

SCIENTIFICTION

A publication of First Fandom - New Series #53, 3rd Quarter 2017

Brian W. Aldiss (1925 – 2017) First Fandom Awards at Worldcon 75

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IN MEMORIAM BRIAN W. ALDISS (1925 - 2017)



Brian W. Aldiss
(Photograph courtesy of Brian W. Aldiss)

The award-winning author and anthologist died on August 19, the day after his 92nd birthday. His work over the past seven decades was known throughout the world.

He was a great friend and will be missed.

WORLDCON 75

The 75th World SF Convention was held in Helsinki, Finland during August 9-13, 2017.

First Fandom was well-represented by our National V.P. **Erle M. Korshak** (who also attended the very first Worldcon in 1939).

The **First Fandom Awards** and **Big Heart Award** were presented by the master of ceremonies **Vincent Docherty** during the Hugo Awards ceremony on August 11th.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

First Fandom Hall of Fame

- LES AND ES COLE

Posthumous Hall of Fame

- JIM HARMON

Sam Moskowitz Archive Award

- JON D. SWARTZ

Big Heart Award

CAROLINA GÓMEZ LAGERLÖF

PUBLICATION NOTES

Our thanks to Les & Es Cole, Mike Glycer, Barbara Harmon, Stephen Jones, Erle M. Korshak, Tove Marling, Christopher M. O'Brien, Andrew Porter, Steven H. Silver, Henry Söderlund and Jon D. Swartz.

Deadline for the next issue: December 15!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were richer for the time we had with **Brian Aldiss**, and poorer since he's gone. His influence will be felt for generations.

'Happy Birthday' wishes to **Lottie Robins** (widow of Jack Robins), as she turned one hundred two years old on September 18th!

WORLDCON 75

What a **milestone**: 75 World Conventions!

We salute the 2 members of First Fandom who attended the first Worldcon (July 2-4, 1939) and are both still active fans today: **Robert A. Madle** and **Erle M. Korshak**!

Congratulations to the award recipients and thanks to all of those who participated in the awards nomination / voting process.

We appreciate the dedication that **Steve Francis** provides each year to the First Fandom Awards and the Big Heart Award.

REMEMBERING FRIENDS IN PASSING

See Page 11 for Christopher M. O'Brien's obituaries of C. Hamilton Bloomer (who died in 2016), Herman Stowell King (contributor to 1950's fanzines and Arkham House publications) and Richard Lawrence Dalby (noted British ghost fiction scholar).

And, though they weren't members of First Fandom, we sadly acknowledge the recent deaths of several people in our field: Jerry Pournelle, Len Wein and Gregg Caulkins.

Jerry Pournelle (b.1933) was an award-winning author, anthologist, member of LASFS and a former president of SFWA.

Len Wein (b.1948) was an award-winning writer and editor of comic books and co-creator of Wolverine, Storm, Swamp Thing.

Gregg Calkins (b.1935) was a Utah fan whose activity spanned several decades starting in the 1950s with fanzine *Oops!a*.

INFORMATION NEEDED

We are trying to reach members **Robert O. Adair** (Indianapolis, IN), **Dan W. Caldwell** (Nashville, TN) and **Sandra Sundstrum** (Beech Grove, IN). Please contact jlcoker3@bellsouth.net with any information.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues are **\$15** for the fiscal year, which started on July 1st.

Please send \$15. checks (payable to Keith W. Stokes) to Keith at 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS – 66215. Thank you!

Thanks to all who have sent in their dues!

If a member believes they are current on their dues payment but are not listed as such, please contact keith@mightymac.org.

Members Current through June 2018:

William R. Andrews, Ben Bova, Joanne E. Brooks, Dean Edward Cartier, John L. Coker III, Jack Cordes, James E. Gunn, Gay and Joe Haldeman, Barbara Harmon, George H. Jones, Jack Lange, Susan Reitz and Joseph Wrzos.

Members Current through June 2019

Ralph W. Goldsmith, Erle M. Korshak and Jon D. Swartz.

Members Current through June 2020

Carolyn Hickman and Keith W. Stokes.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE YOUR ACTIVITY?

If you are an **Associate Member** of First Fandom, your annual dues help pay for the newsletter and our exhibit at the Worldcon.

There are members on our roster that we haven't heard from in years. Everyone is invited to demonstrate their support for our organization by sending their dues checks (payable to Keith W. Stokes). We'd also like to hear that you're still alive and well!

