

# PHANTASY PRESS

NO. 60



# Phantasy P R E S S

DANIEL McPHAIL  
EDITOR

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## S M O K E S I G N A L S

One member complained that I use too many "fillers". Back in 1950-60, I often had issues that numbered 20 to 40 pages and also printed a number of "Memory Book" series, but I can no longer produce such volume. Perhaps I can show a modest increase at times. My "Smoke Signals" section has always been a melting pot for odds and ends and various trivia. I feel these "fillers" are of interest to our readers for the information they contain.


Our family took a vacation to Disney World in August. When we returned home, we had a post card from Irene Carnell telling us she would be there and her dates were the same as our stay! She is the widow of veteran fan/pro Ted Carnell of London. He and I corresponded for 45 years - and our daughters still keep in touch. I miss him, and I most certainly regret that we did not get to see Irene.

Many members have expressed a wish that accurate data on the early history of FAPA was available. No doubt very few Fapans have the first mailing (there were only 21 members when the first mailing went out) but I am lucky to have the first 12 mailings in good shape and complete. Beginning next issue, I will start a review of the dozen mailings, as were run in Phantasy Press about 1959. Once more the old medicine man will sit before the ceremonial fire and conjure up events "From Out of the Past". (This issue he tells of a fanzine that almost was) So, if interest continues when we have finished the first dozen, we can go on from there. Bob Pavlat, in his BOB-LINGS #7 (May 1960) offered to loan me his mailings #9 through #18 to continue the series. Then I have the annual "X-Ray" reports for a seven year period beginning with the January 1958 issue of Phantasy Press. Perhaps Peggy Rae could help fill in some of the gaps. Comments on this proposed project would be appreciated.

Cover by James Rogers

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FROM  
*out of the past*  
 by DAN McPHAIL



In those long-ago days when the fan world was sparkling new, we of the First Fandom era all dreamed great projects, many of which never got off the ground - or the drawing board.

I was like all the rest. In my files are many, many dusty "dummies" of proposed fan mags. Only a few ever reached the stencil stage. However, this article concerns an exception - a real effort I made to establish a worthwhile publication.

On June 1, 1931, I hand-printed the first issue of SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, mainly to record information and my impressions of my fascinating new hobby. This must have been about the second actual fan effort along these lines and appeared even before THE TIME TRAVELER. Then I bought an old Oliver typewriter & SFN appeared "printed" on a bi-monthly basis until 1935 when I began to accept some subs. Then it did go print and for three issues, when my family

