

SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction
New Series #45, 3rd Quarter 2015

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WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

The 73rd World Science Fiction Con (Sasquan) was held in Spokane, WA, during August 19-23. There were more than fifty countries represented and more than eleven thousand memberships purchased.

LINKS: AWARDS, SASQUAN PROGRAM

[2015 Hugos](#) (*Ansible* provided this link)

[Other Awards Presented at the Hugo Ceremony](#) (*File 770* provided this link)

<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/sasquan/en/items> (Sasquan Program)

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS FOR 2015

Our membership elected **Julian May** to the First Fandom Hall of Fame, and they presented **David Aronovitz** with the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award "for excellence in collecting."

Margaret Brundage, **Bruce Pelz** and **F. Orlin Tremaine** received recognition for their decades of work by being inducted into the First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame.

Steve Francis served as the Master of Ceremonies as the First Fandom Awards were first to be presented during the Hugo Awards Ceremony.

John Hertz kindly accepted the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award for recipient Julian May.

On behalf of David A. Kyle ("The Man in the Red Jacket"), Steve and Sue Francis presented the Big Heart Award for 2015 to **Ben Yalow**.

FIRST FANDOM'S WORLDCON DISPLAY

DAK's traditional display featured photo histories of First Fandom, the Big Heart Award and St. Fantony.

NEED WORLDCON REPORTS / PHOTOS

Please send any convention reports and jpg photographs from the **recent Worldcon** to jlcocker3@bellsouth.net to be included in the 4Q2015 issue!

RENEWING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

We thank the 16 members who have renewed their memberships since the last newsletter, as well as those who paid ahead! **Send \$15 dues** (payable to Keith Stokes) to: 14305 W. 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS - 66215.

IN THIS ISSUE

Contributors: David Aronovitz, John Hertz, Carolyn Hickman, Julian May, Keith W. Stokes and Jon D. Swartz.

The next newsletter will be sent out by EOY 2015. Let us hear from you!

John L. Coker III

FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME AWARD

Julian May**MAY THE FORCE BE WITH HER
BY JOHN HERTZ**

This year's Worldcon was Sasquan (*sasquatch* + *convention*), the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention, August 19-23, Spokane. President Coker telephoned inquiring if I would attend. Yes, I said, how can I help you? He asked me to accept on behalf of Julian May her election to the First Fandom Hall of Fame. She although living nearby could not attend. Certainly, I said; it will be an honor. It was and I did.

On Hugo Night after the photos and Go in Peace I stayed in white tie for the round of parties and, as is customary, carried the plaque. Some folks didn't know what First Fandom was, or weren't familiar with the emblem, or Papa Gernsback's word *Scientifiction*. I explained.

She has always spelled her name *Julian*, and after marrying T.E. Dikty (1920-1991, elected posthumously in 2013) she continued to write under the name *Julian May* — among others, including, I'm told, Wolfgang Amadeus Futslogg, by which I dare not address her.

Her fanzine was *Interim Newsletter*, rendering her to some extent a

surrogate for all of us. Her story "Dune Roller" was published in the December 1951 issue of Campbell's *Astounding*, with four interiors by herself (it was made into a 1972 film, credited to her as Judy Dikty). Eight months later she chaired Chicon II, at the age of twenty-one.

As it happened my hotel roommate at Sasquan was Tom Veal, chair of Chicon VI, her successor. Chicon II tried to call itself "TASFiC" (Tenth Annual Science Fiction Convention), Chicon VI tried to call itself "Chicon 2000", but that trick never works. Being a lawyer I could call Veal her mediate successor, but I won't.

She had a career of writing short plain things that fed interest, an ability neither small nor common. Thousands of science encyclopedia articles for three publishers. Hundreds of books, many suitable for children and many illustrated with photos or drawings, about sports, science, celebrities including Quanah and Sitting Bull, and apartheid in South Africa. *The Triple Crown* (1976) tells the stories, plenty dramatic, of all the winners through Secretariat, and you know who owned Count Fleet, don't you? *Rockets* (1967) ends "Someday it might be possible for almost anyone to leave the earth and visit another planet." She (as Ian Thorne) did book treatments of e.g. *It Came From Outer Space*, the 1953 movie from a Ray Bradbury story, her 1982 book with nine of the photos including the cover credited to Forrest J Ackerman which I find people are still reading today.

By 1985 Dikty needed 66 pages for *The Work of Julian May*.

I saw her in the Masquerade at Westercon XXIX (1976), coruscating with gems, not in competition as I recall. Only later I learned she made that costume and put it on to help her understand who would wear such clothing. She was thinking of writing about them. Beethoven once copied out a Mozart string quartet by hand to help him grasp what Mozart was doing.

