

SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**, the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction
New Series #47, 1st Quarter 2016

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FIRST FANDOM AWARDS, 2016

Return completed ballots **by no later than April 30th** to John Coker, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando, FL, 32808, or by email: jcoker3@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to everyone for sending their nominations for this year's awards.

2016 WORLDCON - KANSAS CITY

First Fandom will be presenting our annual awards and participating in panel discussions. We will have our traditional historic display in the exhibition area. We will have a Fan Table where convention-goers can get copies of our newsletters as well as information about First Fandom.

Please let us know if you are coming to the Worldcon. We are looking for volunteers to help us with the set-up. We hope that everyone will come by and say 'hello' during the weekend.

For information about Midamericon2, please visit: www.midamericon.org.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

To those who still have not yet paid their dues for last year (July 2015 - June 2016), **please send \$15 right away** (checks payable to Keith W. Stokes) to: 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS - 66215. We thank you!

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this issue we present a look at **Robert C. Peterson**, whose s-f fan activity dates back to the mid-1930s.

NECROLOGY / BIRTHDAYS

We sadly acknowledge the recent passing of two long-time SF fans: David G. Hartwell and Jack Robins.

The list of April-June birthdays in this issue is based on the information originally compiled by Andy Porter.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following people contributed to this issue: Joanne E. Brooks, Mike Glycer, David Langford, Joe Martino, Robert C. Peterson, Nick Ringelberg, Jr., Lottie Robins, Steven H. Silver, Keith W. Stokes and Jon D. Swartz.

The next issue will be sent out by early July. Please send book and film reviews, convention reports, news items, interviews, photos and your letters of comment to the editor.

Take care, be safe and stay in touch.

- *John L. Coker III*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Enclosed is a list of all the members who are current on the dues. Thank you for supporting this organization!

VOTING FOR THE 2016 AWARDS

We have a strong slate of candidates for this year's awards. Please return completed ballots to me by **April 30**.

NEED MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

We're trying to reach John Dalmas, Robert O. Adair, Sandra Sundstrom.

THE FIRST FANDOM ARCHIVE

The First Fandom Archive began in the late-1950s. It consists of all the material related to our organization (publications, correspondence, and official documents) as well as other items that have been donated from members over the years (convention books, fan magazines, photographs, letters, artwork, et.al.). The Archive is currently housed in my library on two bookcases and in several boxes.

As the organization evolves over the next few years, our members will help to decide where our Archive will permanently reside. It will need to be regularly cataloged, maintained, kept together and made accessible.

Our interests are wide-reaching, and we are especially excited about any SF/fantasy/horror items related to the 1920s-50s. We regularly receive requests from fans seeking material for their projects. Most often we are able to provide some information and scans for them. We hope to soon have an updated description of the FF Archive available on our website.

BIRTHDAYS**April**

- 1 – Anne McCaffrey, Samuel R. Delany
- 3 – Donald M. Grant
- 5 – Robert Bloch, Boris Strugatsky
- 7 – Henry Kuttner, James White
- 8 – Ralph Milne Farley, Ted Carnell
- 12 – Emil Petaja, Carol Emshwiller
- 14 – Morris Scott Dollens
- 17 – T. Bruce Yerke, Lloyd Biggle, Jr.
- 18 – Frank R. Paul, G.M. Carr
- 20 – June Moffatt
- 25 – Fletcher Pratt
- 26 – H.L. Gold, A.E. Van Vogt
- 27 – Frank Belknap Long
- 29 – Elmer Perdue, Jack Williamson

May

- 2 – E.E. "Doc" Smith
- 4 – Erwin "Filthy Pierre" Strauss
- 7 – Walt Liebscher, Gene Wolfe
- 8 – Roy Tackett
- 9 – Philip Klass (aka William Tenn)
- 10 – Olaf Stapledon, Alex Schomburg
- 18 – Lorraine Tutihasi
- 20 – Gardner Fox
- 21 – Manly Wade Wellman
- 22 – Arthur Conan Doyle, Ed Earl Repp
- 23 – James Blish
- 25 – Charles D. Hornig
- 26 – Robert W. Chambers, Howard De Vore
- 27 – Rudolph Belarski, Harlan Ellison
- 30 – Harry C. Stubbs (aka Hal Clement)