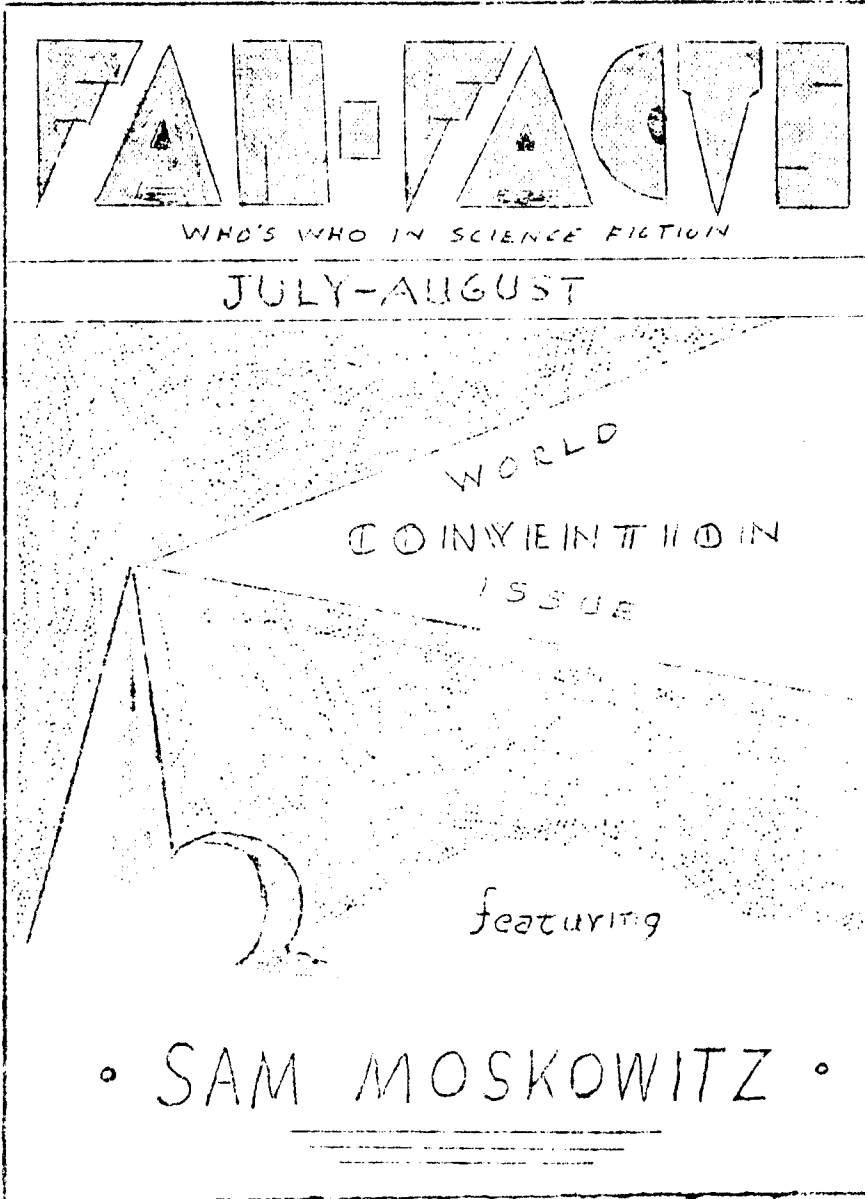
moved from Oklahoma City to Comanche, where Jack Speer & I chummed and were charter members of FAPA...but that is another story.

Anyway, the move away from the print plant job sounded the death knell to SFN, as I did not desire continuing it in a less imposing format.

However, I did invest in a Montgomery Wards duplicator and launched FAN-FACTS, designed to be a contemporary "who's who" for science fiction. I proposed that each issue would feature one person, fan or pro, with his picture and signature and a write up by some one who knew him best. I selected Mary Rogers, a very fine young Oklahoma artist, to render suitable likeness from photos I sent her and she did an excellent job,

The first issue, mimed size 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, featured a "scoop" autobiography of Charles D. Hornig, "s.f.#1" #1 travelling salesman" & editor of WONDER STORIES and SCIENCE FICTION.

The second Fan of the Month was James Taurasi.



