

SCIENTIFUNCTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction
New Series #44, 2nd Quarter 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 1: First Fandom Awards, 2015
- P. 2: Remembering Art Widner
- P. 4: Birthdays and Necrology
- P. 7: Bob Peterson's STF Donation
- P. 8: Scientifiction News Flash
- P. 9: Windy City Convention Report
- P. 10: Original Member Spotlight
- P. 12: Member Contact Information
- P. 12: First Fan News, Book Watch
- P. 13: Member Correspondence File
- P. 14: In Memorium: Christopher Lee

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS FOR 2015

Thanks to everyone who nominated and voted for award candidates this year. The results will be announced at the beginning of the Hugo Awards Ceremony at the Spokane Worldcon!

For several decades, First Fandom's awards have often been presented at various regional conventions. Due to the efforts of several First Fandom members (including Steve Francis), our annual awards have returned to their traditional home: the Worldcon.

MEMBERSHIP DUES HAVE INCREASED

In order to meet the increasing costs of operating our organization, the **annual membership dues have increased to \$15** starting July 2015.

Please send your check (payable to Keith Stokes) as soon as possible to 14305 W. 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS - 66215. Thank you for your support.

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this issue, we look at Robert A. Madle and his life-long STF career.

NECROLOGY

We sadly acknowledge the passing of Patrick Atkins, Stan Freberg, Irwin Hasen, Sir Christopher Lee, Tanith Lee, Ib Melchior, Chuck Miller, Leonard Nimoy, Sir Terry Pratchett, Peggy Rae Sapienza, Bernice Steadman, Herb Trimp, Grace Lee Whitney and Arthur L. Widner, Jr.

BIRTHDAYS

The list of July-September birthdays in this issue is based on information originally compiled by Andy Porter.

CORRECTION

We regret misidentifying the name of one of the nominees on the recent ballot for the First Fandom Awards. It should have been listed as "Julian May" (and not as Julian May Dikty).

CLOSING

We are interested in contributions from our members for future issues of the newsletter. Please send your news items, convention reports, book, TV and movie reviews, and correspondence for the next issue, which will be distributed in late-September. Have a great summer!

John L. Coker III

IN MEMORIAM: ARTHUR L. WIDNER, JR.**By Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Editor**

Art Widner, an original member of First Fandom and one of the founders of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), was born September 16, 1917. He was a science fiction (SF) fan most of his life, credited with organizing the first fan club in Boston, The Stranger Club, in 1940. One of the pioneers of Boston fandom, he chaired Boskone I (1941) and Boskone II (1942), the first two Boston SF cons. He was also one of only five people who attended Boskone IV.



Art Widner (Chicago, 1940)
Second World Science Fiction Convention
(Background: Olin F. Wiggins, Lew Martin)
(Photograph provided by Robert A. Madle)

In the early days of SF fandom, he edited and published the clubzine *FanFare*, put on the first proto-Boskones, and invented the first SF board Game, *Interplanetary*. While the game was never published commercially, handmade versions were played at Boskone III and many other conventions.

As a member of the N3F, he edited the club fanzine *Bonfire* in 1941 and again in 1944, and was club president in 1947. His *FanFare* had published Damon Knight's "Unite or Fie!" -- the article that was the

beginning of the N3F -- in the October, 1940 issue. He published over 160 fanzines, the longest running of which was *YHOS* (1940-1945 and 1979-2001).

Widner briefly ran Bodacious Publications and published Poll Cat. He investigated the Pseucid, and was a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association's Brain Trust. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Fantasy Foundation, as appointed by Forrest J Ackerman.

His fandom awards were many. He was honored with the Big Heart Award in 1989, was the 1991 DUFF delegate (Australia, New Zealand) and, in 2001, was selected as Past President of the Fan Writers of America (2000). He was Fan Guest of Honor at Noreascon 3. Art was nominated for 1946 Best Fan Writer Retro Hugo at L.A.con III in 1996.

Widner received a Special Lifetime Achievement Award at Corflu in 2011. Also in 2011, he was honored with the FAAn Lifetime Achievement Award. Notably, ArtCon and ArtCon Millennium Edition were both held in his honor.

Art was a long-time member of FAPA, and in 2014 was made its first Life Member. On August 19, 2011, while at Renovation, he claimed to be the World's Oldest Living Fan. Among his other GoHships: 1983, Norwescon VI; 1990, Westercon 43, Minicon 25; 1999, Corflu 16; 2007, Ditto 19.