Lucas' *Star Wars* is in fact set in the past, long ago in a galaxy far away. May wrote science fiction set in the past, not one million years B.C. but six times further back, four novels starting with *The Many-Colored Land* (1981) which are only the beginning of a series of eight about a Galactic Milieu through *Magnificat* (1996) — and there is a *Diamond Mask* (1994), or half-mask. John Clute says the narrative is increasingly charged with metaphysical intonations, linked to a sustaining concern with the attractive theme of psychic evolution, but I don't write like that.

I used to wonder what the trillium was until it occurred to me *Black Trillium* (1990) had three co-authors, May and Marion Zimmer Bradley (who likewise never spelled her name *Marian*) and Andre Norton (who never spelled her name *Alice*). May wrote two more, Bradley and Norton one each.

That could bring us to the Rampart Worlds, and the Boreal Moon (most recently *Sorcerer's Moon*, 2006). But this, from the 1F point of view anyhow, is recent history.

I'm a hopeful man, and I hope for more. I know few authors with whom it's not out of bounds to ask How's your new book coming? If they feel

like it they'll tell. I'd not mind even a revision to include American Pharoah (another typo that stuck).



Just about none of this came out of my mouth when I accepted the award. I had written to ask her if there was anything she wished me to say. She answered "A simple 'Thank you' to the members of First Fandom will suffice." So I said Thank you. She also told me she'd mount her plaque next to Dikty's. People die. Art lives.

IN A LETTER TO FIRST FANDOM, JULIAN MAY RECALLED THE 1952 WORLDCON:

"Local fans and pros who elected me to the con chairman job right after my "Dune Roller" novelette was published in *Astounding* got a signal surprise when I ran the con expertly.



L-R: Robert Bloch, Hugo Gernsback, Julian May, Ted Dikty, L. Sprague de Camp (Chicago, 1952)
(Photograph by Ben Jason)

The Tenth Convention was not only the best attended, it also included the big New York book publishers of SF and Fantasy taking booths for the first time, attracted most of the important professional authors and editors, had Hugo Gernsback as guest of Honor, and sweet old Doc Smith as Moon Commissioner."

**THE SAM MOSKOWITZ ARCHIVE AWARD
“FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLECTING”**

David Aronovitz

**HERE ARE THE ACCEPTANCE REMARKS
MADE BY MR. ARONOVITZ AT SASQUAN:**

“Hello, Sasquan! Are you having a good time here in ‘Smokane’ Washington?”

To all those attending your very first worldcon, I'd like to say....Welcome to the fold. What took you so long?!

My first worldcon was in Phoenix, in 1978. Likewise held in late-August. They called it Iguanacon, but to all those who came from far and wide and found themselves outside the convention area or their own hotels, it was also known as Saunacon or Shvitzcon, depending on your cultural or ethnic point of view.

Over the last thirty-seven years, I've been to many a worldcon across four different continents and I've attended many a Hugo Award Ceremony on a Saturday night, much like this one. But, this is the first time I've ever been asked to partake in one and I can tell you....It's downright exciting!

Now I'd like to thank all of those who have honored me with this award, an award which pays tribute to a most prominent member of First Fandom, MR. SAM MOSKOWITZ.

Sam not only amassed a most AMAZING, a most ASTOUNDING, a most THRILLING and WONDROUS collection of all things science fiction, but he was also chairman of the very first worldcon in New York City in 1939. And it was at worldcons just like this that Sam and I met and became friends.

I couldn't help but notice that there are many past Hugo Award Winners sitting in tonight's audience. And to you, proud owners of those rocket thingy's, I must say that I know exactly what you are thinking at this very moment. So I am going to ask you to please refrain from possibly embarrassing yourselves. That is to say, do not even THINK of asking me because I can tell you right now that the answer will be a firm and resounding NO! I will not be trading my Sammy for any of your Hugos.



**David Aronovitz, Recipient (2015)
Sam Moskowitz Archive Award**

Now....as the late Steve Jobs was so fond of saying near the end of his annual shareholders meeting, THERE'S JUST ONE MORE THING.

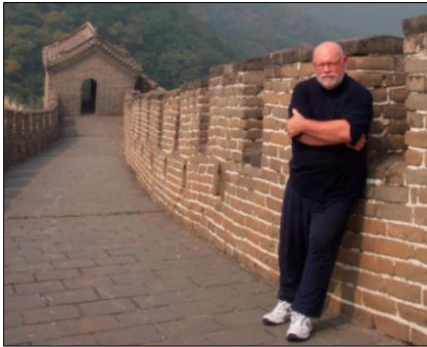
Nancy, will you please stand up? There she is, my wife of thirty-four years, who helps to make all things possible every single day. Could you please give her a hand?!

