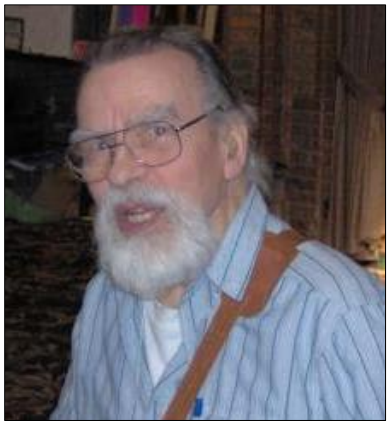
SCIENTIFICTION

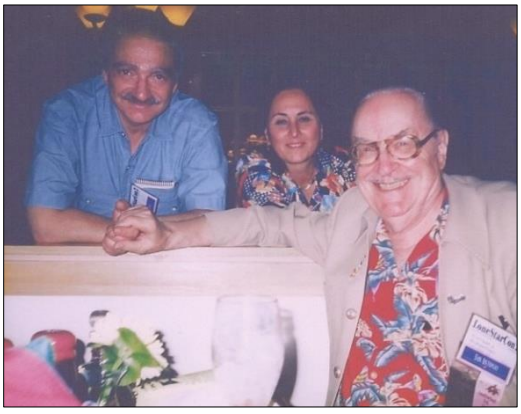
A publication of **FIRST FANDOM**
New Series #52, 2nd Quarter 2017

IN MEMORIAM
JOHN DALMAS
(AKA JOHN ROBERT JONES)
(1926 - 2017)



John Dalmas
(Photograph courtesy of Spokane Authors)

IN MEMORIAM
HOWARD FRANK
(1941 - 2017)



Howard and Jane Frank with Forry Ackerman
(Photograph courtesy of Jane Frank)

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UPDATES ON THE 75TH WORLDCON

The traditional First Fandom display (originated by David A. Kyle) will be on exhibit at the Worldcon. It will feature two dozen posters depicting our history, St. Fantony and the Big Heart Award.

The names of the recipients of the three First Fandom awards and the Big Heart Award will be announced during the Hugo Ceremony on Friday, August 11.

For information: http://www.worldcon.fi/

If you're going to the Worldcon, please send us some photos and a con report.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are **$15** for the new fiscal year, which started on July 1st.

Please send checks (payable to Keith W. Stokes) to Keith at 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215. Thank you!

PUBLICATION NOTES

Thanks to Jane Frank, Mark Hickman, Robert A. Madle, Steven H. Silver, Spokane Authors, Jon D. Swartz, U. of Maryland, and www.goodreads.com.

Deadline for the next issue is **Aug 15th**.

WHAT FIRST FANDOM MEANS TO ME (BY JAY KAY KLEIN)

"A member of First Fandom is a mature person for whom science fiction has been a central part of his life since childhood – certainly since he was a teenager. Other interests may have come along in the meanwhile, but he can still remember when science fiction was the single most important thing in his life. Around this, his entire activity centered, and made everything else seem dull and uninspired.

He went through agony each month as the time arose for his favorite science fiction magazine to appear, and he'd haunt the newsstands for several days. When the mag came in, he'd carefully choose the best copy and walk home with it, nose buried first in the list of contents and then in a story by his favorite listed author. And he wouldn't put the issue down until it was finished. Then he reread it.

His closest friends were those who also read science fiction, and they'd spend hours discussing it. When he read the letter columns, he could hardly believe that there were all those other people out there interested in science fiction, since there were so few around him. He knew that science had the answer to all human problems, if only people were wise enough to realize it. But judging from the number of science fiction fans he could find nearby, there weren't many wise persons. It was like having the only candle in a sea of darkness.

The chances were overwhelming that his parents were at best indifferent to his reading of science fiction. They may even have been downright hostile to his "waste of time" on such "trash." The best approach to parents was pointing out the scientific aspect of the stories, and how this was highly educational. Especially useful were the science articles in Amazing Stories.

In any event, there wasn't much money available for buying mags. Cash was hard to come by, and school lunch money was often the only source. By eating one 6-cent sandwich instead of two, or skipping a 4-cent dessert, he could squeeze enough money together to buy his favorite mag each month and get the rest at back date stores. Older mags could often be bought six for a quarter. Once safely secured, a mag was let go only with great reluctance, often done because trading it back was the only way to afford other issues.

Interest in science fiction was certainly enhanced by the lack of other things to do. With money scarce, his family didn't go on fancy trips. There was the living room radio, and a weekly trip to the movies. And long, often boring hours in school. No science fiction read or discussed there.

