

SCIENTIFUNCTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction
New Series #42, 4th Quarter 2014

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FIRST FANDOM AWARDS FOR 2015

Nominations are now being accepted

- + First Fandom Hall of Fame Award
- + Posthumous Hall of Fame Award
- + Sam Moskowitz Archive Award

I have recently been in contact with a number of our original members, and many of them have expressed an interest in acknowledging deserving fans who were never inducted into the Hall of Fame during their lifetime.

When sending your nominations for this year's awards, please give extra consideration to identifying worthy candidates for the First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame Award.

We will also continue to present the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award to recognize enthusiasts who have amassed large collections and done something significant with them.

Nominations should be sent prior to February 15th for the 2015 First Fandom Awards via email to jlcocker3@bellsouth.net or U.S. Mail to John Coker at 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL - 32808. Thanks!

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz are collaborating on a new series for our newsletter about some of the original members of First Fandom who are still active today. For their inaugural effort, they present a look at the life and times of David A. Kyle.

NECROLOGY

We sadly acknowledge the recent passing of some friends: Kirby Macauley, Roy Scarfo, George Slusser, Edward Summer, Herbert Yellin. They will all be remembered.

BIRTHDAYS

The list of January–March birthdays in this issue is based on information originally compiled by Andy Porter.

OUR NEWSLETTER: PDF VS. PAPER

While not all of our members are able to receive digital copies of SCIENTIFUNCTION via e-mail, there are still several dozen who can do so. It would greatly help reduce our printing and postage expenses. Please send us your email address soon, in order to make that happen.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are seeking letters, news items, convention reports, photos, articles, book reviews and more to publish in forthcoming issues of our newsletter!

Hope everyone had a happy holiday season! Be safe and stay in touch...

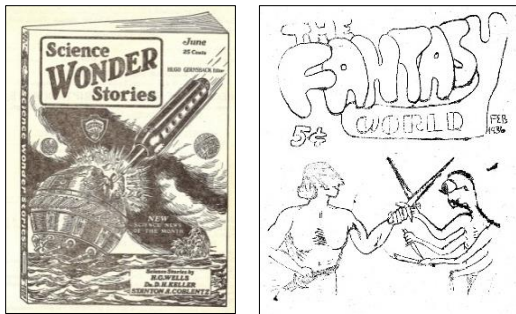
- *John L. Coker III*

**ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
DAVID A. KYLE**

(By John L. Coker III & Jon D. Swartz)

David A. Kyle was born on February 14, 1919 in upstate New York. As a child, his principal source of reading was *The Book of Knowledge*, a collection of twenty volumes. Dave enjoyed the adventures of Tom Swift and the Hardy Boys. He was thrilled by the imaginative stories of Roy Rockwood, Edgar Rice Burroughs, H.G. Wells and Jules Verne.

He soon discovered a more popular form of fiction that came about in *American Boy* magazine, in the sophisticated stories written by Carl H. Claudy and Thomas Burgess. As a boy growing up in Monticello, NY, Dave had a playhouse that he converted to a little lending library. He would rent out books for a nickel a week, using the proceeds to buy another book to add to the collection.



His family lived a hundred miles from New York City, and occasionally he and his mother would take the train into the city. In New York, they would go to the theater to see a show. One of the shows that had the biggest impact on him was *Dracula*, with Bela Lugosi in the lead role. As a teen-ager during the depression, Dave was interested in radio and airplanes, and these things indirectly led him in 1933 to discover

the magazines of Hugo Gernsback. The first one that he read was a second-hand copy of the very first issue of *Science Wonder Stories*.

In 1934, Dave began enthusiastically writing letters to the magazines and corresponding with big name fans such as Forry Ackerman and Bob Madle. That same year, he founded the Legion of Science Fiction Improvement. In 1935, he took the *Wonder Stories* SF test and earned a Bachelor of Science Fiction.

In 1936, Dave published the first comics fanzine, *The Fantasy World* (three issues). He saw the film based on H.G. Wells' *The Shape of Things to Come*. After graduating from Monticello High School, he moved to New York City and began making friendships with other fans. He attended a meeting of the International Scientific Association, where he met Don Wollheim, Fred Pohl, Dick Wilson, John Michel, Robert W. Lowndes, Cyril Kornbluth.