BIRTHDAYS

(From a list originally compiled by Andrew Porter)

October

- 1 – J. Allen St. John, Martha Beck, Donald. A, Wollheim, Mike Ashley
- 2 – Alex Raymond, Willy Ley
- 3 – Ray Faraday Nelson
- 4 – Earl Binder, Al Ashley
- 9 – Harry Bates
- 11 – Gay Haldeman
- 15 – James H. Schmitz, E.C. Tubb
- 20 – Erle M. Korshak
- 21 – Ed Hamilton, Ursula K. Le Guin
- 23 – Roy Lavender
- 28 – Fredric Brown
- 30 – Walt Willis
- 31 – Art Saha

November

- 1 – Gordon R. Dickson
- 2 – Sue Francis, Carol Resnick
- 5 – H. Warner Munn
- 6 – Catherine Crook de Camp
- 8 – Bram Stoker, Ben Bova
- 9 – Alfred Coppel, Larry Shaw
- 17 – Raymond F. Jones, John Trimble
- 20 – Len J. Moffatt
- 23 – Nelson Bond, Wilson Bob Tucker
- 24 – Forrest J Ackerman
- 25 – Poül Anderson
- 26 – Frederik Pohl
- 27 – L. Sprague de Camp
- 30 – E. Everett Evans, Milton Rothman

December

- 2 – Jerry Sohl
- 7 – Leigh Brackett
- 9 – Margaret Brundage
- 16 – Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick
- 18 – Alfred Bester, Walt Daugherty
- 19 – Harry Warner, Jr.
- 23 – David H. Keller
- 24 – Fritz Leiber, Ray Beam
- 28 – Jon D. Swartz, Stan Lee

OBITUARY***Brian W. Aldiss (b.1925)***

Brian Wilson Aldiss died August 19, at the age of 92.

Aldiss was an English writer, who had been publishing science fiction (SF) novels and short stories since the 1950s.

He was co-president of the Birmingham SF Group and vice-president of the international H.G. Wells Society. Aldiss was named a Grand Master by the Science Fiction Writers of America in 2000 and inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2004.

His awards include two Hugos (plus a Special Plaque as Most Promising New Author of the Year in 1957-1958), a Nebula ("The Saliva Tree" in the first year the award was given), and a John W. Campbell Memorial Award (for *Helliconia Spring* in 1982-1983).

Other honors include Ditmar, Pilgrim, Locus, BSFA, Kurd Lasswitz, and Prix Jules Verne awards. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1990. In 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Liverpool for his contributions to literature. Aldiss was awarded the title of Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to literature in Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Honors list, announced on June 11, 2005.

He was Worldcon GoH at Seacon '79 and at Loncon II and Special Guest at two World Fantasy Conventions in London (1988 and 1997). For decades, he was Special Guest Emeritus at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

Aldiss, whose SF fan activity predates the 1939 Worldcon, was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2004.

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

WORLDCON 75

On August 9, Mike Glycer (of File 770) reported that Worldcon 75 had released the following Convention information:

- Attending members: 6,001
- Supporting members: 2,650
- Total members: 8,651
- Visitors on Day One: 4,759
- Members and Day Passes: 10,516
- First Worldcon attendance: 2,000+



Vincent Docherty presents the Big Heart Award to Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf
(Photograph by Henry Söderlund)



George R.R. Martin, Erle M. Korshak
George R.R. Martin's 3rd Annual Losers Party
(Photograph by Stephen Jones)

Worldcon 75 announced that they are the second biggest Worldcon ever, and the largest ever held outside of North America.

The new **First Fandom Exhibit** (based on David A. Kyle's original design) depicts the origins of First Fandom, a history of our awards, a gallery of fan photos, histories of the Big Heart Award and the Noble & Illustrious Order of St. Fantony, and a nice photo tribute to the *Man in the Red Jacket*.



First Fandom Exhibit – Worldcon 75
(Photograph by Stephen Jones)

WORLDCON 76 (SAN JOSE, CA)

“Worldcon 76, scheduled to be held August 16-20, 2018 has announced the additions of artist John Picacio and musician Frank Hayes to their list of Guests of Honor. Picacio and Hayes join previously announced guests Spider Robinson, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, and Pierre & Sandy Pettinger. Worldcon 76 is also honoring two “GOHsts of Honor,” Edgar Pangborn and Bob Wilkins.” [For more information...](#)

(Reprinted from a report by Steven H. Silver published in SF Site News - August 30, 2017)

DUBLIN WINS WORLDCON

“Dublin, Ireland has won the right to host the 2019 Worldcon in an uncontested site selection. **Dublin 2019** will take place at the Convention Centre Dublin from August 15-19, 2019. James Bacon will chair the convention. Announced Guests of Honor: Bill and Mary Burns, Diane Duane, Ginjer Buchanan, Ian McDonald, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, and Steve Jackson.”