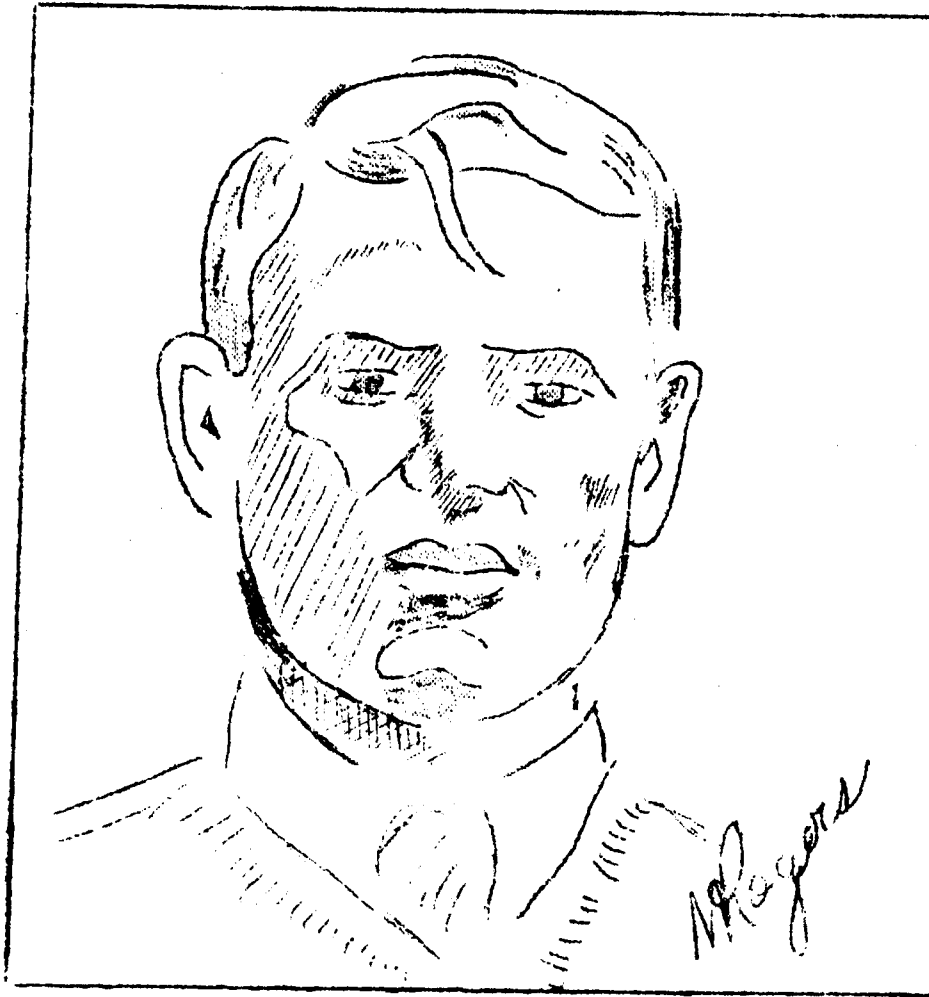
**FAN-FACTS**  
 WHO'S WHO IN SCIENCE FICTION  
 JULY-AUGUST  
 WORLD  
 CONVENTION IN  
 ISSUE  
 featuring  
 • SAM MOSKOWITZ •

The third edition, to be a special World Con number, was prepared in part, but never completed. I had especially wanted to get the third issue out, as it featured Sam Moskowitz, then - as now - one of fandom's leading light. Jack Speer, at Sams' request, had written a keen, penetrating study of him. The entire number was dummied, and even some stencils cut, but circumstances arose that prevented me from completing it. I still have much material filed away, and for your interest, I present a repro of the cover plus Mary's drawing of Sam (pardon my poor tracing of it.)

The following three numbers would have featured Forrie Ackerman, Ted Carnell & Johnny Baltadonis. I still have drawings of them plus C.L. Moore & Dr. T. O'Conner Sloane & at some future date (perhaps in First Fandom Magazine) I hope to present a revival of FAN-FACTS. Material also included a movie review by Moskowitz and humor by Bob Tucker.

Some notes on a production schedule shows that I planned to feature in future issues, writeups on Wollheim, Tucker, Michael, Rothman, Speer, John W. Campbell, Schwartz, Palmer, Wilson, Lowndes, Wiggins, the Rogers twins, Marconette, Weisinger Farnsworth Wright and me.

I'm sorry now that I did not get to produce the whole series. They would be of great value to historians now, and perhaps of great interest to fans in general.



Sam Moskowitz

# Dear Editor:

Soon after Hugo Gernsback launched AMAZING STORIES, he established a "Discussions" department, wherein readers were invited to send in letters. They did, in great volume. It played an important role by providing a sounding board for efforts to organize fan clubs. The First Fandom era was sprinkled with fans who made efforts to form clubs and to produce fan-mags (as they came to be known). Most did not get far from the planning stage, but some did get off the ground, even if only for a short flight. We will now take a look at some of these early letters. They range from the grandiose plans of the very young to the worthwhile accomplishments of mature fans like Raymond A. Palmer and Walter Dennis. Following are selections of some of these early letters.