He attended the first Worldcon in New York in 1939, and the next four, in Chicago (1940), Denver (1941), Los Angeles (1946) and Philcon (1947). At these conventions he

participated in the masquerade competitions, in 1941 as “Old Granny” from *Slan*. Now that Art has passed away, only four people remain alive who attended the first Worldcon: Bob Madle, Dave Kyle, Erle Korshak and Jack Robins.

Widner drove to the Chicago Worldcon in a 1928 Dodge, the “Skylark of WooWoo.” He made a cross-country trek to Denvention I – the Widneride -- in the FooFoo Special, a car without a trunk.



Skylark of WooWoo

L-R: Dale Tarr, Art Widner, Gertrude Kuslan, Ross Rocklynn. Second World SF Con (Chicago, 1940)
(Photograph by Charles D. Hornig)

Widner married during World War II, then was drafted into the service. However, because he “volunteered” to be a technician / guinea pig at the newly formed Climatic Research Lab in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he still got to go home for visits nearly every weekend. His fanac slowed while he was in the military and later ground to a halt when he moved his family to Los Angeles in 1948. It was at that time that he gafiated completely.

Signifying his disappearance from fandom, although he is constantly mentioned (with his photo included) in Harry Warner’s 1940s history of fandom, *All Our Yesterdays*, and is

referenced in Sam Moskowitz’s earlier *The Immortal Storm*, he doesn’t have a single listing in the index of Warner’s history of fandom in the 1950s, *A Wealth of Fable*. In fact, Widner didn’t reappear in fandom until the late 1970s.

In 1979 he resurrected his former perzine, *YHOS*, as a genzine. *YHOS* was one of the longest running fanzines ever published. First published in 1940, Widner is well known for ceasing publication of *YHOS* for more than thirty years before becoming an important part of fanzine fandom again in the 1980s and 1990s. He also contributed the chapter, “Wartime Fandom,” to Joe Sanders’ informative book, *Science Fiction Fandom* (1994).

Widner’s literary output, on the other hand, was limited to a single prozine sale, “The Perfect Incinerator” (under the pen name of Arthur Lambert) that appeared in the Winter, 1942, issue of Robert Lowndes’ *Science Fiction Quarterly*. Widner had several LoCs published in the prozines, including ones in *Amazing*, *Weird Tales*, and *Unknown*.

In Warner’s *All Our Yesterdays* (1969), Widner’s many activities in fandom are described, including a poll he took in the mid-1940s that produced many esoteric facts about the average SF fan: his hat size, his principal blood group, and the discovery that his grandparents were significantly older than many of the grandparents of mundanes.

Art Widner, who often signed his correspondence as R. Twidner, died April 17, 2015. At the time of his death he was serving First Fandom as our West Coast Vice President.

BIRTHDAYS**July**

- 1 – Otis Adelbert Kline
- 2 – Hugh Rankin, Hannes Bok
- 3 – E. Hoffman Price, William Rotsler
- 5 – Howard V. Brown
- 6 – William C. Martin, Rick Sneary
- 7 – Robert A. Heinlein
- 8 – Hans Steffan Santesson
- 9 – Murphy Anderson
- 10 – Julian May
- 11 – Hugh B. Cave, Roy Krenkel
- 12 – James Gunn, Joseph Mugnaini
- 16 – Paul Freehafer, Robert Sheckley
- 23 – Virgil Finlay, Cyril Kornbluth
- 24 – Lord Dunsany, Lee Brown Coye
- 30 – C.C. Senf

August

- 1 – Raymond A. Palmer, Edd Cartier
- 3 – Clifford D. Simak
- 9 – Jack Speer, Frank M. Robinson
- 10 – Curt Siodmak, Ward Moore
- 11 – Jack Binder, Ben P. Indick
- 15 – Bjo Trimble, Darrell K. Sweet
- 16 – Hugo Gernsback, Earle Bergey
- 18 – Brian W. Aldiss
- 19 – H.W. Wesso, Gene Roddenberry
- 20 – H.P. Lovecraft
- 21 – Anthony Boucher
- 22 – Ray Bradbury
- 26 – Otto Binder
- 27 – Frank Kelly Freas
- 28 – Jack Vance
- 29 – Robert Weinberg
- 30 – Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly
- 31 – Phil Bronson

