

# SCIENTIFICTION

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

New Series #38, 4th Quarter 2013

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings, STF enthusiasts!

I hope that everyone had a happy holiday season and a great start to the new year...

### *Nominations for First Fandom Awards*

We are now accepting nominations of candidates for the First Fandom Hall of Fame, Posthumous Hall of Fame and Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for 2014. Please send them to John Coker before **February 15**.

### *LONCON3*

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention will be held in London (August 14-18). Programming and special events will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first worldcon. For information: <http://www.loncon3.org>.

### *Remembering*

We are saddened to have to report the passing of some of our long-time friends including RAH Hoffman, John Schoenherr, Robert McCall, Nancy Kemp, Ruth Speer and Colin Wilson. More information can be found in the obituary notices listed in this issue.

### *First Fandom Archive*

We recently received a donation of sf-related material from Mary Ann Beam (past-president Ray Beam's widow) for the First Fandom Archive. She sent an assortment of fanzines,

photographs, newspaper clippings, letters and manuscripts. Mary Ann wanted to make sure that all of these precious items would be preserved.

As collectors, we all have things that we've accumulated over the years. If you would care to donate anything to the First Fandom Archive, please mail them (insured) to John Coker.

Mary Ann's new contact information:

Mary Ann Beam

13881 72nd Court North  
West Palm Beach, FL - 33412

Tel: (765) 776-0966

[Beam.mary@att.net](mailto:Beam.mary@att.net)

### *We Need Your E-Mail Address*

If you are still receiving paper copies of our newsletter, please consider providing an e-mail address, so that you can enjoy the expanded, full-color version of SCIENTIFICTION.

It will also help us reduce the cost of printing and mailing quarterly issues.

### *Membership Dues*

This is a reminder that membership dues for First Fandom (July 2013 - June 2014) were due on July 1st: \$10/year, payable to "Keith Stokes."

Please send checks to Keith Stokes (First Fandom Treasurer) 14305 W. 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS - 66215.

Hope everyone is doing well and I look forward to hearing from you,

*John L. Coker III*

*Recommended Reading List*

(By John L. Coker, III)

**LOVECRAFT**

**(From a screenplay written by Hans Rodionoff; adapted by Keith Giffen; illustrated by Enrique Breccia; lettered by Todd Klein; introduction by John Carpenter.)**

This is a work of historical fiction that explores the life of H.P. Lovecraft and what might have been if the horrors from his fictional tales had actually been real. It is a fascinating story that seems almost believable, as it incorporates genuine characters such as Edwin Baird (the first editor at WEIRD TALES), magician Harry Houdini, and factual events such as HPL's marriage to Sonia Green and their brief move to New York City. The painted artwork conveys a real sense of dread and doom on a grand scale as it portrays the protagonist struggling to contain terrifying creatures from the Necronomicon.

Although I just recently discovered this book, it originally appeared in 2003 when it was published as a hardcover in full-color dust jacket for \$24.95 from Vertigo Books and DC Comics (ISBN 1-56389-782-2).

**THE SECRET HISTORY OF MARVEL COMICS (By Blake Bell and Dr. Michael J. Vassallo).**

Here, revealed for the first time, is the story of the company founded by Martin Goodman in 1933. The book is widely illustrated with unpublished photographs and artwork from the early days of pulp magazines up to the modern era. Many artists are profiled, including some members of First Fandom such as Frank R. Paul, Harry Harrison and Alex Schomburg.

The first edition hardback is available for \$39.99 from Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or telephone (800) 657-1100.

**(4SJ's) FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #271 (Jan/Feb 2014).**

This issue features an outstanding 36-page tribute to Ray Harryhausen. Available at newsstands for \$9.99, or [www.famousmonstersoffilmland.com](http://www.famousmonstersoffilmland.com)

**A New Book from Joe Haldeman**

**WORK DONE FOR HIRE** is the title of Joe's new novel from Ace Books. It is a near-future thriller. The main character is a writer who's a veteran of a desert war. Please visit Joe's website at [www.joehaldeman.com](http://www.joehaldeman.com).

