



# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 78 Number 2

February 2019

## Call for Mangaverse Contributions

I would like to get the next issue of Mangaverse out around the end of February. While I have a couple of items to include already, I'm still looking for more submissions if people have them.

I'd like material by the 15th of February (though if people need a bit longer they are welcome to talk to me about it). If you could pass along that I'm especially interested in reviews or commentary of material that I don't personally enjoy, just to ensure that there's some diversity of opinion represented (individuals are free to look over my other writing for ideas about my taste).

...Jessi Silver [jessi@sle1.com](mailto:jessi@sle1.com)

## Wanted — Information on Founders

The following folks were numbered among the heroic founders of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, but almost no biographic data is available on them. Can anyone supply some useful information?

Charles E. Mulrain  
James Bush  
Jack Fields  
George Robson  
Robert Jones  
Eugene Jorgensen  
Robert Jordan

## 2019 Neffies

For many years, the N3F has given awards for fantasy materials in all media. We now approach the 2018 Awards. Phase One is choosing Award categories. In years past, some categories have had more interest than others. Perhaps there are categories we are missing.

Having said that, please send your ideas for categories to our President, George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

Best novel (over 100,000 words) has always done well. Last year, we had nominations for shorter works. For many years, the N3F has given awards for fantasy materials in all media. Current categories, for 2018 work (major rewrites count as new) are

Best novel (over 100,000 words)  
Best shorter work (under 100,000 words)  
Best book editor  
Best fanzine (electronic publication is allowed)  
Best Blog  
Best TV show  
Best SF movie/video  
Best anime  
Best graphic art publication  
Other

We're still open for other proposals. Email them to [George Phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:George Phillies@4liberty.net)



Artwork by Angela K. Scott  
Pages 3, 5, 6, and 8



## Your Volunteer Team

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 Writers Exchange : J. Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Many New Volunteers are needed: Cosplay, Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

## Where Are We?

As the N3F President, I have some responsibility to keep members informed as to what is going on and how we are doing as a club. Looking back over past years, our membership is up considerably. We now have 63 voting members, which is a recent record, and 165 Public members. Activities? We just passed 40 Bureaus and Titled positions that are filled with members doing good things for the N3F.

Members may look back with profound thanks to the wonderful volunteers who kept the N3F going during the lean years when some N3F publication might be issued quarterly. We are now up to eight zines, each with its own identifiable focus.

Yes, the N3F is far more useful and effective than it was in some times past. We should always be grateful to the fine members who kept their faith in our Federation, and kept the N3F alive until new blood reinvigorated it.

How can we do better? The short form is that we need more people engaged with club activities. How do we do that? The most important answer is the simplest. We recruit more members into the Federation.

Membership recruitment has many paths. Speak up

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### Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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for the N3F in your social media. Take advertising fliers to conventions. Above all, ask people to join by talking to them face-to-face.

## Volunteers Needed

Yes, we can always use more volunteers to support the N3F. Specific need: We need someone knowledgeable in web page creation to assist David Speakman with web page renewal and migration. We need Facebook contributors to trumpet our organization across SF Facebook pages, of which there are several. We need people to write short book reviews for our book review project.



Angela K. Scott — Seahorse

## Zines

### Eldritch Science

I presently anticipate that issue 4 of Eldritch Science will be out in late March. George Phillies, Editor

## Tightbeam

Tightbeam is now focused on longer reviews, including anime, novels, short fiction, comics, SerCon, and recipes from famous authors.

The latest issue of Tightbeam, #293, came out a few weeks ago under new co-Editors Jon Swartz and George Phillies. It was distributed electronically to all members with email addresses.

Tightbeam is your fanzine. Its pages are always open to members who want to contribute articles, reviews, or artwork. The letter column is there for members to express their opinions not only about current Tightbeam issues, but also to discuss and comment on any subject involving the club or any part of the fan or science fiction spectrum.

It's an open forum, and I urge members to make full use of it. You can contact me, Ye Editor, George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)

## N'APA

N'APA, founded in 1959, now enters its 60th year of publication. New collator Jefferson Swycaffer just superintended the appearance of issue 238, distributed to members. The next issue will be out in March.

