

SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction
New Series #46, 4th Quarter 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 1: Announcements
- P. 2: President's Message
- P. 3: Birthdays and Necrology
- P. 4: A Look Back on 2015
- P. 5: MARCON50: A Con Report
- P. 10: Remembering Ned Brooks
- P. 14: STF-Related News Headlines
- P. 14: A Donation to the FF Archive
- P. 15: Book Watch: The Art of Horror
- P. 16: Daniel Keyes: An Interview
- P. 17: Letters from Our Readers
- P. 20: Photo Gallery and Masthead

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS, 2016

Nominations are now being accepted

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

Nominations should be sent prior to Feb. 15 to jlcoker3@bellsouth.net or to John Coker at 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL - 32808. Thanks!

MEMBER UPDATES

New Addresses

Robert O. Adair
17 East Regent Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225-1915

Mary Ellen Daugherty
5 Heritage Blvd
Longview, WA 98632

Information Needed

We're trying to get in touch with John Dalmas and Sandra Sundstrom.

NECROLOGY

We sadly acknowledge the passing of Murphy Anderson, Jon Arfstrom, George Clayton Johnson, Ann McKnight, and Paul Harrison Spencer.

BIRTHDAYS

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

FIRST FANDOM ARCHIVE

As you start spring cleaning, please consider donating any old sf material such as correspondence, fanzines, and convention items to our Archive. We're also seeking vintage pictures for a forthcoming FF photo gallery!

CONTRIBUTORS

Several people provided assistance to this issue: Es and Les Cole, Steve and Sue Francis, Jason Getz, Mike Glycer, James E. Gunn, John Hertz, Mark Hickman, Tim Kirk, Joseph P. Martino, Gary Meek, Christopher M. O'Brien, Jack Robins, Jon D. Swartz.

Thanks are extended to **File770** and **SF Site News** for their news reports.

CLOSING

The next newsletter will be sent out in late-March. In that same mailing will be a ballot for the 2016 Awards and the latest Membership Directory.

We look forward to hearing from you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that our members had a great Christmas holiday and that they are now enjoying this brand new year!

I discovered science fiction in 1959 in the pages of *Strange Adventures* and *Mystery in Space* comic books edited by Julius Schwartz. Favorite stories featured *The Atomic Knights*, drawn by **Murphy Anderson**. His work awakened in me the sense of wonder. Fifty years later, it was a thrill to work with Murphy on a book I edited, entitled *Tales of the Time Travelers*. He really was one of the last gentlemen artists from the good old days. We'll fondly remember him.

According to the Sasquan website (as of 23 August 2015), the **Grand Total of Memberships for the 73rd World SF Convention** was 11,648. (Total Attending Memberships=5825, and Supporting Memberships=5826.)

The 2016 World SF Convention will be held in Kansas City, Aug. 17-21. Information: www.midamericon2.org.

Tim Kirk's Artwork

Thanks to Tim for providing a scan of his wonderful drawing of Ned Brooks to accompany John Hertz's tribute.

First Fandom Awards

Julian May thanked everyone for electing her to the First Fandom Hall of Fame for 2015. **David Aronovitz** expressed his appreciation for being named the recipient of the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for 2015.

Nominations for the 2016 Awards will be accepted through **February 15**. Send to: jlcocker3@bellsouth.net.

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 Eilers, 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***Murphy Anderson (b.1926)***

“Comic book artist Murphy Anderson died on October 23. Anderson co-created the characters *The Atomic Knights* and *Zatanna* and helped create the look for *Adam Strange*. He worked on *Hawkman* and the 1960s version of *The Spectre*. Prior to working for DC, he drew the *Buck Rogers* comic for two years.”

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



Murphy Anderson
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

Jon Arfstrom (b.1928)

“Artist Jon Arfstrom died on December 2. Arfstrom is believed to have been the last of the classic *Weird Tales* cover artists to be alive. He began contributing covers to fanzines in the 1940s and collaborated at the time with Jack Gaughan. His work appeared on the cover of *Weird Tales* beginning in 1951 until the magazine folded in 1954.

Arfstrom came out of retirement in the 1990s to do covers for Haffner Press, Fedogan & Bremer, and *Tales of the Unanticipated*.”

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

George Clayton Johnson (b.1927)

“Author George Clayton Johnson died on December 25. Clayton is best known as the co-author of *Lo-gan’s Run* and he was also active in Hollywood, writing episodes of *The Twilight Zone* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* as well as the first episode of *Star Trek* to air. In 1999, his short fiction was collected in *All of Us Are Dying and Other Stories*.”

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

Ann McKnight (b.c.1924)

“Fan Ann McKnight died on September 23. McKnight was Jack McKnight’s second wife and stepmother to fan Peggy Rae Sapienza. Prior to moving to Arkansas, Ann was active in Philadelphia fandom.”

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

And, though it took place over a year ago, Christopher M. O’Brien wanted to alert readers about a passing that should have been noted:

Paul Harrison Spencer (February 27, 1923-August 22, 2014)

“Beginning in the 1930’s Spencer had letters in Thrilling Wonder Stories, Famous Fantastic Mysteries, and Fantastic Novels, etc., and was contributor to fanzines including Fantasy Commentator, Fanomena, and Banshee authoring short fiction and other pieces in the ensuing decades, was a bibliographer of Dr. David H. Keller, and longtime editor of Kalki for the James Branch Cabell Society.” For more information, see:

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/obituaries/paul-h-spencer/article_b855e534-0fb6-5f2a-8f73-0913a47b5ad1.html

JAMES GUNN LOOKS BACK ON 2015

Age is supposed to bring wisdom. I don't know about that, but I have a few observations about age that never occurred to me when I was younger.