*Seventy-Five Years Ago*

This excellent photograph of fellow Futurians was made by Jack Robins.



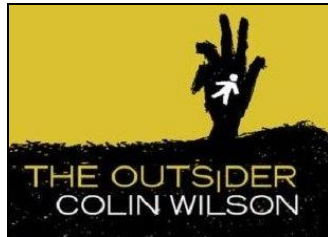
L-R: Robert W. Lowndes, Donald A. Wollheim, Chester Cohen, Cyril Kornbluth and John B. Michel (Tarrytown, New York - Summer, 1939).

## OBITUARIES

**Colin Wilson (1931 – 2013)**

Colin Henry Wilson was a British writer of SF/fantasy, horror, and mysteries. He was also the author or editor of many non-fiction works, including books on psychic phenomenon and the occult.

Wilson wrote more than 150 books during his lifetime. His first science fiction novel was *The Mind Parasites* (1967) [humanity hampered by aliens]. Other novels of interest include *The Glass Cage* (1967) [private detective work by a Blake scholar], *The Philosopher's Stone* (1969) [the Old Ones who supposedly control humanity are actually indifferent], *The Space Vampires* (1976) [a horror story made into a motion picture as *Lifeforce* in 1985], and his popular space opera *Spider World* series (1987 - 2003).



His most famous book was undoubtedly *The Outsider* (1956), a non-fiction study of social outcasts and outsiders in literature and culture. The book sold more than 20,000 copies in its first two months, and Wilson became an overnight celebrity. The book went on to be translated into 12 languages. It added to the excitement surrounding *The Outsider* and its sales that Wilson had written it in the Reading Room at the British Museum. After

his book's success, he frankly expressed the opinion that he was a genius. This statement earned him considerable hostility.

His other non-fiction books included *Science Fiction as Existentialism* (1978), *Starseekers* (1980), and *Afterlife* (1985).

He taught at colleges and universities in the UK and the United States, including Hollings College (1966-1967), the University of Washington (1967-1968), and Rutgers University (1974).

Wilson was born June 26, 1931, in Leicester, Leicestershire, England. He left school at 16 and educated himself while working at various jobs, including laborer, lab assistant, tax collector, and magazine salesman. He became a full-time writer in 1954.

*The Essential Colin Wilson* appeared in 1985. He published his autobiography, *Dreaming to Some Purpose*, in 2004. He was married twice and had four children.

Wilson reference works include *Colin Wilson: The Outside and Beyond* (1979) by Clifford P. Bendau, *The Novels of Colin Wilson* (1982) by Nicolas Tredell, and *The Work of Colin Wilson: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide* (1989) by Colin Stanley.



Photograph of Colin Wilson Courtesy of Rex Features and BBC News Entertainment / Arts

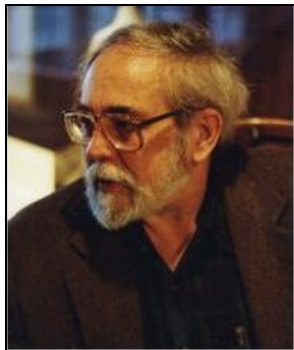
(This notice was prepared by Jon D. Swartz)

**John Schoenherr**

"Artist John Schoenherr, 74, died April 8, 2010 in New Jersey.

John Carl Schoenherr was born July 5, 1935 in New York City. He became a full-time freelance artist shortly after his graduation from the Pratt Institute in 1956, and did hundreds of illustrations for SF magazines, including *Astounding / Analog*, *Amazing*, *Fantastic*, *Infinity*, and *F&SF*. He was the principle cover artist for *Astounding / Analog* in the late '50s and '60s, and was nominated for eleven Hugo Awards from 1962-1975, winning in 1965.

He also won a 1988 Caldecott Medal for his work on *Owl Moon*, written by Jane Yolen, and wrote and illustrated a handful of children's books on his own." (Reprinted from LOCUS ONLINE)



**John Schoenherr**  
(Photograph courtesy of the New York Times)

**Ruth Speer**

"Ruth Speer died December 11 at the age of 90. While primarily known to fandom through her spouse of 57 years, Jack, who died in 2008, she led a remarkable life in her own right.

