

SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**
New Series #50, 4th Quarter 2016

IN MEMORIAM



(Photograph: The Courier Gazette and Camden Herald)

NORMAN F. STANLEY (1916 - 2016)

A science hobbyist and SF fan from the Gernsback Days, Norm was a member of the Stranger Club who also attended a number of the early SF conventions.

IN MEMORIAM



(ConJose, 2002 - Photograph provided by Bruce Carter)

PAUL A. CARTER (1920 - 2016)

A retired professor of American History and a WWII veteran, Paul wrote fiction for *Astounding*, published SF novels and authored a critical study about the pulps.

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FIRST FANDOM AWARDS FOR 2017

We are now accepting nominations for:

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

Nominations should be sent prior to March 15th to jlcocker3@bellsouth.net or sent to John Coker at 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL - 32808. Thank you!

IN MEMORIAM

We will remember Arthur Jean Cox, John Glenn, Louis I. Kuslan, Barry R. Levin, Bill Warren and John Zacherle.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Arizona Daily Star, Bruce Carter, John Clute, *Courier Gazette/Camden Herald*, Mike Glycer, Charles Harris, Ben Jason, William Lampkin, David Langford, Sam Maronie, Craig Mathieson, Christopher M. O'Brien, George Phillies, Steven H. Silver, Keith W. Stokes, Jon D. Swartz.

Deadline for the next issue: **March 15th.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 50th issue in our New Series of the First Fandom Newsletter!

We reached this major milestone with the help of those who shared items for publication. We also recognize the tireless editorial contributions of members Joseph P. Martino and Jon D. Swartz.

Members are invited to send reviews, convention reports, news items, photos, and letters of comment for future issues.

IN MEMORIUM

Last month I received a call from Craig Mathieson, son of **Norman F. Stanley** (a Full Member). Craig reported that his father had passed away at the age of 100. Norman had been re-reading Arthur C. Clarke's classics and enjoying the quarterly First Fandom Newsletters.

We also recently heard from Bruce Carter, who said that his father **Paul A. Carter** had passed away at the age of 90. Bruce is inviting everyone who knew Paul A. Carter in his "science fiction life" to provide their comments at <https://campamnesia.wordpress.com/>

At Philcon this year they held a celebration of the life of **David A. Kyle** (who would have turned 98 years old on Valentine's Day). Among those in attendance: Bob Madle and Kerry Kyle. Last month LASFS commemorated the 100th anniversary of the arrival from Mars of **Forrest J Ackerman**. I prepared material for both of these events.

FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE (ANNUAL)

If you'd like to order the First Fandom Magazine (Annual, 2016), a few copies are still available. Please send a check for \$30.00 (payable to John L. Coker III).

FIRST FANDOM AWARDS FOR 2017

I hope that all active members of this organization will participate in the First Fandom awards process this year by sending in their nominations by March 15th. A form has been included with this mailing for everyone's convenience.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

New Addresses

Susan Reitz

6196 Serenity Bluffs Street
Las Vegas, NV – 89149

Jeff Warner

576 South Willard Street
Burlington, VT – 05401

Contact Information Needed

- * **Robert O. Adair** (Indianapolis, IN)
- * **Sandra Sundstrom** (Beech Grove, IN)

Membership Dues

The following members have responded to our request for **annual dues**, bringing the account balance to just under \$600:

David I. Aronovitz, Ben Bova, Paul A. Carter, Jack Cordes, Todd Dashoff, Ralph W. Goldsmith, James Gunn, Gay and Joe Haldeman, Barbara Harmon, Tom Meserole, Catherine Mintz, Frank Johnson, George W. Price, Susan Reitz, Robert Silverberg, Jon D. Swartz, Jeff Warner, David B. Williams, Joel D. Zakem. We thank you for your support.

Some members have not sent their **annual dues of \$20**. Send checks (payable to Keith W. Stokes) to 14305 W. 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215.

I hope everyone is enjoying the New Year. Please be safe and stay in touch,

- *John L. Coker III*

IN MEMORIAM:**NORMAN F. STANLEY**

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

Born in May 1916, Norm Stanley was a science fiction (SF) fan from Maine who was very active in fandom in the 1940s. He was a member of the famous Stranger Club, and was one of the club members who attended [Noreascon 3](#) as a Fan Guest of Honor.



Noreascon 3
(Artwork by Bob Eggleton)

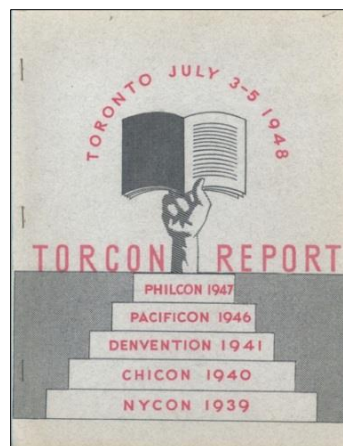
Norm was also tangentially involved in the [Skowhegan Junior Astronomical and Rocket Society](#), the kind of fan club that combined both science and SF activities and was common in this country in the 1930s and 1940s. He was generous with his fellow club members, and let them borrow from his seventy bound-volumes of SF prozines.