Being 92 brings mixed emotions. One can still experience the world of events and people and ideas, but the world of shared experience has vanished. It's a brave new world out there, and I'm glad I can still observe it, and even, in some ways, participate in it, and as a science-fiction writer I should understand and appreciate how it has changed. But there's an inevitable aloneness that comes from losing all of the people who were close to you in age, the family, the friends, the colleagues. I'm the oldest living science-fiction Grand Master and have been called the last of the golden age writers (only by a fraction—my first stories were published in 1949).

But there is the exciting world of change, for better or for worse. And still staying relevant in it is what gets me up in the morning and to my computer, to catch up on events and trends and even get messages from past and present connections, sometimes requests for new stories or essays, sometimes for reprints, sometimes to attend conventions and receive awards, sometimes from readers or former students. Staying involved in the world that is coming into existence keeps me writing: the third volume of the Transcendental trilogy (I never expected to write a trilogy, or even a sequel), *Transformation*, is almost complete. The second volume, *Transgalactic*, is scheduled for publication in March;

several new stories are scheduled for publication, "Saving the World," in the January *Analog*, "New Earth" coming up soon in *Asimov's*, and another story or two and an introduction in anthologies.

One of the major events of 2015 was my induction into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, which involved a whirlwind weekend in Seattle, made even greater by the induction of the late Kurt Vonnegut in the same group and the opportunity to observe the wall of illuminated transparencies in the Science Fiction Museum where the Hall of Fame inductees are honored. The memento of the affair is a smaller replica of the image in lucite that will take its place on the wall, maybe between those of John W. Campbell and Alfred Bester.

Kevin is my remaining family, and we see each other frequently; I call him every morning to let him know I'm up and okay, and we have dinner together every week or so. Chris McKitterick and Kij Johnson keep me involved in the Center and the Department; we have breakfast almost every Saturday, and they keep the Center's various projects going and have plans for greater things. Next year I've been invited to be the guest and receive an award at a conference at Western Colorado State University in Gunnison and at a brand-new convention, We Are All SF, in Ocean Shores, Washington, and not only receive an award but have it named for me. We'll see how that goes.

Every new year is an adventure. Have a good one.

MARCON 50: A CONVENTION REPORT
(BY JOE MARTINO)

“Multiple Alternative Realities Convention”

MARCON is a regional convention held annually in Columbus, OH. It is heavily oriented toward gaming and media. However, there were many panels on writing.



Science fiction writer and Libertarian Futurist Society member Joseph Martino, left, with science fiction author Vernor Vinge at the Prometheus Awards party.
(Photograph by Tom Jackson)

For me one of the highlights was the awards by the Libertarian Futurist Society. The LFS Prometheus Awards go to “best libertarian science fiction.” The annual Prometheus Award for best novel is made at the World Science Fiction Convention. Other awards are made at regional conventions. At MARCON 50, the Hall of Fame Award went to Harlan Ellison’s “Repent, Harlequin, Said the TickTock Man.” The Lifetime Achievement Award went to F. Paul Wilson, himself a previous Prometheus Award winner.

As it happened, I had been present at the first Prometheus Awards, made in 1979, at the Libertarian Party’s Presidential nominating convention.

That award went to F. Paul Wilson for “Wheels Within Wheels.” At this year’s MARCON, I introduced the awards ceremony, held during the intermission of the Masquerade, in which I described the history of the Awards. I then introduced the actual presenter, who presented the awards. Ellison was unable to be present, but sent an acceptance video. Wilson was present to accept his award.



F. Paul Wilson
(Photograph by Tom Jackson)

Some of the panels that I found interesting were the following.

Writer Beware

The panellists provided advice to things for the writer to watch out for.

One warning was about scams.

Someone who contacts you may possibly be scamming. Writers are becoming known as individuals, and are therefore targets for scamming.

- Outfits that promise to edit your work, print the book, and “make it available to a distributor.”
- Don’t agree to write someone else’s idea.

- Bankruptcy clause. If the publisher goes bankrupt, rights should revert to you. Very important with small presses.
- Publication window. Must publish between two dates or rights revert.
- No reversion clauses on the money (advance).
- All rights. Don't sell unless the publisher is able to sell them. (foreign rights, translation rights, movie rights, etc.)
- Option clauses. They have right to publish next book. Ties you to the publisher. Making it the next book in the series is better. First refusal: they get first shot at it. Must make offer but you can't sell it to someone else for less than their offer. Bad clause: publisher gets to match next offer.
- Check *Writer Beware*, *Predators & Editors*, *SFWA Forum*.
- Paying a PR agent may be worthwhile, if they can get you on web sites, etc.
- Baen has a reputation for abusing agents.
- Does the agent handle the kind of stuff you write?
- Ask an editor if they have dealt with a specific agent. Talk to their clients. Talk to their ex-clients (why?).
- If things are not working well with an agent, walk away.
- It is OK to verify with a publisher what your agent said you get.
- In movies and music industry, there are agents who "made" you and think they should get their percent even when you're dealing with another agent.
- You will write like what you read. Don't read something that will mess with what you're writing.

Regarding agents and publishers:

- Find who they publish. At a con, ask a writer how they were treated. Would they submit there again?
- Networking is important. Get a published author to introduce you to their publisher.
- Don't sign a contract that ties up ebooks for a long time.
- Watch for a noncompete clause that prevents you from publishing a hard copy of your ebook.
- Agents: anyone can claim to be an agent. Find out who the agents represent. Any agent that asks for a reading fee is a scam.

- If you need a Hollywood agent, get one through SFWA's New York agent.
- If you submit directly to a publisher, be sure to follow their guidelines.

