



The National **81** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 81 Number 10

October 2022

In the Mystery of Death, All Men Are Initiates

N3F Founding Member Robert A. Madle (1920 - 2022)

Robert Albert (Bob) Madle, last living Founder of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, passed away on October 8, 2022, at the age of 102. He is survived by his daughter Jane. In addition to being one of the founders of our club, he was also one of the founders of First Fandom. His death marks the end of an era. He was the last important link to the beginning of the Golden Age of SF.

Madle was born June 2, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He started reading at a very young age, and began reading magazine science fiction (SF) with *Wonder Stories* in 1930. Around this time he was friends with fellow fan Dave Kyle, and both were writing letters to the magazine fan columns. Madle wrote many such letters, with a half-dozen of them published in *Astounding*.

In 1934 Madle formed the Boys' Science Fiction Club with fellow fans Harvey Greenblatt, John V. Baltadonis, and Jack Agnew. The following year his first letter appeared in the July, 1935, issue of the magazine *Pirate Stories*, published by Hugo Gernsback. In his letter he suggested that *Pirate Stories* publish a story about a space pirate of the future and that Edmond Hamilton should write it. His letter won him a year's subscription to *Wonder Stories*.

In October, 1936, some of the New York Futurians took the train to Philadelphia, where they were met by Madle, Milton Rothman, and Oswald Train. Later they were joined by other Philadelphia fans. This meeting has become known as the first ever SF convention.

At the first Worldcon in New York, Madle was picked by Donald Wollheim to represent Pennsylvania. Because of the infamous Exclusion Act, Wollheim himself was not able to attend the convention, but Madle did.

Several of the attendees visited Coney Island. A famous fan photograph shows Madle and fellow fans sitting in a car there, including Ray Bradbury and Ross Rocklynne. Bradbury, Rocklynne, Kyle, Rothman, and Wollheim were also charter members of our club in 1941.

After service in World War II, where he met his future wife Billie, he attended Drexel Institute and received a bachelor's degree on the GI Bill.

Madle was a TAFF winner in 1957, and published his famous *A Fake Fan* in London as his trip report. At the 1957 convention he became a member of St. Fantony.

His fan publications included the *Fantascience Digest*, *Fantasy-Fiction Telegram*, *Fanzine Review*, and *PSFS News*. For the prozines he did a column, "Inside Science Fiction." For a time he was also distributor of the British prozine *Nebula*.

His story "Devolution" appeared in his own *Imaginative Fiction* (1936). Other published Madle fiction included "Brain, the Creator" (1936, with Corwin F. Stickney), "Black Adventure" (1937), and "The Infinite Vision" (2006).

Madle's awards and honors over the years included: 1974, Big Heart Award; 1977, FGoH, Suncon; 1982, GoH at IUnicon 82; 1990, elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame; 1990, Special Guest, Boskone 33; 2002, Sam Moskowitz Archive Award; 2012, GoH at Philcon 2012. Madle is credited with naming the Hugo Award.

For many years he was a highly respected book dealer, specializing in SF and fantasy books and magazines. His catalogs were a delight to read, containing much useful and enjoyable information.

Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

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 Continued Next Column, Middle

Memorials

We are asked for our policy on obituaries. There are vast numbers of fen. In time we all pass to the next plane of existence. My position as Editor is that when a current N3F member passes away, there will at least be a death notice in TNFF. Members who were active in N3F affairs at the time of death will receive longer memorials when possible. There are also many fen are not N3F members, some of whom were members in the past. Those fine fen may be mentioned in our newszine, the FanActivity Gazette.

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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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. 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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 George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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Bureau Reports

Games Bureau

Wes Kawato writes: I'm Wes Kawato, the new director of the Games Bureau. I started playing board games in 1977. I started off as a historical gamer. The first game I bought was 'Midway' by Avalon Hill. Later I branched out into roleplaying games. I've played 'Traveler' and 'Space Opera'. During the 90s I switched over to EuroGames. I'm also a writer, with articles for gaming magazines such as The Avalon Hill General. If you're a gamer, please tell me what you expect of the Games Bureau. My computer is down, so please write me at Wesley Kawato, 17983 Paseo del Sol, Chino Hills, CA 91709-3947.

George Phillis writes: I have received a review copy of the book *Jetan: The Martian Chess of Edgar Rice Burroughs* by Fredrik Ekman. The N3F through our Games Bureau played a significant role in the *Jetan* literature. Are there readers who would like to do reviews of it? Please email phil-lies@4liberty.net if interested.

