
SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**
New Series #48, 2nd Quarter 2016

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NEW MEMBERS OF FIRST FANDOM

Welcome new Associate Members:

Dean Edward Cartier
Nicholas W. Ringelberg, Jr.

Both of their fathers were long-time members of First Fandom, and Dean and Nick have been involved in SF Fandom for more than half a century.

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS, 2016

Thanks to everyone who nominated and voted this year. The awards will be presented at the Worldcon during the Retro Hugo Awards Ceremony, at 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 18.

Steve Francis has graciously agreed to serve as First Fandom's master of ceremonies once again this year.

2016 WORLDCON, AUGUST 17-21

Please see Page 2 for more updates on our awards, fan tables / display, and some forthcoming publications.

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

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this issue we present a look at the life and times of **Erle M. Korshak**.

BIRTHDAY SALUTATIONS

Julian May (July 10th), James E. Gunn (July 12th), Bjo Trimble (August 15th), Brian W. Aldiss (August 18th), Robert E. Weinberg (August 29th).

NECROLOGY

We are saddened by the passing of our long-time friend, **Fred Prophet**.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Telephone: (520) 275-6511

John Dalmas

We need new contact information...

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are \$15 for the new fiscal year, starting on July 1st.

Checks (payable to Keith W. Stokes) should be mailed to Keith at 14305 W. 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Our thanks go to Mike Glycer, David Langford, Christopher M. O'Brien, Steven H. Silver and Jon D. Swartz.

Deadline for the next issue is mid-September. We are accepting news items, reviews, convention reports, articles, photos, artwork and letters.

- John L. Coker III

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN PASSING: FRED PROPHET

On July 3, we received the following letter from George Young's son-in-law, Randy:

"I regret to inform you that my friend Fred Prophet passed away June 29, 2016. His niece Pat was by his side. His life-long friend George Young had passed in August 2009. Both were members of First Fandom."

(The last time that I saw Fred and Randy was at the 2012 Worldcon in Chicago. We all enjoyed visiting with friends at the First Fandom Table. I was pleased that Roger Sims and Fred were able to attend Detcon1.)

MIDAMERICON2, THE 2016 WORLDCON

I will not be attending the Worldcon this year, but arrangements are being made for First Fandom to be well-represented at the Convention. Here are just some of the highlights:

Presentation of Our Awards

Steve Francis and Keith W. Stokes will present the Hall of Fame and Moskowitz Awards on August 18th as part of the Retro Hugo Awards.

Fan Tables / First Fandom Exhibit

First Fandom will have our traditional display located with our Fan Tables. Newsletters and official publications will be offered for sale. Membership applications will also be available.

First Fandom Magazine Annual 2016

Jon D. Swartz and I have prepared a new edition of the First Fandom Magazine Annual, whose theme is "Science Fiction Milestones." Copies

will be available for sale at the First Fandom Fan Tables, and can be ordered by mail after the Convention.

Convention Publications

I have submitted articles about First Fandom for the Program Book and the Retro Hugo Awards Booklet.

Will You Be Attending the Worldcon?

Volunteers will be needed to support the Fan Tables during the weekend.

Please contact me if you will be able to spend some time sitting at the tables to help represent our organization.

How Else Can Our Members Help?

We'll need photographs and reports from the Convention to publish in the 3Q2016 issue of SCIENTIFICTION.

WELCOME, NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dean Edward Cartier
80 Pine Street
Ramsey, NJ – 07446

Nicholas W. Ringelberg, Jr.
14 Appletree Court
Clifton Park, NY – 12065

MEMBERSHIP DUES

For members who haven't sent their dues checks to Keith W. Stokes, I ask you to do so as soon as possible. Thanks for your support!

HELP WANTED DEPARTMENT

There is an immediate job opening for Assistant Editor. As a member of the newsletter staff, anticipated job duties include research, reporting, writing, editing, design, distribution. Career opportunities are available...

Please send expressions of interest directly to: jlcocker3@bellsouth.net.

BIRTHDAYS

(From a list originally compiled by Andrew Porter)

July

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

August

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

September

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

NECROLOGY***Bill Herz (b.1916)***

“Bill Herz, last surviving participant in Orson Welles's notorious 1938 *War of the Worlds* broadcast – in which Herz played two ham radio operators – died on 10 May at the age of 99.”

(Reprinted from *Ansible* 347, June 2016)



Fred Prophet (Worldcon, 2012)
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

Fred Prophet (b.1929)

“Fan Fred Prophet died on June 29. Fred served as the co-chair, with Roger Sims, of the Detention, the 1959 Worldcon in Detroit. He and Roger were appointed Conchairs Emeritus at Detcon1, the 2014 NASFiC, which both men were able to attend. Prophet was active in the Detroit Science Fiction League and Michigan Science Fantasy Society (MISFITS) after attending his first convention, The Eleventh World Science Fiction Convention in 1953.”