Kyle was a co-founder of Science Fiction League Chapter 5 in his hometown. He went to the offices of *Wonder Stories* and met Hugo Gernsback and Frank R. Paul. Dave was a charter member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association and founder of the Phantasy Legion and the Fantasy Guild. In October 1936, Dave attended the very first SF convention, when a small group of fans took the train from New York City and met for a day with their fellow fans in Philadelphia.

In February 1937, Kyle attended the Second Eastern Science Fiction Convention, held at Bohemian Hall in Astoria, Long Island. Dave also witnessed the Hindenburg as it flew over the Flatiron Building in New York on the way to its destruction. Later that year, he graduated from the Commercial Illustration Studios, Art Career School, in New York City.

In 1938, Dave became a member of the Futurians. He attended the First National SF Convention in Newark, NJ (May, 1938) and went to the University of Alabama through the spring of 1939. In 1939, Dave belonged to the Association for Democracy in Science Fiction Fandom. He made numerous visits to the NY World's Fair, and attended the first World SF Con (July 2-4).

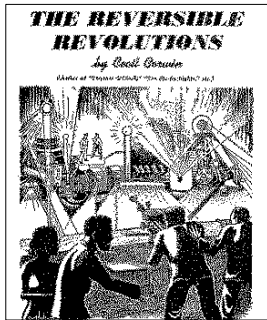


Illustration by Dave Kyle



Captain Kyle

In 1940, Dave became managing editor of his family's newspaper business. He arranged for Dirk Wylie to join him there as a reporter. The next year Dave published his first SF story, "Golden Nemesis" in *Stirring Science Stories*.

After the outbreak of World War Two, he joined the military, went to OCS and in 1942 was commissioned a second lieutenant. Then, in 1946 Captain Kyle was discharged and he returned to the family newspaper.

In 1947, Kyle began selling his illustrations to magazines edited by Fred Pohl, and writing stories for magazines edited by Doc Lowndes. At Fred's suggestion, they attended Philcon. Dave was co-founder, along with Martin Greenberg, of one of the early small press specialty book publishers, Gnome Press.



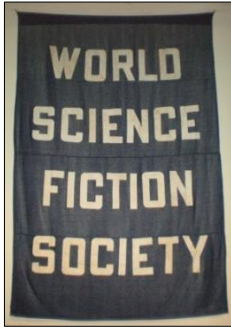
L-R: Marty Greenberg and Dave Kyle

In those early days, Dave was involved in every aspect of the business. He created the dust jackets, wrote cover blurbs, and helped to edit manuscripts. They produced some of the finest examples of limited edition SF and fantasy books from that era. He was a co-founder and chairman of the Hydra Club. At the 1949 Worldcon, Dave became the emcee of the first live television broadcast that discussed science fiction.

In 1950, Dave was co-chairman of the NY Science Fiction Conference, co-founder of Argonaut Books, and co-founder of the NY Science Fiction Circle. He also established the SF book line at Bouregy & Curl, Inc.

Kyle decided to go back to school, and in 1951, he graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor's Degree in English and Writing. Kyle founded the New York Science Fiction Council. During this period, he formed a literary agency with Fred Pohl and Dirk Wylie. He

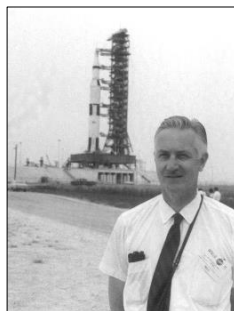
also began selling his sports and detective stories to the pulp magazines.



In 1954, Kyle and Sam Moskowitz co-chaired Metrocon, New York City. The following year, Dave was the founder and director of the World Science Fiction Society, Inc. Along with Dick Wilson, he booked passage on the *Isle de France* and sailed to England. In 1956, Dave was the chairman of NyCon II, the 14th Worldcon. He arranged for Arthur C. Clarke to be guest of honor and Al Capp to speak at the banquet. Kyle was a founding member and inaugural chairman of the Lunarians.



Member of St. Fantony



Launch of Apollo 11

Dave said that if London won the bid for the 1957 Worldcon, he would charter a trans-Atlantic flight for fans to attend the convention. After he and Ruth Evalin Landis were married, they (along with Dave's parents and fifty science fiction fans) flew to London on KLM Airlines. In

1959, Dave joined First Fandom. Two years later, he became a member of the Noble and Illustrious Order of St. Fantony.