September

- 1 – Edgar Rice Burroughs
- 4 – Robert W. Lowndes
- 6 – Groff Conklin
- 7 – Gerry de la Ree
- 10 – William Crawford
- 11 – Roy Squires
- 12 – Walter B. Gibson
- 16 – Art Widner
- 19 – Damon Knight
- 21 – H.G. Wells
- 24 – Jack Gaughan, John Brunner

NECROLOGY***Patrick H. Atkins (b.1948)***

“Author Patrick H. Adkins died on April 7. In 1974, Adkins, a lifelong fan of Burroughs, published *Edgar Rice Burroughs Bibliography and Price Guide*. His first novel, *Lord of the Crooked Paths*, appeared in 1987. In 2001, he published the collection *Forgotten Tales of Love and Murder* of uncollected Burroughs stories through the Tarzana Project, which he founded with John H. Guidry. He also served as editor of the New Orleans SF Association fanzine, *NOLAZine*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – April 9, 2015)

Stan Freberg (b.1926)

“Revered satirist and actor Stan Freberg died April 7 at the age of 88. His body of work included more than 400 voiceovers for Warner Bros. animation, comedy albums, shows like *Time for Beany* and *The Chun King Comedy Hour*, and funny commercials for which he won 21 Clio Awards. He was inducted into National Radio Hall of Fame (1995).

In the Sixties, Freberg put his friend Ray Bradbury in one of his *Sunsweet Prunes* commercials. Freberg’s narrator praises Ray’s power to predict the future as Ray repeatedly interrupts, “But I never mentioned prunes in any of my stories!”

The two friends had a reunion in the aisles at the 2009 Comic Con when Freberg was 82 and Bradbury was 88. A few years later, Freberg was among the speakers at Comic Con’s Bradbury memorial (2012).”

(Adapted from an article in File 770 – April 11, 2015)

Irwin Hasen (b.1919)

“*Dondi* co-creator and artist Irwin Hasen died March 13 at the age of 96. A comic strip about a war orphan, *Dondi* was co-written with Gus Edson and ran in more than 100 newspapers from 1955 to 1986. While in the Army he managed the *Fort Dix Post* newspaper.

He also had a long Golden Age career working on *Green Lantern*, and co-creating *Wildcat* and *Wonder Woman* covers. He met Alfred Bester when Bester was writing Green Lantern stories.”

(Summarized from File 770 – March 17, 2015)

Tanith Lee (b.1947)

“Author Tanith Lee died on May 24. Lee began publishing with the short story “Eustace” in 1968. She went on to write numerous novels, including the five volume “Tales From The Flat Earth” sequence, the Birthgrave trilogy, and “The Secret Books of Paradys” sequence.

She was nominated for the Nebula twice, for *Birthgrave* and “Red As Blood,” as well as numerous World Fantasy and British Fantasy nominations, becoming the first woman to win the British Fantasy Award for Best Novel for *Death’s Master*. She won back-to-back World Fantasy Best Short Story Awards in 1983 and 1984 and received that organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News - May 26, 2015)

Ib Melchior (b.1917)

“Danish author Ib Melchior died on March 13. Melchior wrote the short story “The Racer,” which was the

basis for the films *Death Race 2000* and *Death Race*. In addition to two novels, he wrote screenplays for *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*, *Journey to the Seventh Planet*, and two episodes of the Hugo-nominated *Men Into Space*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – March 17, 2015)

Chuck Miller (b.1953)

“Bookseller and publisher Chuck Miller died on May 24. Miller ran a used bookstore in Pennsylvania before teaming up with Tim Underwood to found the publishing company Underwood-Miller in 1976.

The two published several books, beginning with a reprint of Jack Vance’s *The Dying Earth* before disbanding the company in 1994. Their final project was a reissue of *The Dying Earth*. They also published works by L. Sprague de Camp, Harlan Ellison, and Philip K. Dick. Miller self-published the novel *Blood of the Centipede* in 2012.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – May 26, 2015)

Leonard Nimoy (b.1931)

“Actor Leonard Nimoy died on February 27. Nimoy was best known for his role as Mr. Spock in the original *Star Trek*, as well as the movies based on the series. He also directed the films *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* and *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*.