He attended early conventions such as Philcon, as well as some of the early [Boskones](#). He also participated in [Mainecon Jr](#), a “conference” in the language of the times, in 1943, with his friend Jim Avery and the visiting [Claude Degler](#). He gave Degler some fanzines, and got along well with him. This generosity of his, plus the “conference” they had had with Avery, apparently qualified him to be a member of Degler’s legendary Cosmic Circle.



Norman reading (circa. 1970s)

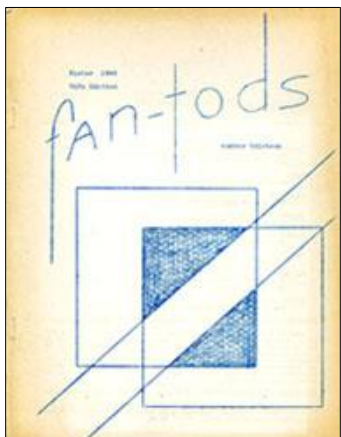
Norm was still active in fan matters in the late 1940s, and attended the 1948 [Torcon](#) where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the probable date of the arrival of interplanetary travel.



TORCON REPORT (1948)

Norm’s major fanzine was [Fan-Tods](#), which ran for nineteen issues. He also published [Beyond](#) with [Roscoe E. Wright](#). *Fan-Tods* is a SF fanzine that was subtitled “The Magazine for the Tod Fan.” It appeared in the 1940s-1950s, and was edited and published by Norm from his home in Rockland, Maine. This fanzine was mimeographed using blue ink. Issue #1 appeared in December, 1942; with #2 appearing in Spring, 1943; #7 in Summer, 1944; and then following a regular quarterly schedule until issue

#18 in 1949 — after which there was a three-year break; and then Issue #19 was published in the Fall of 1952, and was the last issue.



Issue 13 (Winter 1946)

Fan-Tods was an apazine, distributed through FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association), and then VAPA (Vanguard Amateur Press Association). Cover illustrations were by Wright, among others. By issue #7, Wright had become a co-editor. SF historian Harry Warner once described Norm as “a power force in FAPA.”

Jack Speer’s 1944 poll of the top SF fans found *Fan-Tods* to be among the nation’s top five fanzines. On the other hand, in 1947 – in his fanzine *Matters of Opinion* – Speer wrote an article, “The People vs. Norman F. Stanley,” that was critical of the 16th issue of *Fan-Tods*.

In the 1940s, Norm was very much a member of the “sense of wonder” camp of SF. According to Warner’s *All Our Yesterdays*, when Norm’s mother told him about atomic bombs and Hiroshima he remembered thinking: “I confess my first reaction was one of elation, which even the obvious misgivings couldn’t quench. ‘Geez, we might blow up the whole planet,’ I thought, ‘but it’s still wonderful.’ ”

In addition to his fanzine work, Norm wrote for the SF prozines, including several letters to *Astounding Science Fiction*. Three of his letters were published in 1938, two in 1939, and one in 1940. In addition, he had an essay (“The Theory of Thing Things”) published in the 1948 *Torcon Report*.

Norm was a member of the British Interplanetary Society, as well as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He realized his dream of becoming a scientist by working as a chemist in a research laboratory.

Norm was one of the original members of First Fandom; and he was elected to the [First Fandom Hall of Fame](#) in 2013.

Norman F. Stanley passed away on October 22, 2016, at the Sussman House, Rockport, Maine, with his family in attendance. He was 100 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Eleanor, their two children, a granddaughter, and four children of a nephew.



Eleanor and Norman Stanley

Here is a link to the obituary notice that appeared on October 26, 2016 in *The Courier Gazette / The Camden Herald*:

<http://knox.villagesoup.com/p/norman-stanley/1588807>

IN MEMORIAM: PAUL A. CARTER

On December 4, the following notice was published in the *Arizona Daily Star*:

"CARTER, Dr. Paul A. 90, of Tucson, Arizona, passed away Monday, November 28, at Desert Highlands in Kingman, Arizona, after a long illness.

Dr. Carter was a retired professor of American History at the University of Arizona. He was predeceased by his wife of 47 years, Julie K. (Raffety) Carter. He is survived by his daughter, Christina (Stephen) Feikes; sons, Brian Carter, Bruce (Frances) Carter and Robert Carter; grandson, Alexander Madden and granddaughter, Natalie Feikes.

Dr. Carter served with the Navy during World War II as an Electronics Technician's Mate on the USS Bushnell, a Navy submarine tender. He sang for many years with the Fountain of Life choir and enjoyed the annual Christmas concert immensely. He was also a fan of science fiction and wrote prolifically. Throughout his life, he enjoyed hiking, exploring the Cape Cod National Seashore, reading almost every evening with his wife by his side, and celebrating the accomplishments of his cherished grandchildren.