## Ionisphere

Ionisphere's purpose is to help improve relations among fans and pros, editors and writers, by means of information and increased interchange. The latest issue to appear is #15.

### Staff Members

John Thiel, bureau head.  
 Jefferson Swycaffer, pro contact  
 Jon Swartz, fan contact  
 John Polselli, ground adjutant  
 Jeff Redmond, promo

Considering LoCs? I'd be glad to hear from people talking about their own background in science fiction reading and fandom.

John Thiel, bureau chief

## TNFF

Our news zine, founded 1941 as *Bonfire*, continues its regular monthly publication. There have been publication rearrangements; all long reviews now go to Tightbeam.

## Films Fantastic

Editor Eric Jamborsky described to your Editor here some of the joys of home ownership, and now hopes to have an issue out by the end of the month.

## Mangaverse

Editrix Jessi Silver writes that she has been travelling a great deal, but that the next issue of Mangaverse will be out at the end of the month.

## Club Activities

### Art Bureau

We have an Art Bureau. Most important, as part of that Bureau, we have Art! Current contributing artists are Jose Sanchez, Angela K. Scott, and, on occasion, Cedar Sanderson. The artists all wish someone would volunteer to become BuHead.

### Birthday Card Bureau

In January 9 birthday cards were sent 10 renewal notices (including one by e-mail and one that included two names at one address)  
...Laurraine Tutihasi

### Book Review Bureau

Did you read an SF book this month? Why not send us a short review. For a short review format consider the following example:

- 1) Title — The Last Bite
- 2) Author — B.L. Ood Red
- 3) Theme — Vampires! Zombies! Pirates! Dragons!
- 4) Remarks — The author's writing style is uninhibited by adherence to reactionary

concepts including spelling, grammar, paragraphing, description, characterization, and plot.

- 5) Evaluation — Where is the brain bleach?

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We're coasting along in pretty good order, with the bureau in a completed form. This month's activity has been dealing with some loose ends. We have had a lot of communications problems, but those seem to be easing up and we have learned to be more professional at communication. I think in the April Ionsphere we will be discussing the bureau more from the inside—how things are shaping up and what we should be doing and how we should be doing it.—  
John Thiel

## Fandbooks

Club Archivist Jon Swartz is hard at work (I can't say I'm contributing very much to the project) preparing a Fandbook on N3F Founding Members who went on to have a significant influence on science fiction and fantasy.

## Forwarder

We have a volunteer forwarder, Jeffrey Redmond, and already we have a person getting email forwarding.

## History and Research Bureau

We're moving along in full gear now, with regular results of research commenced for each issue of Origin. We will be developing a "library" showing research sources and listing books which have a history of science fiction.—John Thiel

## Membership Recruitment

Alas, one member had to cancel his panned LTUE trip, so we did not have a room party in Utah. Artist Cedar Sanderson, who was there, planned to distribute N3F fliers.

Membership count for the start of the month: 2 life members, 36 regular members, 6 household members, 19 electronic members, 165 public members, and 7 archival subscriptions; that totals to 235, of

which 63 are voting members..

### Pro Bureau

We launched the Pro Bureau last month, and already it has three supported activities. The Facebook Group Non-Political SF Writers gives you a chance to interact with other writers, politics being banned. Cedar Sanderson's Group More Odds Than Ends features the daily accountability entry, where you get to post what writing you did *that day*. We have two N3F members who are prepared to do professional editing for pay at \$20 an hour. Contact BuHead George Philies for details.

Pro Bureau? The N3F has a long and illustrious history of members who are professional writers as well as being fan. The Pro Bureau is an experiment, specifically for pro members who want to interact within the N3F. This Bureau is intended to be entirely different from our wonderful Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, whose intent it is to promote Fan-Pro relations.