[For more information...](#)

(Reprinted from a report by Steven H. Silver published in SF Site News - August 12, 2017)

LESTER AND ESTHER COLE ELECTED TO THE FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME

The First Fandom Hall of Fame Award was established in 1963 to honor some of the great old-timers who might not otherwise receive due recognition. This year, the members of First Fandom have elected **Les and Es Cole** to the Hall of Fame.



Es and Les Cole
(Photograph courtesy of Tove Marling)

“Hi, this is Es Cole speaking. Thanks for putting Les and Es into the First Fandom Hall of Fame. It’s about time.

Les at 91 is a treasure trove of science fiction experiences and interactions with the great fans and writers during the glory years of Bloch, Bradbury, Campbell, Tony Boucher, Forry Ackerman, Harlan Ellison, Dave Kyle, Judith Merrill, Poul Anderson, Isaac Asimov, Dave Aronovitz, Lee Jacobs, Sam Moskowitz, Nikki and Rick Lynch, and dozens more.

Les chaired the Little Men’s group and produced the SF Convention of 1954. He also captured his bride of 70 years by reading to her *The Black Flame* (by Stanley Weinbaum), who wore a gown of Alexandrites, rare gemstones that cost more than 15,000 dollars a carat.

I accepted Les’ marriage proposal on condition the engagement ring be an Alexandrite. Les, that sneaky, funny, intellectual, got me the ring, but the Alexandrite was an artificial stone. I was stuck with him for the next 70 years. And we’re still seeing a marriage counselor.

Then there was the Moon Claim, documented in fanzines and news stories around the world. Then the fun of producing a fanzine titled *Orgasm*.

We made our first convention appearance in New Orleans, where Bob Bloch started a rumor that Es and Les were 15 year-old twin brothers, and we’ve been gender confused ever since.

No. 1 son, Dana, attended the Worldcon in Chicago at age 4 1/2 months. Both sons – Dana and Lance – attended the Worldcon in San Francisco in 1954.

Les and Es Cole, Gary Nelson, Tom Quinn and a few other people produced SFCon 1954. We started out with almost bare pockets. First we turned the 2-day event into a 3-day weekend; we upped the registration from \$1 to \$2. Fans screamed at the outrageous increase.

Our most important accomplishment, which is still followed today (I think) and how the current Con made it to Helsinki: we voted to have world conventions produced in a different city each year, moving westward. Prior to that, conventions had been on the eastern side of the U.S., and repeated New York as the preeminent site, from the beginning of SF Conventions.

We restored the masquerade ball. Bob Bloch was a judge. Willy Ley’s wife, a professional ballet dancer, wore a black, filmy, flowing gown with glowing stars. She was “deep space”.

We got a wonderful museum in San Francisco to display some original sf art,

including Chesley Bonestell originals. His daughter attended SFCon. Additional entertainment included a chamber opera based on a Bradbury short story narrated by Anthony Boucher.



Tove Marling accepting the Hall of Fame Award on behalf of Les and Es Cole at Worldcon 75
(Photograph courtesy of the Hugo Awards Website)

Les has authored about 50 sf short stories, published in *F&SF*, *Amazing*, *Startling*; an article in *Astounding*; and 6 novels. His letters to sf magazines were published regularly from when he was about 13. After we married in 1947 he added my name – thus was born Les and Es, or Es and Les.

Judith Merrill played a big part. Long distance by mail and phone she helped Les hone his writing skills, gave advice about character development, dialog. Les has passed on this help to other aspiring writers, an important obligation.

My ambition to write a mystery novel was satisfied when I published a light mystery and semi-autobiographical novel at age 88.

Commercial break: All these books (see below) are available through Amazon.com. Please buy them – we need the income.

I've been doing more writing in my 90's than ever before – letters to editors, articles, shopping lists, graffiti on walls, and reams of notes reminding me of appointments, shopping needs, when to change my underwear.

Getting old is a drag, but I'm glad I made it this far and glad to be remembered in First Fandom's Hall of Fame.

We almost disappeared from SF cons for a long time after SFCon 1954. Now, First Fandom and all of you here have brought us back into the fold. Thank you – all of you – for making this happen. If you hold the next world science fiction convention in Ventura, California, I promise to attend."

