

# SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**  
New Series #51, 1st Quarter 2017

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## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN R. 'KLON' NEWELL (1935 - 2017)



**Klon Newell at Noreascon 4**  
Courtesy of Hazel's Photo Gallery  
(Photograph by Chaz Boston Baden)

An associate member of First Fandom, **Klon Newell** was a long-time collector, SF fan and bookseller at conventions throughout the country for decades, regarded for his big-hearted generosity.

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## FIRST FANDOM AWARDS (2017)

A ballot is enclosed for members to cast their votes for the First Fandom Awards. Please return ballots before May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The names of the award recipients will be announced during the annual Hugo Awards Ceremony at the 75<sup>th</sup> Worldcon.

## IN MEMORIAM

We sadly acknowledge the passing of Richard Adams, Carrie Fischer, Klon Newell, Gene Nigra, Berni Wrightson.

## WORLDCON UPDATE

The 75<sup>th</sup> World SF Convention will be held in Helsinki, Finland, August 9-13. Guests of Honor: John-Henri Holmberg, Nalo Hopkinson, Johanna Sinisalo, Claire Wendling, Walter Jon Williams. For information: <http://www.worldcon.fi/>

## NASFiC UPDATE

The North American SF Convention will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 6-9. For information, please visit: <https://www.northamericon17.com/>

## PUBLICATION NOTES

Thanks to the contributors to this issue: Chaz Boston Baden, Todd Dashoff, Mike Glycer, David Langford, Robert Lichtman, Craig Mathieson, Mary McCarthy, Christopher M. O'Brien, Steven H. Silver and Jon D. Swartz.

**Deadline** for the next issue is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was saddened to learn of the passing of **Klon Newell**. We were close friends for more than thirty years. We visited in each other's homes, roomed together at conventions, and traded a lot of books. I contacted Klon several months ago by telephone after the post office returned his newsletter as "undeliverable." He said that he had moved to a residence to get additional needed health care, but he was doing alright. At his request, I did not publicize his mailing address. Klon never lost the *sense of wonder*. I will remember his kind, generous nature and how fairly he treated everyone. Klon was a trufan. We will all miss him.

I was privileged to meet **Gene Nigra** at Mel Korshak's 80th birthday party. He was an unparalleled enthusiast for the artwork of Hannes Bok and Virgil Finlay.

## MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

Please contact Secretary / Treasurer **Keith W. Stokes** via his new e-mail address: [keith@mightymac.org](mailto:keith@mightymac.org).

## MEMBERSHIP PATCHES

New full-color embroidered membership patches are available in a **very limited** quantity. To order, please send a check for \$20.00 (payable to John L. Coker III).

## IN CLOSING

**Christopher M. O'Brien** was helpful in our efforts to contact the family of Ned Brooks. We sent the Moskowitz Award for 2016 to Ned's sister, Mary McCarthy.

As the Worldcon celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, take a moment and raise a glass to First Fandom members **Bob Madle** and **Erle Korshak**, both of whom attended the First Worldcon in 1939!

Clear ether, - *John L. Coker III*

## REMEMBERING DAVID A. KYLE

(By Todd Dashoff)

Philcon, the annual science fiction conference run by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS), honored the memory of Dave Kyle by holding a memorial panel at the most recent convention, held the weekend of November 18-20, 2016, in Cherry Hill, NJ. Dave was a frequent attendee at past Philcons, having started by attending the first Philcon in 1936, when a group of New York fans traveled to Philadelphia to meet up with their counterparts. In 2012, Joe Siclari interviewed Dave at Philcon; the video of that interview is online.

The memorial panel's participants consisted of Siclari, Bob Madle (the sole surviving member of the original founders of PSFS), and Dave's daughter Kerry. Highlights of Dave's life-long career in fandom were presented by Joe Siclari and Bob Madle, and Kerry Kyle contributed a number of previously unknown stories of everyday life growing up with one of the most well-known science fiction fans. The audience was treated to the story behind the famous quote "Dave Kyle says you can't sit here", as well as other stories involving Dave that have passed into fannish history. Members of the audience contributed reminiscences and stories after the panel had spoken.

At the end of the panel, Kerry Kyle and Bob Madle were presented with a pair of booklets that had been produced by John Coker as a tribute to Dave. John sent them to me as Philcon Chair and I was happy to pass them on to the intended recipients; I only wish he had been able to attend in person to have the honor of doing so himself.