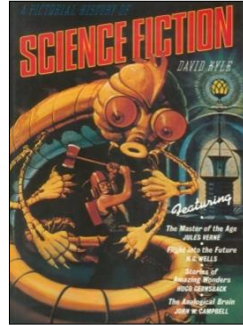
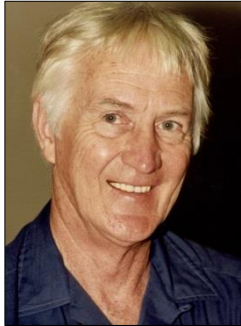
In 1966, Dave and his family visited Arthur C. Clarke in England on the movie set of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. In 1968, Kyle was a Nebula Award nominee in the short story category. The following year, a dream came true for many of the long-time science fiction fans with Apollo 11. Dave was in attendance at Cape Canaveral as a guest of NASA, where he spent time with Arthur C. Clarke and announced the launch for his family's radio station.

Living in England during the 1970s, Dave was president of the H.G. Wells Society, co-founder of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Film Society, and member of the SFWA and the Association of Science Fiction Artists. He received the Big Heart Award at the 1973 Worldcon.



In 1975, Dave Kyle was honorary managing director and vice-chair of the British SF Association. In 1976, he published *A Pictorial History of Science Fiction* (Hamlyn Books) and was Fan Guest of Honor at Novacon 6 in Birmingham, England. The following year, he published *The Illustrated Book of Science Fiction Ideas and Dreams* (Hamlyn Books). The British SF Association presented him with a special award for his work on these books, and he received an Outstanding Achievement Award

from the International Society of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy.



Dave was a long-time fan of the works of E.E. “Doc” Smith, and a friend of the Smith family. In the late-1970s he was invited by Bantam Books (Fred Pohl, editor) to continue the Lensman series. In 1980, Kyle published *The Dragon Lensman*. In 1982, he brought out *Lensman from Rigel*. In 1983 the series concluded with *Z-Lensman*. He was Fan Guest of Honor at the 1983 Worldcon.

In 1985, Dave was named “One of the 100 Most Important People in Science Fiction/Fantasy” by *Starlog*. In 1988, he was inducted by his peers into the First Fandom Science Fiction Hall of Fame. The following year, Kyle was the Fan Guest of Honor at Lunacon.

In 1991, Dave was named a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, and was Fan Guest of Honor at Kanto-Con in Tokyo. Three years later, he was Fan Guest of Honor at Arisia 5, in Boston. The following year he founded the Hugo Gernsback Society. In 1999, Dave received the Sam Moskowitz Fan Award from I-Con. During this era, Dave arranged for Arthur C. Clarke to make several telephone calls from Sri Lanka to First Fandom reunions. He continued attending conventions and being involved in SF fandom.

In 2001, he was the First Fandom Guest of Honor at Balticon 35. In 2004, Forrest J Ackerman asked Dave to become administrator of the Big Heart Award. In 2004, Dave was Guest of Honor at Odyssey, Fred Clarke’s convention in England, and was Fan Guest of Honor at Albacon in Schenectady, New York.

Dave was officially recognized in 2005 as being the record-holder for attending the most worldcons since they were first held in 1939. In 2009, the members of I-Con 28 celebrated Dave’s 90th birthday with a big party.

For a number of years, Dave and Ruth made trips from New York during the winter months to spend time with Ruth’s sister in Florida. Ruth Kyle passed away on January 5, 2011, and Dave eventually moved from his long-time residence at Skylee in Potsdam to live with his daughter Kerry and her son Kyle in Mohegan Lake, where he maintains his residence. Dave continues to attend conventions and serve as the administrator of the Big Heart Award.

Dave is an award-winning artist, author, editor, publisher, printer, anthologist, collector, literary agent, correspondent, historian, researcher, conventioneer, essayist, reviewer, panelist, lecturer, photographer, newspaper / radio / TV journalist, archivist, cartographer, officer and a gentleman, world-traveler, honored guest, “man in the red jacket” and long-time member of First Fandom.

Across the span of nine decades, trufan David Ackerman Kyle has faithfully been in all of the right places at all of the right times to fully experience and profoundly influence the course of science fiction history.