Books by Les Cole: *The Sea Kings*, *Lion at Sea*, *The Sea People* (a prehistoric arch-aeological adventure trilogy, also available in Greek), *Baker's Dozenth* (a spy novel set against the American Civil War); *Spithead* (an alternative universe spy/adventure novel where WWI and WWII never happened because the British Navy sailed out of Spithead, England and intervened)

By Esther Cole and Carin Wofford: *Neighborhood Watch* (a light mystery set in Mar Vista, CA, based on an actual event; leading characters bear a striking resemblance to real people)

(Editor's Note: Les and Es arranged for one of their long-time friends -- **Tove Marling**, who runs a non-fiction publishing company in Stockholm, Sweden -- to come to the Worldcon in Helsinki and accept the award on their behalf. Tove and her family had met the Coles decades earlier when they were living in Athens, Greece.

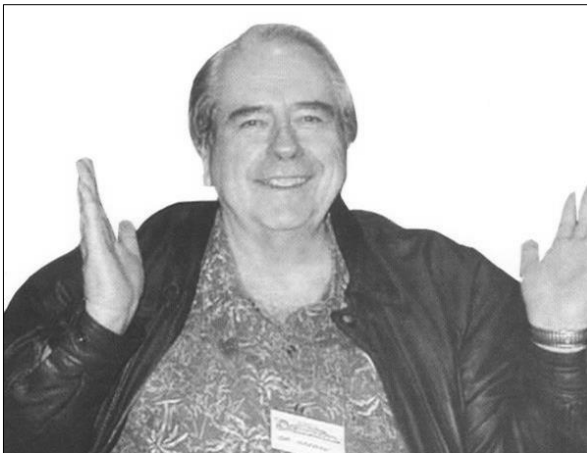
For the awards ceremony, Tove prepared an attractive brochure about the Coles -- the text of which is reprinted here -- and made it available for Worldcon attendees.)

JIM HARMON INDUCTED TO THE FIRST FANDOM POSTHUMOUS HALL OF FAME

The Posthumous Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to acknowledge the activities of exceptional fans who did not receive recognition during their lifetimes.

This year, the members of First Fandom honor the memory of a legend of popular culture, a person who made significant contributions to the comic book, radio, television and science fiction (SF) genres.

It is our privilege to induct **Jim Harmon** into the Posthumous Hall of Fame.



Jim Harmon (aka "Mr. Nostalgia")
(Photo reprinted from RADIOGRAM – March 2010)

Jim was a genuine enthusiast who sold his first SF story to *Spaceway* magazine in 1954. He wrote dozens of stories for many of the pro magazines in the 1950s-1960s, including *Amazing*, *F&SF*, *Galaxy* and *If*. His fanzine column "Harmony" was published regularly for more than 60 years!

With the presentation of this award, we join family and friends to celebrate the inspiring work and sense of wonder of **Jim Harmon**.

JIM HARMON – A FAN HISTORY (BY JON D. SWARTZ)

Jim was born in 1933. He contracted rheumatic fever in childhood, and

remembered overhearing the doctor telling his parents he wouldn't live. He developed a permanent heart valve defect. Jim's father died when Jim was ten. His mother supported them by working as a practical nurse.

Jim recovered from the rheumatic fever in his teens. He didn't feel comfortable going to high school because he had been out so long. He read the comics, newspapers, classic novels, adventure novels, and especially SF. He was well informed, and the kids' nickname for him was "The Professor."

He corresponded with writers and other fans whom he met through the letters columns in the magazines. He contributed to fanzines, and started collecting SF books, comics, and radio premiums. When he could come up with the money, he went to SF conventions.

He started selling when he was 19 years old. Forry Ackerman had become Jim's agent. In 1961, he sent Jim a plane ticket to come to Hollywood, and got him a job writing scripts for SF films. The first Thursday Jim was in town, he came to a meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, which is when and where he met his future wife, Barbara.

Jim's book, *The Great Radio Heroes* came out in 1967. It was the first book about radio written for radio fans by a radio fan, and was successful. Radio took over Jim's attention. He continued to write fanzine articles for Redd Boggs and Leland Sapiro.

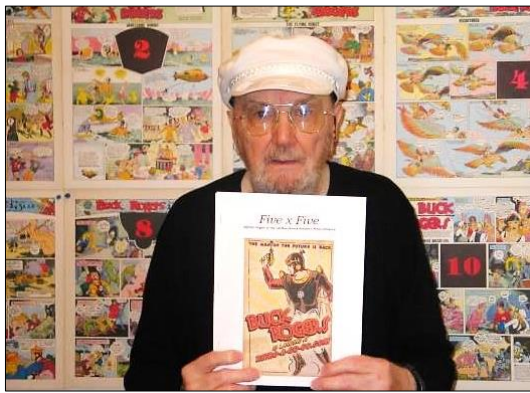
Jim joined First Fandom in 1992 as an Associate Member, and later became co-editor of the newsletter *Scientifiction* with wife, Barbara (2000-2005).

