divides the Captain into Good Kirk and Evil Kirk. And he adapted his 1971 short story "Duel" into a TV movie for young director Steven Spielberg.

He won World Fantasy Awards for *Richard Matheson: Collected Stories* (1990) and his novel *Bid Time Return* (1976). Matheson received an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for his teleplay for *The Night Stalker* (1973).

Matheson was the 1958 Worldcon guest of honor. He was inducted to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2010, and was the recipient of the World Fantasy Award, Bram Stoker Award, and International Horror Guild Award lifetime achievement honors, as well as being named a World Horror Grandmaster.

He served in the infantry during World War II. In 1949 he earned a journalism degree from the University of Missouri. He moved to California in 1951 and married Ruth Ann Woodson the following year. They had four children.”

(Excerpted from a tribute prepared by
John King Tarpinian -- from File 770)

MOVIE REVIEW

If you haven't yet seen the movie GRAVITY, you must see it. It's the first movie since DESTINATION MOON that really “gets it right” about weightlessness. The plot isn't much, but the special effects are literally out of this world. Absolutely see it in 3-D, and if possible in IMAX 3-D. You won't be disappointed.

WE GET LETTERS

Mary Lu Lockhart sent me a clipping from a comics page honoring Ray Harryhausen. I'm still awaiting permission to reprint it. I hope I will be able to use it in the next issue. Please keep those cards and letters coming.

APOLOGIA

This issue is late. I had cataract surgery in my right eye at the time I would ordinarily have been putting it together. I was prohibited from reading or using the computer for several days following the surgery. Just sitting in the living room, being unable to do either nearly drove me out of my skull. Vision is still blurry, but now I can read and use the computer, and drive during the daytime (not at night). I'm due for more eye surgery on the left eye. I hope it goes well.

Joe Martino

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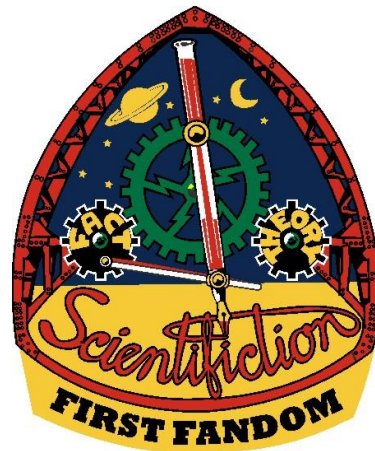
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