## THE KORSHAK COLLECTION

ILLUSTRATIONS OF IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE

ON EXHIBIT: MARCH 30 – MAY 16, 2017

ALBIN O. KUHN GALLERY

UNIV. OF MARYLAND AT BALTIMORE

“Truly a vision of the fantastic, this exhibition is an amazing exploration of both illustrative art and the evolution of the visual landscape of science fiction (SF) and fantasy literature. Featuring work by both American and European artists and spanning more than a century, these vivid illustrations bring to life adventures, beings, and worlds conjured in novels such as Don Quixote, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Tarzan, and pulp magazines including Amazing Stories, Fantastic Adventures, Weird Tales and Wonder Stories.

Accomplishing far more than simply guiding readers in their explorations of new and some-times bizarre realms, the range and impact of these illustrations is far-reaching.

The illustrations featured in this exhibition are treasured pieces of the Korshak Collection, owned by collector Stephen Korshak. The love of both literature and art of the SF and fantasy genres is a passion Stephen Korshak shared with his father Erle Korshak, a founder of the imprint Shasta Publishers, which specialized in SF books. Shasta played a key role in ushering in the transition that saw important SF literature move from the pages of magazines printed on cheap pulp paper to hardcover, library-quality books. Much of the illustration art for Shasta publications hung in the Korshak family home and the company office where, as a young man, Stephen Korshak encountered it – a fact he cites

as inspiring in him a sense of wonder, and a passion for the illustrations of the genre. This will be the first public exhibition of the European works in the collection.

The exhibition will also include books, pulp magazines, and other items drawn from UMBC’s Rosenfeld Collection, revealing how the illustrations in the Korshak Collection were meant to appear when encountered as artifacts of material culture.

On Thursday, May 4, at 5 p.m. award-winning illustrator **Donato Giancola**, best known for his endlessly creative and exquisitely rendered SF and fantasy illustrations, will discuss his broad range of illustrative work.”

For more information about the Korshak Collection on exhibit at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, please visit:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/artscalen.dar.umbc.edu/2008/07/20/the-korshak-collection-illustrations-of-imaginative-literature/amp/>

### EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

June 6 – August 19, 2017

**American Society of Illustrators**  
New York, New York

<https://www.societyillustrators.org/exhibits/works-korshak-collection>

September 23 – October 29, 2017

**Stamford Museum, Stamford, CT**

November 17 – February 4, 2018

**Chazen Museum at University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI**

For further information, please visit:

[www.korshakcollection.com](http://www.korshakcollection.com)

**BIRTHDAYS**

(From a list originally compiled by Andrew Porter)

**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 – Laurraine 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 L. 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
- 29 – Ray Harryhausen, Michael Whelan
- 30 – Sam Moskowitz

**OBITUARIES***Richard Adams (b.1920)*

“**Richard Adams** was an English novelist best known as the author of *Watership Down*, *Shardik* and *The Plague Dogs*. He studied modern history at university before serving in the British Army during WW II. Afterwards, he completed his studies, and then joined the British Civil Service. In 1974, two years after *Watership Down* was published, Adams became a full-time author. He died on December 24, 2016 at the age of 96.”

(Excerpted from an entry in Wikipedia)

*Carrie Fischer (b.1956)*

“**Carrie Fischer**, the US actress, has died aged 60 of a heart attack. She became famous and is most noted, for her role as Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films. Born in the US she was educated in the US and later in London's Central School of Speech and Drama. Her big screen debut was in *Shampoo* (1975). She also appeared in *The Blues Brothers* (1980), *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), *Amazon Women on the Moon* (1987), *The Time Guardian* (1987) and *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997), but her big break came with *Star Wars* (1977). She also did script work for the TV series *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. In 2014 she briefly appeared as herself in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*.

But her fame and personal history resulted in drug, alcohol and mental problems which she eventually largely overcame. Her novel *Postcards from the Edge* drew upon her life experiences and has been called by some almost autobiographical: she the adapted it for

the screen and it appeared as a film in 1990. She had a brief cameo in *Rogue One* (2016), where she appears as a young Leia thanks to CGI animation. She had been working on the new *Star Wars* film slated for later this year (2017) and the day before Christmas Eve had a heart attack on a flight from London to LA just before landing. She died the day after Boxing Day. Tragically, her mother, the actress Debbie Reynolds (*Singing in the Rain*), died the following day, aged 84, saying that she wanted to join her daughter.”

(Reprinted from **SF 2 CONCATENATION SF News & Recent Science Review**, Spring 2017)

### *Klon Newell (b.1935)*

“Bookseller **John R. Newell** died on February 25. Newell, who went by the name Klon, ran Klon’s Interplanetary Books, a mail order book business from Athens, Georgia. In addition, he sold rare and collectible SF/fantasy/horror at science fiction and fantasy conventions throughout the south and the east.”