In addition to his work on Star Trek, Nimoy was the long-time host of *In Search of...* and appeared in such films as *Zombies of the Stratosphere* and *Them!*. Prior to appearing on *Star Trek*, Nimoy had a recurring role on *Sea Hunt*. He appeared in

episodes of *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – February 27, 2015)

Terry Pratchett (b.1948)

“Author Sir Terry Pratchett died on March 12 surrounded by his family. For the past several years, he had suffered from Alzheimer’s. Pratchett is best known for the long-running Discworld novels, but had also been co-authoring the Long Earth series with Stephen Baxter. His other works include *The Nome Trilogy*, *Johnny and the Dead*, and *Good Omens*, written with Neil Gaiman.

In addition to his knighthood, Pratchett won the Andre Norton Award, the BSFA Award, the Skylark, World Fantasy Lifetime Achievement Award, and others.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News - March 12, 2015)

Peggy Rae Sapienza (b.1944)

“Peggy Rae Sapienza (b.Peggy Rae McKnight) died on March 22, about a month after undergoing heart surgery. Peggy Rae, who was married to Bob Pavlat from 1963-1983 and to John Sapienza from 1999 until her death, chaired Bucconeer, the 1998 Worldcon.

She was long active in con-running and fanzine publishing. She was a driving force behind much of Washington and Baltimore fandom, and chaired or co-chaired several recent Nebula Award Weekends. Peggy Rae helped create the modern exhibition concourse at Worldcons and in 2012, she was the fan guest of honor at Chicon 7.”

[Peggy Rae's bio at Chicon 7](#)

(Reprinted from SF Site News – March 23, 2015)

Bernice Steadman (born c.1925)

“Mercury 13 member Bernice Steadman died on March 18. She was one of the thirteen women who volunteered, and successfully passed all of the physiological tests performed on Mercury 7 astronauts. She met her future husband in 1957, when he took flying lessons from her at a flight school that she owned. Steadman was the first woman to receive an Airline Transport Rating, and was considered as an astronaut candidate before NASA abandoned the idea of women astronauts.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – March 20, 2015)

Herb Trimpe (b.1939)

“Artist Herb Trimpe died on April 13. Trimpe worked on *The Incredible Hulk* in the 1960s and 70s and became the first person to draw *Wolverine* for publication. He also drew for *Captain America* and *The Defenders*. In 2002, he won an Inkpot Award and The Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award for work he did as a chaplain at the World Trade Center following the 9/11 attacks.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – April 14, 2015)

Grace Lee Whitney (b.1930)

“Actress Grace Lee Whitney died on May 1. Whitney portrayed Ensign Janice Rand on *Star Trek* and in several of the films, as well as an episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*. She also appeared opposite Vincent Price in *House of Wax* (1953) and in an episode of *The Outer Limits* and as one of King Tut’s henchwomen in two episodes of *Batman*. Prior to her roles on television, she toured with Spike Jones’ Orchestra.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News - May 3, 2015)

ROBERT C. PETERSON DONATES STF MATERIAL TO FIRST FANDOM ARCHIVES

For years, Bob Peterson wanted to make certain that his most important STF-related material would be cared for and made available for research. This included pamphlets, photos and long runs of early fanzines, some of which had belonged to his friends Olon T. Wiggins and Roy V. Hunt from the Colorado Fantasy Society. Last month, Bob and his son Alan sent a carefully-wrapped and fully insured package of some of this material to First Fandom's Archives.

Among items that Bob donated:

Several Worldcon Program Books (Denvention, Discon, and Chicon 6)

His personal set of the long-running fanzine BOB'S NOTES

How to Build Rocket ships (1935)

Fanciful Tales (1936)

Science Fiction Fan (1936)

Sci Fi Fan (1936, 1940)

The Science Fiction Classics Series

Garden of Fear by Robert E. Howard

Really Incomplete Bob Tucker

Horizons by Harry Warner

Science Fiction Advertiser (assorted)

Erg Quarterly (assorted)

Sci Fi Times (May 1962, June 1967, April 1969)

Sci Fi Series #13, 15

Phantasy Press #66

Le Zombie (assorted)

Scrapbook of favorite pulp magazine covers compiled by Roy V. Hunt



The Robert C. Peterson Collection

This material is now housed in the First Fandom Archives. If someone (who is working on a project) needs some original source material, they may contact us for scans or copies.