Treasurer's Report

PayPal balance \$1088.11
In: \$5.82 for membership fees
NSB balance: \$1526.63

2 life members +22 electronic + 15 regular + 3 household members = 42 voting members

7 archive members + 242 public members = 249 non-voting members

Welcome to Bill McCormick!
Expiring in September and October: Thera Watson, Suzanne Stafford, Jack Mulcahy, Katherine Langley, and Joel Davis.

In an effort to make us not so reliant on membership fees, the Directorate has approved the opening of an N3F swag shop, powered by CafePress. Along with T-shirts, coffee cups, and mouse pads, there are a surprising number of other useful items on offer, all of which go to help support the N3F.

Given the recent (and at the moment retracted) PayPal proposal that they may pull money out of our bank account, George and I have agreed (i) we will move most of our money out of our PayPal account, (ii) we will establish a second account not attached to PayPal that will hold most of our money, (iii) that as a shield against PayPal refusing to do business with us, as might randomly happen, we will open accounts elsewhere as a supplement to the PayPal account. Please suggest whichever alternatives you know.

I am currently negotiating with the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas to host a convention, tentatively named Son of Silvercon, on 28-30 September 2023. The convention will run from Wednesday through Saturday, so as to avoid the onerous

weekend room rates Las Vegas is known for; if we can nail down the proposed contract before year's end, room rates will be roughly \$94/night.* My ambition is to stage a convention along the lines of Libertycon in Chattanooga, though without the attendance limits Libertycon has, with an abundance of discussion panels, a dealers' room, and a con suite. For starters. Pre-registration is \$40 until April 15, supporting memberships are \$20**, dealer tables are \$100 each (including two memberships for the dealers, limit of two tables). This convention is NOT sponsored by the N3F, though I will happily offer a \$5 discount to members registering for the con. Please make your checks/money orders out to Friends of Fission-chan; I do not yet have a bank account set up for the convention yet, since I am trying to juggle pre-tax season training, medical appointments (in Las Vegas) and my newly acquired duties as a member of the National Security Site* Advisory Board. I am of course looking for help: if you have experience being on staff at other conventions or being a volunteer at other conventions, please let me know. Professional writers will be offered a discount or waiver of membership in return for agreeing to host or participate in panels; perhaps we will be able to offer other perks as well, depending on turnout. We will of course have T-shirts in all sizes after I talk with an artist.

*Plus tax and resort fees.

**Can be upgraded to a regular membership until April 15 2023.

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

Most of our reviewers take an early Fall vacation, so we will be skipping publication for a month.

Eldritch Science

Proof reading for the Fall 2022 issue of *Eldritch Science* is now advancing. Expect publication by early November.

History and Research Bureau

We're moving in closer to the personal effect we like to have, as may be seen in the coming *Origin*, where we show a great tendency to interrelate. A bureau should have personality to it, as well as the work it does. Martin Lock is doing fine, chatty bureau historical research with great insight into the story behind the writers.—John Thiel

Films Fantastic

The file for the latest issue of *Films Fantastic* was rather large. Several obscure ISPs bounced it. I am working on recompiling the issue, but this may take a bit to complete. The original issue is in 'PAGES' format, so I will need several steps to rearrange things.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

The interviews in *IO* are getting more toward writers whose work is fairly new and is more a beginning in writing, and we find out from the interviews how they relate to fandom. Got a cover for the next issue from the artists bureau, which is better than outsourcing for artists, and Jose has pulled a fine cover by Alan White for us.—John Thiel

Writers Exchange

The Writers Exchange is now five members strong. Steve Condrey is joining us as a reader and a writer. Please send us your poems and short stories. We have enough readers that we can handle several stories and poems at the same time.

I have been feeling quite stressed lately. I have so many things to do such as; birthdays, holidays, family concerns, N3F concerns, etc.

A few days ago, I turned on my computer, preparing to take care of many things. As I stared at the screen, showing my most used destinations, I realized I had no idea where I was planning to go, nor why I was on the computer. I was so frustrated and confused I wrote the following:

STRESS

I can't see anything in front of me
Nor either at my sides
But I have a strong impression
That my memory has died.