(Reprinted from *SF Site News*, June 30, 2016)



Roger & Pat Sims, Fred Prophet
(Photograph by Ben Jason)

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ERLE M. KORSHAK

(BY JON D. SWARTZ & JOHN L. COKER III)

Born October 20, 1923, Mel Korshak has been a science fiction (SF) fan much of his life. He was one of the organizers of Chicon I, the second Worldcon – held at the Hotel Chicagoan, September 1-2, 1940.



Bob Madle, Mel Korshak
1940 Worldcon, Chicago



Morojo, Ackerman
Hotel Chicagoan

He was secretary of the concomm and presided over the first day of the convention as “temporary chairman,” when the official chairman, his friend Mark Reinsberg, fell ill. The earliest lists of Worldcons named Korshak as the official chairman although this was revised later.



E.E. “Doc” Smith, E.E. Evans, E.M. Korshak
(1940 Worldcon, Chicago)

Korshak later wrote *Putting My Two Cents In* as his account of how Denver won the 1941 Worldcon bid.

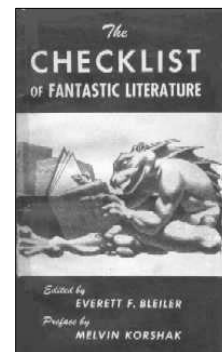
After serving in World War II, he established a used book business,

partnering with T.E. (Ted) Ditky to form Melvin Korshak Bookseller, the business that led to Shasta Publishers in 1947, one of the first hardback SF specialty presses.



Ted Ditky (1940 Worldcon)

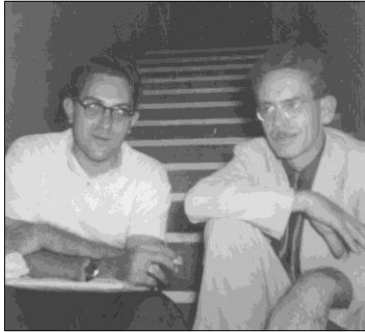
The company's initial book was *The Checklist of Fantastic Literature* edited by Everett F. Bleiler in 1948, the first reference book of SF bibliography. It was sized to fit into a person's coat pocket, so it could be carried by book scouts looking for particular items. Korshak himself wrote an excellent preface.



The Checklist of Fantastic Literature (1948)

This first book was followed by major works by Robert A. Heinlein (his “Future History” Series), Alfred Bester (*The Demolished Man*), Fredric Brown (*Space On My Hands*), John W. Campbell (*Who Goes There?*), and other well-known SF writers. An effort to diversify into general publishing brought Shasta Publishers to an end in 1957.

The verdict of Jack Chalker and Mark Owings in their reference book, *The Science Fantasy Publishers*, (1966), was that Shasta (and Korshak) “had more lasting impact than many major specialty presses of today ever will or could.”



Erle M. Korshak, Dr. John D. Clark
1953 Worldcon, Philadelphia
(Photograph by Charles Harris)

The books in the Future History Series by Heinlein sold especially well for the time. (*The Checklist of Fantastic Literature* was reprinted in an expanded edition in 1972 by Fax Collector's Editions, Naperville, IL.).



Erle M. Korshak and Shasta Publishers
(1950 Worldcon, Portland)

Korshak knew SF/fantasy author L. Ron Hubbard, who offered Shasta his book on Dianetics. He declined to publish it, telling Hubbard that he needed to go with a medical book publisher rather than a publisher of

SF. Korshak later said that this was the biggest mistake of his publishing career, since Hubbard's book became a best-seller. It might have saved Shasta, but it probably would also have infuriated SF fans, many of whom saw Dianetics as a hoax.



Early book display of the SF specialty publishers

Korshak was involved with some of the early SF movies, including *This Island Earth* (1955) and *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951), negotiating the film deal for the former and arranging that the latter be screened at the 1951 Worldcon.



The Day the Earth Stood Still
(1951 Worldcon, New Orleans)

For the next thirty years or so, Korshak did not have much contact with SF fandom, although he still enjoyed reading. He became a successful lawyer and businessman in California and Nevada.



Card game – 1949 Worldcon (Cincinnati)
 At the table, L-R: Wilson “Bob” Tucker, Oliver Saari, Korshak, Bill Donaho. Standing: Martin Greenberg, Pamela Bulmer (Photograph by Ben Jason)

Starting in the late 1980s, he began attending conventions and First Fandom reunions again.



First Fandom Reunion (Soonercon, 1992)
 (Erle Korshak, Julius Schwartz, Sam Moskowitz, Catherine & Sprague de Camp, Forry Ackerman)
 (Photograph by John L. Coker III)

With his son Stephen, he revived the Shasta imprint as “Shasta/Phoenix” in 2009 to publish collections of classic SF art. They have published



Korshak with painting by Frank R. Paul, 1940



Stephen D. Korshak with the same painting, 2010

The Alluring Art of Margaret Brundage (2013), *From the Pen of Paul: The Fantastic Images of Frank R. Paul* (2009), *The Paintings of J.*

Allen St. John (2008), *A Hannes Bok Showcase* (1993), and other titles.