One of the first club announcements to appear was a letter from Forrest Ackerman and Jim Nicholson, plugging the "Boy's Scientification Club." In one of his letters, Jim (then age 14) tells a hairy adventure he experienced via Amazing Stories. He said that he woke up in the night and when he turned on the light, his gaze fell on the cover of the November 1928 issue illustrating the story "The Globoid Terror". "Well Sir" he continues "being as I was only half-awake it startled me so that I let out a yelp and fell to the floor, flat on my face, with all my bed-clothes on top of me. Before going back to bed, I put the magazine at the bottom of a pile of others. In his reply, Editor T.O'Conner Sloane expressed his doubts that the picture alone frightened him.

In the February, 1932 issue of Amazing, Norman C. Caldwell of San Francisco, proposed a club for fans living "West of Denver".

In the next Amazing, James H. Logan of Charlottesville writes that he has joined a club that is for the propose of stimualing stf. He says "I will gladly tell anyone about this club that wishes to know if they will write."

G. Joseph Griffin of Phildelphia, wanted to start a club. His letter was in Discussions for July 1929. He was a little early to catch the gang (Baltadonis, Madle, Train, etc.) that later made Philly a hot spot for fandom.

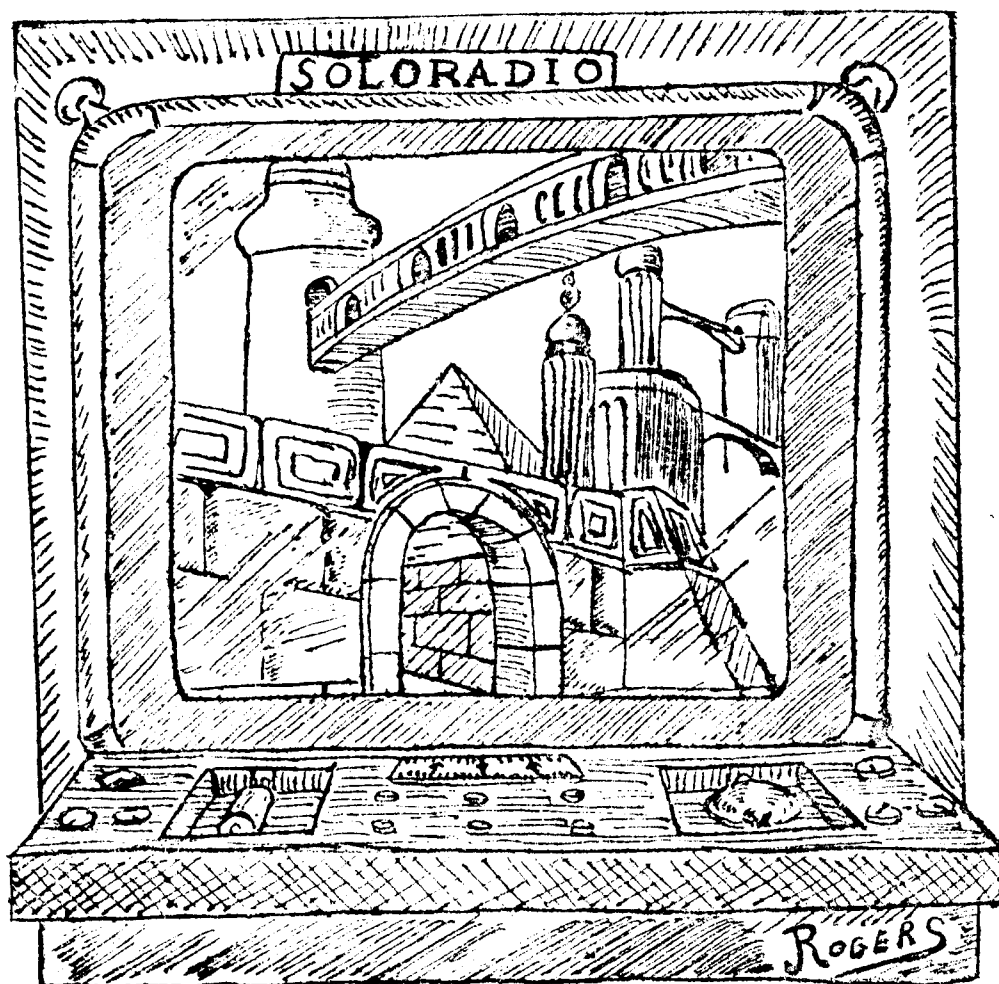
John H. Pinkard, Jr., of Washington D. C. called for a correspondance club.