L-R: Several of Bob's good friends: Stan and Sophia Mullen, Forrest J Ackerman.



L-R: Bob Peterson and Jack Williamson (Photos from Bob Peterson's Collection)

Our sincere thanks are extended to Bob for his generosity and support.

We are always interested in hearing from other members who may wish to make a donation of photos, letters, fanzines, badges and pins, program books and any other pieces that they have accumulated over the decades.

SCIENTIFICTION NEWS FLASH***Niven Named SFWA Grand Master***

“SFWA has announced that Larry Niven will be named the Damon Knight Grand Master. Niven began publishing in 1964 and has won the Nebula Award, multiple Hugo Awards, the Ditmar, Seiun, and Prometheus Awards. Presentation will be made at the Nebula Awards Weekend in Chicago, June 4-7.”

[For more information...](#)

(Summarized from SF Site News - 2 March 2015)

Worden Steps Down as Director of NASA's Ames Research Center

“Simon “Pete” Worden, director of NASA's Ames Research Center, has [announced he is retiring](#). He funded Gregory and Jim Benfords' [Starship Century book](#) and [conference](#), together with UCSD. He spent the last nine years at Ames and during that time, he told *Space News* –

We have launched dozens of small, low-cost satellites for the emerging commercial space launch sector and hosted thousands of students.”

(Summarized from File 770 – February 28, 2015)

Remembering David Rike

Last issue, we announced the passing of First Fandom member, David Rike. On March 6, SF Site News published an obituary notice about David with more information:

“David Rike became active in fandom in the 1950s, co-editing the fanzine *Innuendo*, with Terry Carr and, along with Carr, created the hoax fan Carl Brandon.

Rike helped popularize the propeller beanie as a symbol of fandom. He also worked on *The Incomplete Burbee* and helped build the original Bheer Can Tower to the Moon.”

(Summarized from SF Site News – March 6, 2015)

Haldeman's FOREVER WAR May Not Take Forever to Reach Screen After All

“Warner Bros. has outbid Sony [for the rights to Joe Haldeman's *The Forever War*](#) reports *Deadline.com*.

Richard Edlund, who had the rights for 27 years, moved on after the project had been in development for seven years at Fox with Ridley Scott. The project shifted over in the past month to [Channing] Tatum's Free Association production company and Roy Lee's Vertigo Entertainment. They will produce along with Edlund and [Louis Tedesco](#) who brought the project to Lee on behalf of Edlund.

Jon Spaihts will write the script based on Haldeman's book, a 1976 Hugo and Nebula winner.”

(Adapted from original article in File 770 – May 1)

Virgil Finlay Inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame

“Artist Virgil Finlay has been inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame. Finlay was one of the pre-eminent illustrators in the science fiction field. In 1953, Finlay won the first Hugo Award for Interior Illustrator and he was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2012. Last year, in honor of the centennial of his birth, *The Collectors' Book of Virgil Finlay* was published by American Fantasy Press.” [For more information...](#)

(Summarized from SF Site News – May 6, 2015)

AWARDS NEWS*Prometheus Awards*

"The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced that Harlan Ellison's story "'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman" will receive its Hall of Fame Award. It will be presented on May 9 at Marcon, where F. Paul Wilson will also receive a Lifetime Achievement Award."

(Reprinted from SF Site News - April 21, 2015)

Franson Award

"George Phillis has received the Donald Franson Award from the president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, in recognition of his outstanding service to the N3F."

(Adapted from SF Site News - April 20, 2015)

Solstice Awards

"SFWA has announced that Joanna Russ and Stanley Schmidt will be this year's recipients of the Solstice Awards at the 50th Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held June 4-7. Russ is being honored as a fiction writer, mentor, teacher, editor, and critic. Schmidt is being recognized for his 34 years as editor of *Analog*."

(Reprinted from SF Site News - April 3, 2015)

2014 Bram Stoker Award Winners

"The Bram Stoker Awards ceremony was held during the World Horror Convention in Atlanta on May 9. Among the other awards announced:

Grandmaster: William F. Nolan
Lifetime Achievement: Jack Ketchum
Lifetime Achievement: Tanith Lee."

[For more information...](#)

(Summarized from File 770 - May 9, 2015)

**CONVENTION REPORT
(BY JOHN L. COKER III)***Windy City Pulp and Paper Convention*

The 15th annual show was held in Lombard, IL on April 16-19, 2015.