Finally, to all those Hugo nominees anxiously awaiting the culmination of tonight's ceremony, I'd like to invoke one more quote, from the late broadcast journalist, Edward R. Murrow, as I wish you, ‘Good Night and Good Luck!’”

DAVID ARONOVITZ ON “COLLECTING”

Began at the age of 8. Baseball and football cards, comics and coins. At 15, stopped collecting all three, but retained possession of them. At 21, making money for graduate school, started collecting antiques; mostly lamps of all kinds, especially whale oil lamps. At 27, then gainfully employed, thought about collecting first edition books, whatever that meant. Quickly found out the meaning and where to locate them: mail order catalogs. But where did these mail order booksellers get their books? Found out about that as well.

Sold the baseball and football cards, comics and coins. Knew the value of each when I sold them. But blind-sided by the future! Took proceeds from the sale of each and purchased books for myself. Began to pick up duplicates at what seemed very low prices. Started selling books part-time in 1979, then full-time in 1981.



(Photograph courtesy of David Aronovitz)

Now many years later, my wife and I have traveled around the world, been on every continent except Antarctica, published 19 books, have met the most fascinating people and have more stories and anecdotes to tell than any sane person could possibly endure! It has been a wonderful life....and still is!

**RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRST FANDOM
POSTHUMOUS HALL OF FAME AWARD****Margaret Brundage**

(Photograph courtesy of Stephen D. Korshak)

...illustrator whose color artwork was featured on more than sixty covers for *Weird Tales* and other pulp magazines during the 1930s-1940s.

Bruce Pelz

(Photograph by Ben Jason)

...very active long-time fan, member of Los Angeles Fantasy Society for nearly forty years, Pelz belonged to virtually every known fantasy-related amateur press association. He was a world-class fanzine collector, filk musician and master costumer. He co-chaired the 1972 Worldcon and was Fan GOH at the 1980 Worldcon.

F. Orlin Tremaine

...magazine editor who also sold short stories to the pulps and later became the second editor of *Astounding Stories*. He discovered and published several important new writers and helped to usher in the early golden age of science fiction.

BIRTHDAYS**October**

- 1 – J. Allen St. John, Martha Beck, Donald. A. Wollheim, Mike Ashley
- 2 – Alex Raymond, Willy Ley
- 3 – Ray Faraday Nelson
- 4 – Earl Binder, Al Ashley
- 9 – Harry Bates
- 11 – Gay Haldeman
- 15 – James H. Schmitz, E.C. Tubb
- 20 – Erle M. Korshak
- 21 – Ed Hamilton, Ursula K. Le Guin
- 23 – Roy Lavender
- 28 – Fredric Brown
- 30 – Walt Willis
- 31 – Art Saha

November

- 1 – Gordon R. Dickson
- 2 – Sue Francis, Carol Resnick
- 4 – Wendayne Ackerman
- 5 – H. Warner Munn
- 6 – Catherine Crook de Camp
- 8 – Bram Stoker, Ben Bova
- 9 – Alfred Coppel, Larry Shaw
- 11 – Howard Fast, Mack Reynolds
- 17 – Raymond F. Jones, John Trimble
- 20 – Len J. Moffatt
- 23 – Nelson Bond, Wilson Bob Tucker
- 24 – Forrest J Ackerman
- 25 – Poūl Anderson
- 26 – Frederik Pohl
- 27 – L. Sprague de Camp
- 30 – E. Everett Evans, Milton Rothman

December

- 2 – Jerry Sohl
- 7 – Leigh Brackett
- 9 – Margaret Brundage
- 16 – Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick
- 18 – Alfred Bester, Walt Daugherty
- 19 – Harry Warner, Jr.
- 23 – David H. Keller
- 24 – Fritz Leiber, Ray Beam
- 28 – Jon D. Swartz

NECROLOGY***Paul Bacon (b.1923)***

“Paul Bacon died on June 8. Bacon was a book jacket designer perhaps best known for the cover of Joseph Heller’s *Catch-22* and Peter Benchley’s *Jaws*. His genre works included covers for Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Ellen Datlow’s *Alien Sex*, and Michael Crichton’s *The Andromeda Strain*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – June 13, 2015)

Milton Delugg (b.1918)

“Milton Delugg, who died April 6 at the age of 96, may have been better known for accompanying Al Jolson on the accordion, co-writing Nat King Cole’s hit “Orange Colored Sky” and Perry Como’s polka “Hoop Dee Doo,” or serving for three decades as musical director of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, but that’s not what got his obit printed here.