In the January, 1930 issue, Walter Dennis of Chicago, gave a report on the Science Correspondance Club which now had over 50 members, including Dr. Miles Brewer, Jack Willaimson and 4 girl members. A bulletin is planned. A year later, Walter announced the name had been changed to International Scientific Society and they had affiliat+d with the German Interplanetry Society, headed by Willy Ley. Their publication, "Cosomology" is now carrying advertisements.

In line with our interest in the Superman background, is a letter by Jerome Seigle in the August, 1929 Amazing. He says he "has written many Science stories, amateurishly, and can hardly hold myself in restraint, when I know that some of my friends have also written science stories galore". He names one John Reibel, who authored "Voice from the Moon" and "Emperor of Ten Worlds". Both were printed in a local newspaper. Bernard Kantor was named as having written stories.

One of the most unusual letters was one George A. Wines of Seneca, N.Y. who was recruiting for his own club. Referring to the Science club (mentioned in the previous letter) he writes, "I once organized such a club back in 1914 we had an experimental laboratory and did some wonderful things for boys in high school". They built a broadcasting station. He said the average person knew nothing of such things in those days. He continued "I could name a good list of original apparatus that we experimented with but that would be exposing the secrets in our archive".

"One other I will mention, but with no details, an electric gun that was a real success, turned over to the government when war broke out. "The Club was known as the A.O.O.S. (American Order of Science). It was a secret order with a binding oath, secret code for writing formulas, pass words and signs." There was a lot more, but the editor's only comment was to deplore the secret nature of the society."

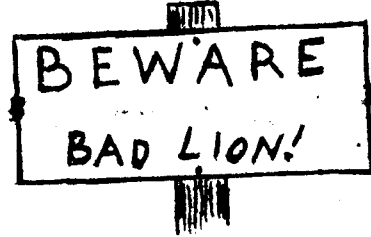


Reprinted from Science Fiction News (July, 1936)



LOOKING in the 173rd  
F. A. P. A. MAILING  
for  
October, 1980

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Again your Lion-Hearted  
Editor roars-but softly-  
his opinion concerning  
the efforts of others.



FANTASY AMATEUR: I agree with Ed Cox on franking. And the Shadow Mailing should pay its own way, without cost to FAPA.

STARCROSS SF (Roberts) This is a good guide for book-buyers.

THE TIGER IS LOOSE #19.(Boutillier) I enjoyed the observations on C.S. Lewis.... I'm still not sure how to vote come November, but lean towards Reagan.

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE#3 (Stone) Item 14 (on Shaver) interesting..

HAWAII #1 (Goldberg) Very neat appearance and well written.

DETOURS #8 (Chauvenet) I'm sure sorry to read of you tennis accident, but happy you are back on your feet. And I hope you did good in the World Chess Championship.....This is a beautiful cover, Louis. One of the best I have seen in the year or so since I returned to FAPA....I, too, remember the thrill of watching the eclipse through a piece of smoked glass...I have felt all along that there was more water on Mars than astronomers admit.... I'm glad you like my covers - James Rogers does fine work on them...I hope I did not bring any sorrow to Art Widner on spelling his zine title wrong. It was just a typing error. My wife, Louise, will be doing most of the typing in the future, which should be a major improvement....The reprint regarding Jack Williamson was enjoyed. I've had the pleasure of meeting him at two Okla.Cons.