Writers groups can be helpful in making sure the manuscript is ready to be submitted. However, don't take everyone's advice. The more successful writers in the group will be better reviewers.

Tell a reader, "Read until you feel like you don't want to read any further, and tell me where you stopped."

Arming Your Character

This was primarily aimed at "sword and sorcery" writers, and focused on pre-modern weapons. However,

some of the information was related to modern weapons.

The problem is access to easy information. People get it wrong. How do you find good research? Go to a museum. The specimen there may be the only one you can access. Bring a blue cloth to use as background. Have a camera with 18 megapixels if possible. Printers want 350 dpi TIFF. Take measuring tools and a scale. How big, how heavy? Get the decimal point right. Bring cotton gloves if you intend to examine some unique artifacts.

Talk to re-enactors, who have learned the details already.

Libraries can get material for you if you find a reference in a book.

Bomb squad or Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit as source of info on bombs.

If it's a modern weapon, contact the manufacturer. Ask them for a press kit. It is to their advantage that you portray their product correctly. Talk to Public Relations or Sales.

This Story Tastes Funny

On use of humor in stories.

Some humor is universal: bad cook, overprotective mother, etc.

Culture bends your perception of humor.

Some universal humorous characters have their own failure modes built in.

Humor can involve twisting a story so it ends in a different place from what you expected.

Comedy is tragedy plus distance.

Exaggeration is another form of humor.

Jokes by military veterans are often extremely violent in nature. Humor is a way of dealing with pain.

Wile E. Coyote always fails. Tragically but it's funny.

Ethnic jokes made outside the community had better be made with love. Black jokes are usually full of insults, but are OK within the community.

Jokes about something someone can't do anything about are cruel.

Must lay the groundwork. The setup is necessary. The writer has to create brief pauses in the buildup to the punchline.

Humor from anger doesn't work well. CATCH 22 was written from anger, but Heller was trying to make a point.

Humor about current events is more memorable than straight news.

"Breaking the 4th wall," i.e. speaking directly to the reader, must be done carefully.

If you want the reader to accept something you're not ready to explain yet, do it with humor.

Giving the characters funny names doesn't always work.

Repetition can be humorous.

"Just when you thought it was safe to..."

Create a verbal cadence for each character to identify them in conversation.

Incongruity. Things you would never expect to happen. However, the story must have integrity. If something works one way at the start, it must work that way at the end.

Exaggeration.

Juxtaposition of the serious with the ridiculous.

Slapstick hard to set up in writing.

Puns based on audiences' familiarity with the original phrase. "Star mangled spanner." The opposite of "funny" is "unfunny," not "serious." Funny can be serious.

Play on words.

Experiential humor. "You had to have been there."

Ask an Editor

Most editors aren't looking to reject. They hope to find something good.

Find out what the publisher has been publishing. What authors. Does your story fit in with them? Would my book look right on the shelf next to what else they publish?

Reasons for rejection:

- Writing and grammar.
- Strong start but didn't maintain momentum.
- Nothing of distinction about the character.

Story should get going right from the start. No "clearing the throat" before getting to the story, or giving the background of the character before getting to the action.

Dialog should be realistic, even if the grammar has to be bent. Don't make the sentence stilted.

Establishing and maintaining the POV is important. What makes this character someone you want to write about, or the reader to read about?

Sources of information about publishers and editors:

- Absolute Write Watercooler. Discussions of publishers.
- Preditors and Editors.

Blogging for Writers

The point of having a blog is to get people to want to come and read it.

Develop a persona. Whom do you want to be seen as a 3-d persona.

Decide what you will and won't talk about. Make the blog identifiably yours. Differentiate from other similar blogs.

Once you establish a blog, you have to keep it up. Don't overthink it.

Successful blog posts are one topic, don't require a lot of research or editing, and can be written in half an hour or less.

Editors, publishers, as well as fans will check the blog.

Self-promotion. However, the blog must not be all promotion. Need to put in a lot of other things to attract readers. Make the blog personal.

Frequency. Need to be frequent enough to keep the reader. Once a day is fine. Once a month is a waste of time. The more you blog the more chance you will develop a following. Minimum of 3x/week.

Google hates you if you repost stuff instead of just pointing to it.

Summarize in your own words, then point to the blog.

Blog-rolling. List of all the other blogs you consider similar to yours, and recommend to your readers. Links to them.

Some things to include in the blog:

- Interview with the character?

- Write about experiences with writers group, if you're in one?
- National Novel Writing Month.
- Progress of your writing.
- Changes that you've seen in your own writing.
- Samples from earlier writing.
- Chapter of book currently in process.

Look at blogs about writing. Rusch.

The ideal for a blog is to generate comments, so you have a real conversation.

Don't write a bad book review. Just ignore the book. The author will come after you.

Be honest with your readers about yourself and what you're doing. Respect your readers and those who comment. You need mutual respect and trust between yourself and followers.

Everything you post will stay on the Internet forever. Be careful what you say.

Classical Literary Horror

What constitutes horror changes with the culture. Horror was intended to teach a moral lesson or proper behavior. Horror stories revolve around death, or being excluded from society.

Lovecraft didn't create his horror out of a vacuum, but after his work, the idea of horror changed.

Modern horror can be black box recordings of a disaster. Listening to the people whom you know are dead.

Examples of classical literary horror:

- Dr. Frankenstein, the modern Prometheus, has to be

punished just as the first Prometheus was punished. The horror in the story was derived from science as it existed at the time. Horror before that was "here there be monsters." Science has given us power over death, and it will be used.

- Carmilla.
- In 20,000 Leagues, Nemo is clearly a villain.
- Vampires were for a time presented not as horror figures but as tragic figures.
- Comic horror: The Devil & Daniel Webster.