This was the third year in a row that I have attended and, as always, I had a great time. There are three things that I like very much about this show: Getting to see our friends each year, enjoying great hospitality at a well-run event, and experiencing the quality of an excellent dealers' room.

This year, attendees celebrated the 125th anniversary of the birth of H.P. Lovecraft. The impressive art show featured scores of original paintings by Virgil Finlay and other artists.

Randy Broecker gave a presentation about "The Art of H.P. Lovecraft." Stephen Jones, Robert Weinberg and Stuart David Schiff discussed "Collecting H.P. Lovecraft." Art Scott made a presentation on "The Art of Robert McGinnis." Anthony Tollin moderated a panel discussion on "The Street and Smith Comics."

There were Lovecraft-related films shown throughout the weekend.

During the 2-day auction, more than 500 lots of material were sold, including hundreds of high-grade magazines from Jerry Weist's estate.

It was nice spending time with other enthusiasts, including Doug Ellis, the Weinbergs, Audrey Parente, Tom Lesser, Steve Korshak, Phyllis and Alex Eisenstein, Will Murray, Greg Ketter, Mark Hickman, Scott V. Norris, L.W. Currey, Dave Aronovitz.

For information about next year: www.windycitypulpandpaper.com.

**ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
ROBERT A. MADLE**

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

Bob Madle was born June 2, 1920, in Philadelphia. After service in World War II, where he met his future wife Billie, he attended Drexel Institute and received a bachelor's degree on the GI Bill (and then later attended night school for an MBA).

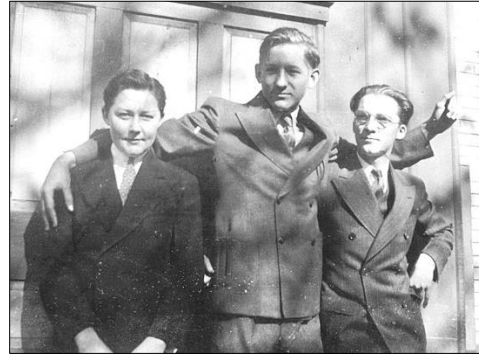
He started reading at a very young age, collected boy's books, was a fan of Burroughs and Buck Rogers, and began reading magazine science fiction with *Wonder Stories*, the December, 1930 and April, 1931 issues. Around this time he was friends with David A. Kyle, and both were writing letters to the magazine fan columns. Madle wrote many such letters and had a half-dozen of them published in *Astounding*.



Early meeting of the Philadelphia Science Fiction League (1937). Standing, L-R: Oswald Train, John V. Baltadonis and Bernard Quinn. Seated, L-R: Jack Agnew, Charles Bert and Robert A. Madle.

In 1934 Madle formed the Boys' Science Fiction Club with fellow fans Harvey Greenblatt, John V. Baltadonis, and Jack Agnew. The following year, his first letter appeared in the July, 1935, issue of the pulp magazine *Pirate Stories*, published by Hugo Gernsback. In

his letter he suggested that *Pirate Stories* publish a story about a space pirate of the future and that Edmond Hamilton should write it. His letter won him a year's subscription to *Wonder Stories*. He was only 14 years old at the time.



L-R: Agnew, Baltadonis and Madle
Philadelphia, 1937

In October 1936, some of the New York Futurians took the train to Philadelphia, where they were met by Madle, Milt Rothman, and Oswald Train. Later they were joined by Baltadonis and other Philadelphia fans. This meeting has become known as the first ever SF convention. A photograph of some members of the group, including Madle, appears in Frederik Pohl's autobiographical book, *The Way the Future Was*, published in 1979.



SF Conference (Philadelphia, 1937). Standing, L-R: Donald A. Wollheim, Robert A. Madle, Richard Wilson, Sam Moskowitz, David A. Kyle, Daniel C. Burford, Julius Schwartz and Lee Blatt. Kneeling, L-R: Robert G. Thompson, Edward Landberg, Jack Gillespie, James V. Turasi and Oswald Train.

At the first Worldcon in New York (July 1939), Madle was selected by Wollheim to represent Pennsylvania. Because of the infamous Exclusion Act, Wollheim himself was not able to attend, but Madle did.