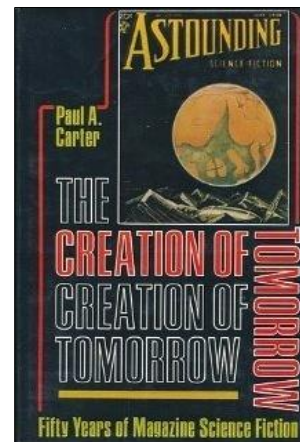
Funeral Services will be held at Fountain of Life Lutheran Church in Tucson on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Carter will be buried at Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, alongside his wife. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Nature Conservancy or The National Parks Conservation Association in memory of Paul are encouraged."

William Lampkin posted the following for [The Pulp.Net](#) on December 5, 2017:

"Science-fiction author [Paul A. Carter](#) died November 28, in Kingman, AZ. He was 90. Carter's earliest work of fiction, "The Last Objective," appeared in the August 1946 number of *Astounding* though he had numerous letters published in a number of sf pulps prior to that. "The Last Objective" was adapted in 1951 for NBC radio's *Dimension X* anthology series.

In addition to writing fiction for the pulps and, later, digests, Carter authored *The Creation of Tomorrow: Fifty Years of Magazine Science Fiction*, published in 1977. It looked at the impact of pulp magazines on the genre of sf from the 1920s through the 1970s.

Dr. Carter was a retired professor of American History at the University of Arizona, as well as a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Navy."



John Clute's entry for Paul A. Carter in the [Science Fiction Encyclopedia](#):

"Paul Allen Carter (1926-2016) U.S. social historian and writer who began publishing sf with "The Last Objective" for [Astounding](#) in August 1946. His occasional stories over the next decades showed that, had he wished, he

could have made writing his primary career. In his critical study *The Creation of Tomorrow: Fifty Years of Magazine Science Fiction* (coll 1977) he demonstrated an intimate and sophisticated knowledge of the field. With Gregory [Benford](#) he published a short novel, *Iceborn* (in *Synergy 3*, anth 1989, ed George [Zebrowski](#), as "Proserpina's Daughter" by Benford alone; exp 1989 chap dos)."

OTHER OBITUARIES

Arthur Jean Cox (b.1929)

"The death of long-time LASFSian and author Arthur Jean Cox was announced at the club's October 6 meeting. No details were given. He never missed a LASFS meeting from May 1945 to January 1952. He served seven terms as secretary and one term as Director. He contributed to the club genzine *Shangri L'Affaires*, as well as other zines including *Science Fiction Times*, *Riverside Quarterly*, and *Science Fiction Review*. Cox helped put on the 1946 Worldcon in Los Angeles.



Arthur Jean Cox
(Photo from Youtube.com)

His first published story, "Twilight Planet," appeared in *F&SF* in 1951. LASFS voted him a Fanquet (then a traditional dinner celebrating a club

member's first sale) and named him LASFS Writer of the Year in 1952. Cox was a contemporary of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard."

(Prepared by Mike Glyer, originally published in File 770, October 7, 2016)

John Glenn (b.1921)

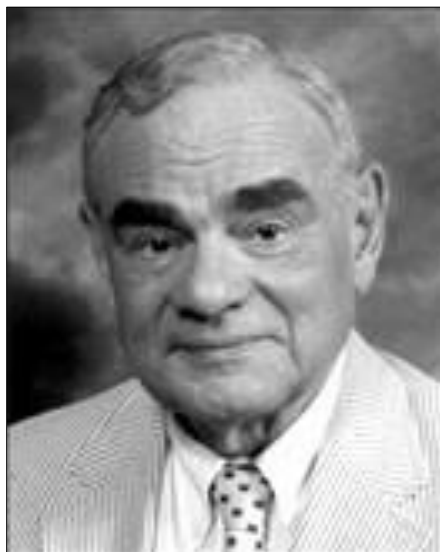
"Astronaut John Glenn died on December 8. Glenn was the last surviving member of the Mercury 7 astronauts and the first American to orbit the Earth, flying on the third Mercury mission on February 20, 1962 aboard *Friendship 7*. Following his flight and status as a national hero, Glenn was grounded by President Kennedy and eventually became a Senator from Ohio and ran unsuccessfully for President. The oldest of the Mercury astronauts, he flew a second time in 1998 aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, becoming the oldest man to fly in space."