Out of desperation and burning interest, he often organized a "club" of his fellow local science fiction readers. Too often most of these were just casual readers, and not true, active fans. The meetings were not too satisfactory and usually degenerated into ordinary bull-sessions, followed by the breakup of the club.

It was with a feeling of entering the promised land when he came across a club composed largely of active fans. There he found the letter writers whose ideas he had seen in print in the letter columns. And there were fans discussing science fiction, writing what

they thought, and turning the handcrank to disseminate this to the world.

Often, he came into personal contact with other fans only through travel to nearby localities. In large cities, this could mean an hour's trolley car ride to the other side of town. It was found that meeting distant fans was a real thrill, and led to formation of science fiction conventions. To this day, the majority of First Fandomite's friends are generally science fiction fans. He feels he could travel anywhere in the country and there would be someone he could phone.

The January 1st, 1938 dividing line for membership in First Fandom is obviously an artificial boundary. It was a compromise date chosen at the initial organizational meeting in Doc Barrett's house in Bellefontaine, Ohio in 1958. The "real" First Fandom historically ended in 1935 with the demise of Julius Schwartz' Fantasy Magazine. On this basis, Bob Tucker boycotted First Fandom until recently. The 1938 date was selected to permit entry of the active fans of the mid 30's. Otherwise, there would have been practically no members. Even Don Ford would have been excluded!

But there are fans even younger who have regular First Fandom-type backgrounds. In fact, I would say any ardent fan during the Depression days that ended only with World War II would almost certainly meet this criterion. And possibly even a little later than that. To my way of thinking, the change in attitudes and the "new fan" coincide with the rise of TV and the coming of what I can only think of as the "rich teenager." With more distractions, including what seems to be unlimited sex, interest in science fiction tended to be less intense and more superficial. This seems to have taken place along with the rise of "sociological" science fiction, culminating in the latest literary fad of non-stories and non-science science fiction.

At any rate, when the true a First Fandomite thinks of a science fiction mag, he pictures a large size Amazing Stories, with a Paul cover. But he may be almost as likely to think of Famous Fantastic Mysteries. Certainly, the First Fandom member gets a nostalgic kick out of referring to the club fanmag as FFM. And Mary Gnaedinger's mag didn't even start until late 1939. I know that when I look at a mag younger than a year or two past the end of World War II, I class it as recent stuff. And I still think of Rogers as Astounding's new cover artist.

So what I'm saying is that there is a shared body of attitudes, memories, experiences and boyhood friendships that form the real basis for membership in First Fandom.

I even think that Associate Membership for fans not meeting these absolute requirements may be extended on the basis of a lifetime of visable science fiction activity. A fan with, say, twenty years of active accomplishment – publishing, writing and other activities – along with an interest in and knowledge of the early science fiction, has already demonstrated he has the qualities that we look for in First Fandom members."

[**Editor's Note:** This inspirational essay was written more than forty years ago by Jay Kay Klein, one of our first associate members. Do you still feel that *sense of wonder* today? How would you describe <u>your</u> activity as an STF fan?]

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, Larry Card
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

OBITUARIES

John Dalmas (b.1926)

"John Dalmas (born John Robert Jones September 03, 1926) died June 5. He wrote many books based on military and governmental themes. He grew up in Minnesota and Michigan and resided in Spokane, WA. A parachute infantryman in WWII, he has worked as a logger, longshoreman, merchant seaman, construction worker and smokejumper. He attended Michigan State, majoring in forestry, but also took creative writing."

(Excerpted from www.goodreads.com)

Howard Frank (b.1941)

"Howard Frank, dedicated book and art collector whose interests developed into an enthusiastic passion, died May 1.

In his professional life, Frank was a professor, an entrepreneur, CEO of 3 tech companies, director of information technology in the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, and former dean at Univ. of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. He wrote many professional articles and received numerous awards including election to the National Academy of Engineering. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense (the Defense Department's highest civilian honor).

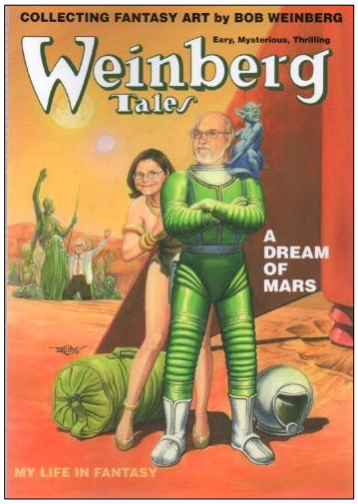
He and his wife Jane (a Chicon 7 GoH in 2012) built a major collection of original SF illustration art. They also sponsored several art exhibits and co-authored 2 books about their collection. He was recipient of the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award in 2013. Condolences may be sent to Jane Frank, 8300 Burdette Road, Bethesda, MD - 20817."