### Round Robins

#### Electronic Round Robins

Important changes have been made in the running of the Electronic Round Robins. If you have even glanced at the Bureau, in the last few months, you will have noticed the absence of a list of ERR to join. As was detailed in previous TNFF's the following changes have been made:

1. Only two people are needed to begin an ERR.
2. The bureau head will assign participants an ERR Partner.
3. Each pair will decide what aspect or subject of Science Fiction, Fantasy or Horror they wish to discuss.

We hope these changes will make it more exciting and fun to belong to an ERR.

If you would like to join an ERR or if you want to be paired with more than one member, or you have any questions - please let me know.

Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com



Shadowette — Angela K. Scott

### Traditional Round Robins

Traditional Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members—which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

If you are interested in joining a Traditional Round Robin please contact Patricia Williams-King. She is on Facebook. She is currently in the middle of moving, so her mailing address is up in the air.

### Welcommittee

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

I am still seeking someone who will help me in greeting new members. It's not a hard job, but it can be time consuming when several members join in the same month - which doesn't happen often. I can handle the months when one to three members join, but more than that takes up a lot of time. I

have other responsibilities in the N3F, and I could really use some help!

If anyone could help me welcome new members to this wonderful club I would really appreciate it.  
 Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com.

## Writers Exchange

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

Writer's Block: Something that stops a writer from writing.

I'm not going to discuss ways of overcoming writer's block. For that information I am sending you to How to Overcome Writer's Block: 14 Tricks That Work by Jeff Goins.

I don't have writer's block. I have writer's don't. I rarely sit down to write a story or anything else. It's not that I don't have any ideas. I have plenty of them. A sentence uttered by a child, the look and gait of someone passing by as I sit in a parking lot or part of a conversation heard while driving over an underpass. These types of things bring an immediate scene or story idea which my mind begins playing and recording. I even write down the child's sentence or the person's attitude and the partial conversation. (I don't feel like myself if I don't have paper and pen accessible at all times.) Unfortunately, the problem doesn't come as soon as I sit down to write. The problem is, I don't sit down to write.

I fight and fight the urge and need to sit at the computer and write something, but that is a story for another day.

I want to tell you of something that has actually gotten me to write. A little bit.

I can't sleep when there is total silence. I feel like the silence is roaring in my ears. So, I listen to music from a channel on my TV. It's instrumental only.

The title of the piece, the album from which it is taken and the name of the artist all appear on the screen.

Nights when I wake up and can't get back to sleep right away, I read the information on the screen. If I like what I see I write it down. Sometimes the information actually gives me ideas and I start writing. Nothing big. Nothing fancy. But at least it's writing.

Here is what I read and what it produced.

Title: The Long Way Home  
 Artist: Terry Oldfield  
 Album: Reflections

There is no short way home for me  
 The long way is the best  
 For all the things I've done in life  
 I don't deserve to rest

I chose the path of least resistance  
 Easy, Selfish, Fast  
 I threw my friends beside the road  
 My loyalties did not last

Now I pay for my decisions  
 The choices that I've made  
 All around me has fallen  
 No one's coming to my aide

The Writers Exchange is for anyone who has an interest in writing. If you are looking for someone to read your work, or if you would like to read the work of others, contact

Judy Carroll. Autumnseas@yahoo.com



Stylized Horses — Angela K. Scott

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
Etobicoke, ON  
CANADA M9C 2B2  
February 12, 2019

Dear Neffers:

Thanks for the January TNFF, Vol. 78, No. 1. There's a terrible snow storm just outside my windows, winds blowing, and threats of ice pellets and freezing rain, so I am staying inside where it's warm, and where's there a working computer to get all of this done.

I always loved room parties, promoting conventions and other fannish projects. I don't get to as many conventions as I used to, but the ones I do get to have no parties at all, or if there are any, it's invitation only, and we don't find out about them until after they've happened. Do convention attendees like gathering at parties as much as they used to? I have to wonder.

Good to see that there's lots of good writing coming out of the club. Another club I correspond with, the Science Fiction and Fantasy South Africa (SFFSA) also had many good writers within the group. I have suggested that they produce an anthology of club writings for perhaps professional publication, and I could easily recommend the same to you all.

