

SCIENTIFUNCTION

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

New Series #39, 1st Quarter 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, STF enthusiasts!

Spring is nearly here and that means it's time again to vote for the **First Fandom Awards**. Please send your completed ballot to John L. Coker, III (4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL 32808) or to jlcoker3@bellsouth.net by no later than April 15th. Thanks to those who submitted nominations.

Names of the award recipients will be announced at the World Science Fiction Convention in London.

World Science Fiction Convention

Will **you** be attending the upcoming Worldcon in London (August 14-18)? If you are going, please send me an email message or a letter so that I can let you know about our plans. (More Info: <http://www.loncon3.org>.)

Remembering

As the members of our organization keep getting older, it is with sadness that we note the recent passing of some dear people in our field: Neal Barrett, Jr., Franklin M. Dietz, Jr., Vic Ghidalia, Martin Greenberg, Graham Stone and Rosemary Wolfe. See the obituary notices on pages 3-5.

Windy City Pulp and Paper Convention

The 2014 Windy City Pulp and Paper Convention will be held April 25-27 at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, just outside of Chicago. They will celebrate the anniversaries

of the Western Pulp, the Maltese Falcon, Black Mask Detective Pulp, Virgil Finlay and Hannes Bok. The show emphasizes pulp magazines, paperbacks, original artwork, movie memorabilia, old time radio and science fiction. For information, visit www.windycitypulpandpaper.com.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Do you recognize the two Futurians portrayed in this double-exposure photograph made by Jack Robins?



L-R: Fred Pohl and Dick Wilson
New York World's Fair (1939)
(Photograph by Jack Robins)

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 SCIENTIFUNCTION.

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

John L. Coker III

Welcome, New Associate Members!

Recently, two long-time fans became associate members of First Fandom.

Jack Lange (aka John Norman) was nominated by President Emeritus Robert A. Madle and seconded by East Coast V.P. David A. Kyle.

“Jack is a professional philosopher, teaching in the areas of the philosophy of history, epistemology, and innovational conceptualization. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. Jack is a veteran of the Korean War, and has worked as a radio announcer and writer for KOLN, Lincoln, NE, a film writer for the University of Nebraska, and a story analyst for Warner Brothers Motion Pictures, Inc. in Burbank, CA. Jack was technical editor and special materials writer for Rocketdyne, specializing in the production of rocket engines. He is a member of the American Polar Society, the American Philosophical Association, and the Science Fiction Writers of America. Under the pseudonym “John Norman” the author has published a number of books, among which are the Gorean books.”

David Aronovitz was nominated by Robert A. Madle and seconded by National V.P. Erle M. Korshak.

“Dave has been a full-time seller of rare books for thirty-five years, and during that time has amassed a huge collection of books, correspondence and manuscripts from the nineteenth century to the present day. During the past thirty years Aronovitz has published eighteen books, all but three being the authors’ first appearance in print with virtually every one being hitherto unknown to

the scholarship and the reading public. Among the list of authors that he has published are Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Forrest J Ackerman, Gene Wolfe, Brian Aldiss, Robert Bloch, William Tenn, Roger Zelazny and Stanley G. Weinbaum. Dave is the proprietor of The Fine Books Company. He resides in Michigan and is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America.”

Recommended Reading List

(By John L. Coker III)

The Alluring Art of Margaret Brundage – Queen of Pulp Pin-Up Art

Written by Stephen D. Korshak with J. David Spurlock (and featuring a foreword by Rowena), this beautiful nearly-200 page hardcover book has been issued by Vanguard Publishing in association with Shasta-Phoenix (May, 2013). The regular hardcover edition lists for \$39.95, ISBN 1-934331-49-X. This detailed survey should be required reading and belongs in the collection of every serious student of Weird Tales.