Next year



We hope to see you at **MARCON51** (May 6-8) at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. Info: www.marcon.org.

REMEMBERING NED BROOKS (PREPARED BY JON D. SWARTZ)

Cuyler Warnell (Ned) Brooks, Jr. was a long-time science fiction (SF) fan and collector who was a member of both First Fandom and the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F).

Brooks was born in Montana in 1938 and was the son of Cuyler Warnell Brooks Sr., who was also nicknamed "Ned."

He went to school at Georgia Tech where he graduated with a degree in physics. He went to work for NASA, in Hampton, Virginia, in 1959, during which time he rented a room on Briarfield Road in Newport News. Somehow he found an issue of Buck Coulson's fanzine *Yandro* and started subscribing to fanzines from that time. At one point or another, Ned was quite a letterhack.

He won the N3F's Kaymar Award in 1972 and Southern Fandom's Rebel Award in 1976 and Rubble Award in 1992.

Brooks was one of the founders of the rotating apa, Slan Apa, and published several fanzines, including the genzine *New Newport News News* (five issues), the personalzine *It Goes on the Shelf* (thirty-six issues), and *It Comes in the Mail* (twenty-six issues) – the latter, a zine listing and reviewing fan-related mail he received.

In the mid-1960s Brooks edited the N3F's *Collector's Bulletin*, and in 1966 he was a member of the club's Directorate.

He was responsible for writing and editing several N3F publications, including the following:

Collector's Bulletin. A total of eleven issues were published in the 1960s. The *Bulletin* was edited/published by Brooks via Purple Mouth Press for the N3F's Collector's Bureau. It featured discussions and reviews about SF books and collecting. Don Markstein was comics editor. Markstein later became well known for *Don Markstein's Toonopedia*.

Hannes Bok Illustration Index, 1970. An index of the published artwork of

SF/fantasy artist Bok, published for the N3F. The third revised edition appeared in 1994. The editors were Brooks and fellow N3F member Don Martin. Brooks and Martin were active in N3F's Collectors Bureau.

Later in life Brooks published several small press books in magazine format, including an edition of C.L. Moore's and Henry Kuttner's story "Quest of the Starstone" which was illustrated by Alan Hunter (the book was titled *Quest for the Green Hills of Earth*).

Brooks was Fan Guest of Honor at Rivercon IV in 1978 and at DeepSouthCon 39 in 2001.

He worked for NASA for 39 years, then retired to Lilburn, Georgia, in order to be closer to his relatives. He purchased and arranged a large house for all his books and even had a separate room for his antique typewriter collection.

It has been reported that Brooks died on August 31, 2015 at age 77 after he fell earlier from his roof while doing repairs on it.

[Sources: *Fancylopedia* 3, John L. Coker III, Mike Glycer, Tim Marion, Stephen H. Silver, Taral Wayne, Kyla and Rich Lynch.]

**IN MEMORIAM: NED BROOKS
(1938-2015)
(BY CHRISTOPHER M. O'BRIEN)**

I corresponded with Ned for over fifteen years, exchanging hundreds, if not over a thousand messages and letters. He provided me hundreds of scans from rare fanzines and books in his collection, and countless volume and issue numbers, page numbers and other maddening

minutiae required for proper citations in scholarly writing.

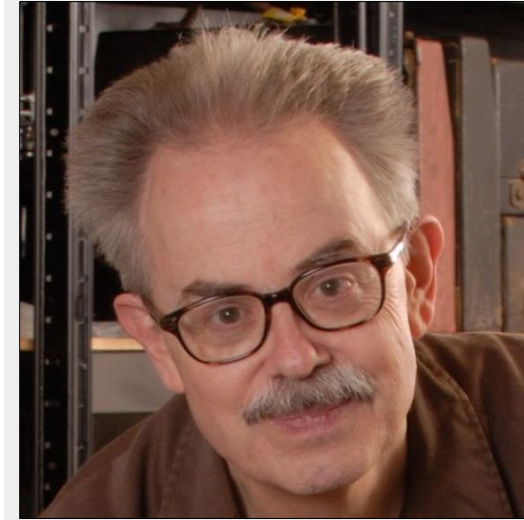
He was the source of countless entries in my Ackerman biobibliography [*The Forrest J Ackerman Oeuvre* (McFarland & Co., 2012)] as well as having provided all the cover scans used as illustrations within, and I made him the book's co-dedictee, along with Dave Kyle.

Ned then provided similar aid for a birthday tribute volume I helped prepare for our mutual friend, the Lovecraft scholar Kenneth W. Faig, Jr. in 2013.

Along with his saintly or Zenlike patience with my endless inquiries and repeated requests, Ned generously provided me duplicates from his fanzine collection (once shipping me at his expense a 20lb box of *Locus* back issues dating back to the mid-1970's).

I can't begin to count the amount of kindnesses and favors he bestowed upon me and the only way I can return them now is to bring to completion the many projects he helped shepherd.

Our correspondence would veer into all manner of esoteric topics, and he was always willing to read and critique anything I sent him. Brooks collected vintage calculators, antique typewriters, and yes, pocket protectors(!), and would scour thrift shops and library discards to bolster his massive book collection.



Ned Brooks

(Photograph by Gary Meek)
(Reprinted from Ned Brooks' website)

He absorbed the fanzine holdings of others such as Franklin M. Dietz, Jr. Among the many valuable resources Brooks leaves behind are his index to the SFPA APA [http://www.fanac.org/Fannish Reference Works/NedBrooks/sfpatoc.html](http://www.fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/NedBrooks/sfpatoc.html) and his *Fanzine Index* [http://www.fanac.org/Fannish Reference Works/NedBrooks/z102.html](http://www.fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/NedBrooks/z102.html) built from and supplementing the indices of the Greg Pickersgill and Temple University collections, and in which he noted every item within that he owned.