My loc... I am hopeful that issue 3 of Amazing Stories will see actual print soon. I think it is at the final proofing stage, and may be sent to the printers RSN. I did find Secondary Universe, and it was a very sercon convention in a string of more fannish events held at American university campuses.

The storm continues to rage outside, so I will get this loc ready to go. One good thing about e-mailing my locs is that I don't have to go outside in this mess to mail the letter. Take care, stay warm!

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney

Sercon

Neglected Genre Authors:  
Nelson S. Bond: Comic Fantastist  
by  
Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

Nelson Slade Bond -- a science fiction and fantasy author who wrote extensively for books, magazines, radio, television, and the stage -- was born November 23, 1908, in Scranton PA, and grew up in Philadelphia. His parents were Richard Slade Bond, a publicist, and Mary Beadle Bond. Nelson Bond attended Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, from 1932 to 1934, and that was also where he met his future wife, Betty Gough Folsom; they married in 1934.

Nelson Bond was a pioneer in early science fiction and fantasy. His published fiction is mainly short stories, most of which appeared in pulp magazines in the 1930s - 1940s. Many of his stories were published in *Blue Book* magazine. He's remembered today mainly for his Lancelot Biggs series of stories (1939 - 1943) and for his Meg the Priestess tales (1939 - 1941), which introduced one of the first strong female characters in science fiction. Other Bond series were about Pat Pending and his peculiar inventions (1942 - 1957) and the Hank Horse-Sense stories (1940 - 1942) in *Amazing*.

In high school, Bond reviewed plays for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. While at college he contributed to the *Huntington Herald Advertiser* and edited the college newspaper, *The Parthenon*. He then worked as a public relations field director for the province of Nova Scotia before beginning his writing career in 1935 with non-fiction for various periodicals. He continued to write non-fiction even after he was established as an author of fiction. His first published science fiction story was "Down the Dimensions" in the April 1937 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*. Bond also published articles (and a monograph) on stamp collecting and served on the Board of Governors/Board of Directors of the British North America Philatelic Society. In 1960 he was cited for his contributions to philatelic literature at the International Stamp Exhibition in London.

He once wrote about himself: “I began writing for radio after they started adapting some of my stories. I thought, 'Well, hell, I can do better than that,' and I started adapting them myself. After a while, a couple of series opened up, and they asked me to become the writer. I wrote 52 weeks of *Hot Copy* and about 26 weeks of *The Sheriff* show, a comedy Western. Then television came along. I had just written *Mr. Mergenthwirker's Lobblies* as a radio series, and I adapted it for television. It became the first television play ever aired on a network. The network, however, consisted of Boston, New York and Washington. (This was 1946.) The presentation was so elaborate, there was a studio audience, and they printed a program for it. Unfortunately, no copy of the show exists, because they didn't have tape in those days. All they had was kinescope, flickering black and white movie stuff. That was probably the golden opportunity of my life that I threw out the window. After the play was done, the director said, 'This is a brand-new medium. Why don't you come up here and get into it with us?'

They couldn't pay me very much, and I said, 'I'm making more than that in radio right now,' so I turned it down . . . But I wrote about 15 or 20 television plays, some of them adaptations of my own things, others original. *State of Mind* was a fantasy about a man who got pissed off at modern civilization. He said, 'I'm gonna secede from the Union.' So he did. I thought it was a helluva good idea! (Still a cute play, but it's not produced anymore.) I adapted my second Mergenthwirker/Lobblies story as a television play, and then there was a third one.”

Bond had an extensive correspondence with famous fantasy author James Branch Cabell, and after Cabell's death became his literary executor.

At one time Bond was also a rare book dealer. In 1998 the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America named Bond an Author Emeritus. In 2002 he donated his personal papers to the Marshall University Library, which created a replica of his home office in order to exhibit his works. Bond occasionally used the pseudonyms of George Danzell and Hubert Mavity.



Star Sorceress — Angela K. Scott

Bond died of complications from heart problems on November 6, 2006, seventeen days before his 98th birthday.