(Compiled from SF Site News, U. of Maryland and Howard Frank's letter to FF from 2013.)

WINDY CITY PULP AND PAPER CONVENTION 2017 – A REPORT

(BY JOHN L. COKER III)

The 17th annual show was held in Lombard, IL during April 21-23. The GoH was legendary artist / magician Jim Steranko. The theme was Gangster pulps and the Red Circle Publications.



Debuted at Windy City, 2017
Edited by Doug Ellis, Bob Garcia and Phyllis Weinberg.
Published by American Fantasy Press (April 2017).

One of the real stars of the show each year is the unparalleled dealer's room, which was replete with original artwork, pulp magazines, rare books, and many other types of popular culture artifacts.

The world-class art show featured many famous paintings that had appeared on genre magazine covers, including fine examples from the Weinberg Collection.

The best part of the Convention for me was getting to spend time with many of the attendees, including Doug and Deb Ellis, Phyllis Weinberg, Erle and Steve Korshak, Richard Meli, Phyllis and Alex Eisenstein, Anthony Tollin, Will Murray, Randy Broecker, Stuart Schiff, Stephen Haffner, Dave Kurzman, Greg Ketter, Dave Willoughby, Mark Hickman, David J. Cullers, Mike Chomko, Bill Hauser, Scott Norris, Lloyd W. Currey, David Aronovitz, Tom Lesser, Ed Hulse, Tom Roberts and others. It was great seeing Stephen Jones and some of the other British fans / dealers that I had met in London years ago, including Malcolm Edwards, Alastair Durie (who edited that beautiful book on Weird Tales) and Andy Richards (Cold Tonnage Books).

Also present were sons of four original First Fandom members: Willis Conover, Lynn Hickman, Erle M. Korshak and Darryl Richardson.

A tribute was held for Bob Weinberg on Friday night and the program book had several nice articles about Dave Kyle.

Pulp Factory Awards were presented for best new fiction and art from last year:

Best Pulp Novel – Sentinels: Dark Crusade – Van Allen Plexico (White Rocket Books)

Best Short Story – Lord Pemberton's Adjustment Service – David Michelinie

Best Pulp Anthology – Singularity: Rise of the Post Humans – Edited by Jaime Ramos (Pro Se Productions)

Best Pulp Cover – Michael Kaluta for Towers of Metropolis (Airship 27 Productions)

Best Interior illustrations – Chris Kohler for Sentinels : Dark Crusade (White Rocket Books)

During the two-day marathon auction, hundreds of high-grade magazines were sold, many from Jerry Weist's estate.

A high point of the weekend was seeing my good friends Karin and Jim Emerson (*Futures Past*), who drove over from Indianapolis and took me out to dinner.

Everyone relished the pleasant spring weather, the tasty local restaurants and the genuine hospitality of the hotel staff.

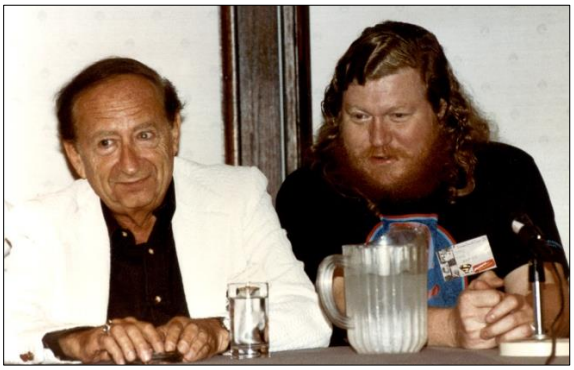
Next year's show will be held April 6-8. See www.windycitypulpandpaper.com

FIRST FANDOM PHOTO GALLERY

(Celebrating the Centenary of Robert Bloch)

L-R: Robert Bloch, E.E. Evans (Philcon 1953)
(Photo by Charles Harris – Collection of Bob Madle)

Robert Bloch, Midwestcon
(Collection of Mark Hickman)



L-R: Robert Bloch, Karl Edward Wagner
(Photo by John L. Coker III – Deepsouthcon 1987)

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