Delugg wrote “Hooray for Santy Claus,” the theme for *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, that 1964 production ranked among the all-time worst films. Delugg often worked with Chuck Barris, too, the musical director of *The Gong Show* from 1976-1980, where his venerable “Hoop Dee Doo” was used when a contest winner was chosen.”

(Thanks to member Andrew Porter for this story, which originally appeared on April 14 in File 770.)

James Horner (b.1953)

“Composer James Horner died in a small plane crash on June 22. Horner composed and directed music for numerous science fiction and fantasy films, including *The Rocketeer*, *Apollo 13*, *Avatar*, *Star*

Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, and *Captain EO*. He received his first of seven Oscar nominations for *Aliens* and eventually won an Oscar for *Titanic*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – June 24, 2015)

Wolfgang Jeschke (b.1936)

“German author Wolfgang Jeschke died June 10. Jeschke discovered German science fiction fandom in the 1950s and in 1955 became one of the first members of Science Fiction Club Deutschland. His early stories were published in fanzines, but he eventually went on to work in publishing as an editor as well as write his own novels. Jeschke was one of the Pro Guests of Honor at ConFiction, the 1990 Worldcon.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – June 13, 2015)

Margaret Ford Keifer (b.1921)

“Fan Margaret Ford Keifer died on July 28. Keifer’s husband, Ben, was one of the founders of MidWestCon, and Keifer is the only person to have attended all 66 MidWestCons.

A founding member of the Cincinnati Fan Group, Keifer was one of the administrators of the Don Ford Fund, named after her first husband, the chairman of Cinvention (1949), which raised money to bring Jack Speer to Ditto 14/Fanhistoricon 11.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – July 28, 2015)

Jack King (b.1931)

“Jack King died on June 11. King served as Kennedy Space Center’s Chief of Public Information from 1960-71 and as NASA’s Public Affairs Officer from 1971-5. During that time, he was the voice of

Mission Control, announcing the launch of Apollo 11, among others.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – June 11, 2015)

Patrick Macnee (b.1922)

“Actor Patrick Macnee died June 25. Best known for portraying John Steed on *The Avengers*, he also appeared in several episodes of *Battlestar Galactica*, *Night Gallery* and *The Twilight Zone*.”

(Adapted from SF Site News – June 26, 2015)

Ron Moody (b.Ronald Moodnick, 1924)

“Actor Ron Moody died on June 11. Perhaps best known for playing Fagin in *Oliver!* and Vorobyeninov in *The Twelve Chairs*, his genre films included *The Mouse on the Moon*, *Into the Labyrinth*, *A Kid in King Arthur’s Court*, and *Unidentified Flying Oddball*.

Moody has said his biggest regret was turning down an opportunity to become the third incarnation of The Doctor in *Doctor Who*.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – June 11, 2015)

John Stephenson (b.1923)

“Voice actor John Stephenson died on May 15. Stephenson began his long career on screen during the 1950s, including an appearance on *Science Fiction Theatre* in the episode “Robot Doctor.”

In the early 1960s, he began doing voice work on the cartoon show *Top Cat*. His work included voice roles on *Jonny Quest*, *Atom Ant*, *The Flintstones*, *Wacky Races*, and *Scooby Doo*.”

(Adapted from SF Site News – May 17, 2015)

Original Member Spotlight:**Jack Robins****(By Jon D. Swartz & John L. Coker III)**

First Fandom original member Jack Robins was a science fiction (SF) fan who belonged to the International Scientific Association (ISA) in the early 1930s [invited by Walter Kubilius to attend a meeting], was a member of the famed Futurian Society of New York when it was formed in the late 1930s [inviting a former classmate of his, Isaac Asimov, to join], was part of the small group of Futurians (that included Donald Wollheim, John Michel and Fred Pohl) that organized the Committee for the Political Advancement of Science Fiction (CPASF), and he also attended the first Worldcon (Nycon) in 1939 (despite the Exclusion Act that prevented some of the other Futurians from attending). The proponents of the Exclusion Act included William S. Sykora (a New York fan who helped run Nycon) and future SF historian Sam Moskowitz.

Robins was born February 17, 1919, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. His siblings were much older, and he “was like an only child.” Born Jack Rubinson, he legally changed his name to Jack Robins. After he left the Futurians, he earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (which later merged with NYU), but he maintained an interest in SF his entire life.

In the late 1930s Robins published two issues of his fanzine *The Scientific Thinker*. In the early 1940s, he published ten issues of another fanzine, *Looking Ahead*.