The book features reproductions of all of Brundage’s covers for Weird tales as well as many previously unpublished illustrations. With this superbly-rendered title, author Steve Korshak has surpassed his several other fine books about early science fiction illustrators, including detailed accounts of J. Allen St. John and Frank R. Paul. Contributing author David Spurlock (widely-known as an editor, artist and historian) has written numerous other volumes, including books that consider the work of Basil Gogos and Frank Frazetta. For more information, please visit www.shasta-phoenix.net.

**(4SJ's) Famous Monsters #272
(March/April 2014)**

This issue features a 30-page tribute to Richard Matheson and a 40-page brief history of sci-fi literature. If you look closely, a likeness of Forry can be seen on the cover in George Pal's time machine. ISBN 7447025970, it is available for \$9.99 at many local newsstands. For more information: www.famousmonstersoffilm.com

Weird Fiction Review #4 (Fall 2013)

Published once a year by Centipede Press (2565 Teller Court, Lakewood, Colorado, 80214), this issue is edited by scholar S.T. Joshi and features a wraparound color masterpiece by Bob Eggleton. The contents include an elaborate selection of essays, fiction, poetry, interviews and excellent interior illustrations. Here in these pages the reader can feast on material about H.P. Lovecraft, H.S. Whitehead, William Hope Hodgson, Rod Serling, Algernon Blackwood, Forrest J Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, *Weird Tales*, E.C. Comics' Jack Davis and much more. Among the contributing editors are Stefan Dziemianowicz and Joseph Wrzos. The cover price for this nearly-300 page trade paperback book is \$35 but it is on sale for only \$25. ISBN 978-1-61347-062-6. For information, visit www.centipede.com.

We Will Destroy Your Planet – An Alien's Guide to Conquering Earth

Written by David McIntee and illustrated by Miguel Coimbra and published by Osprey Adventures (2013). Trade paperback edition \$14.95, ISBN 978-1-78200-602-2. www.ospreyadventuresbooks.com

OBITUARIES

Neal Barrett, Jr.

"Author Neal Barrett, Jr. (b.1929) died on January 12. Barrett began publishing science fiction in 1960 with "To Tell the Truth" in *Galaxy*. He continued to publish short fiction throughout his career, but most of his work was at the novel length, with early works such as *Kelwin* or *The Leaves of Time* giving way to more complexly created worlds and narratives in the late 1970s with his *Aldair* sequence and *Through Darkest America*. In addition to his science fiction, Barrett published a lot of work for hire, including volumes in the Hardy Boys and Tom Swift series, often under pseudonyms and house names. Barrett was named Author Emeritus by SFWA in 2009."

(From SF Site News, January 14, 2014)

Vic Ghidalia (1926-2013)

"U.S. television publicist who edited and co-edited genre anthologies from *The Little Monsters* (1969 with Roger Elwood) to *Feast of Fear* (1977 solo), died on May 28, 2013, aged 87."

(Reprinted from *Ansible* 319, Feb. 2014)

Graham Stone (1926-2013)

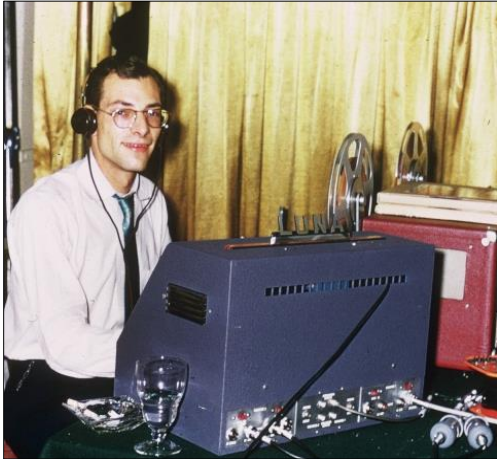
"Australian SF fan, bibliographer and publisher whose reference works began with *An Index to the Australian SF Magazines, Part One* (1955) and continued to the 2010 revision of his monumental *Australian SF Bibliography, 1848-1999* (2004), died on 16 November. He was 87."