June

- 2 – Lester del Rey, Robert A. Madle
- 3 – Marion Zimmer Bradley, John Norman
- 6 – Noreen Shaw
- 8 – John W. Campbell, Jr., Roger Sims
- 9 – Lin Carter, Joe Haldeman
- 14 – William Hamling
- 16 – Murray Leinster, Ted Dikty
- 19 – Julius Schwartz
- 20 – Lloyd Arthur Eshbach
- 22 – H. Rider Haggard, Leo P. Margulies
- 26 – Elsie Wollheim, Hal Shapiro
- 28 – Peggy Rae Sapienza
- 29 – Ray Harryhausen, Michael Whelan
- 30 – Sam Moskowitz

NECROLOGY***David G. Hartwell***

“David G. Hartwell (1941-2016), major US sf editor at Tor Books (formerly Signet, Berkley/Putnam, Gregg Press and Pocket/Simon & Schuster/Timescape) who received a great many Hugo nominations as Best Editor and won three times, died on 20 January; he was 74.

Among many other achievements he was the publisher and a founding editor of *The New York Review of SF*, and won two World Fantasy Awards, one for his colossal horror anthology *The Dark Descent* (1987).”

(Written by David Langford and originally published in Ansible 343, February 2016)



David G. Hartwell
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

I REMEMBER DAVID G. HARTWELL
(BY JOHN L. COKER III)

I met him 25 years ago at a World Fantasy Convention and he was a giant figure, even back then. David knew a lot about rare books and the history of SF, as well as most of the people in the field. Over the years he critiqued a couple of my projects and gave some advice about editing. David accomplished quite a lot in his lifetime. We extend our sincere sympathy to Kathryn and the family.

Jack Robins

First Fandom original member Jack Robins passed away on December 23, 2015 after a brief illness. Robins was a science fiction (SF) fan who belonged to the International Scientific Association in the 1930s, was a founding member of the famed Futurian Literary Society of Greater New York, and attended a number of early SF conventions, including the first Worldcon in 1939.

Robins was born February 17, 1919 in Elizabeth, NJ. After he left the Futurians, he earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, but he maintained an interest in SF his entire life. He was married to his wife of sixty-six years, Lottie. They enjoyed photography, listening to classical music, reading and writing.



Jack Robins

Jack Robins was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame and made a N3F Life Member, both in 2012. He was a genuine enthusiast who knew many of the early fans and was present as history was unfolding. Jack pursued his dream of going to college and becoming a working scientist. His accounts and photographs have become an important part of the record of the early days of science fiction fandom.

(Prepared by John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz)

REMEMBERING JACK ROBINS

(BY MRS. LOTTIE ROBINS)

Dr. Jack Robins, Ph.D., was born in Roselle, NJ February 17, 1919. At age sixteen he graduated from Boys' High School in Brooklyn, NY, a prestigious high school that each year accepted only 350 students out of 5,000 from all of the five New York boroughs. He graduated in 1935 with Merit Awards in Math, French and Chemistry.

In February 1940 he graduated Summa Cum Laude from New York City College, eventually working at night for the Vanadium Corporation of America in Niagara Falls and taking the bus to the University of Buffalo during the day to earn his M.A. in 1948.



Jack and Lottie Robins

In July 1949, while working in Brooklyn as a chemist for the Board of Transportation, Jack met Lottie Levin, a Medical Assistant, at an Arts and Science Professional social function. They immediately found common interests: writing, photography, classical music and politics. After dating for five weeks, they became engaged and were married on Christmas Day, 1949.

In 1956, when their children were 3 and 5, Jack returned full-time to college. He attended the Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute on a Fellowship, receiving his Ph.D. as an inorganic chemist. Robins was an employee for 25 years at Atlas Chemical Industries in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. Jack was named Chemist of the Year several times in recognition of his inventions and the work he did with computers. After a productive career, he retired in 1982.

Jack was a life-long science fiction enthusiast. He was a founding member of the Futurian Science Literary Society in 1938. For many years he belonged to the National Fantasy Fan Federation. And, in 2014, he was elected by his peers to the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

During his lunch hours at Atlas Chemical Industries, Jack wrote a science fiction novel which was never published. He also wrote several SF-related plays and four volumes of his memoirs. Jack was Lottie's inspiration to enroll in writing courses. He wrote sonnets and many poems to her for all occasions.

Jack loved working with tools and he built a bicycle shed which turned out to be a small house. He constructed a customized cabinet for their stereo equipment and many bookcases.

Jack and Lottie were married for 66 years, and after a brief illness Jack passed away on December 23. He is survived by his 100 year-old wife Lottie, daughter and son-in-law Lohrainne and Leagh, son Arthur, three grand-daughters, two great grand-children, and a 103 year-old sister. He had a long and rewarding life and will be fondly remembered.

**ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
ROBERT C. PETERSON****(BY JON D. SWARTZ AND JOHN L. COKER III)**

Robert C. (Bob) Peterson was born in 1921. When he was twelve years old, he discovered *Wonder Stories*. Two years later, he was buying older issues of magazines and advertising them for sale in *Amazing*. Bob has been a science fiction (SF) and fantasy fan for most of his life, publishing his personalzine, *Notes from Bob Peterson*, for many years.

Bob finished college in 1942 and went directly into the U.S. Army. While assigned to various military bases, he visited with the local SF fans, including Wilson 'Bob' Tucker and Forrest J Ackerman.

After being discharged in Denver in 1946, Peterson became acquainted with some members of the Colorado Fantasy Society, including Chuck Hansen, Roy V. Hunt, Stan Mullen and Olon T. Wiggins.

In the later-1940s Bob published the genre reference works *The Fantasy Index* and the *Index of Science Fiction Magazines, 1926-1948*, the latter with fellow fan Bill Evans.

In the early-1950s, Bob and Stan Mullen met Robert A. Heinlein, who was living in Colorado Springs. Peterson was married in 1954 and all four of his sons eventually came to share his interest in SF.

In 1960 Bob edited his most famous contribution to the SF/fantasy field, the anthology *The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes*. Published by The Council of Four in Denver, this pioneering work consisted of an Introduction by Anthony Boucher ("Sherlock Holmes and Science

Fiction") and eight stories by seven authors: Pöul Anderson ("The Martian Crown Jewels"), Gordon R. Dickson ("Half a Hoka -- Pöul Anderson"), Anderson & Dickson ("The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound"), Boucher ("The Anomaly of the Empty Man" and "The Greatest Tertian"), August Derleth & Mack Reynolds ("The Adventure of the Snitch in Time" and "The Adventure of the Ball of Nostradamus"), and H. Beam Piper & John J. McGuire ("The Return").

The stories had been collected from various sources by fellow SF fan Norm Metcalf. Donald M. Grant's Grandon Publishers printed fewer than 1000 copies of the first edition.

A longtime member of both the National Fantasy Fan Federation and First Fandom, Bob has donated many of his SF materials to the archives of both these organizations.

Bob preserved early fanzines from the files of Olon T. Wiggins and Roy V. Hunt. He reported that he has an almost complete set of the popular pulp SF magazine, *Startling Stories*.

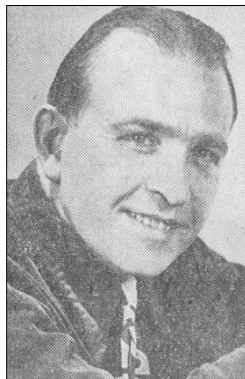
Bob is currently residing in Denver in an independent living facility. He still enjoys SF and the time that he gets to spend visiting with his son Alan.

Over the years, Bob traveled around the country, visiting fellow SF fans. He is currently collecting articles that he wrote about those adventures and he hopes to reprint them soon.

Peterson was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2004, along with Brian Aldiss and William L. Hamling. Peterson also was the recipient of First Fandom's Sam Moskowitz Archive Award in 2008.

ROBERT C. PETERSON PHOTOS

**The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes
(Edited by Robert C. Peterson)**



Bob's good friend, Stan Mullen



L-R: Robert C. Peterson, Jack Williamson

SF-RELATED NEWS HEADLINES*Windy City Pulp & Paper Convention*

The annual show will be held during April 22-24 in Lombard, Illinois. This year they will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of AMAZING STORIES. This convention is known for having an outstanding dealer's room full of rare pulps, books and collectibles. During the weekend there will be two auctions, films, panel discussions, guests, awards and great hospitality.

For more information, please visit: www.windycitypulpandpaper.com.

Ed Meskys' Guide Dog Passes Away

On February 5, Mike Glycer (File 770) shared this note from Ed Meskys:

"This morning I lost Gyro (public name 'Killer Dog') my guide dog with 9 years of service, just weeks past his age of 11.... Gyro had been welcome at many conventions, SF and [National Federation of the Blind]. He will be my last dog guide as I am weeks short of 80, cannot bend to pick up after a dog, and have trouble with stairs...."