Later he contributed an article, “Sex in Science Fiction,” to *Geep!*, *The Book of the National Fantasy Fan Federation* (1987). In addition, he has written LoCs, articles, and reviews for fanzines, including *The Fan* and *Tightbeam* for the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) and *Scientifiction* for First Fandom.

Jack recalls: “During the summer of 1936, Walter Kubilius introduced me to the ISA. These were people like me. They read and lived science fiction! They met in William Sykora's basement and issued a mimeographed fan magazine to which I contributed. In 1937, Sykora closed his door, but the group reformed, becoming the Futurians.”

**Jack Robins**

Jack's abbreviated account of his life as a Futurian: “Johnny Michel was an honest-to-goodness Wellsian socialist. It was his stated opinion that science fictionists were socially motivated but did not know it. . . he flirted with the Young Communist League, studied Marxist literature, and perhaps even believed in communism. But he would only TALK about social reform. . . . We, poor teenagers having little to look forward to during the depression-torn days of the middle and late thirties, listened entranced to his visions of the days when production would

become so plentiful that one could get whatever he needed, free or at a nominal price from any department store...Many other fans were annoyed at being told that science fiction envisioned the future and that science fiction fans were to be the leaders, showing the flock, the mass of people, how to get there.”

Michel's explanation of the end of the Futurians was that it was due to their need to earn livings, not to any internal dissension.

Robins just missed being included in several important events in the history of fandom. Once, he was away when pictures of attendees at an early meeting of SF fans were taken, a meeting that became known as the First Eastern Conference. At the premier performance of the movie *Things to Come*, Robins left before a party that took place among fans that included Wollheim, Michel, Pohl, and James Blish. Robins was forgotten later when Wollheim wrote about those who had seen the movie and attended the party.

He missed out on other historic events because he was attending college classes, did not have enough money for required expenses, or was uncertain about dates (not having a telephone). When the ISA decided to produce a movie and asked for scripts, Jack submitted one, but his was chosen as a backup in case the first choice did not work out.

Robins was a photographer who made some memorable pictures. He recalls a long walk that they all took:

“Once, during the 1939 World's Fair Days, Wollheim, Michel, Lowndes, Chester Cohen, and I decided to

make a trip to Tarrytown. After taking the IRT all the way to the last stop in the Bronx, we then walked, and walked, until we finally reached our destination. I had taken along a cheap 35mm camera to take pictures of all my friends, but I neglected to ask anyone to take a picture of me.



L-R: Chester Cohen, Cyril Kornbluth, Robert W. Lowndes, Donald A. Wollheim, John B. Michel (Photo by Jack Robins)

We found a diner, but Lowndes and I were too poor to pay for a meal. On the menu it said that we could get a quarter of a head of lettuce for 15 cents. Later, when our excursion ended, we took the train back down to the City, then the subway home.”

Jack attended Boskone One in 1941, and made this important photograph:



L-R: Cyril Kornbluth, Frederik Pohl, Walter Kubiilius, Donald A. Wollheim, John B. Michel (Photo by Jack Robins)

Years later, when Robins had a subscription to *Locus*, he noticed an advertisement by Damon Knight

seeking former Futurians. Knight wanted documents related to the famous SF fan club for the tell-all book he was writing. Robins sent him what he had, but all Knight used in his 1977 book, *The Futurians*, was two photos that Robins had made.



John B. Michel



Cyril Kornbluth

(Caricatures by Jack Robins)

In his 1983 book relating his memories of SF's Golden Age, *The Way the Future Was*, Frederik Pohl barely mentioned Robins. Later, in commenting on Robins' activities as a Futurian, Pohl referred to him as "the smiling guy in the background." Another time – after acknowledging that Robins had been a Futurian from the beginning -- Pohl described him as more of an auditor than a participant.

One of the reasons for his exclusion from some of the Futurian activities probably was the fact that Robins was a "science man" and was not a would-be writer. Although he wrote some fan plays, he went on to earn three college degrees and became a research chemist with a doctorate.

Most of the Futurians aspired to be professional SF writers and editors, not professional scientists. Another "science man" was Asimov, who had gone to Boys High School with Robins. Asimov also became a very successful writer while teaching and working as a biochemist.

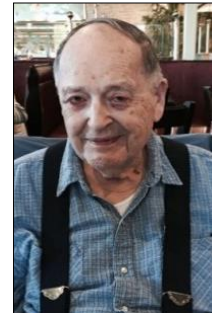
In 1984, Robins retired from his job with the Atlas Powder Company in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, where he had worked for twenty-five years. In the ensuing years, Jack has written family histories, convention reports, fan anecdotes, humorous articles, limericks, poetry, sonnets, and plays, including one that is a tribute to the Futurians, entitled "The Ivory Tower."