(Reprinted from *Ansible* 317, Dec. 2013)

Rosemary Wolfe (1931-2013)

“Gene Wolfe's wife of many years and a cheering presence at numerous conventions, died on December 14, 2013 after a long illness; she was 82.”

(Reprinted from *Ansible* 318, Jan. 2014)

Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.

Frank Dietz and Base Station Luna
(Photograph by Ben Jason)

“In 1956, with David A. Kyle, Frank Dietz was one of the founding members (and indeed a President) of the Lunarians. In 1958, he and George Nims Raybin filed a lawsuit against Dave Kyle over funds from the 1956 NYCon. Over the years, he published the fanzines *Luna*, *Luna Monthly*, and *Science, Fantasy, and Science Fiction*. He served on the con committee for Lunacon from 1957 through to 1971. In 2007 he was Lunacon Fan GoH. At the 1957 Worldcon (London) he was inducted into Britain's Knights of St. Fantony along with Walt Willis, Bob Silverberg, Terry Jeeves, Bobbie Wild, Eric Bentcliffe, Ken Slater, Bob Madle, and Ellis Mills.”

(Reprinted from the *Science Fact & Science Fiction Concatenation*)

Journey's End

(Written by Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.)

Over the high mountains of Arkned
Across the valleys with rivers of tar
Sped a ship, red and rusted
A veteran of the spaceways far.

Her crew of ten, worn and weary
Valiantly struggling to stay aloft
Strange lot they were, dull and dreary.
Praying to the Almighty, as they did
so oft.

Strange lot they were, or so it
seemed
Old men who had their life well spent
For they were spacehounds, those
men who leaned to freedom,
For such space travel meant.

For fifty years they'd travelled far
But ne'r a stop along the route
Headed for one distant star
Yonkor, the star of life and youth.

And now at last they've reached the
planet
Ahead the space port and the city
Wherein there is the element
Which gives to men immortality.

Robert A. "Bob" Hoffman

RAH Hoffman was born November 25, 1920 and passed away on February 25, 2013. He was a long-time resident of Los Angeles, and an influential member of the LASFiS.

“As R.A. Hoffman, his article "The Arcana of Arkham-Auburn" on his visit with Clark Ashton Smith appeared in *The Acolyte* (Vol. 2. No. 2., Spring 1944). He contributed a letter to editor Donald Sidney-Fryer, which was printed in the Smith bibliography *Emperor of Dreams*

(Donald M. Grant, 1978). The Black Book of Clark Ashton Smith was published by Arkham House in 1979 which Hoffman and Sidney-Fryer "deciphered from CAS's notes" and Hoffman co-edited (with Steve Behrends and Sidney-Fryer) Strange Shadows: The Uncollected Fiction and Essays of Clark Ashton Smith (Greenwood Press, 1989)."

(Contributed by Christopher M. O'Brien)



R.A. "Bob" Hoffman as Frankenstein's Monster, with actress Cay Forester ("The Girl You'd Most Like to be Marooned on the Moon with") - *Pacificon*, 1946
(Photograph by Milton A. Rothman)
(From the Collection of Len J. Moffatt)



L-R: Clark Ashton Smith, Francis T. Laney, R.A. "Bob" Hoffman (Auburn, CA)
(From the Collection of Robert A. Madle)

Martin Greenberg

(June 29, 1918 – October 20, 2013)

"U.S. publisher and anthologist, not to be confused with Martin H Greenberg, who was no relation. In 1948 he cofounded with David A Kyle and others Gnome Press, one of the small but important early publishers of Genre SF in hardcover format. Greenberg edited seven anthologies for Gnome, of which *Coming Attractions* (anth 1957) consisted of sf-related nonfiction articles. The others were *Men Against the Stars* (anth 1950; cut vt 9 Stories from *Men Against the Stars* 1963), *Travelers of Space* (anth 1951), with sixteen illustrations by Edd Cartier, *Journey to Infinity* (anth 1951), *Five Science Fiction Novels* (anth 1952; with two stories omitted, cut vt *The Crucible of Power* 1953), *The Robot and the Man* (anth 1953) and *All About the Future* (anth 1955). Most are loosely thematic. In 2000 he was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame."