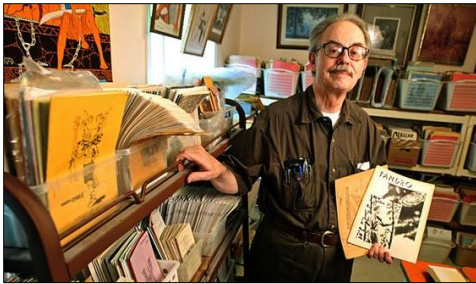
Brooks' collection of over 12,000 fanzines is to go to UC-Riverside.

As generous as Forry Ackerman, an award should be named after him, or at the very least Ned should be a posthumous recipient of the Big Heart Award.

I SING OF BROOKS
(BY JOHN HERTZ)

Ned Brooks (Cuyler Warnell Brooks, Jr.; 1938-2015) had twenty thousand fanzines and three hundred typewriters. He was a faithful

Vanamonde correspondent and only a little while ago told me he somehow had a gap between *Van* 517 and *Van* 523. At the end of August, while he was fixing a hole where the rain got in and stopped his mind from wandering, his ladder slipped. He came crashing down onto the wet deck. He was 77. Over a ton of fanzines and convention Program Books will go to the Eaton Collection.* I don't know where the typewriters will go.



Ned Brooks with his fanzine collection

(Photograph by Jason Getz)

(Reprinted with permission of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

Five years to the day earlier the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (31 Aug 10), finding DragonCon (“world’s largest multi-media popular culture convention” which astoundingly means not ballgames or detectives but the promoters’ view of SF; Atlanta, Georgia; that year 47,000 attended) imminent, ran a 1,200-word feature about him, with a photograph of him in his library holding a 1968 *Yandro*, three more photos of fanzines, and though the *JC* was unable to keep away from the usual disparaging boilerplate, a report he was hired by the Nat’l Aeronautics & Space Adm’n after graduation from Georgia Tech — NASA employed him until he retired — and fanzines “helped create and sustain a world-wide network of science-fiction fans. Long before the Internet, they shared

opinions by typing, copying and mailing their own periodicals.”

Toni Weisskopf, rightly called “a friend of 30 years and publisher of Athens-based Baen Books, which specializes in sci-fi titles” is quoted, “You don’t get DragonCon without people like Ned.... One of the central questions of science fiction is: What does it mean to be human? That’s not an enthusiasm you lose.... Ned is an equal-opportunity friend if you are interested in science fiction.” Melissa Conway, “head of the [Eaton] special collection of fanzines [and SF generally; in fact, head of all special collections] at the University of California – Riverside [said] ‘There are people who started in this when they were 13 and are 90 now.... I am constantly impressed with their intelligence, loyalty and wit.’” Fanziners, the *JC* allowed, aren’t “content with merely penning a note to a sci-fi magazine and hoping for publication. They wanted interact-tivity before that term became a buzzword.... They stuffed fanzines with letters, poems, stories and cri-tiques ... personal updates ... ran-dom observations. ‘Fandom is something that comes in the mail’ was their slogan.”

With the N3F (Nat’l Fantasy Fan Fed’n) he was on its Directorate, edited its *Collector’s Bulletin*, and in 1972 was given its Kaymar service award (named for K. Martin Carlson 1904-1986). His fanzine *It Comes in the Mail* was bimonthly 1972-1978; he said, “I would comment on everything pertaining to science-fiction and science-fiction fandom that I got in the mail, but ... the larger the zine got, the more came in the mail.” It was succeeded, more or less, by *It Goes on the Shelf* 1985-2014 annually,

more or less, reviewing books, often strange. Its last issue, No. 36 in November, had a letter from me.

In 1967 he joined SFPA (Southern Fandom Press Ass'n) and remained in that apa until his death; having published *The New Newport News News* awhile, he made *The New Port News* his SFPazine, its last issue No. 282 in July. He co-founded SLANAPA in 1969 (Slan-derous Amateur Press Ass'n — a name more honored in the breach than in the observance — lest you suppose a reference to the Van Vogt novel *Slan* [1946; last rev. 1968]; monthly, with rotating Official Editor); he was OE for its 547th mailing in August.

His first Worldcon was Discon I (21st World Science Fiction Convention, 31 Aug - 2 Sep 63, Washington, D.C.) — Mike Resnick's, too. He was Fan Guest of Honor at Rivercon IV (28-30 Jul 78, Louisville, Kentucky) and DeepSouthCon XXXIX (4-6 May 01, Birmingham, Alabama). He was given the Rebel Award in 1976 and the Rubble Award in 1992.

In 1980 he published G. Beahm ed., *Kirk's Works*. Beahm is his executor now. On p. 5 Beahm says "Bruce Pelz opened his collection of fanzines to me.... Fred Patten sent me a small mountain of copies.... Ned Brooks, who backed me all the way on my first book, *The Vaughn Bodé Index* [1976], gladly shouldered the burden of ... this book. I owe him everything, including the shirt on my back." He published a fourth edition of his *Hannes Bok Illustration Index* in 2012. Tim Kirk contributed a fine drawing of him to the October 2015 *Locus* (p. 75).



Ned Brooks

(Tim Kirk's artwork from *Locus*)
(Reprinted with permission of the artist)

Beyond the veil of this sad Earth
 Beyond the sea of stars
 There lies the land of my true birth
 So time-lost and space-far....
 How could so many
 dream of what is not?
 We have been there and
 remember....
 We are haunted by a
 dream that will not die.