He stays busy writing a column of non-fiction articles for his condo newspaper and working on his memoirs. He also served as co-president of the computer club at his condo and was in charge of publicity.

Jack Robins is a genuine fan, a life-long STF enthusiast, a pioneer from the good old days who knew many of the early fans and was present as history was unfolding. Jack pursued his lifelong dream of going to college and becoming a real scientist.



Lottie Robins



Jack Robins

Jack has an optimistic outlook: "The world is full of wonder to me. Many scientists developed their interest in science after reading science fiction and some inventors attribute their creations to their knowledge of science fiction. I see the influence of STF everywhere."

In 2012, Jack Robins was made a N3F Life Member and was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

NEWS FLASH***Sapienza Endowment Established***

“Chicon 7 has created the Peggy Rae Sapienza Endowment at Northern Illinois University (DeKalb) with an initial endowment of \$25,000. The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support to benefit the University Library’s Special Collections, for the procurement, preservation, and promotion of materials germane to the study of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror and their fandoms.

Individuals and organizations are invited to donate to the endowment. Steven H Silver, who was one of three Chicon 7 Vice Chairs, will serve as the fund’s trustee.”

(Adapted from an article in SF Site News – June 5)

Allen Lewis Makes Major Donation of SF Collection to the University of Iowa

“After 20 years of collecting, Allen Lewis (of Souix Falls) has donated his one-of-a-kind SF collection of 17,500 books worth an estimated \$750,000. to the University of Iowa.”

For Information: [Allen Lewis, who recently donated his large sf collection](#)

(Adapted from a story in File 770 – July 28, 2015)

Hevelin Fanzine Collection Updates

“*The Verge* covers UI’s progress digitizing Rusty’s collection: [“10,000 zines and counting: a library’s quest to save the history of fandom”](#)”

“In July, UI digital project librarian Laura Hampton [officially began](#) archiving the Hevelin Collection.”

(Reprinted from an article in File 770 – September 5)

Poetry Grand Masters Named

“The Science Fiction Poetry Association has named two new Poetry Grand Masters, the first since 2010. **Marge Ballif Simon** and **Steve Sneyd** have received the honor for their years of publishing poetry in a variety of places.

Simon’s work has previously received the Bram Stoker Award, the Rhysling Award, the Dwarf Stars Award, and the Strange Horizons Readers Award. In addition to publishing his own Poetry, **Sneyd** presents the annual DataDump Award and has published numerous other poets.”

[For more information...](#)

(Reprinted from SF Site News – August 3, 2015)

Brian Aldiss: An Interview and Photos

Brian Aldiss will be turning 90 years old soon and he is still going strong.



(Photo credit: John Lawrence)

Brian recently informed us that The Daily Telegraph (London) will feature an interview with him. Click here:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/authors/brian-aldiss-pioneer-of-british-sci-fi-interview/>

(We extend our thanks to Stephen Jones for sharing the information about Brian.)

**THE 2015 NEBULA AWARDS WEEKEND
(ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY KEITH W. STOKES)**

Linda and I went to Chicago for the 50th Nebula Awards Weekend in early June. It was the first Nebula Awards we had been to since 2010.

Palmer House Hilton is a huge hotel with many nearby restaurants and attractions. It is an historic building, having first opened just days before the great Chicago fire in 1871.

The weekend organizers did an excellent job of posting signs directing attendees to registration and the various events. At registration we each received bags filled with various selections of books and there were tables where books could be exchanged.



Larry Niven



Connie Willis

The only event scheduled Thursday night was a reception paying tribute to Larry Niven, who was being honored as the newest SFWA Grand Master. Two tables of desserts were furnished and there was a cash bar. We saw a few friends at the reception, but I have been relatively uninvolved with SFWA for the past 5 years and didn't know as many attendees as in the past.

On Thursday morning, we joined Richard Chwedyk's "Morning Walk and Architectural / History Tour of Chicago." Richard had a lot to share

about the area, and Steven H. Silver added a lot to the tour.

In recent years, the Nebula Awards Weekend has added multiple tracks of programming and I attended several panels. I particularly enjoyed "SFWA Through the Years" where five past, present or future SFWA presidents discussed the history of SFWA. I was an active volunteer through much of the time that they represented and it was interesting hearing about some of those events.

The "Grand Master Retrospective" featured this year's Grand Master Larry Niven and past Grand Masters, Connie Willis and Joe Haldeman. They mostly spent the hour reminiscing, and it was entertaining.