BIRTHDAYS**January**

- 1 – Chesley Bonestell, Norman Saunders
- 2 – Isaac Asimov, Charles Beaumont
- 3 – J.R.R. Tolkien, Stephen Fabian
- 6 – Eric Frank Russell, S. Fowler Wright
- 8 – Dennis Wheatley, Boris Vallejo
- 9 – Karel Capek, Algis Budrys
- 10 – Elizabeth Anne Hull
- 11 – Jerome Bixby
- 13 – Clark Ashton Smith, Ron Goulart
- 15 – Robert Silverberg
- 19 – Edgar Allan Poe
- 20 – A. Merritt
- 21 – Judith Merril, Charles Eric Maine
- 22 – Robert E. Howard, Katherine M. MacLean
- 24 – C.L. Moore
- 26 – Philip José Farmer

February

- 1 – George Pal
- 4 – Ted White
- 8 – Jules Verne, Ned Brooks
- 9 – Frank Frazetta, Pat Sims
- 11 – Jane Yolen
- 12 – Juanita Coulson
- 14 – Dale Hart, David A. Kyle
- 16 – Ed Emshwiller, Rusty Hevelin
- 17 – Andre Norton, Margaret St. Clair
- 18 – Gahan Wilson
- 19 – Terry Carr
- 20 – Richard Matheson
- 21 – P. Schuyler Miller, Ross Rocklynne
- 24 – August Derleth, Richard Powers
- 26 – Theodore Sturgeon

March

- 3 – Arthur Machen, James Doohan
- 6 – Marjii Ellers, William F. Nolan
- 9 – William F. Temple, Robin Johnson
- 11 – Francis T. Laney, F.M. Busby
- 12 – Harry Harrison
- 13 – L. Ron Hubbard
- 19 – Joseph L. Hensley
- 22 – Raymond Z. Gallun, William Shatner
- 24 – Andrew I. Porter
- 27 – John Hertz
- 28 – A. Bertram Chandler
- 30 – Chad Oliver

NECROLOGY**Kirby Macauley (b.1948)**

“Agent Kirby Macauley died the last weekend of August. Macauley represented George R. R. Martin, Roger Zelazny, Stephen King, and many other successful authors. In addition to working as an agent, he was an anthologist and won the World Fantasy Award in 1981 for editing *Dark Forces*. In 1975, Macauley chaired the first World Fantasy Convention.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – September 3, 2014)

Roy Scarfo (b.1926)

“Roy Scarfo, a pioneer in space art, [died December 8](#) at the age of 88.

He went to work for General Electric in 1957 and served as creative art director for GE’s Space Technology Center for 16 years. His very first assignment was to illustrate every missile in the US Arsenal. The finished artwork was used throughout the missile and space industry. Scarfo received GE’s Space Award, usually reserved for engineers and scientists.

While at GE he was a science and space art consultant for The New York *Times*, NASA, DOD, Voice of America and the U.S. Senate. He collaborated with notable scientists and authors such as Wernher von Braun, Isaac Asimov, and Willy Ley, and his work appeared in over 40 books including the collection of his artwork titled [Beyond Tomorrow](#).

Examples of his work are posted to his blog [The Future In Space](#).”

(Summarized from a larger article by Andrew Porter and J.B. Post that was originally published in File 770 on December 20, 2014.)

George Slusser (b.1938)

“Archivist George Slusser died on November 4. Slusser was a co-founder and Curator Emeritus of The J. Lloyd Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy Literature. His own writing included *Robert A. Heinlein: Stranger in His Own Land*, *The Farthest Shores of Ursula K. Le Guin*, and *Nursery Realms: Children in the Worlds of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror* among others. In 1986, he was the recipient of the Pilgrim Award from the Science Fiction Research Association.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – November 4, 2014)

Edward Summer (b.1946)

“Edward Summer, who passed away November 13, may not have thought of himself as a fan but he had many friends in the SF and comics world and attended the occasional convention. He was best-known for starting the first comic book store in New York, Supersipe, in 1971, through which he met, got to know and went into business with George Lucas for the accompanying comic book art gallery. He also was a good friend of Ray Bradbury.

A writer, artist, and film historian, he founded the Buffalo International Film Festival. He wrote for Marvel Comics (1972-89) and DC Comics (1980-90). Summer was associate producer of the first *Conan the Barbarian* film, and authored the original treatment and screenplay.