(Prepared by Steven H. Silver, originally published in SF Site News, December 8, 2016)

Louis I. Kuslan (b.1922)

"Louis I[saac] Kuslan (February 14, 1922-October 9, 2015) Connecticut fan; co-edited a revival of the fanzine *Cosmic Tales* with sister Gertrude and contributed to Forry Ackerman's *Imagination!*; attended the First World Science Fiction Convention; obtained B.S. from University of Connecticut (1943); M.A. (1947) and Ph.D. from Yale University (1954); later taught science and chemistry at various schools including Southern Connecticut State College; member of assorted teaching and scientific organizations; author of several nonfiction texts, many in collaboration with A. Harris Stone,

including *Readings on Teaching Children Science* (with A. Harris Stone) (Wadsworth, 1969); *Teaching Children Science: An Inquiry Approach* (with Stone) (Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1969); *Liebig The Master Chemist* (History of Science Series) (Prentice-Hall, 1969); *Robert Boyle The Great Experimenter* (with Stone) (History of Science Series) (Prentice-Hall, 1970); *Connecticut Science Technology and Medicine in the Era of the American Revolution The Connecticut Revolutionary Series Vol. 27.* (American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, 1978); *Projects in Physical Science* (Prentice-Hall, 1980) and *Ham Radio: An Introduction to the World Beyond CB* (with son Richard D. Kuslan) (Prentice Hall, 1981.)”



Louis I. Kuslan

(Photograph provided by Christopher M. O'Brien)

For more information:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nhregister/obituary.aspx?n=LOUIS-I-KUSLAN&pid=176100217#sthash.WnM0KIt7.dpuf>

(Article prepared by Christopher M. O'Brien)

Barry R. Levin (b. 1946)

“Bookseller Barry R. Levin committed suicide on September 14. Levin operated Barry R. Levin Books in Santa Monica. During his years of bookselling, Levin also presented the Collectors Awards for authors, books, and publishers who were deemed to be the most collectible. Levin was suffering from depression. His wife, Sally Ann Fudge Levin, died in 2006.”

(Prepared by Steven H. Silver and originally published in SF Site News, October 14, 2016)

Bill Warren (b. 1943)

“Film critic Bill Warren died on October 7. Warren was one of the leading authorities on science fiction, fantasy, and horror films and was active in LASFS. In the late 1960s, he worked as an assistant to Forrest J Ackerman. For L.A.Con II, Warren wrote a mystery with Allan Rothstein set at the convention with characters who were all actual attendees of the convention. The story sold as a convention publication. Later, Warren would publish the seminal *Keep Watching the Skies! American Science Fiction Movies of the Fifties.*”

(Prepared by Steven H. Silver and originally published in SF Site News, October 14, 2016)

John Zacherle (b.1918)

“American TV host, radio personality and voice actor John Zacherle died October 27. He was best known for his long career broadcasting horror movies in Philadelphia and New York City in the 1950s-60s. He also did voice work for movies, and edited two collections of horror stories, *Zacherley's Vulture Stew* and *Zacherley's Midnight Snacks.*”

(Summarized from an entry in Wikipedia)

ORIGINAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WILLIAM L. HAMLING

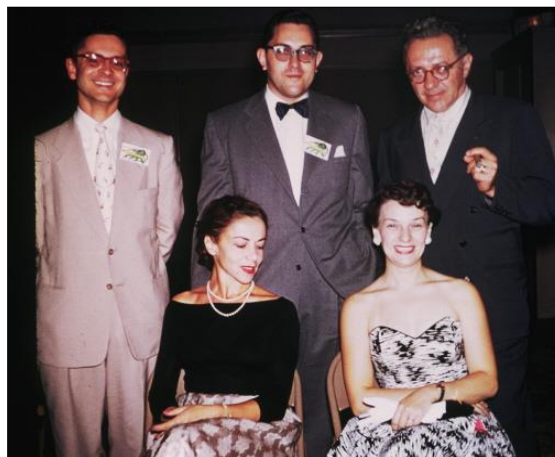
(BY JON D. SWARTZ AND JOHN L. COKER III)

First Fandom original member William Lawrence “Bill” Hamling (born June 14, 1921) is now retired and living in Palm Springs, California. He was a fan, writer, editor, and publisher during the Golden Age of Science Fiction.

His science fiction (SF) and writing / editing activities were many. He started to read SF in 1935. Soon he was editing, and writing SF stories for his high school magazine – a publication that had a very large circulation for magazines of this sort. He graduated from high school in 1939, and the next year published five issues of his fanzine *Stardust*. While publishing his fanzine, he was also submitting thousands of words of fiction to SF magazines. Later, he himself was managing editor of both *Amazing Stories* and *Fantastic Adventures* (1948 - 1950), and in 1951 he became editor / publisher of *Imagination*, buying the magazine from Ray Palmer. A companion magazine, *Imaginative Tales* (later titled *Space Travel*), was then added; and he published both until late 1958. He was also involved in the Richard Shaver controversy that divided SF fandom. After he canceled his SF magazines, he put his energies into a men's magazine that was seen at the time as a *Playboy* clone. He severed most of his fannish connections when he became a professional.