(By Peter Nicholls – Reprinted from the *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*)



L-R: Martin Greenberg, David A. Kyle
(From the Collection of David A. Kyle)

STF Quiz: "The first World SF Con"

#1- At the first worldcon, who took a group of young fans to the offices of *The American Weekly* where they met A. Merritt, and then to the offices of *Weird Tales*, where they met the editor, Farnsworth Wright?

#2 - Who were some of the people who bought full page supporting ads for ten dollars each in the Souvenir Journal of the first worldcon?

#3 - At the first worldcon, who made the first announcement anywhere in the world about the publication of H.P. Lovecraft's *The Outsider*?

#4 - What was the final score of the softball game that was played on the last day of the convention?

Did you attend the Convention in 1939?

We have at least five members living today who were at the first worldcon:

- Erle M. Korshak
- David A. Kyle
- Robert A. Madle
- Jack Robins
- Art Widner

First Fandom Membership Patches

Due to increasing demand from our members, we are working with an established company to reproduce a very high quality full color traditional patch. More information next issue.

Answers to the STF Quiz

#1 - Forrest J Ackerman

#2 - Raymond A. Palmer, A. Merritt and Ralph Milne Farley.

#3 - Kenneth Sterling

#4 - Queens Cometeers beat the Philadelphia Panthers, 23-11.

NASFiC (Detcon1)

"The North American Science Fiction Convention will be held July 17-20, 2014 at the Renaissance Center Marriott in Detroit, Michigan. Guests of Honor include Steven Barnes (Author) and John Picacio (Artist). Roger Sims and Fred Prophet are the Con Chairs Emeritus. NASFiCs are held in years when the worldcon is held outside of the United States." For information, www.detcon1.org.



L-R: Roger and Pat Sims, Fred Prophet
(Photograph by Ben Jason)

Frank Robinson to be a Special Guest at the 49th Nebula Awards Weekend

Author, collector and historian Frank Robinson will be recognized during the Nebula Awards Weekend for a lifetime of contributions to the genres of science fiction and fantasy. The event will be held in San Jose, May 16-18. www.sfw.org/nebula-awards.



Frank M. Robinson
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

We Get Letters

Brian Aldiss reports that he's been writing a short story every day. He hopes to be collecting these into a book soon. He sent this picture and his best wishes to all of his friends.



Brian Aldiss

Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull sent a nice letter a while back in which she thanked us for sharing a copy of Jack Robins' play about the Futurians. She will be including the play in Fred Pohl's blog, which she plans to continue for the foreseeable future. For more information, visit (www.thewaythefutureblogs.com).

We also heard from **Peter Gilbert**, the grandson of Charles D. Hornig:

"My mother and I are working on a Wikipedia entry for Charles. She's written an unpublished memoir about him, based upon their conversations. We are also collecting copies of The Fantasy Fan and his other work.

I grew up enjoying science fiction. When I was about 12 years old my grandfather was visiting. I told him how much I enjoyed "A Martian Odyssey" by Stanley G. Weinbaum. He patiently let me describe the story then simply said, "Oh yeah, I know that one. I was the first to publish it". At that point in time, no one had told me of his past and I was floored!"

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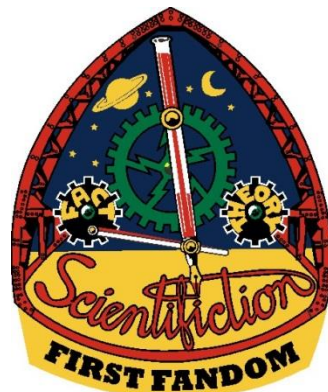
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