(Reprinted from File 770 - Feb. 5, 2016)

2016 Gaughan and Skylark Awards Announced at Boskone 53 (Feb 19-21)

"The recipient of the Gaughan Award (presented to an emerging artist) was Tommy Arnold. The recipient of the Skylark Award (in recognition of one's work in the sf field and for embodying attributes of the late E.E. 'Doc' Smith) was Gardner Dozois."

(Summarized from a longer article written by Steven H. Silver, originally appearing in SF Site News - February 22, 2016)

JACK ROBINS' FAMILY DONATES MATERIAL TO THE FF ARCHIVES

Mrs. Lottie Robins has generously donated a box of SF material from the files of her late husband, Jack Robins. Included are examples of his writing, correspondence from friends, and some of his magazines.

Over the course of nine decades, Jack authored dozens of delightful poems, sonnets, limericks, plays and factual articles that were clever, humorous, insightful and poignant.

Lottie and Jack wrote a play about their dear friends, Don and Elsie Wollheim, entitled "The Trials and Tribulations of Publishing." Jack wrote a wonderful play about the Futurians, entitled "The Ivory Tower."

I discovered a few pages of technical notes that Jack had written when he was working as an inorganic chemist and I was immediately reminded that he really was a true man of science.

Original Articles

Jack wrote historic essays about many of the pioneering SF fans that he knew and some of the adventures they had during the 1930s-40s. Jack provided detailed and personal recollections about the ISA, the Futurians and early s-f conventions.

Correspondence

- Letters from Damon Knight written during the time Knight was preparing his book, "The Futurians".
- Letters from Fred Pohl written during the time Pohl was writing his memoir, "The Way the Future Was".
- Letters from Isaac Asimov, Sam Moskowitz and Donald A. Wollheim.



Some of Jack's written correspondence

S-F Magazines and Books

ABORIGINAL SCIENCE FICTION – four issues (#29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36) published during 1991-92.

AMAZING STORIES – twelve issues (Vol. LXVI, Nos. 2-11 and Vol. LXVII, Nos. 1-2) published during 1991-92.

FANTASY COMMENTATOR – five issues (#47-48, 49, 50, 51, 52) all published during 1995-2000.

FILMFAX – No. 131, Summer 2012 (12-page article about Jack Robins written by Christopher M. O'Brien).

GALAXY – five issues (#1, 2, 3, 6, 8) published during 1994-95.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN – Three issues (Vol. 9, Nos. 1-2, 3, 4) all published during 2009.

SF Gateway Omnibus – four novels by E.E. "Doc" Smith (issued in 2013).



Amazing Stories, Fantasy Commentator, Filmfax, Galaxy, National Fantasy Fan

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Bob Peterson writes:

I am doing pretty well these days. I admit to slowing down at 94 but I do try to stay active. I recently went to see the movie 'Everest' and thought it was good but not great. I also attend monthly lectures at my church. The rest of the family is doing well. Alan continues to help me around my place and he takes me to my doctors' appointments. Recently we all visited Rocky Mountain National Park. I've also been going to concerts and the opera with John. I'm staying in touch with my friends in First Fandom and working on an article about my history in science fiction.

Nick Ringelberg, Jr.

My father belonged to First Fandom. For the past few years, I have been cataloging his extensive collection. I am starting to examine his First Fandom files and seem to be missing issue #6 of the Bulletin. Is there any chance of getting a copy?

I have been an active SF reader all my life and attended a number of conventions in the 1960s with my dad. I have followed First Fandom most of my life. In issue #10 of the First Fandom Magazine, my picture was published on P. 17 and I was mentioned by Roy Tackett on P. 19. I am interested in becoming an Associate Member of First Fandom.

Joanne E. Brooks (of Zionsville, IN) sent a nice letter and two photos of L. Sprague and Catherine de Camp, whom she met at Inconjunction when they were guests of honor in 1983.

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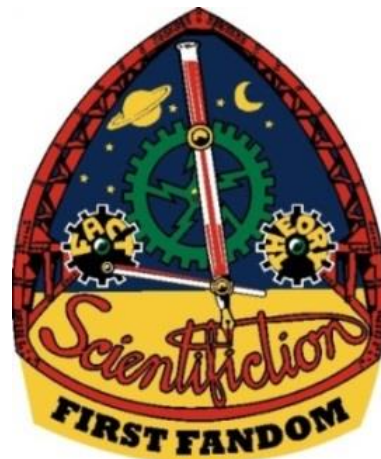
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We acknowledge the award-winning SF journalism being done daily by **Mike Glycer** (File 770), **Steven H. Silver** (SF Site News), and **David Langford** (Ansible).



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