Summer was a founding member of the New York Area Skeptics. He also belonged to the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 12.”

(Thanks to Moshe Feder for providing the story.
Summarized from File 770 – November 30, 2014)

Herbert Yellin (b.1935)

“Small press publisher Herbert Yellin died June 13, 2014. Yellin founded Lord John Press in 1978 to publish signed limited editions of modern authors. The Lord John name came from the fact that so many modern authors he wanted to work with had the first name of John. Lord he added “to marry Great Britain and America.” The science fiction and fantasy genre authors that Yellin published included Ray Bradbury, Ursula K. Le Guin, Dan Simmons and Stephen King.”

(Summarized from File 770 – June 26, 2014)

**CONVENTION REPORT
(BY JOE MARTINO)*****Marcon 49 (May 9-11)***

This regional convention is held annually in Columbus, Ohio. The guests of honor this year included Glen Cook, Heather Dale, Ben Deschamps and Eric Flint. The theme was “technical difficulties.” Here are some weekend’s highlights.

Cooking Up Characters

Characters are the most important part of the story. They make the plot possible. A character must have his or her own individuality. Dialog must fit the character. The character will change during the course of the book, so the voice may change too. If you start with a plot, then you create the kind of characters needed for the plot. If you start with a character, they you need to find an appropriate plot. The name should fit the character. Be careful that the name is pronounceable, especially alien names. Nicknames can help characterize the character.

Fairy Tales vs. Fantasy

Fairy tales: folk tales with magic. Fantasy is more of a long story. Can we distinguish between oral folk tales and modern written tales like THE LITTLE MERMAID? Not all folk tales have magic, but are part of an oral tradition. Some oral tales are cautionary tales, with a moral or warning. Aesop's Fables are teaching tales. All have a moral. Some of the "updates" of the original tales are because the society is different, and the original warning no longer applies.

Weird Science

This panel was about weird research actually published in the scientific literature. Examples: estimating drug use by measuring the concentration of metabolites in sewage; introducing beavers into an area by dropping breeding pairs by parachute; estimating effects of a woman smiling at a man in a bar on whether he responded by sitting at her table; estimating stress from having someone stand near you by measuring time taken to start urination, and duration of urination, depending on how close someone else was standing to you at a urinal.

Military Technology

This was about the series of novels that began with 1632, a modern American mining town transferred to Europe in the year 1632, in the middle of the Thirty Years War. The issue was how uptime technology transferred downtime changes the way people conduct warfare. A breechloader means you don't have to stand up to reload. It also allows troops to fire from behind cover.

Rate of fire and accuracy of modern weapons requires a significant change in tactics. The novels show a very rapid evolution in tactics and technology. Opponents catch on to things like the uptimers using radio. A central feature of the stories in the 1632 universe is how introduction of new technology cascaded into other things.

Killing Characters

Much of epic fantasy ends with killing the villain. The villain must be a well-rounded character if his death is to be meaningful. Being a cardboard cutout won't do it. The reader won't really care. As the protagonist goes through his journey, it must cost him something to destroy the antagonist. The epic villain is the one causing the problem. Only their death will solve the problem. No matter how much sympathy we may have for the villain, does he have the potential for redemption? If not, he has to die to get closure. No one would trust Darth Vader no matter how much he reformed. His good side was already dead. Luke Skywalker's first kill is a nameless stormtrooper. What gets a character to the point of killing, and what happens after that? Does that lead to a second killing?

The character of a person before they become a killer has an effect on what happens to them after they kill. The deaths of the red shirts on Star Trek are only to show "we're in danger." There aren't even any memorials on the ship. Does a killing up the ante? Does it make a difference in what happens next? There has to be motivation for the killing, both for the character and for the writer.

Richard Matheson

I Am Legend was adapted three times for movies, and a comic book. The story itself was the first scientific explanation of vampirism. It also created the idea of the zombie apocalypse. The novel is one of the best portrayals of loneliness. In the ending, the character recognizes that the time of mankind has ended and the only way the new society could develop was without him. This is the new reality, and the last human is really the monster.

A Stir of Echoes is basically a ghost story. A murdered girl wants her body to be found, and not to be forgotten. *Button, Button* raises a moral question about anonymous killing.