Ned Brooks, 1964

(Reprinted from *Vanamonde* 1167; "I Sing of Brooks" is from a poem by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)).

* At the end of November, John learned from Mike Glycer that Ned's fanzines went instead to Special Collections at the University of Georgia. George Beahm explained, "I changed my mind after Ned's family made their preference clear, since Ned's brother Dan, and Ned's parents, graduated from UGa. There will be a preview of the collection sometime next year, a mini-display."

STF-RELATED NEWS HEADLINES

Sir Arthur C. Clarke's Personal Papers arrive at the Museum

"Martin Collins, a curator in the Space History Department of the National Air and Space Museum [gave an overview of what's in Clarke's papers](#), with photographs."

(Reprinted from File 770 – October 15, 2015)

Patent Granted for Space Elevator

“Canada-based Thoth Technology was recently granted U.S. and U.K. patents for a space elevator reaching 12.5 miles into the sky. The ThothX Tower is a proposed piece of futuristic, pneumatically pressurized free-standing architecture, designed to propel astronauts into the stratosphere. Then they can then be launched into space.

The Tower would also likely be used to generate wind energy, host communications technology and will be open to space tourists.”

(Reprinted from File 770 – November 4, 2015)

Ackermansion Update

“There is a petition at change.org calling on the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission to [“Declare Forrest Ackerman’s house a historic monument!”](#) The Commission also [considered an application at its Dec.3rd meeting.](#)”

(Reprinted from File 770 – December 14, 2015)

Ray Bradbury Doll

“Debbie Ritter of UneekDollDesigns is [selling a diminutive Ray Bradbury doll](#) holding a tiny copy of *Fahrenheit 451* for \$51.00.”

(Reprinted from File 770 – December 24, 2015)

MARK HICKMAN DONATES FANZINES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTWORK TO ARCHIVE

During the past year, long-time fan Mark Hickman has generously given material to the First Fandom Archive.

Mark has made available dozens of medium-format color slides, featuring some of the fans / pros of the day

(much younger then). Some slides were made at conventions in the 1950s, including Midwestcon. We have made digital scans and plan to share some of them in the future.

Among those in the photos: Wilson Tucker, Roger Sims, Alex and Phyllis Eisenstein, Earl Kemp, Jon Stopa, George Price, Lynn Hickman, Bob Silverberg, Art Widner, Bruce Pelz, Robert Bloch, Howard Devore, Evelyn Gold and Arthur C. Clarke.

Mark provided copies of several membership cards, and some early publications, including Don Ford’s TAFF Report, and First Fandom Magazine No. 19 (Fall 1986-Spring 1987), featuring an autobiographical article by Aubrey MacDermott in which he discusses early fandom.

Mark donated five different signed/numbered copies of “My Christmas Surprise” by John Arthur Cochrane, Jr., aka The Beastly Poet (privately published during the 1980s-90s and sent each year to family and friends).

The capstone of Mark’s philanthropy is an unpublished piece of original artwork created by Bob Barger in 1987 for the *First Fandom Magazine*.

Mark’s generous donation helps to ensure that these historic items will be cataloged, preserved, and made available in the future for scholars engaged in research and publication.

RECOMMENDED READING

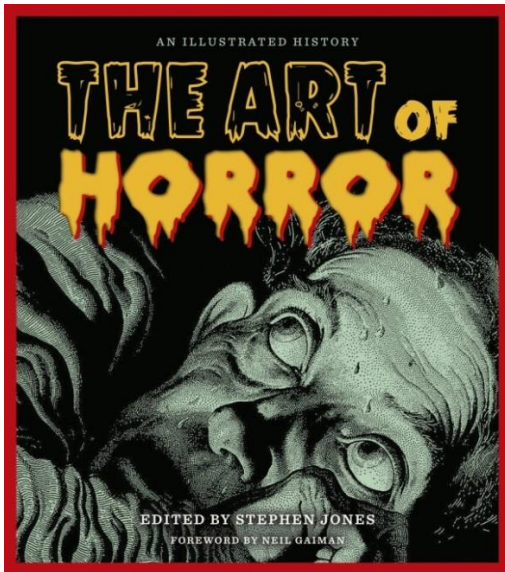
(BY JOHN L. COKER III)

The Art of Horror – An Illustrated Edition (Edited by Stephen Jones)

In order to fully realize this title’s ambitious scope, it would take an experienced and dedicated editor who could assemble an unparalleled

roster of writers, editors, film-makers and artists to offer fascinating and detailed essays richly illustrated with hundreds of images of rare artwork.

Stephen Jones and his collaborators have done just that, producing a book that will most likely come to be regarded as the essential volume.



(Artwork by Virgil Finlay)

The initial visual appearance is very appealing. The cover features bold colors and artwork by Virgil Finlay. Strong production values throughout include color endpapers, bright print quality and a useful detailed index.

This beautiful hardcover book is more than 250 pages in length. It is organized into ten chapters, each with a central theme accompanied by dozens of incredible illustrations.

Author **Neil Gaiman** provides a foreword for the book, writing about “The Thing That We Don’t Talk About.”

Jones then introduces the subject of the book, in “The Art of Darkness.”

Chapter titles and authors:

“The Blood is the Life” (by David J. Skal)

“The Dead that Walk” (by Jamie Russell)

“Man-Made Monsters” (by Gregory William Mank)

“Even a Man Who is Pure of Heart” (by Kim Newman)

“More Things in Heaven and Earth” (by Richard Dalby)

“We All Go a Little Mad Sometimes” (by Barry Forshaw)

“Hallowe’en Horrors” (by Lisa Morton)

“The Old Gods Awaken” (by S.T. Joshi)

“Giant Behemoths” (by Bob Eggleton)

“Keep Watching the Skies” (by Robert Weinberg)

The Art of Horror provides the full experience. Make certain that when you start to read it you have set aside enough time (and daylight!).