(Written by **Steven H. Silver**, originally published in **SF Site News** on March 16, 2017)

### *Gene Nigra (b.1940)*

“**Gene Nigra**, Pulp Art Collector and Historian, died on December 26, 2016. Gene was born on May 13, 1940 and grew up in Monroe, NY. He started working at the New York Daily News as a copyboy. Later, after attending art school, he worked as a retouch artist on photographs for the newspaper.

After the death of Hannes Bok, Bok’s artwork was put on the curb by the landlord. It was saved by Bok’s good friend, Clarence Peacock. Gene was the first collector to visit Peacock and purchased a large quantity of the Bok

artwork. Hannes Bok also had a large collection of Virgil Finlay artwork which Gene also purchased from Peacock. The transparencies from these Bok and Finlay artworks were the basis of the first seminal art books and portfolios on Bok and Finlay written and produced by Nigra and Gerry de la Ree to wit:

Hannes Bok II, 1975, Gene Nigra Publications.

Hannes Bok I, 1975, Gene Nigra Publications.

A Hannes Bok Sketchbook, 1976, Saddle River, NJ, de la Ree Publications.

Finlay’s Illustrations for *Weird Tales*, 1976, Showcase Art Productions.

Finlay’s Lost Drawings, 1975, Saddle River, NJ, de la Ree Publications.



**Gene Nigra (Orlando - 2004)**  
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

Although he had a reputation from other collectors as a real shark, he was in fact a warm, down to earth, human being, an everyday kind of guy. For me, the most important thing was his sense of passion towards art collecting. He taught me that a true collector values quality over quantity. He was fond of saying, “Once you have the best, there is nowhere else to go!”

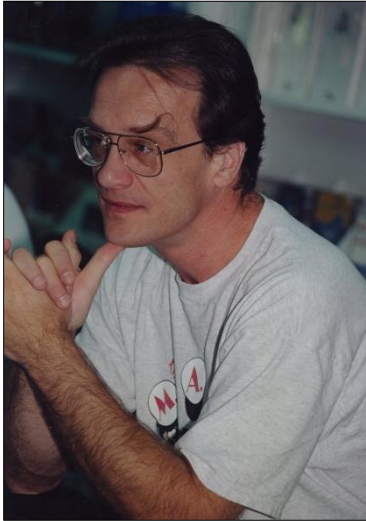
Gene is survived by his wife, Pat, and his sons: Gene, John, Chris and Joe Nigra.”

(Eulogy written by **Stephen D. Korshak**)

***Bernie Wrightson (b.1948)***

“**Bernie Wrightson** was an American artist, known for co-creating the Swamp Thing, his adaptation of the novel *Frankenstein* illustration work, and for his other award-winning horror comics and illustrations, which feature his trademark intricate pen and brush work.” He died on March 18, 2017, aged 68.

(Excerpted from an entry in Wikipedia)



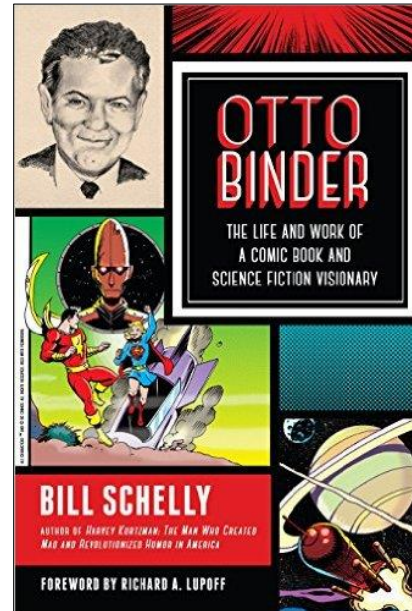
**Bernie Wrightson**  
(Orlando, FL - June 1995)  
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

**A NEW BOOK ON OTTO BINDER**

“**Otto Binder: The Life and Work of a Comic Book and Science Fiction Visionary** (by **Bill Schelly**) chronicles the career of Otto Binder, from pulp magazine author to writer of Supergirl, Captain Marvel, and Superman comics.

As the originator of the first sentient robot in literature (“I, Robot,” published in *Amazing Stories* in 1939 and predating Isaac Asimov’s collection of the same name), Binder’s effect on science fiction was profound. Within the world of comic books, he created or co-created much of the Superman universe, including *Smallville*; *Krypto*,

*Superboy’s* dog; *Supergirl*; and the villain *Braniac*. Binder is also credited with writing many of the first “Bizarro” storylines for DC Comics, as well as for being the main writer for the *Captain Marvel* comics.