Despite Matheson being a very prolific writer, with some of the most innovative stories of the era, he is little known to the public. Amongst the moviegoers, authors are very little known. Moviegoers tend to know the actors. Readers know the authors. However, moviegoers don't know the number of remakes. Some critics say he wrote stories more than characters. However, the characters are supposed to be Everyman.



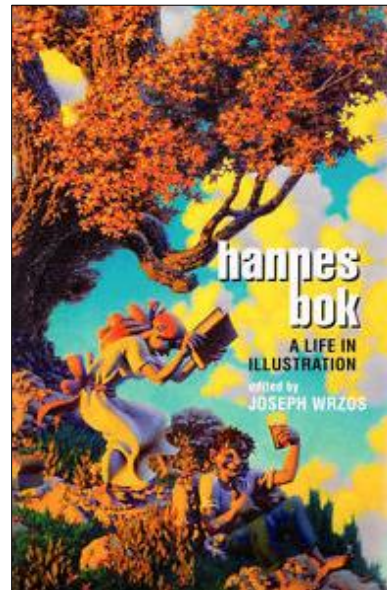
Marcon (Multiple Alternate Realities Convention) will celebrate their **50th Anniversary** during the weekend of May 8-10, 2015. Visit: Marcon.org.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDED READING**Hannes Bok – A Life in Illustration (Edited by Joseph Wrzos)**

Somehow, I missed the notice that was issued when this cornerstone book was announced two years ago. I am now bringing it to your attention.

Here is the description of the book, as provided by Centipede Press:

“With over 450 pages, this collection covers the entire artistic career of Hannes Bok. Painstakingly edited by Joseph Wrzos, with essays and memoirs on Bok by Ray Bradbury, Stephen Fabian, and others, this book features over 600 illustrations.



The color section features all of Bok's known dust jackets and the largest collection of Bok paintings ever published, including many works that have never before been printed. The book is housed in a printed cloth slipcase and is printed on heavy paper using stochastic screening with five inks, resulting in unparalleled clarity and color reproduction.”

With the publication of *Hannes Bok – A Life in Illustration*, aficionados finally have a comprehensive edition which showcases the artwork of Hannes Bok. In this massive book, Bok's legacy truly receives the dignity that it so richly deserves.

The overall feel and appearance of this hardcover is impressive. Great attention has been given to the selection of production materials used for the edition, such as the type of paper, stitching and binding.

Six hundred images in the book are presented with a clarity that must be very similar to the artist's originals. Colors appear natural and vibrant (not exaggerated) and the smallest elements are even easily detected.

The book is organized in such a way that readers are able to enjoy the chronological unfolding of Bok's career. The editor, Joseph Wrzos has taken great care to ensure that the full known spectrum of Bok's lifetime of work is fully represented.

Ray Bradbury offers a 4-page tribute to his long-time friend, Hannes Bok, a loving remembrance that sets the tone for the entire book. Subsequent chapters also feature memoirs of appreciation by such prominent artists as Stephen Fabian, Jill Bauman, Jason C. Eckhardt, Bob Eggleton and Stephen Hickman.

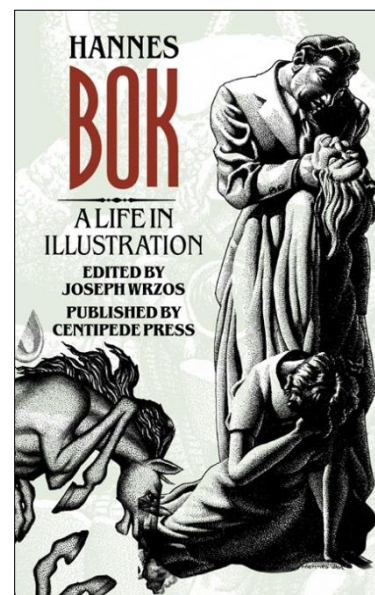
When I began reading my copy of this book, it was so compelling that I found it difficult to put down. It took three 4-hour sessions for me to look at every page with enough time to fully appreciate the contents.

After being so thoroughly immersed again in Hannes Bok's artwork, I began seeing his interpretations in

the natural world all around me. Sunsets, landscapes, the ocean, clouds, animals and humans – all of these began taking on a wondrous, fantastic colorful glow. I became more aware of how Bok singularly achieved a perfect balance between the details of his subject and the light in which it is portrayed.