Front: Ray Bradbury, Leo P. Margulies. Back: Manly Wade Wellman, Mort Weisinger, Erle M. Korshak. 1939 Worldcon (New York City). (Photograph by Conrad H. Ruppert)

Korshak was friends with many of the genre's greats, including Forrest J Ackerman, Farnsworth Wright, Frank R. Paul, Raymond A. Palmer, Hannes Bok, Lloyd A. Eshbach, Alfred Bester, L. Sprague de Camp, Jack Williamson, Julian May, Bea Mahaffey, Wilson “Bob” Tucker, William L. Hamling, Ray Bradbury, Robert Bloch, Jerome Bixby, and Hubert Rogers (for whom he posed).



Coney Island (July 1939) Rear, L-R: V. Kidwell, Bob Madle, Mel Korshak, Ray Bradbury. Front, L-R: Mark Reinsberg, Jack Agnew, Ross Rocklynne (Photograph provided by Robert A. Madle)

Korshak was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1996, and received the Barry R. Levin Science Fiction and Fantasy Lifetime Literature Collectors Award in 2001.

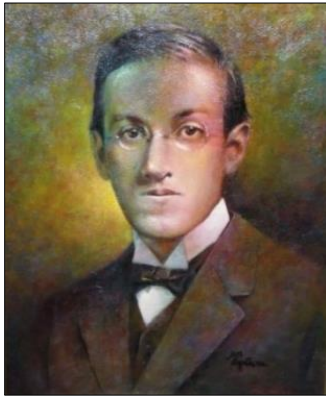
An original member of First Fandom, Erle Melvin Korshak currently serves as a National Vice President.

STF-RELATED HEADLINES

Julian May Donates Artwork to the First Fandom Archives

Julian May has graciously donated a beautiful framed piece of original artwork to First Fandom's Archives.

This 16 x 20 unpublished oil painting was created by Jon Arfstrom for his own pleasure (ca. 1990). It depicts H.P.L. around 1915 at the age of 25.



Portrait of H.P. Lovecraft
(By Jon Arfstrom)

Artist Jon Arfstrom (1928-2015) was widely-regarded as the last living illustrator to create artwork which appeared on the covers of the original WEIRD TALES magazine.

Julian May agreed that the painting could be offered for sale and the proceeds used to fund First Fandom activities. For more information, see the next issue of SCIENTIFICTION.

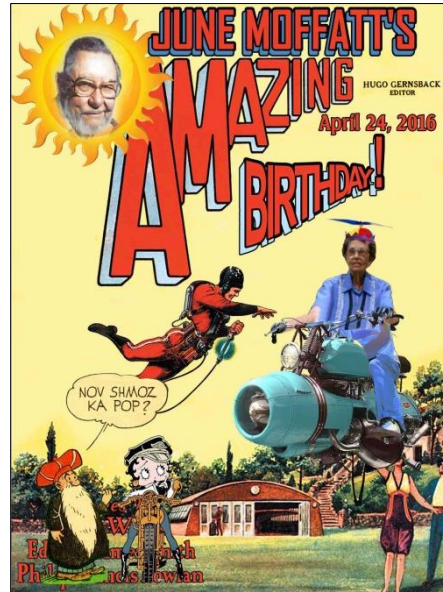
Ned Brooks' Fanzine Collection

"Part of the late Ned Brooks' fanzine collection is on now display at the University of Georgia, where his family donated it. The university library's blog has posted ["To Infinity and Beyond! Selections from the Ned Brooks Fanzine Collection"](#).

(Reprinted from File 770 – May 5, 2016)

June Moffatt's Amazing Birthday

Long-time fan June Moffatt (who was born the same month as AMAZING STORIES) celebrated her ninetieth birthday in Van Nuys on April 24 at a big birthday bash hosted by LASFS.



June's AMAZING Birthday

Many family members and friends were there. They performed several of Len's songs, enjoyed the track of full-length films and presented June with food, gifts and a chocolate cake.



June Konigsberg and her mother, Louise Leipiar (aka L. Major Reynolds)
(Circa. 1940s)

(From the Collection of Walter J. Daugherty)

(Reprinted from 5X5 - CAPA - June 2016)

FIRST FANDOM PHOTO GALLERY

70 Years Ago

L-R: Richard Wilson, David A. Kyle in New York, 1946. They had agreed to meet in Times Square after World War Two.
(From the Collection of David A. Kyle)

75 Years Ago

L-R: Olin F. Wiggins, Lew Martin, Robert A. Madle. Third Worldcon (Denver, 1941)
(From the Collection of Robert A. Madle)

75 Years Ago

The R.D. Swishers
Boskone (1941)
(Photo by Jack Robins)

80 Years Ago

Robert E. Howard
(1906-1936)
(From Richard H. Minter)

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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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