In the late 1950s, Hamling began *Rogue*; and in 1959, he launched Nightstand Books, an imprint for paperback original “sex novels” by authors working under house names. (Later imprints included Leisure Books,

Ember Library, Midnight Readers, etc.). From 1961 on, his primary editor was fellow First Fandom member Earl Kemp. Pseudonymous writers for Hamling / Kemp included such later highly successful authors as Lawrence Block, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Evan Hunter, and Donald Westlake. Hamling had legal problems because of these paperback publishing activities.



Standing, L-R: William L. Hamling, Erle M. Korshak, Willy Ley. Seated, L-R: Olga Ley, Frances Hamling. New Orleans, 1951 World SF Convention. (Photograph by Ben Jason)

Hamling really began his significant SF activities as an author. He published a number of stories, the first of which, “War with Jupiter” (with Mark Reinsberg), appeared in *Amazing* in 1939; most of his stories appeared under his own name. His *Shadow of the Sphinx* is a horror novel about an ancient sorceress. First published during the 1940s, it was described by author / critic Lin Carter as “the best story of its kind I read in many a moon. The character of Zaleikka was done to perfection. This is the type of yarn we have all too few of nowadays.”

After work as an editor at Ziff-Davis Publishers, Hamling started his own publishing company -- which was at different times known as Greenleaf

Publishing, Greenleaf Classics, Reed Enterprises, Corinth Publications, Regency Publications, Blake Pharmaceuticals, Phenix Publishing, and Freedom Publishing -- in the early 1950s, with the science fiction / fantasy magazine *Imagination*. His wife, SF author Frances Deegan Yerxa Hamling, worked closely with him in the early years of his publishing activities.



**L-R: Frances and William L. Hamling
(Philcon, 1953 - Photo by Charles Harris)**

According to L. Sprague de Camp's *Science-Fiction Handbook*, published in 1953, Hamling was at that time a "slim, dark man who looks too young to be not only an independent publisher but also the father of five."

Hamling's appeal of his conviction on obscenity charges for selling two Greenleaf Books (*Lust Pool* and *Shame Agent*) in 1965 went to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it was overturned in 1967. Greenleaf Books / Classics and its associated imprints published over fifty titles of so-called SF pornography; they are listed in *The Science Fiction Collector 4* (July, 1977) edited by J. Grant Thiessen, and in Donald H. Tuck's *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy through 1968, Volume 3: Miscellaneous* (1982).

During the Nixon Administration, Hamling published an illustrated edition

of the *Presidential Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography*. The book was "replete with the sort of photographs the commission examined." Hamling and editor Kemp were hit with a one-year prison sentence for distributing the book, but served only the federal minimum of three months and one day. The story of their arrest and prison time was covered in Gay Talese's *Thy Neighbor's Wife*.

It should be pointed out that the definition of pornography in this country has varied considerably over the years. The books published by Hamling would be considered quite mild compared with books being published today, or with what is currently available on the Internet.

Hamling wanted to run Chicon I and worked with Jack Darrow to re-form the Chicago Science Fiction League in 1939; but, ultimately, it was run by the Illini Fantasy Fictioneers, instead. He was one of the Committee of Seven that ran Chicon II. He was also involved in a fan feud with Earl Singleton. Singleton (1916 - 1999) was famous in fandom for faking his own death (supposedly shooting himself in the temple with a pistol) in order to gafiate and drop out of school – thereby leading to the creation of a new fannish term, *pseuicide*.

At one time Hamling was known in fan circles by the name of W. Lawrence Hamling. He was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2004.

Sources

Harry Warner Jr.; *The Science Fiction Collector 4*; *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction & Fantasy, Vol. 3*; Internet sites, including Wikipedia, Fancyclopedia 3 and ISFDB.

STF-RELATED HEADLINES

Ackerman Square Dedication

“The City of Los Angeles did [name a Los Feliz neighborhood intersection in his honor](#). The square was officially dedicated on November 17. Several dozen Forry Fans were in attendance.”

(Thanks to File 770 – November 5, 2016)

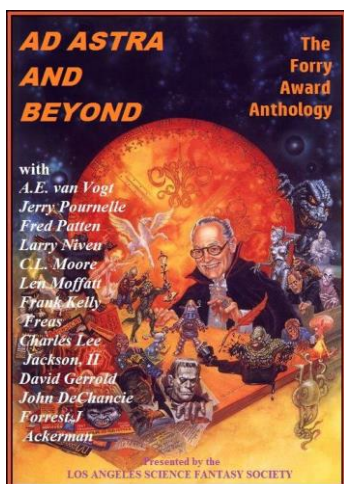
Benford Receives Ackerman Award

“The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society [voted the 2016 Forrest J Ackerman Award for Service to Science Fiction](#) to author / scientist Gregory Benford at its September 29 meeting.”

(Prepared by Mike Glycer, originally reported in File 770, October 1, 2016.)

The Forry Award Anthology

“The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society will soon release its first e-book, an anthology, *Ad Astra and Beyond - The Forry Award Anthology*.”