### Genre Books

*Exiles of Time* (Prime Press, 1949) [belongs to a tetralogy of short novels, of which the other three are “Sons of the Deluge,” “Gods of the Jungle,” and “That Worlds May Live,” all originally published in *Amazing* in the 1940s/book dedicated to his oldest son, Lynn Nelson Bond.]

*Mr. Mergenthwirker's Lobblies and Other Fantastic Tales* (Coward-McCann, 1946)

*The Thirty-First of February* (Gnome Press, 1949)

*The Remarkable Exploits of Lancelot Biggs, Space-man* (Doubleday, 1950)

*No Time Like the Future* (Avon, 1954)  
*Nightmares and Daydreams* (Arkham House, 1968)  
*The Far Side of Nowhere* (Arkham House, 2002)  
*That Worlds May Live* (Wildside, 2003)  
*Other Worlds Than Ours* (Arkham House, 2005)

### Nonfiction Books

*The Postal Stationery of Canada* (Herman Herst, 1953)  
*James Branch Cabell: A Complete Checklist* (1974)

### Verse

“The Ballad of Blaster Bill” (1941)  
 “The Ballad of Venus Nell” (1942)  
 “Final Report” (1958)

### Stories Reprinted in Anthologies/Periodicals

“Mr. Mergenthwirker’s Lobblies,” in Edward J. O’Brien (ed.), *The Best Short Stories: 1938* (Boston & NY: Houghton Mifflin, 1938)  
 “Mr. Mergenthwirker’s Lobblies,” in Julius Fast (ed.), *Out of This World*, (New York: Penguin, 1944).  
 “The Man Who Walked Through Glass,” in Frank Owen (ed.), *The Bedside Bonanza* (New York: Frederick Fell, 1944).  
 “Mr. Mergenthwirker’s Lobblies,” in Marjorie Barrows (ed.), *The Ghost in the Lady’s Boudoir*, (New York: Consolidated Book Publishers, 1945).  
 “The Battle of Blue Trout Basin,” in Arnold Ginrich (ed.), *Esquire’s Second Sports Reader* (New York: A.S. Barnes, 1946).  
 “The Sportsman,” in A. L. Furman (ed.), *Second Armchair Companion* (New York: Lantern Press, 1946).  
 “On Schedule,” and “Mind Over Murder,” in Frank Owen (ed.), *Murder for Millions* (New York: Frederick Fell, 1946) [“Mind Over Murder” was a 30-minute radio play that originally aired in the NBC series, *Hot Copy*]  
 “The Monster from Nowhere,” in Groff Conklin (ed.), *The Best Science-Fiction* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1946)  
 “The Remarkable Talent of Egbert Haw,” in Frank Owen (ed.), *Teen Age Companion* (New York:

Lantern Press, 1946).  
 “Steady Like a Rock,” in Dave Stanley (ed.), *A Treasury of Sports Humor* (New York: Lantern Press, 1947).  
 “Mask of Medusa,” in August Derleth (ed.), *The Night Side* (New York: Rinehart, 1947).  
 “Conqueror’s Isle,” in Donald A. Wollheim (ed.), *Avon Fantasy Reader #4*, New York: Avon Book Company, 1947).  
 “The Cunning Beast,” in August Derleth (ed.), *Strange Ports of Call* (New York: Pellegrini & Cudahy, 1948).  
 “The Castaway,” in Orson Welles (ed.), *Invasion from Mars*, (New York: Dell Publishing Company, 1949).  
 “Uncommon Castaway,” Donald Wollheim (ed.), *Avon Fantasy Reader No. 11*, (New York: Avon Novels, 1949).  
 “Conquerors’ Isle, in August Derleth (ed.), *The Other Side of the Moon* (New York: Pellegrini & Cudahy, 1949).  
 “Visibility: Zero (*Weird Tales*, January 1943)  
 “The Master of Cotsworld” *Weird Tales* (May 1944).  
 “Vital Factor,” in *The Toronto Star Weekly* (Feb 16, 1952).  
 “Mr. Mergenthwirker’s Lobblies,” in L. Ruth Goodwin (ed.), *Full Flight* (Toronto, ON: Macmillan, 1966).  
 “Vital Factor,” in James A. McNeill, et al. (eds.), *Strawberries and Other Secrets*, (Canada: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1970).  
 “And Lo! the Bird,” in Richard Lunn (ed.), *Space Suits & Gumshoes*, (Toronto, ON: McMillan of Canada, 1971).  
 “Vital Factor,” in Richard Davies & Glen Kirkland (eds.), *Discovering* (Toronto: ON: Gage Publishing Ltd, 1981).  
 “Vital Factor,” in James B. Bell & Earl W. Buxton (eds.), *Explorations* [rev. ed.] (Toronto, ON: John Wiley & Sons, 1985).  
 “Vital Factor,” in Richard Davies & Glen Kirkland (eds.), *Relating* (Toronto, ON: Gage Publishing Co, 1989).