Jim was a guest at Loscon in 2009. That same year, he received the Ray Stannich Award at the Old Time Radio Convention in Newark, New Jersey. He died in 2010.

SAM MOSKOWITZ ARCHIVE AWARD PRESENTED TO JON D. SWARTZ

The Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for “excellence in collecting” is presented by First Fandom to recognize someone who has not only assembled a world-class collection of genre-related material but also accomplished meaningful things with it.

This year’s worthy recipient is **Jon D. Swartz**, a long-time enthusiast known for his scholarship and service to the SF field.



Jon D. Swartz
(Photograph courtesy of Jon D. Swartz)

Jon D. Swartz (b.1934) was president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) in 2010 and 2011. He now serves as the N3F Historian and as a member of its Directorate. From 2003 until 2011, he was Reviews Editor for *The National Fantasy Fan*. He currently is writing a series of articles about the N3F's founding members. He was co-author of the First Fandom Magazine – Annual 2017, and for the past 15 years he has been Special Features Editor for the First Fandom newsletter, *Scientifiction*.

His fanzine, *The Ultraverse*, is a member of the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance, and his *The E-Ultraverse* e-zine appeared in the N'APA mailings from 2008 until 2011. When writing on psychological topics, he calls his fanzine *Cognitive Dissonance*.

His academic and non-fiction publications number more than 500, including 30+ books and monographs. His popular culture publications also number more than 500. He has published 3 books on old-time radio (OTR), and several short stories featuring OTR characters in the *It's That Time Again* series of books edited by Jim Harmon.

Swartz's genre publications include *Pseudonyms of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Authors, 2010* (N3F Fandbook No. 5); *The Hugo Awards for Best Novel, 2013* (Fandbook No. 6); *The Nebula Awards for Best Novel, 2016* (Fandbook No. 7); and *The Buck Rogers Big Little Books and Other Collectibles, 2013*.

He is a regular contributor of articles to *The Big Little Times* and *Paperback Parade*. He and Harmon co-authored "On the Trail of Professor Proteus," a SF story set during World War II, in *It's That Time Again 3 (2006)*. He and Harmon had corresponded since 1964, when both of them were named Charter Members of the Executive Board of the Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors by Jerry Bails.

He received his Ph.D. in 1969 from The University of Texas at Austin and was Chief of Psychological Services at Central Counties Center for Mental Health-Mental Retardation until his retirement in 1999.

Previously, he was Associate Dean for Libraries and Learning Resources at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, where he was also Brown Professor of Psychology and Education.

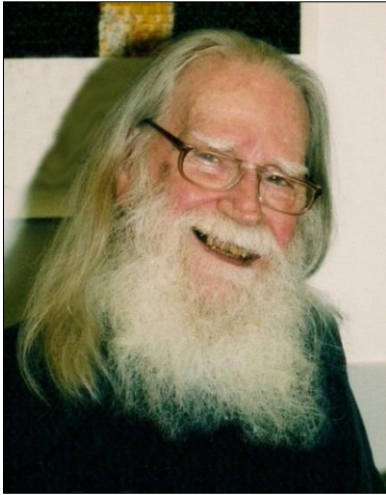
Swartz has attended many local SF conventions and meetings; and he and his son Eric attended the 1997 Worldcon (LoneStarCon2) in San Antonio, Texas.

His genre awards include Franson Awards in 2004 and 2007, and a Kaymar Award in 2010. Jon lives in Austin, Texas.

NEWS UPDATE

RUSTY HEVELIN FANZINE COLLECTION

In **File 770 (August 1, 2017)**, Mike Glycer cites a report by Andrew Porter re. the Rusty Hevelin fanzine collection at Iowa State University. The report mentioned the recent departure of Laura Hampton, the librarian who had been responsible for much of the material's digitization / display.



Rusty Hevelin
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

EATON COLLECTION MAKES JAY KAY KLEIN PHOTOS AVAILABLE ONLINE

"Nearly 6,000 photos taken by Jay Kay Klein at eight Worldcons in the Sixties were recently made available for viewing online by the UC Riverside Library.