Featured: Kelly Freas, Forry Ackerman, John DeChancie, David Gerrold, Len Moffatt, C.L. Moore, Larry Niven, Fred Patten, Jerry Pournelle, and A.E. van Vogt, all of whom are among the honourees of the “Forry Award”, pre-

sented each year since 1966 to an individual for outstanding achievement.”

(Prepared by Mike Glycer, originally reported in FILE 770 – November 6, 2016)

Pulp Adventurecon

A pulp and paper show will be held in Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday, February 11th.



To learn more: www.pulpadventure.com

World Fantasy Awards

NOVEL Anna Smaill, *The Chimes*. **LONG FICTION** Kelly Barnhill, *The Unlicensed Magician*. **SHORT FICTION** Alyssa Wong, 'Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers' (*Nightmare* 10/15). **ANTHOLOGY** Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Paula R. Stiles, eds., *She Walks in Shadows*. **COLLECTION** C.S.E. Cooney, *Bone Swans*. **ARTIST** Galen Dara. **SPECIAL – PROFESSIONAL** Stephen Jones for *The Art of Horror*. **SPECIAL – NONPROFESSIONAL** John O'Neill for *Black Gate*.

(Reported in Ansible 352 – November 2016)

Update on Brian Aldiss

“Brian Aldiss recently had a stroke and spent ten days in hospital, but is home again and recovering well.”

(Reported in Ansible 352 – November 2016)

FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE (ANNUAL, 2016)

A REVIEW BY GEORGE PHILLIES

Yes, science fiction (SF) from the days of long ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth, or so we are led to understand from the cover of the 2016 annual issue. This sixty-eight page, lavishly illustrated, historical magazine is printed on 11 x 17" glossy paper, and is center stapled. The cover is even heavier in weight. Credit for the scene goes to artist Bob Barger and authors John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz.

It's a wonderful piece of work, full of information lost to the rest of the world. This is the 2016 issue; plans are already in place for the 2017 issue, which will focus on the life and work of Jack Robins, who died late last year at the age of 96. Readers of TNFF will recall his long article on the Futurians as he remembered them 80 years later.

First Fandom was founded in 1959. It had a simple membership restriction. To join, at least originally, you had to be active in SF fandom prior to 1938. Mindful that the supply of such people is somewhat limited, the organization now has two membership categories. The Dinosaur is a person who was active in fandom before the first World Science Fiction Convention. The Associate Member is anyone who has been continuously engaged in science fictional activities for at least 30 years.

First Fandom Magazine covers news events of SF fandom from some years ago, including coverage of the First Eastern Science Fiction Convention (1936), the Third World Con - Denvention (1941), and profiles of

members of first SF fandom, including David A. Kyle and Robert A. Madle.

The largest single bit of coverage in the current issue is a fourteen page, illustrated chronology of the man who many would describe as the world's greatest SF fan / collector, the late Forrest J Ackerman. There is a series of photos beginning with Ackerman as a baby and continuing through middle-age until relatively late in life.

The magazine continues with the description of Amazing Stories magazine, as it appeared in 1926. We then get an account of the first non-local SF convention, held in 1936 in Philadelphia.

Then there's coverage of the Third World Science Fiction Convention, held in Denver in 1941, soon before the United States became involved in the Second World War. It turns out that the convention was recorded electronically, assuredly the first convention to have been recorded that way. The Third World Science Fiction Convention also had awards given, establishing a practice that continues with modest controversy to the present day. We get large numbers of photographs of fan and writers of long ago.

As coverage of recent SF news, Ben Jason gives us an article on the 1966 World Con. There are biographic articles on original SF fans, a few of whom are in their 90s and still alive.

First Fandom Magazine (Annual, 2016) is a fine effort, a worthy tribute to the men (and a few women) who helped establish our noble hobby.

(Abridged from a longer review that was originally published in The National Fantasy Fan, September 2016 - Volume 75, Number 9)

BOB MADLE DONATES FILE OF MATERIAL TO THE FF ARCHIVE

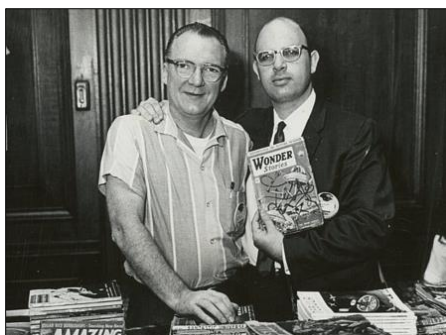
Last month, **Robert A. Madle** (Founding Member and President Emeritus) generously donated several hundred items to the burgeoning First Fandom Archive.

This unique and significant collection features a great deal of written correspondence between Bob and Founding Members Don Ford, Lou Tabakow, Lynn Hickman, C.L. Barrett and Dale Tarr.