L-R: Robert A. Madle, Manly Wade Wellman
(1939 Worldcon - Photo by Conrad H. Ruppert)

Madle and several other fans visited Coney Island on July 4th and they had a group photograph made there.



Science Fiction Fans at Coney Island (July, 1939)
(Front, L-R: Mark Reinsberg, Jack Agnew, Ross Rocklynne. Rear, L-R: V. Kidwell, Robert A. Madle, Erle M. Korshak, Ray Bradbury)

Madle was the first TAFF winner (1957) and published *A Fake Fan in London* as his trip report. Bob was inducted into St. Fantasy in a special ceremony at the 1957 Convention.

Bob's other fan publications include *Fantascience Digest*, *Fantasy-Fiction Telegram*, *Fanzine Review*, and *PSFS News*. For the prozines he wrote a column, "Inside Science Fiction." Madle was also distributor of the British prozine *Nebula*.

Bob's Guest of Honor appearances, awards, and many other honors over the years include the following:

1974, Big Heart Award; 1977, FGoH, Suncon; 1982, GoH at Lunacon; 1990, elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame; 1990, Special Guest, Boskone 33; 2002, First Fandom's Sam Moskowitz Archive Award; 2012, GoH at Philcon 2012.



Fan Guest of Honor
1977 Worldcon

Bob is also credited with naming the Hugo Award, and was treasurer of Philcon II (1953). In 2014, Madle was nominated for a Retro Hugo Award for *Fantascience Digest*.



Forrest J Ackerman and Robert A. Madle
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

For many years Bob has been a highly respected book dealer, specializing in rare science fiction and fantasy books and magazines.

The sole remaining founder of First Fandom, Robert A. Madle was also its first president for twenty-five years. He currently serves our organization as President Emeritus.

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATIONNew Mailing address

Dr. Paul A. Carter
 c/o Bruce Carter
 10471 E. Tiger Tail Drive
 Kingman, AZ - 86401

New Mailing address

William L. Hamling
 La Vida Real
 11588 Via Rancho San Diego
 Rancho San Diego, CA - 92019
 Tel: (619) 660-5778

Corrected E-Mail address

Catherine Mintz
cmintz@catherine-mintz.com

FIRST FAN NEWS*Birthday Wishes*

We send our congratulations and all best wishes to one of the original members of First Fandom, **Robert C. Peterson** of Denver, who just celebrated his 94th birthday May 3rd.

Heard Recently on TV's Jeopardy!

M. Lockhart recently provided this update from the episode that aired on February 27th. The final answer:

"This author had a bitter feud with Michael Moore over the title of a 2004 documentary."

Question: "Who is Ray Bradbury?"
 (Both Lockhart and the winning contestant -- Jose -- got it right.)

(Editor's Note: A few months ago, all three *Final Jeopardy!* contestants failed to identify Isaac Asimov as the author of the Foundation Series.)

Another Jeopardy! Update

On July 2, Tom Galloway reported in File 770 that "SF/fantasy/comics writer [Alex Irvine](#) won Wednesday's episode of *Jeopardy!* with \$26,000."

RUSTY'S FANZINE COLLECTION

Here is information about how the University of Iowa is working to digitize thousands of pieces of the material that Rusty Hevelin donated:

<http://hevelincollection.tumblr.com/>

(We extend thanks to **Gay Haldeman** for sharing this update about Rusty.)

BOOK WATCH

The Man from Mars: Ray Palmer's Amazing Pulp Journey by Fred Nadis. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher / Penguin, 2013.

<http://www.penguin.com/book/the-man-from-mars-by-fred-nadis/9780399168840>

War Over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction by Richard Toronto (McFarland & Company, Inc., 2013).

<http://www.mcfarlandbooks.com/book-2.php?id=978-0-7864-7307-6>

For additional information about [Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer](#), here is an interview with Long John Nebel on [Party Line](#), from 1956:

<http://archive.org/details/LongJohnNebelInterviewsRichardShaverAndRayPalmer>

(Thanks to stf historian **Christopher M. O'Brien** for the information about **Ray Palmer and Richard Shaver**.)

MEMBER CORRESPONDENCE FILE

We heard recently from **Dr. Alice Becker**, who is looking forward to starting her gardening in Bronxville, New York, as soon as the weather permits. She has enjoyed comments from readers regarding the book she published of sonnets written by her late husband, A. Langley Searles.