<https://calisphere.org/collections/26943/>

Klein contributed his photo collection of 66,000 images of sf fandom and authors to UC Riverside's Eaton Collection prior to his death in 2012, a collection valued at \$1.4 million. His estate also donated \$3.5 million and helped create the UCR Library's Jay Kay and Doris Klein Librarian for Science Fiction."

(Abridged from a longer article by Mike Glycer published in File 770, August 17, 2017)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to **Lottie Robins** (widow of STF fan Jack Robins), who turned one hundred two years old on September 18!



Lottie and Jack, newly engaged (1949)
(Photograph courtesy of Lottie Robins)

KORSHAK COLLECTION ON TOUR

The Korshak Collection of Illustrations of Imaginative Literature recently concluded a 3-month public exhibition to great acclaim at the Society of Illustrators' Museum of Illustration in New York City. An opening night gala featured artists Michael Whelan, Greg Hildebrandt and others in attendance.



This collection of original iconic SF and Fantasy artwork will be available for viewing over the course of the next six months at several prominent venues. It will be on display September 23 - October 29 at the Stamford Museum in Stamford, Connecticut. Then, it can be seen from November 17, 2017 - February 4, 2018 at the Chazen Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin. For more information: www.korshakcollection.com.

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTER FROM LES AND ES COLE

We thank the members of First Fandom for our award. It was wonderful getting the recognition and stimulation of old memories. There were a lot of smiles around this household as a result!

LETTER FROM BARBARA HARMON

I would like to thank the members of First Fandom for Jim's induction to the Posthumous Hall of Fame.

I met Jim at LASFS in 1961. We dated from the time Forry bought him a plane ticket to come to Hollywood from Mount Carmel, Illinois. I left fandom to go back to college and get my degree, but we reconnected in 1977. When he published *The Great Radio Heroes*, Jim became a celebrity and spent nine months traveling to various television and radio stations around the country promoting his book.

Although his major writing successes were in the field of old time radio, many of his personal friends were SF fans. Science fiction and SF fandom were always the salvation for Jim Harmon.

LETTER FROM JON D. SWARTZ

I want to express my appreciation to the members of First Fandom for naming me the 2017 recipient of the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award.

I have been a fan of the work of Sam Moskowitz for many years. Recently, I was asked to write an article about his fan activities for the Sam Moskowitz Archives currently held by Texas A&M University. While researching this article, I learned even more about his many contributions to fandom. I am very proud to receive an award named for one of the founders of SF fandom.

LETTER FROM SAM J. LUNDWALL

Many thanks for the newsletter with welcome news and some sad tidings of those passed away. I regret to say I will not attend the WorldCon in Helsinki later this year. Helsinki is a wonderful city with marvelous architecture. My wife and I have been there many, many times and love it.

I actually organized the first Finnish esseff con in Helsinki, with Tom Ölander in 1982. I was a free-lance esseff author, translator, etc., and my wife worked at a government agency office, which means low pensions. So, travels, hotels, restaurants and con fees are out of the question. I assume you and other dinosaurs will be there and have a fantastic time. Most young Finns speak English and the Finnish cuisine is great. Well worth the trip. Cheers, **Sam J.** (sam.j.lundwall@comhem.se).

We had a nice call from long-time SF fan **Joanne Brooks** (of Zionsville, IN). She was great friends with Catherine and Sprague de Camp, and visited them in their homes in Villanova, PA and Plano, TX. We recalled great times that we had spent with the de Camps over the years and how much we miss them. Joanne enjoyed reading our reprint of the Jay K. Klein's letter from fifty years ago ("What First Fandom Means to Me"). She said that SF has remained important to her through her entire life.

We received mail recently from **several other friends**, including David Aronovitz, Laura Freas Beraha, Fred Brammer's son Eric, Steve Francis, Hal W. Hall, Earl Kemp, Erle M. Korshak, Jack Lange, Christopher M. O'Brien, Keith W. Stokes.

We welcome letters to the editor and other items for publication in our newsletter!

THREE OBITUARY NOTICES

(PREPARED BY CHRISTOPHER M. O'BRIEN)

C. HAMILTON BLOOMER, JR.

C[harles] Hamilton Bloomer, Jr. (1915-2016) New Jersey-born San Francisco fan; founder of Science Fiction Advancement Association; contributor to Claire P. Beck's Science Fiction Critic, editor of the fan publication Tesseract (the first to be produced using the multigraph process.) Bloomer joined NAPA, the National Amateur Press Association in 1936.