Also present are convention reports and meeting minutes detailing First Fandom activities from several Midwestcons, Lunacons, Philcons and Worldcons.

There are a dozen different issues of the First Fandom Newsletter that was edited by David A. Kyle while he and his family were living in England and in New York.

Jay Kay Klein (who was one of the first people to become an Associate Member) wrote several impassioned letters stating his love for scientific fiction and why he should belong to First Fandom.



Bob Madle and Jay Kay Klein (1967)

Other highlights include applications for membership from John W. Campbell, Jr. and Isaac Asimov (both of whom were uncertain as to whether or not they met the qualifications to join First Fandom).

There are examples of fan biographies, announcements and award letters. On

a more humorous note is a copy of the certificate that Ben Indick sent to Bob Madle in 1974, officially recognizing him as an honorary member of FAAHF (First and a Half Fandom).

The real history of our organization (and the evolution of SF Fandom in general) is revealed in these important letters. We can see the ideals of the early fans reflected in the genesis of other groups, including the Science Fiction League and the Order of St. Fantasy.

This collection features letters from fans and pros from all over the world, forming a real "Who's Who" of the luminaries from the early days. It is possible to get a real glimpse of how the field was developing as we read the perspectives of such notables as Forrest J Ackerman, Sam Moskowitz, Art Saha, Clair Beck, Alva Rogers, Lester del Rey, John Millard, Walt Liebscher, Bob Bloch, Roy Tackett, Dean Grennell, Ben Jason, Frank Andrasovsky, Howard DeVore, Allen Glasser, Larry Farsace and others.

After reviewing this material, my initial impression was that the original members of First Fandom were very active. These fans were passionate in their beliefs and expressed this by writing to each other and publishing fanzines. There was a sense of community where enthusiasts feuded, encouraged each other and debated the issues of the day. These voices helped to influence the development of modern SF institutions that we are able to casually enjoy today.

Do the fans of the modern era still feel a *sense of wonder* about SF? Are they willing to communicate this by making the effort to write letters to each other?

I appreciate the historic record that the First Fandom Archive provides and I am grateful to Bob Madle for preserving it.

LETTER (CHRISTOPHER M. O'BRIEN)

I'm actually still finding it emotionally difficult to write about **Dave Kyle**. Suffice it to say, I had borrowed his Pictorial History of Science Fiction from a library (and may even have previously done so as a 1980's child unlocking the history of pre-Star Wars SF films that were then unknown to me.) Art Widner clued me in to the fact that Dave no longer lived in the UK as stated on the book's dust-wraper, but had in fact been back in the US for some years.

I found an e-mail address for Kyle on a long-ago version of the First Fandom website. He replied promptly, and while asserting that "H.P. Lovecraft was not my cup of tea," (as at the time my main focus in canvassing surviving fans of his generation was in hopes of unearthing any previously unknown contacts of the famed American supernaturalist) Kyle invited me to phone him at home, which I did on a Sunday night in May of 2000. That first conversation lasted over 2 1/2 hours between two total strangers. I then spoke to Dave Kyle on the phone fairly often for the past 16+ years; I last spoke to him in July.

He and his wife used to winter in Florida and they stopped to visit me at my house on their way back north in 2001, and I was able to get together with him while he was wintering down there the following year and I was going to school in Orlando.

I then saw (& roomed with) him (and our erstwhile editor) each year at the I-Con on Long Island from 2004-06, and once stayed for 5 weeks in '05 with Dave and his late wife Ruth in their former home in upstate New York in a (mostly fruitless) effort to help organize some of his stuff.

I was able to share some of his silent film memories and life experiences with the readers of Filmfax. (He was also interviewed in a 1981 issue of Starlog and wrote a number of pieces for that zine.) He was endlessly patient with endless queries about historical and fannish minutiae and endlessly encouraging of my efforts to the end.

I was deeply saddened too (but not entirely unprepared) to learn we lost **Bill Warren**. While I had been familiar with his name for years since likewise reading his contributions to Starlog and Fangoria as a kid and coming across many of his postings on all manner of genre forums online, it was Bill who contacted me when he got wind from our mutual publisher McFarland and Co. that I was at work on a bio-bibliography of Forrest J Ackerman. This resulted in a voluminous correspondence that I regret tapered off a bit and grew more sporadic in the last two years or so. But even after a lapse of several months, Bill was always quick to reply and would likewise sometimes contact me out of the blue with a question or to share a photograph or other material he'd come across. There was much to discuss, as like myself, Bill was an omnivorous fan whose interests spanned SF, Fantasy and Horror in books, movies, television, comics, pulps, and old-time radio, etc., etc., and he often bemoaned the narrow interests of the majority of fans he encountered who tend to focus on just one of these aspects.

Bill sent me a hardcover of the 21st Century edition of his Keep Watching the Skies! inscribed to me for free and when I pointed out a few very minor errors I spotted on first skimming through it, he was most appreciative and asked that I let him know of any more I

found, as he obviously envisioned there could be even further editions of it.