Simple facts elude me
Names of relatives and friends
I feel like I'm in a maze
With eternal twists and bends

I can't remember yesterday
Nor what month this is
Confusion hovers around me
And madness enters in

What was I going to do
With thoughts from yesterday
I know I had a great idea
But it's vanished - gone away

With so many things I need to do
Crawling through my brain
I hope that I can get them done
Before I go insane

Judy Carroll

Your writing suggestion for this month is stress. I would like you to write a poem, or a paragraph about stress. Your contribution will appear in next month's Writers Exchange.

What is stress?

Stress is a feeling of emotional or physical tension. It can come from any event or thought that makes you feel frustrated, angry, or nervous. Stress is your body's reaction to a challenge or demand.

(Stress and your health: MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia <https://medlineplus.gov> > Medical Encyclopedia Search for: Which is the best definition of stress?)

October Writing Suggestion

Last month's writing suggestion was a flop. It was probably my fault because I neglected to tell you what we were going to do with the quotes after I received them. The quotes were to appear in the Writers Exchange for October. I was going to ask you to pick out a quote you liked and write a scene about it. I thought it would be fun to see what you came up with.

For the October Writers Exchange I would like you to quote a young relative or a friend's child aged two to 5 years. You may send a total of three quotes. I gave you three quotes to give you an idea of what I was looking for.

If you would like to try this you can use the quotes below. Following are the quotes listed in last month's article:

Tina at four years old talking to me..
Tina, "Opposition. It's a real word."
Me, "I know it's a real word".
Tina, "I'm a special kid. I'm the most special kid in the world because I can talk to animals."

Tina at four years old talking to her eight year old sister. Tina,
"Did you know my experiments can never be suppressed?"
Anna, "You're weird.

Tina at five years old.
Tina, "Tadpoles are dangerous to your ears."
Me, "How did you decide that?"
Tina, "From my brain," as she points to her forehead,

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader.

Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

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.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? Want to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? Want to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

If you wish to join you need to do the following: 1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address, 2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name. 3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person or persons you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

Following are the names, and interests of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffrey Redmond - by Email I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction. My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books.

My hobbies include reading, writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends. I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat.

John Thiel - by Email I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them. Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill Magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others;

Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater; interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Françoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place;

Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso.

Steve Confrey - By Email - New Member Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for societal undesirables" variety of apocalypse).

Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer,

David Weber, and S. M. Stirling. Movies and TV shows: Star Trek, Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!) Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of housepets. Collections: I had a pretty sizable collection of books, games, and memorabilia that unfortunately was a casualty of the 2019 Missouri River flooding. I am currently rebuilding. My home office is heavily inspired by Forry Ackerman's Ackermansion, but at a much smaller scale (for the time being)

Mick Taylor - By Postal Mail - New Member

I am a somewhat marginal fan in that although I have been reading Science Fiction and Fantasy all my life, I have never been to a convention and it's been quite a while since I did a zine. I love the old weird pulp writers - H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard and that era. Of the more modern authors I enjoy Tim Powers, James Blaylock, Paolo Bacigalupi, William Gibson. I do like discovering new authors too.

Apart from reading, I also like to collect paper stuff - stamps, covers, QSL cards, that sort of thing. For work, I manage an IT department at a teaching hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Postal Mail Round Robin

For those of you interested in joining the Worldwide Folklore RR #2, I appreciate your patience. I'm still working out the glitches. I hope to have good news in the November TNFF.

I have only one active Round Robin that I am aware of, Worldwide Folklore #2. This RR has only three members. I have three new members who would like to join this Round Robin.

I would really appreciate it if any other members of an active Postal Mail RR would contact me. This information would allow me to open up RR to more members.

If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF as "seeking more members."

Netflix Streaming Round Robins

I would like to try something new. Granted, what I am about to suggest is different and may not work, but I would like to give it a try.

I have Netflix Streaming. I am curious as to whether N3F members, who also have this, would like to try a new version of the Round Robin. We need at least two members plus the Robin Master. I will be the RM for this experiment.

The Netflix Streaming Round Robins would work like this (I

hope).

1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch.

Following are three series to choose from:

Travelers - 3 seasons - series completed

Stranger Things - 4 seasons - on-going

Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact the RM, who will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR.

3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.

4 - The Robin Master (RM) will email the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Right now, I am thinking, one or two episodes a week. (The members will help decide the weekly frequency.)

5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in that RR with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.

6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends.

Please contact me if you are willing to try this experiment..

NOTE: Someone emailed me about joining the Netflix Streaming Round Robin. I can not find that email. Please contact me again.