Late in life Bloomer joined The Fossils, the alumni organization for "mundane" amateur journalists, for whom he produced a brief memoir, "My Memories of Amateur Journalism and Science Fiction Fandom In The Nineteen Thirties" in The Fossil[:] Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism 105, No. 4. Whole No. 341 (July 2009.): 28-30. See <http://www.thefossils.org/fossil/fos341.pdf>

It was revealed in H. P. Lovecraft's recently published letters to Duane Rimel that Bloomer was another late correspondent of HPL's. Bloomer's Tesseract Vol. 2. No. 4. (April 1937) was dedicated to HPL and contained Clark Ashton Smith's "In Memoriam: H. P. Lovecraft" and a reprint of HPL's collaborative tale "The Crawling Chaos."

I may have gotten to Bloomer a year or so before The Fossils rediscovered him or he reappeared. I do recall I had to do a bit of detective work to determine Bloomer's first name was Charles, as I don't believe this was given in any of the fan histories. I subsequently found a WWII registration for him that seemed to fit the bill and then matched that first name with a white pages-type listing.

From my brief over-the-phone interview with Bloomer back in 2008, I realized that

Moskowitz was mistaken about Bloomer having ever been a chemist as SaM stated in The Immortal Storm (p. 63.) Oddly, Bloomer told me he had never heard of Moskowitz or of Harry Warner and his fan history either, nor did Bloomer recall the name of James Blish whom he had expelled from his organization, The SF Advancement Association.

An online obituary for Mr. Bloomer: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/eastbaytimes/obituary.aspx?n=Charles-Hamilton-Bloomer&pid=180340549> & a memorial page with photographs of Bloomer: <http://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/charles-hamilton-bloomer-jr> offer glimpses into the non-fannish aspects of his long life.

HERMAN STOWELL KING

Herman Stowell King (June 11, 1929-January 21, 2015). Hailing originally from Wolf Creek, West Virginia, King was a contributor of short stories, articles and verse to The Fanscient, Peon, Spacewarp, Fantasy Advertiser, Manly Banister's The Nekromantikon, Lilith Lorraine's Flame, Derleth's The Arkham Collector and Fate magazine.

King corresponded with August Derleth and Clark Ashton Smith and was said to be in possession of a number of Smith's carvings. King's poem "Evocation" was included in Derleth's Arkham House verse anthology Fire and Sleet and Candlelight (1961) and he worked as radio announcer in local stations. King spent his last years at what Ned Brooks termed his "hermitage" in Wicomico, VA.

RICHARD LAWRENCE DALBY

British ghost fiction scholar Richard Dalby (1949-2017) passed away earlier this year:

<http://announce.ipress.co.uk/yorkshire-post/obituary/richard-dalby/50144353>

SAM MOSKOWITZ
A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GUIDE
(COMPILED BY HALBERT W. HALL)

A REVIEW BY JOHN L. COKER III

Following SaM's untimely death in 1997, his widow (Dr. Christine Haycock) kindly donated the contents of more than 40 filing cabinets from his personal collection to the Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M University, where Hal W. Hall was curator.

Over the course of the next 20 years, Hall took on the overwhelming task of preparing a meaningful Sam Moskowitz bibliography.



Sam Moskowitz
 (Illustration by Frank R. Paul)

This bibliography is "meant to be a guide to anyone who takes an interest in studying" the work of Moskowitz. This presentation edition, published in 2017 and limited to 15 numbered copies, is "...the only first and complete (and perhaps only print) edition of the bibliography." Hall describes it as a way for the editor to thank the contributors, including libraries, who have provided material for the compilation.

The coil-bound 8.5x11 book is 230 pages in length and is printed in black and white.

The cover art features a B&W illustration that was created by Frank R. Paul in 1957.

This visual image was from the archives of SaM's great friend, A. Langley Searles.

At the outset of this publication there is an excellent article written by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D., entitled "Sam Moskowitz: Science Fiction Fan." A table of contents describes the overall organization and presentation of the material. The first section lists more than 50 Books written and edited by SaM (a very impressive body of important work). A section of short fiction catalogs over 30 examples of his short stories and poetry that appeared in fanzines and magazines.

Hall describes SaM's hundreds of unique and scholarly non-fiction articles covering the history and development of SF in great biographical and historical detail as his greatest contribution to the field. Editorial credits include work done for fanzines, books and magazines. There is a listing and description of the nine published books that were ghost-edited by SaM.

Hall assesses the hundreds of book reviews and review columns written by SaM as "important components of his critical writing." A companion section lists reviews of Sam Moskowitz books.

SaM was a tireless correspondent throughout his life, writing to "fans, authors, publishers and academics." Hall presents examples of the many letters SaM wrote.