Initial meeting of Bill Warren and Forrest J Ackerman (1961 Worldcon, Seattle)
(Photo provided by Christopher M. O'Brien)

Bill left enough writings behind that one could easily do a book or whole series of books of his essays, reviews and interviews. He spoke a few times of wanting to edit many of FJA's fanzine contributions and early film columns into a book, but never got very far along with this, though I sent him much material and made suggestions for it. I suspect both he and his wife's ill health in this decade and the very deep and genuine emotional loss he seemed to feel for Forry precluded work on this project.

My own contact with **Robert E. Weinberg** was limited to the exchange of a few e-mails over the years and one brief phone conversation some 16 years ago. He was a huge collector, seller and historian of pulps, books, manuscripts, and original artwork (the latter as Science Fiction Graphics, Inc.) His The Weird Tales Story is likely to remain the definitive book on that magazine, whose legacy he continued to celebrate in the 6 issues of his The Weird Tales Collector, the many anthologies he co-edited and the two World Fantasy Convention program books from 1983 and 1990, which events were devoted to

the 60th anniversary of "The Unique Magazine" and the centennial of H.P. Lovecraft respectively. For a time Bob owned the rights to Weird Tales and attempted to turn the property into an anthology TV series.

Only recently I had occasion to consult my copy of Weinberg's A Biographical Dictionary of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists only to find too late that it had an entry for Robert Adragna, whom I was seeking to contact for my piece on SF fan and Castle of Frankenstein publisher Calvin Thomas Beck. These reference works of Bob's will continue to be of value in years to come, the latter having been an especially important source in the pre-Wikipedia days when, for instance, it was hard to come by information on WT artists like Lee Brown Coye, Vincent Napoli or Matt Fox.

As a small side-note, though Bob did not create the character, he did for a time write the Marvel Comics mutant hero Cable who is promised to appear in the sequel to this year's box office smash-hit Deadpool.

For more on Bob's collecting & publishing activities, see Leo Grin's "An Interview with Robert Weinberg" on the REHupa Home Page:

http://www.rehupa.com/OLDWEB/updates/weinberg_interview.htm Another Weinbergian rarity I might direct readers to: a never-printed 1980 interview Bob conducted with A. E. van Vogt intended for a planned second volume to another worthy effort Weinberg published, Mike Ashley and Terry Jeeves' The Complete Index to Astounding/Analog and which did not see light until being hosted on the van Vogt tribute site: <http://www.icshi.net/sevagram/interviews/weinberg.php#top>

LETTER (PHYLLIS WEINBERG)

(October 2)

I was overwhelmed with the response from Facebook posts. I lived and worked with Bob for the 43 years we were married. I am in awe of all of the people he influenced and inspired. Just amazing. Was this "my Bob"?

He was my husband, partner, sweetie, dad to Matt, and the reason I got up every morning....to make him a bacon, egg, and pepper cheese sandwich on sourdough bread. Bob could hang artwork like no one else. Our walls can attest to that. I often said we should just have pegboard walls. All of his books have archive wrappers. And oodles of dust-collecting plastic figures ...Disney characters , movie monsters , etc. sitting in front of the books.

Physically, this summer was really bad for him. Our Doctor agreed with me that he was a walking miracle. Bob had a wonderful 70th birthday party just a few weeks ago.



Robert A. Weinberg, John L. Coker III
(Chicago, 2015 - Photograph by Sam Maronie)

There will be a tribute party at the Windy City Pulp and Paper Show (April 21-23).

Please thank everyone for their support!

LETTER (JACK LANGE)

(October 21)

Bernice and I very much regret the passing of David Kyle. The Newsletter was the first we had heard of his passing. Even given his age, his passing came as a shock. Bernice and I saw him the day before he died, at a party given by Bill and Mary Burns.

We know he was a dear friend of yours, and of a great many others. Bernice and I count ourselves amongst those who were his friends and who will much miss him, his experience, his generosity, warmth, and wit.

Congratulations to you and your colleagues on the recently received copy of *Scientifiction*. It is informative, impressive, and well-produced.

LETTER (BRUCE CARTER)

(November 30)

Sadly, my father passed away on November 28th at the age of 90. He was alert and happy nearly to the very end, with a continuing interest in history, poetry and science fiction.

I am collecting memories and anecdotes about Paul A. Carter from those people who knew him in his "science fiction life" including the Campbell conferences at KU, Worldcons, or other contexts.

I would like to invite his friends and colleagues to provide comments at <https://campamnesia.wordpress.com/>

Please post an announcement in the upcoming issue of the First Fandom newsletter. I hope that you will share this request for information with other science fiction fans who knew my father.

BIRTHDAYS

(From a list originally compiled by Andrew Porter)

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 – 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 Ellers, William F. Nolan
- 9 – William F. Temple, Robin Johnson
- 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

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