Within the pages of this book I was able to re-experience the *sense of wonder* that I first felt decades ago when I discovered Bok's artwork on the cover of a pulp magazine. And, I was reminded unequivocally that of all of the illustrators whose work I admire, Hannes Bok is my favorite.

I hope that everyone who reads this review will be inspired to add a copy of *Hannes Bok – A Life in Illustration* to their reading and reference library.



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In Other STF News

Antares Rocket Explodes on Pad

“An Antares rocket exploded during launch at 6:22 EDT at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The unmanned rocket was meant to carry supplies to the International Space Station. Its launch was postponed from October 27 because a sailboat had entered the restricted area down range. Initial reports indicate that damage only occurred to the rocket and launchpad.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – October 28, 2014)

SpaceShipTwo Crashes

“Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo crashed in the Mojave Desert after reporting an in-flight anomaly during a test flight. Two pilots were on-board and witnesses reported seeing at least one parachute. One of the two pilots on board was killed and the other injured. Virgin Galactic had hoped that SpaceShipTwo would have made its first extra-atmospheric flight by the end of the year.”

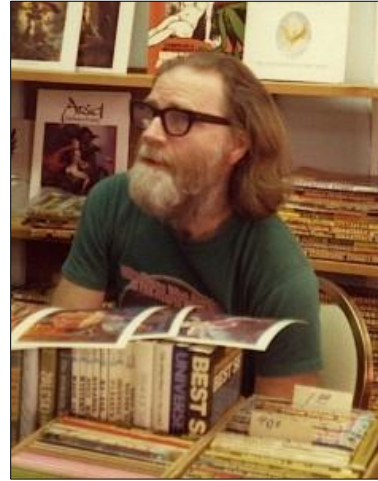
(Reprinted from SF Site News – October 31, 2014)

Comet Touchdown

“The Philae Lander has touched down on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, marking the first landing on a comet. The Philae was part of the Rosetta mission launched by the European Space Agency. Philae took about seven hours to cross from Rosetta to the comet before it touched down and launched harpoons into the comet’s head to anchor itself. Armed with ten instruments, Philae will help scientists learn more about comets.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – November 12, 2014)

University of Iowa Libraries to Digitize Rusty Hevelin’s Fanzine Collection



Rusty Hevelin at a Boskone in the 1970s
(Photograph by Andrew Porter)

“Over 10,000 fanzines in the Rusty Hevelin collection will be scanned and incorporated into the [UI Libraries’ DIY History interface](#). Hevelin’s collection was donated to the University of Iowa Libraries after his death in 2011.

Peter Balestrieri, curator of SF and popular culture collections, writes:

We’re starting with the earliest from the 1930s and going up to 1950. That gives us First Fandom and Golden Age plus post-war. We’re inviting a select group of fans (not sure yet who’ll they’ll be) to help transcribe the text of these fanzines in an apa-style working group.

The transcription will enable the UI Libraries to construct a full-text searchable fanzine resource, with links to authors, editors, and topics, while protecting privacy and copyright by limiting access to the full set of page images. To learn more about the project, visit [here](#).”

(Thanks to Jack Robins for providing the original newspaper article, which has also been reprinted here from File 770 – October 17, 2014)

Orion Mission Successful

“The first flight of Orion successfully launched, orbited, splashed down on December 5. Orion completed two orbits of the Earth, including one at a distance of 3600 miles, more than 15 times higher than the International Space Station orbits.

This is the first time a spaceship designed for humans has traveled that far from Earth since the Apollo missions. Four hours after launch, Orion splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean.”

Visit here [For more information...](#)

(Adapted from SF Site News – December 5, 2014)

Arthur Machen Collection at Risk

“The public library at Newport Gwent houses the best public collection of Arthur Machen’s work in the UK. The library is now under threat of closure. The Friends of Arthur Machen literary society is very concerned about this and is joining a campaign against the closure. Add your voice to those urging the local council to protect the library and the collection. Please consider following [this link](#) to the Council’s online consultation document. Go to the second page where you can leave comments.

Or, write courteously to Bob Bright (Leader of Newport City Council) via [this electronic form \(scroll down to view\)](#).”