Born in Nova Scotia, she grew up in Vermont and Maine. She served with the WAVES in World War Two. A certified pilot who flew cargo planes, she assisted in searching for

lost aircraft and become one of the first female air traffic controllers.

Her son, Ed, and daughter, Margaret Ann, both spoke at her funeral. Ed's remarks offer a little window into his fannish upbringing –

*Both my parents were gracious enough not to try to discourage me from doing things I really wanted to do. I'm sure Mom would have been much happier if I'd taken up tennis instead of medieval sword fighting, but she sewed my costume and helped me find a source of obsolete road signs for building my armor.*

In addition to her son and daughter, Ruth is survived by her brother, Robert, and four grandchildren."

(This story, which was provided by Patricia Rogers, originally appeared in File 770.com)

**Nancy Kemp**

"Fan Nancy Kemp (b.1923) died on December 22 of uterine cancer. Nancy had been married to fan Earl Kemp for several years, although the two divorced more than forty years ago. She worked with Earl on his one-shot Hugo Award-winning fanzine *Who Killed Science Fiction?* in 1960 and also produced children with Earl. She was active in conventions and fannish gatherings in the Midwest into the early 70s."

(SF Site News, courtesy of Steven H. Silver)

**Robert McCall**

"Artist Robert McCall, 90, died February 26, 2010. McCall's keen interest in science and technology led to a career painting images of space and space travel. He painted for *Life Magazine* in the 1960s; he created murals for the National Air and Space Museum in Washington



DC and NASA's Johnson Space Center and paintings for Disney's Epcot Center, as well as iconic postage stamps. His paintings were famously featured in the movie posters for *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and he art directed *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*." (From LOCUS ONLINE)



Artists Robert and Louise McCall in their studio, in front of the mural "Celebrating One Hundred Years of Powered Flight 1903-2003."

(Photograph: NASA Dryden Flight Research Center)

### **R. A. "Bob" Hoffman (1920 - 2013)**

We just learned of the passing of L.A. fan RAH Hoffman. He will be remembered for his association with Francis T. Laney's *THE ACOLYTE* and Clark Ashton Smith. We will have a tribute to RAH next issue.



RAH Hoffman at the Ackermansion (1960)  
(From the Collection of John L. Coker III)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### *Nuptials*

We are happy to report that on June 17, 2012, Dr. Laura Brodian Freas married Mr. Steven N. Beraha of Northridge, CA. Laura has been a classical music radio program host and Mr. Beraha is a middle school teacher. We wish them all the best!



Laura and Steven

### *USPS Commemorative Stamps*

"A petition urging the Obama Administration to proceed with a set of commemorative postage stamps honoring sf writers - and to make the group much larger and more diverse - has been launched by Chris Barkley on the 106th anniversary of Robert A. Heinlein's birth.

A five-stamp set had been announced by the US Postal Service Commemorative Panel program in February with a July 2013 release date. Then, Linn's Stamp News reported in April the issue had been indefinitely postponed. The report also named the writers who had been selected to be on the stamps: Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, Heinlein and Frank Herbert.

The petition contains 60 names and requests that they appear on a

series of stamps over the next several years. Please sign Barkley's petition at Change.org. His goal is to get 100,000 signatures by August 6."

(Reprinted from an article in File770.com)

### *Living Legend Award*

The following plaque was presented at the 2013 World Science Fiction Convention in San Antonio:

"Acknowledging his lifelong and continuously active career spanning nine decades as an enthusiastic science fiction and fantasy fan turned pro, from the golden days of WONDER in the early-1930s all the way to the present time and beyond...First Fandom proclaims **DAVID A. KYLE** (aka The Purple Bat, The Grey Lensman, The Man in the Red Jacket) a LIVING LEGEND!"



**David Ackerman Kyle**  
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

We are proud to recognize one of First Fandom's long-time members for his contributions to the STF field.

### *Correspondence*

We heard recently from Art Widner, who, at the age of ninety-six may be the oldest member of First Fandom.

### **FIRST FANDOM**

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