Another reception was held on Friday evening, this time with a complete buffet. The reception was followed with an autographing session with about 50 authors.

The best part of the day was catching up with old friends. We had nice chats with the Haldemans and I finally had a chance to introduce Linda to Esther Friesner, Walter Stutzman and others.

There was an unexpected treat when John Stith introduced himself and his wife to us. John and I came to know each other on Fidonet (an Internet precursor) over 20 years ago, but I don't think we had ever met in person. He published a number of very entertaining hard science fiction novels in the 1980s and 90s. He said that he is writing again and has a new novel written.

We started Saturday with a little bigger breakfast in the hospitality suite and went on another 9AM

walking tour with Richard Chwedyk, getting back to the hotel just in time for the SFWA Business Meeting. There were no big surprises at the meeting and no real conflicts. Nice!

Our lunch was at the Exchequer Restaurant & Pub, a family-owned place with a history going back to the 226 Club at the same location in the 1920s, rumored to have been a speak-easy that was patronized by Al Capone. Linda had deep dish pizza and I had the baby back ribs.

In the afternoon we walked a block from the hotel to the enormous Art Institute of Chicago, where we saw exhibits of Impressionists, American art prior to 1950, Ireland art, and the reconstructed 1894 Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room.



Kevin O'Donnell Jr. Service to SFWA Award, Solstice Awards, Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award, Ray Bradbury Award



Andre Norton Award, Nebula Awards

Saturday evening's reception before the awards ceremony and banquet was held on the Mezzanine overlooking the hotel's gorgeous lobby. The bars were both near the elevators and it was hard to hold a conversation. I did manage to speak with Elizabeth Ann Hull, John Stith, and Grand Master Larry Niven.

We had arranged to share a banquet table with friends from the writers group Noble Fusion. Discovering that Joe and Gay Haldeman were also there at the table was a bonus.

The Toastmaster for the awards ceremony was actor Nick Offerman from the television show *Parks and Recreation*. He was sometimes funny and often vulgar. He tried hard, but I wish it had been someone else. He did a monologue, played guitar and sang some of his own compositions.



Keith W. Stokes

I presented the first award of the evening: the Service to SFWA Award to Jeffry Dwight. It was an award which I received in 2010. JD could not attend, so I didn't have the opportunity to finally meet him. SFWA President Steven Gould accepted the award on his behalf.

The awards ceremony went on until about 10:30PM. We stopped by the hospitality suite before calling it a night. It was packed and very noisy by the time we left. Sunday was a day we reserved for traveling home.

Click here: [For more information...](#) and a list of all the award recipients.

To see more of Keith's photos, visit: www.midamericon.org/photoarchive/15nebulaawards/10nebulaawards11.htm.

**PULPFEST 2015 CONVENTION REPORT
(BY JOHN L. COKER III)**

Nearly five hundred fans gathered in Columbus, Ohio during August 13-16 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the birth of H.P. Lovecraft and to share their enthusiasm for pulp magazines and related material.

The Guest of Honor was author Chet Williamson and the Special Guest was artist Jon Arfstrom. Attendees included: Will Murray, Don Herron, Anthony Tollin, David Saunders, Audrey Parente, Ed Hulse, Doug Ellis, David Conover, David Ritter, Mark Hickman and Jim Emerson.

The Rusty Hevelin Service Award was presented to **Stephen T. Miller**.

Programming was outstanding, and included panel discussions on "75 Years of Street & Smith Comics," "Weird Editing at the Unique Magazine," "The Weird Tales of Philip Jose Farmer," and tributes to Rudolph Belarski, Lee Brown Coye and Leo P. Margulies. There was also an interesting track for Gaming.

Several Lovecraft-themed films were shown: "THE CALL OF CTHULHU," "PICKMAN'S MODEL," "COOL AIR," "PROFESSOR PEABODY'S LAST LECTURE," "OUT OF MIND," and "THE WHISPERER IN DARKNESS."

A well-appointed dealer's room was the primary center of activity, and attendees enjoyed opportunities to purchase pulp magazines, books, paperbacks, original art, movies, Big Little Books, old time radio shows, comic books, and gaming materials.

We enjoyed the great hospitality and I invite you to attend next year! For information visit: www.pulpfest.com.

**MY FRIEND, MARGARET FORD KEIFER
(A FEW WORDS BY CAROLYN HICKMAN)**

We were friends for over sixty years.

My husband Lynn took me to my first Midwestcon in 1952, before we were married. Not being a science fiction fan, I had never read any books other than Jules Verne, so I had no real idea what any of the fans were talking about.