Bruce Carter writes:

"I would like to update membership in First Fandom on behalf of my father, Paul A. Carter. He was introduced to First Fandom by David Kyle back at ConJose.

Paul has been an avid SF reader and participant since the late 1930's. His first published fan letter was to *Astounding* in January 1940, regarding the serialized story "Slan" (which ran in late 1939). Paul has recently moved to Kingman AZ, where I can now take better care of him in his advancing age (he is 88)."

(We were glad to hear that Paul is doing well. Annual dues checks for \$15 can be sent payable to Keith W. Stokes to: 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215.

Jim Emerson writes:

"In the pages of FUTURES PAST we will be covering, in unprecedented detail, the birth and development of modern science fiction from 1926-75.

Unlike other science fiction reference works which offer a mere page or two to a given year, we will be devoting an entire volume to each year. This will not only include comprehensive coverage of all the books, films and magazines published, but also in-depth review of less prominent topics such as

early fandom, conventions, fanzines, old time sf radio plays and serials, as well as extensive consideration to international science fiction.

The first installment of FUTURES PAST (*1926: The Birth of Modern Science Fiction*) is currently available in PDF format at www.sfhhistory.net."

Mike Glycer wrote a fine appreciation of Art Widner, and it was published in File 770 (April 20). See [permalink](#).

Mike updated the article to reflect the fact that, with the passing of Art Widner, there are only four members of First Fandom left alive today who attended the first Worldcon in 1939: Robert A. Madle, David A. Kyle, Erle M. Korshak, and Jack Robins.

It was also noted that Madle, Kyle and Robins are the last remaining fans who attended the First Eastern SF Convention (the very first SF con) held in Philadelphia, October 1936.

Trying to correspond with **Margaret Ford Keifer**. The most recent issue of our newsletter was returned as "unable to forward." Can somebody provide new contact information?

Jack Lange sent in an update on his long-time friend, David A. Kyle. He said that Dave's ninety-sixth birthday celebration on Valentine's Day had to be postponed, due to the harsh winter weather in Upstate New York.

A few weeks ago, Jack and his wife Bernice finally got to ride with one of Dave's long-time English friends, Bill Burns and several colleagues to attend a delightful party hosted by Dave's daughter Kerry. Jack said that Dave is doing fine and he sends along his best wishes to everyone.

REMEMBERING SIR CHRISTOPHER LEE

“Christopher Lee, the last of the giants in the Silver Age of classic horror, passed away on June 7. *The Curse of Frankenstein* (1957) launched Lee’s association with Hammer and was the first of 20 films that he made with Peter Cushing.

Lee was cast as characters from many literary and film franchises, often playing Dracula, co-starring in the Sherlock Holmes tale *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959), appearing as Fu Manchu several times, as the hero’s nemesis in *The Three Musketeers* (1973) and in *Airport ‘77*.



Halloween Weekend, London, 1997
100th anniversary, Bram Stoker’s Dracula
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

He was the James Bond villain Scaramanga in *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974). He was Count Dooku in *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002) and its sequels. Lee was Saruman the White in the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

A favorite of director Tim Burton, Lee appeared in five of his movies. Lee was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2010 and recognized in 1995 with a Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award.”

(Reprinted from an article by Mike Glycer, originally appearing in File 770, June 11.)

FIRST FANDOM

President Emeritus and Co-Founder
Robert A. Madle - 4406 Bestor Drive,
Rockville, MD 20853 Tel: (301) 460-4712

President
John L. Coker III - 4813 Lighthouse Road,
Orlando, FL 32808 Tel: (407) 532-7555
jlcoker3@bellsouth.net

Secretary-Treasurer
Keith W. Stokes - 14305 West 83rd Place,
Lenexa, KS 66215 sfreader@sff.net

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

East Coast Vice-President
David A. Kyle - 3099 Maqua Place,
Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

EDITORIAL STAFF, SCIENTIFUNCTION

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

Editor
John L. Coker III

Special Features Editor
Jon D. Swartz - 12115 Missel Thrush Court,
Austin, TX 78750-2101
jon_swartz@hotmail.com

We acknowledge the award-winning journalism being done daily by Mike Glycer (File 770), Steven H. Silver (SF Site News), and David Langford (Ansible).



SCIENTIFUNCTION 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 permission of First Fandom. Copyright © 2015 by First Fandom and the individual contributors.