Note: Stories listed by date of publication of the anthology/periodical in which they were reprinted, from earliest to latest.

Some Concluding Remarks

Nelson and his wife, Betty, had two sons: Lynn Nelson and Christopher Kent. Betty had her own career in Virginia television, interviewing local notables for her *Betty Bond Show* on one of the Roanoke, Virginia, TV stations.

Bond has been described by more than one critic as a comic fantasist. Indeed, Bond himself once said that he was not a science fiction writer but instead a fantasist who wrote for the science fiction magazines. Some of his stories have been favorably compared to the stories of Saki and John Collier.

Isaac Asimov had an interesting anecdote to tell regarding Bond: "I met Nelson Bond only once, to my knowledge, and that was at the first world science fiction convention in 1939. He did me a great service some time later, though. I was unable to forget I was a fan and I argued with readers over my stories in the letter columns of the magazines – until Nelson dropped me a short note saying, 'You're a writer now, Isaac. Let the readers have their opinions.' -- And I followed his advice."

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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.

## N3F Founding Members:

Robert D. Swisher  
by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

Robert D. Swisher, Ph.D., was an organic chemist and, in the 1930s and 1940s, a science fiction (SF) fan and member of the Stranger Club in Boston.

For much of his fannish life, he lived in Winchester, Massachusetts.

He attended the first Worldcon in New York in 1939.

With his wife Frances, he kept index cards on SF stories, authors, fanzines, and prozines; and at one time is said to have owned almost all the prozines and fanzines in the English language.

Warner has written that Swisher "spent his spare time writing facts on index cards. By the turn of the decade, he had 6,000 cards containing information on 3,000 science fiction stories and their authors, 5,000 fans, and the contents of unimaginable numbers of fanzines." This information led to the compilation of the first fanzine indexes that were made available to fans.

Swisher also wrote scientific articles for prozines, including "Plan for a Universe" (April, 1946 issue) and "What Are Positrons?" (August, 1937 issue) in *Astounding Science Fiction*.

He is remembered today primarily for the Swisher Index, and for his extensive correspondence with SF author and *Astounding* editor John W. Campbell, Jr.

In addition, of course, in 1941 Swisher was one of the charter members of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F).

Sources: *The Immortal Storm*; *All Our Yesterdays*; *The Complete Index to Astounding/Analog*; *Fancy-cyclopedia 3*; ISFDB; Wikipedia; and other Internet sites.

## 2019 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

### Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2019.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.

101 The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly among all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2020. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2019. Good luck!

*Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.*

**Title of story (for identification):**

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)

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Zines: Eldritch Science, Tightbeam, N'APA, Ionisphere,  
TNFF, Films Fantastic, Mangaverse, Origin

Club Activities: Art Bureau, Birthday Card Bureau, Book Review Bureau,

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, Fandbooks, Forwarder,

History and Research Bureau, Membership Recruitment,

Pro Bureau, Round Robins,

Welcommittee, Writer's Exchange



Letters of Comment

SerCon

Neglected Genre Author Nelson S. Bond

N3F Founding Member Robert D. Swisher

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