Over the years, Margaret and Carrie (Lou Tabakow's wife) would invite us to sit with them, as our husbands were out and about. As soon as we all got checked in to the hotel room, Lynn would leave and I would not see him again until it was time to turn in for the night.

I would always look for Margaret at Midwestcons. I knew that when I found her, she would keep me company and introduce me to some of the other fans that were there.

We were together a lot during our last Worldcon trip, which was to Melbourne, Australia. Margaret put me to shame, as she held up better than me, even though she was older.



**L-R: Roger Sims, Margaret Ford Keifer,
Carolyn Hickman (2014 Midwestcon)**

Here is a nice photograph of Roger Sims (whom I also met at the 1952 Midwestcon), with Margaret and me, from the 2014 Midwestcon. We were good friends for many years.

Margaret Ford Keifer will be missed.

BOOK WATCH: BOLD VENTURE PRESS**Pulp Adventures #18
(Edited by Audrey Parente)**

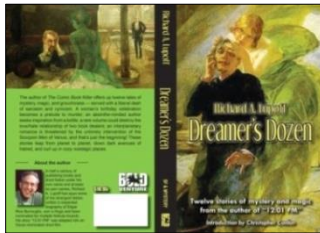
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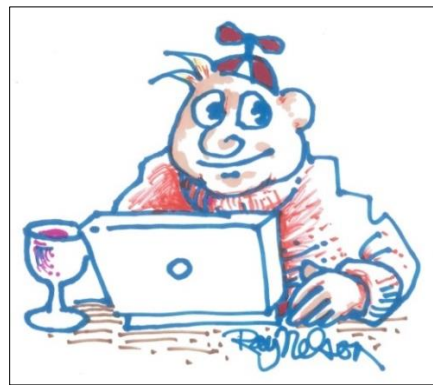
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**LETTERS FROM OUR READERS**

Robert Lichtman writes:

“In the previous issue of *Scientifiction* there is a major factual error. In the brief entry “Remembering Dave Rike” it says, ‘Rike helped popularize the propeller beanie as a symbol of fandom.’ Actually, it was Ray Nelson who did that.”

(Ed. Note: Here’s a self-portrait of Ray Nelson wearing his propeller beanie...)



Ed Meskys provided a new email address: edmeskys@gmail.com.

Sam J. Lundwall writes:

“Many thanks for the latest issue of *Scientifiction*, which safely arrived today at the nursing home where my wife and I now live. It cheered me up considerably. Here is my new e-mail: sam.j.lundwall@comhem.se.”

I was very sorry to see that my old friend Tanith Lee has passed away. It has been years since we last met, but I do remember her fondly. She was a funny girl, a good drinker, great at risqué jokes — and a brilliant writer. She was also younger than me, which strikes me as rather unfair. All best wishes!”

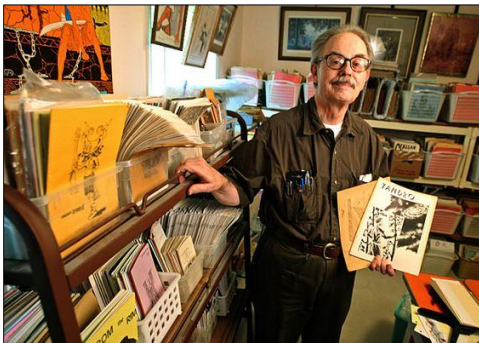
REMEMBERING NED BROOKS*Cuyler Warnell Brooks, Jr. (b.1938)*

“Fan Ned Brooks died on August 31 following a fall from his roof, where he was doing repairs. Brooks was long active in N3F, and in 1972 won the Kaymar Award. He was recipient of the Rebel Award in 1976 and the Rubble Award in 1992. Brooks published such fanzines as *The New Newport News News*, *It Goes on the Shelf*, and *It Comes in the Mail*. He was Fan GOH at Rivercon IV in 1978 and at DeepSouthCon 39 in 2001.”

(Reprinted from SF Site News – August 31, 2015)

An Appreciation

Several of Ned’s friends (Steven H. Silver, Tim Marion, Taral Wayne and Rich Lynch) wrote articles about their friend and these were published by Mike Glycer (File 770, September 1).



Ned Brooks with his fanzine collection
(Photograph from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

(Ctrl+Click to read: [“Ned Brooks: A Pair of Obituaries” by Tim Marion](#))

(Thanks to File 770 for the above link)

Editor’s note: I remember booklets from Ned’s small press in the mid-1970s. He was a life-long collector, correspondent and publisher who accomplished a lot.

We will feature more material about Ned Brooks in our next issue! Please send appreciations / photos of Ned Brooks for the newsletter to: jlcoker3@bellsouth.net.

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



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