Published in 2015 by Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, an imprint of the Hal Leonard Corporation

7777 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI – 53213

List price: \$40.

ISBN 978-1-4950-0913-6

www.applausebooks.com

A CONVERSATION WITH DANIEL KEYES
(AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN L. COKER III, 2004)

“My own interests have had to do with psychological and sociological SF. Everything in my background directed me to that kind of writing.

The beginning of science fiction, for me, was when Lester Del Rey got me a job working as an assistant fiction editor of *Marvel Science Fiction*, among ten other pulp magazines. When I told him that I had no experience as a fiction editor, he said that Scott Meredith would write me a background.

They sent me in and I talked to the editor-in-chief. He hired me, then I ran off to the public library to look up proofreader's marks. My job was to buy the stories and edit them. The senior editor would come in once a week and put up titles and illustrations. We paid the writers one or two cents a word.

One of my early memories was when Scott Meredith sent in a story by Lester Del Rey. It was about 5,000 words, and I thought that it was a good story but it needed heavy editing. I called Scott Meredith and told him this. I asked him if he thought Lester would rewrite.

Scott said, "Lester never rewrites. He has been getting two cents a word for his pulp stories. If he rewrites a 5000-word story, he'll only be getting a cent a word."

I wanted well-written stories that weren't just turned out. My career took off from there. I wound up writing half of those stories in the pulp magazines that I edited, using pennames that I will not reveal.

After *Flowers for Algernon* was published, I got a letter from a psychiatrist who said, "There are scenes where Charly sees himself as the other Charly. There are two kinds of writers that use that concept: those that are mentally ill, like E.T.A.

Hoffman, and those that use it as a literary device."

And, she wanted to know into which category I fell. I wrote back to her and said that I never saw myself coming and going. I did become very interested in what is now called disassociative identity disorder – multiple personalities.

That sent me back to the classics of literature: Edgar Allan Poe, Conrad, Dostoyevsky; all short works. To my knowledge, no one had written a novel about multiple personalities. So I dug into that, and I wrote *The Fifth Sally*, my second novel, about a woman with five personalities.

As a young writer, I had enjoyed contemporary science fiction from friends of mine such as that of Lester Del Rey, William Tenn, Lloyd Biggle, Jr., Isaac Asimov, Ted Sturgeon and Ray Bradbury.

When I was working on my memoirs – *Algernon, Charly and I* – I thought that it was done. Then one day, I opened the *New York Times* and there was the headline: "Scientists Make Smart Mouse." I discovered the research was underway, so I called the head of the study and we talked for a while. I asked him about SF and he said that they had read *Flowers for Algernon*. He said that they had said to each other that "the science fiction writers are ahead of us and we have to catch up."

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

John Hertz writes:

"Scientifiction 45 arrived today. Thanks, and thanks for printing my article. Glad you liked it. Julian May also sent me a kind note.

The last time I saw Chicago's splendid Art Institute it prominently displayed Seurat's Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte (1886). I've probably spent hours looking at it.

We've so long had such sorry results from mass-entertainment-media-celebrity toastmasters, of just the kind Brother Stokes bemoans, it's always particularly saddening to see that tried again.

I'm offering a reprint of a short article about Brother Pelz, which originally appeared in *Vanamonde*. The poem is an acrostic in 5-7-5-7-7-syllable form.

You'll see mention of 200,000 Pelz fanzines. As you may know, Brother Pelz acquired others' fanzine collections and included them in his. In 2002 no one knew how many of the 200,000 might be duplicates. Eaton hoped to keep them all. Eventually that was found to go beyond time and space. Without duplicates there were 75,000. A safe home (which I'm not sure I may disclose) was found for the rest."

(The following is reprinted from *Vanamonde*)

Both of us have done
Recondite amusing things
Until others laughed.
Catastrophically I find
Even I don't want the last.

Monday I spent at Univ. Cal. Riverside trying to help the Library with Bruce Pelz' fanzine collection.

There are 200,000 on floor-to-ceiling shelves over a hundred standlees of wall space (okay, my paces, not Kevin Standlee's), plus a few dozen side boxes. I talked with four librarians and seven sorters — cata-

loguing comes later. One of the four, a preservationist, conferred about staples (any not stainless steel may rust), and the characteristics of home-made publication by hecto-graph, spirit duplicator, mimeograph, and photocopy; thankfully there was negligible insect damage.

Among all but the most senior, who knew, mostly, I expounded fanzines, fans, fandom, and fan activity, taking things from what-is-this? mystery bins. Here was a SMOFcon Program Book [Secret Master Of Fandom, as Pelz said a joke-nonjoke-joke; SMOFcon gathers con-runners]. Here was an undated handwritten letter about artwork, not from Pelz, "Dear Alicia", to me obviously A. Austin. Here was *Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy*, to me obviously the newsletter of the Costumers Guild West. Here was an unopened *Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck*, indeed being sealed it could not at this stage be opened.

Alone, reaching into the shelves, I saw *Cluster 2* (Dec 43) by Ray Karden; *Proceedings of the Institute for Twenty-First Century Studies* 137 (Oct 60) by Theodore Cogswell; Catherine FitzSimmons' *F/ractional* 606.67 (Nov 90) for *The Cult*.

Goshwow.