COGNATE(Hicky) This pretty green cover stock looks like a lady appearing in a bright new frock...an interesting issue....congrats on the new job.

GRITBEN (Roberts) A real good con report.

STAGGERWING #2 (Arthurs) That's a good sketch on your first page,Bruce. Your idea on a method of voting in the Egoboo poll, vis the #1 choice to get five points, #2 to get four points, etc. an alternate of the above, with the winner of each category going to the member receiving the most votes, 2nd place going to the member receiving the next highest number, etc,...and I think you have an excellent idea in giving an additional 5 points to everyone who sends in a ballot. That bonus might encourage more members to vote.

HORIZONS #157 (Warner) I agree with you that the more simple the Egoboo Poll is, the more likely we are to have a big turn-out, .... and I concur with you on the matter of two-letter abbreviations for state names....I think James Rogers must hold the fannish record for art work over the longest span of years. However, his sister, Mary, no longer does fannish art work...Regarding my article on Charles D. Hornig and your asking of his whereabouts: If you read the Science Fiction Chronicle, you know now that he is in L.A. Charles and I corresponded a lot and I had two or three articles published in his Fantasy Fan.

WYRD BITH FUL ARED #3 (Brown) I'm glad you like Roger's covers. He has received a lot of praise.... Determining who really published the first fanzine may be a hopeless task, but I enjoy doing it - and now and then I come up with items of interest for fans who have an interest in the pre-fandom era. To try to peer through the mists of time before First Fandom is indeed a task. But one may find a zine like "Cosmic Stories," issued by Siegel and Shuster. To my knowledge, no present day fan has ever seen a copy, but it has been documented by the Visual Encyclopedia of SF and others. You say "One must deal with questions as how big a circulation must it have to count?" You cast scorn at mention of a zine with on 15 Subscribers, "Fifteen copies!" (your words). ("Spaceship Stories by Jim Blish). But money was scarce, and fans even more so, so some early mags were typed and carboned...It was a hard job - and usually most copies went in exchange with other publishers. Even if he has only a few readers, I think the amateur publisher deserves some credit for his labor in designing and producing the mag. When an archaeologist digs up an artifact, he doesn't have to find 14 more to prove it is an artifact. (The dictionary defines "artifact" as "any object made by human hands." I'd say that applies to fanzines, too.)

EGO TRIPPING IN LA #2 (Burns) Hope your health, auto insurance now OK.  
PHANTASY PRESS #59 (me) I'm glad the appearance is now much better.  
ESDACYOS #30 (Cox) A lot of good writing, Ed. I got a laugh over the bookie joint in the old mag shop....a nice tribute to Wilbur Peacock by Larry Shaw...."I remember Lemuria" also much enjoyed.  
I AM A LEGEND (Boggs) Much of interest here in a variety of subjects.  
CURMUDGEON (Horvat) What a beauty this is! I drooled over the layout, the variety of type faces, the cuts and the printing. And the text is most interesting, too. I love that cut of the old printer.

YHOS #18 (Widner) Another super-neat issue; Art. I read this through from the first page to the last and enjoyed it more than I can say. I so enjoyed it all. I've always wanted to visit England, and this really took me with you...Good luck on your trip to China!!

DAMBALLA (Hansen) Congrats Chuck, on your high rating in the poll!  
... I have felt an earthquake, but it was so slight it was nothing, but I have witnessed two tornados. Many years ago, I directed a local Air Force GOC (Ground Observen Corps) post and we stood watch during severe weather. It got pretty bad by the time we ran for the storm shelters! .... as to the FAPA history, I hope to start, in the next mailing, a detailed review of the first twelve mailings...yes, Rogers is a fine artist. He did some great art for Olen Wiggins SF FAN & Morris Dollens SF COLLECTOR ....I once had a hectograph, but sold it to John Baltadonis...am still hoping you find that "Rogue's Gallery." I recently dug up Jack Speer's OSA ROUGE'S GALLERY.

Thank you for your final paragraph, it brightened my day, Old friend.