(Adapted from Ansible 329 – December 2014)

Munsey Award, 2014

“The *Munsey Award* for promotional and research work related to pulp magazines and dime novels has been presented to J. Randolph Cox.”

(Reprinted from Ansible 328 – November 2014)

The 2014 Medalist for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters

“In recognition of her transformative impact on American literature, **Ursula K. Le Guin** is the 2014 recipient of the National Book Foundation’s Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.”

“Ursula K. Le Guin has had an extraordinary impact on several generations of readers and, particularly, writers in the United States and around the world,” said the Foundation’s Executive Director, Harold Augenbraum. “Le Guin has shown how great writing will obliterate the antiquated—and never really valid—line between popular and literary art. Her influence will be felt for decades to come.”

(From the website of the National Book Foundation)

To read her acceptance speech visit: www.ursulaklequin.com/UKL_info.html. (Courtesy of Ansible 329 – December 2014)

Goodreads Choice Awards, 2014

Best Fantasy of 2014:

The Book of Life by Deborah Harkness

Best Science Fiction of 2014:

The Martian by Andy Weir

Best Horror of 2014:

Prince Lestat by Anne Rice

(Abridged from File 770 – December 2, 2014)

SF & Fantasy Translation Awards

“The *Science Fiction and Fantasy Translation Awards*: these, with the Association for the Recognition of Excellence in SF & F Translation, are closing down owing to lack of time and of volunteers. ([30 October](#))”

(Reprinted from Ansible 328 – November 2014)

Nostalgia Packs

Amazon is offering something new for Kindle: so-called Megapacks. These are collections of stories, usually single-author collections. Some of those available include collections of stories by Philip K. Dick, Harry Harrison, Frederic Brown, H. Beam Piper, Clifford Simak, Andre Norton, Robert Sheckley, and many others.

In addition, there are “theme” megapacks including time travel, space opera, and “golden age” science fiction. If you’d like to complete your collection of stories by your favorite authors or of things you missed when they first came out, here’s your chance

Of course, you need a Kindle to read them, but you can download them to your computer and read them using a conversion program. You may also be able to read them on your smartphone, or on a tablet. I get them on an Android tablet as well as on my Kindle.

(Thanks to Joe Martino for this technical update)

Lunacon Hiatus

“The Lunacon Board of Directors has decided that the venerable con will take a year’s hiatus. Individuals who have purchased memberships for the 2015 Lunacon will be contacted and offered the option of receiving a refund or transferring memberships to Lunacon 2016 the weekend of March 18-20. Although the current plan is to return to their traditional hotel, the venue may be changed. Lunacon was founded in 1957.

For information: info@lunacon.org.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – November 10, 2014)

“New” Asimov Essay

“The *MIT Technology Review* has published a previously un-published essay written by Isaac Asimov from 1959 in which Asimov discusses creativity. The essay was originally published when Asimov was briefly working on an ARPA project, but left because he didn’t want to have access to confidential material.”

More information: [Read the essay...](#)

(Reprinted from SF Site News – October 22, 2014)

A Message from Mars

“The British Film Institute and the BBC have worked together to restore the 1913 silent film *A Message from Mars*, a 68-minute film believed to be the first science fiction film made in Britain and to include the first depiction of Martians in a British film.

The movie is a version of Charles Dickens’s novel *A Christmas Carol*, with a Martian taking the place of the Christmas ghosts. The movie starred Charles Hawtrey and was remade in 1921.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – December 14, 2014)

73rd World Science Fiction Convention

[Progress Report #1](#) (May 2014)

[Progress Report #2](#) (Aug 2014)

MARCH 2015 ISSUE

Our next Original Member Spotlight will profile artist **Murphy Anderson!**

FIRST FANDOM PHOTO GALLERY (1939)



**L-R: Russ Hodgkins and Walt Daugherty
(Los Angeles, CA – September 1939)
(From the Collection of Walter J. Daugherty)**



**Catherine and L. Sprague de Camp
(Honeymoon, 1939)
(From the Collection of Forrest J Ackerman)**



**L-R: William L. Crawford, Paul Freehafer,
Myrtle R. Douglas and Mary Corrine Patti
Gray. Los Angeles, CA (November 1939).
(Photograph by Charles D. Hornig, notations by
Forrest J Ackerman. Provided by John L. Coker III)**

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