Steve and Sue Francis write:

"We arrived home safely from the Worldcon. Our flight took us through Minneapolis-St. Paul which is one busy airport. After the Convention we went up to Glacier National Park for two days. We took a tour on the Red Bus which was a 1936 White that had

been updated by the Ford Motor Company. The Huckleberry ice cream was delicious. Lifetime U.S. National Park passes did come in handy. (Anyone over age 62 can get one.) The only thing that was not as it should have been was the smoke from all of the wild fires in the general area. The new unofficial nickname for the Con is... you guessed it...Smokon!

The awards ceremony went well and did not run over time. John Hertz kept his acceptance speech for Julian May short and Dave Aronovitz went on a little longer, but still within time limits. Ben Yalow received the Big Heart Award. He was totally flabbergasted, almost speechless. Ben later admitted that he had no clue as to what he said in his acceptance speech. Everyone was very pleased that he joined the ranks of Big Heartdom. The First Fandom Award plaques were excellent and similar to the Big Heart plaque in size and color scheme.

The First Fandom display board was set up with no difficulty and was the first board just opposite the main entrance to the dealer's room. I added the names of this year's award recipients for the Hall of Fame, Moskowitz and Big Heart to the posters Sunday morning.

The convention center was a good fit, the Historic Davenport Hotel was absolutely beautiful and their staff was top notch. We hope to see everyone next year in Kansas City!"

Christopher M. O'Brien writes:

"Thanks for the 2Q2015 issue, which I thoroughly enjoyed, especially the tributes to Madle and Widner. Great photograph of Christopher Lee.

Art Widner was a very late-in-life correspondent of H. P. Lovecraft's; the 926th letter in HPL's Selected Letters V (Arkham House, 1976. pp. 413-416.) is addressed to Art. With the passing of Widner the Lovecraft Circle truly closes, as I know of no other HPL correspondent still living.

Widner told me that he'd actually had a story accepted by Farnsworth Wright for Weird Tales called "The Alien One" (which was eventually published by Dorothy McIlwraith in Short Stories Vol. 177, No. 6, Whole No. 864. 25 December 1941):

Apparently although Wright had accepted it, McIlwraith didn't much care for the story and didn't want it in WT so she cast it off to Short Stories which she also edited."

Es and Les Cole write:

"The 10th World SF Convention in Chicago: Les quit his job and he and I and our 4 month-old son Dana piled into the car belonging to Dave and June Koblick and drove non-stop to Chicago. We and four other members of The Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society took over the penthouse suite of the Morrison Hotel. We had a den, living room, dining room, kitchen, and 3 bedrooms with baths ensuite. Convention attendees would take the elevator up to the penthouse, and wander through all the rooms as though it were a public area before we started to lock the front door.

We met Azimov; Poûl Anderson being pursued by Karen; Julian May; and other big name pros and fans. Chicago fans were lobbying hard for the next year convention site. This was our son's Dana's second sf

world convention. Dana had attended the previous one in New Orleans in utero.

One night a blustery Chicago storm blew a bat into our bedroom. Of course, it was a vampire bat. No other kind would dare attend an sf convention. Les tried to cage the vampire bat so I could parade it around while attending convention activities.

What happened? Poul and Karen Anderson moved to California, got married, and had a daughter. The Little Men didn't get the next convention. The Koblicks and the Coles had a scary adventure at midnight at Mount Rushmore on our trip home.

Oh, the Morrison Hotel was later demolished.

Jack Robins writes:

I loved the recent issue of the First Fandom newsletter, even including the write-up of me. Everything written about me, taken together, makes me seem like an important person in Fandom but truthfully I never felt that way.

One correction, though. Each of the two drawings that I made depict John B. Michel. When I went to meetings, sometimes I was a little bored. I carried a small notebook and would try to draw the faces of fans I admired, including Wollheim and Michel. Unfortunately I had no occasion to try to sketch other fans.

Other than the Futurians and the ISA, I also have been a long-time member of N3F and First Fandom. I used to go to Lunacons and always enjoyed attending First Fandom meetings there. I sure appreciate getting the

First Fandom newsletter and will write again soon.



CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE

We enjoyed all the cards and holiday letters that everyone sent this year.

Dr. Alice Becker (Bronxville, NY) is enjoying gardening and charity work.

Cecilia Brammer (McLean, VA) is moving to a retirement community. She sends best wishes to everyone.

Mary Ellen Daugherty has moved to Longview, WA, and is working on a website about Walter J. Daugherty.

Joe and Gay Haldeman enjoyed the year writing, traveling, attending conventions. They retired recently from teaching at MIT, and just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

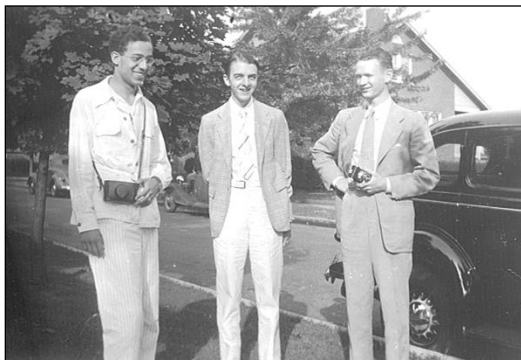
We also heard from Bob Madle, Erle Korshak, Jack Lange, Keith Stokes, and Joe Wrzos & Helen de la Ree.

(Editor's Note: Readers are invited to send their letters, news items, photos, and reviews for publication.)

PHOTOS FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS



L-R: Oswald Train, Lloyd A. Eshbach, Julius Schwartz (1937)
 (Photograph provided by Robert A. Madle)



L-R: Milton A. Rothman, Harry A. Warner, Jr., Jack Speer. Hagerstown, MD (1940)
 (Photograph provided by Robert A. Madle)



L-R: The Three Musketeers: Rick Sneary, Len J. Moffatt, Stan Woolston (1950)
 (From the Collection of Len J. Moffatt)

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