In later years, Binder expanded from comic books into pure science writing, publishing dozens of books and articles on the subject of satellites and space travel as well as UFOs and extra-terrestrial life. Comic book historian Bill Schelly tells the tale of Otto Binder through comic panels, personal letters, and interviews with Binder’s own family and friends. Schelly weaves together Binder’s professional successes and personal tragedies, including the death of Binder’s only daughter and his wife’s struggle with mental illness. A touching and human story, *Otto Binder: The Life and Work of a Comic Book and Science Fiction Visionary* is a biography that is both meticulously researched and beautifully told, keeping alive Binder’s spirit of scientific curiosity and whimsy.”

(Courtesy of North Atlantic Books, reprinted with permission of Mike Glycer from Carl Slaughter’s article in File 770 - September 30)

## THE FAMILY OF NORMAN F. STANLEY DONATES ITEMS TO THE FIRST FANDOM ARCHIVE

Norman F. Stanley, who lived to the age of 100, was a life-long SF fan whose interest began with the early Gernsback scientifiiction publications. Norm was especially active during the 1940s when he published nineteen issues of the highly-regarded apazine, FAN-TODS.

One of Norm's family members, Craig Mathieson is also a SF fan. Craig told me that over the years he and Norm enjoyed spending time together reading many classic stories in their original publications. They also looked forward to receiving issues of the FF newsletter.

Recently, on behalf of Norm's family, Craig donated a box of SF material to the First Fandom Archive and Library.

Included were dozens of issues of the FF newsletter, including ones edited by Lynn Hickman, Mark Shulzinger, Jim Harmon, Joe Martino and David A. Kyle.

Also present were several different fan publications, including a number of issues of FAN-TODS, as well as dozens of issues of Russ Chauvenet's long-running fanzine, DETOURS. Norm and Russ were long-time friends and original members of the Stranger Club.

When deciding which items to donate, Craig included a file of contemporary cards and letters from Russ Chauvenet and Art Widner, several photographs from Pacificon (1946) and a group photograph of the Stranger Club as Special Guests at Noreascon 3 (1989).

I believe that Norm would be happy to know that this important material will be safeguarded and made available in the future to those conducting SF research.

## CORRESPONDENCE

(LETTER FROM ROBERT LICHTMAN)

Thanks for the new issue of *Scientifiiction* -- and congratulations on reaching the 50th issue! Not many fanzines achieve that milestone.



**Norm Stanley and Art Widner (1989)  
Noreascon 3**

(Photograph courtesy of Craig Mathieson)

In the memorial piece on Norm Stanley, it is written: "Fan-Tods was an apazine, distributed through FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association), and then VAPA (Vanguard Amateur Press Association)." This is true, but as with many things fannish there's more to the story. The first nine issues were distributed exclusively to FAPA, for the reason that VAPA did not yet exist. The first issue to be sent through both groups was #10, Spring 1945. Both it and #11 had identical contents and were designated "FAPA/VAPA" on the cover. With #12 Norm began producing separate editions for each apa. That issue is unique in that, other than the cover art, both editions were completely different in their content. This was probably too much to keep up with, and with #13 through #18 the versions were identical except for the sections at the rear containing comments on the previous mailing. The final issue, #19, appeared only in FAPA for the reason

that VAPA had ceased to exist. My research for this is a combination of my own holdings for *Fan-Tods* combined with checking out a spreadsheet I have of the contents of all VAPA mailings.

Also noted is that "SF historian Harry Warner once described Norm as 'a power force in FAPA.'" This is definitely true. Norm was part of what was termed the "FAPA Brain Trust." For more information on that, see:

<http://fancylopedia.org/brain-trust>

All in all, [#50] was a very good issue. I was particularly pleased to read of Bob Madle's stellar donation to the First Fandom Archive of such important material.

Regarding the upcoming 2017 *First Fandom Magazine*, which will focus on Jack Robins, I wonder/hope that it will include the entirety of his long article on the Futurians. It would be good to have it collected in one place, and this seems like the logical one.

Best wishes,  
Robert Lichtman

#### (LETTER FROM MARY MCCARTHY)

Dear First Fandom,

Thank you so much for sending the Sam Moskowitz Award, acknowledging my brother, Ned Brooks.

Words cannot express how much we miss him. Ned was my rock. His memory is a great comfort. I often think of him sitting on my shoulder assuring me that "it's all smoke and mirrors" and that even the worst of us serve as a "bad example."

Thank you again for the awards plaque.

All best wishes,  
Mary McCarthy

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