A list of fanzines published by SaM during the 1930s-1950s is provided. His honors and awards are cataloged. Hundreds of articles about SaM are listed in a group of secondary literature. Other sections list his pseudonyms and a reprint of an article by SaM entitled "Of Time and Research." This edition includes a Finding Aid for the Sam Moskowitz Collection at the Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M University.

Hall acknowledges that this compilation is a work-in-progress and any updates may be sent via email to: hal-hall@tamu.edu.

ROBERT BLOCH AND “FANDOM”

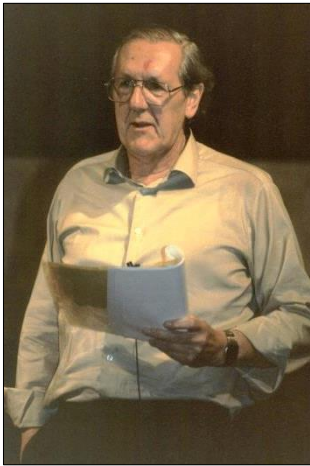
“Whatcha want to know about me for your purposes? If it’s the “pro turned fan” pitch, here in brief is the story from that slant: I did a few things in 1934 for fanzines, but merely as a sort of preliminary to pro work...my first pro yarn was in WT, Jan.’35 issue, when I was 17. At that time I corresponded only with pros and had never met a fan with the exception of Raymond A. Palmer, a fellow-Milwaukeean, who was also a pro and a member of the Milwaukee Fictioneers (a local writing group). We never discussed “fandom”. I continued to submit occasional items to fanzines through 1937, then cut it out entirely. At that time I made my first contact with disorganized fandom...went west to visit a former fan of mine recently turned pro, named Henry Kuttner. He introduced me to a fan named Fritz Leiber. I attended an LASFS meeting and met a fan name of Ackerman, also Shroyer, Hodgkins, and an obnoxious young kid whom they tolerated for his puns: a Roy Burberry or Ray Bradley, some such name. The meeting, held in Clifton’s Cafeteria, did not impress me greatly. But as a result, I kept in desultory touch with West Coast fandom and during the war years occasionally sent a letter or an article to a west coast magazine or Ackerman’s MADGE. I had fan-contacts with WT readers, of course, as a result of my own published stories, but the idea of visiting a fan club, or aligning myself with the feuds and factions of the time meant nothing to me. I’d never met any of the eastern BNFs, and during my brief visit to New York in 1939 I saw no one but professionals and my agent, a former fan named Julius Schwartz.

It wasn’t until 1946, 11 years after I began pro writing, that I actually “discovered” fandom. Went to the Pacificon and there met most of the fabulous figures from the

Laney Era. Also a Mr. Tucker. One look from his patriotic eyes (red, white and blue) and I was hopelessly smitten. I attended the 1948 Con in Toronto, the 1951 in New Orleans, and every do ever since then, including the Midwestcons. From 1951 on, I seemed to have gotten increasingly enmeshed in correspondence, fanzine articles, convention programs, and the unholy like. But I still don’t consider myself a science fiction fan. I’m more of a science fiction fan fan. It’s the people who interest me...the friends I’ve found, both fan and pro, through such activity. And I regard fanzines as perhaps the only remaining outlet for a free exchange of personal opinion in the country. I’m serious about this, Bob. One reads articles in the general press or magazines and they’re all “slanted”...written to order, and to sell. They seldom if ever represent a personal opinion on the part of the writer: besides, the writer is not just an ordinary citizen, but an “authority”. Even in the few remaining so-called “liberal” publications like THE REPORTER, or the “literary” journals of low circulation like HARPER’S, ATLANTIC, or SATURDAY REVIEW, it’s all “authority” speaking rather than the common man. But in fanzines you find people of all ages, all walks of life, all backgrounds, all outlooks, going at it hammer and tongs. Sometimes they’re vulgar, sometimes they’re banal, but they’re always interesting...and they do find that free exchange of ideas which constitutes the working principle of a democracy. I intend to say so in a MADGE column one of these days, but I don’t mind passing the notion along. To me this is the most stimulating aspect of fandom...the degree of free communication it affords. And as I say, I’ve met so many fine and interesting people in the field. In spite of Tucker.”

(Excerpt of a letter from Bloch to Robert A. Madle, written during the late-1950s.)

FIRST FANDOM PHOTO GALLERY



Brian Aldiss
London, Halloween 1988
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)



Olga Ley as "Deep Space"
1954 Worldcon Masquerade
(Photograph by Ben Jason)



C. Hamilton Bloomer
(Provided by Christopher M. O'Brien)

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