Contact: Judy Carroll
971 East 120 South
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660
OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

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. When possible, those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

:
If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee, please contact:

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Member of the Month Graham J. Darling

This is the fifth installment in a periodic series of features showcasing interesting people from among the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. We offer such profiles as a

way to help connect members. Feel free to reach out to other Neffers—even if just to say hello—individually or within the pages of The Fan.

Graham J. Darling
“GrayJay”
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<https://fiction.grahamjdarling.com>
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<https://twitter.com/GrahamJDarling>

Graham—who uses the fannish name “GrayJay”—has been interested in science fiction, fantasy, and horror “since Dune and Star Trek ... were brand new.” That places his initial interest in the mid-1960s. An active reader—and author—of all three genres, GrayJay otherwise spends his waking hours consulting in polymer chemistry and growing radishes.

Professionally, GrayJay works as a researcher and educator, as well as an author. Inspired by his father’s work as an anthropologist in the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and his mother’s folklore work at the National Museum of Man, GrayJay obtained a PhD in organic polymer chemistry and degrees in biology and biochemistry. After stints working on polymers for microelectronics at IBM and as a chemistry professor at McGill University, he now practices privately as an industrial research chemist. He holds a dozen patents and has authored more than 30 papers in refereed scientific publications such as Biotechnology & Bioengineering and The Journal of Organic Chemistry.

A fan as well as a pro, he writes what he describes as diamond-hard sf, mythopoeic fantasy, and eldritch horror stories and novels. He’s a member of SF Canada, an associate member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and an affiliate member of the Horror Writers Association. In 2017, GrayJay’s story “Immaterial Witness” received an honorable mention in the N3F Short Story Contest, and “The Tim Machine” won second prize in the 2018 N3F Short Story Contest. His writing has also graced the pages of Dark Matter, MetaStellar, Pulp Literature, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s anthology Sword & Mythos.

His favorite authors include William Hope Hodgson, C.S. Lewis, Edgar Allan Poe, J.R.R. Tolkien, Jack Vance, and Gene Wolfe. Favorite books include Hodgson’s The Night Land, Lewis’s Out of the Silent Planet, Poe’s posthumous collection Tales of Mystery & Imagination, Tolkien’s The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, Vance’s Planet of Adventure series, and Gene Wolfe’s The Book of the New Sun.

In terms of media fandom, GrayJay also appreciates Frankenstein, the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the animated film Royal Space Force: The Wings of Honnêamise, Snow White, Star Wars, and The Terminator, as well as Stargate, Star Trek, and The X-Files.

GrayJay’s first experiences in fandom occurred in the 1970s. He’s currently a member of the Montreal Science Fiction &

Fantasy Association and the Ottawa Science Fiction Society in addition to the N3F, and he's participated in multiple conventions, including Ad Astra in Toronto, Con*Cept in Montreal, Maplecon in Ottawa, and VCon in Vancouver, as well as various Worldcons.

As Doctor Carus of Burn Abbey—a Benedictine monk and scholar of the year 1300 with a special interest in the natural sciences, including alchemy—GrayJay also participates as a historical reenactor with the Society of Creative Anachronism. Under that nom de plume, he writes articles, builds projects, and performs demonstrations focusing on medieval science and technology. For those efforts, he earned a number of SCA honors between 2009 and 2015.

An active reader of the Mythopoeic Society's journal *Mythlore* and *Dark Matter* magazine, his fan writing mostly includes occasional letters of comment to N3F clubzines. Since 2010, he's also contributed the technology column "Ask Doctor Carus" to *The North Wind*, the newsletter of the SCA's Barony of Lions Gate.

Other interests include anime, creative anachronism, games and video games, reading, role-playing games, science, short stories, and writing.

A rousing Neffer hello to member Graham J. Darling!

The Directors' View

By Jefferson Swycaffer

A view with a spill? I meant to have something for the previous issue of *The National Fantasy Fan* but managed to forget. Deadlines are no fun! I don't really have anything to say, but I'll generalize...

I read an opinion someone delivered recently, that gaming and costuming aren't fannish. Of course they are. Nearly anything can be fannish, if you approach it the right way. Enthusiasm counts for a great deal! If you care enough to put a bit of yourself into your appreciation, that's fandom! Simply collecting comic books might not be fannish, but keeping a list of all the appearances of your favorite character certainly is! Merely reading sf or fantasy might not be fannish, but even the mere act of daydreaming about what the characters are doing beyond the scope of the book... is. And actual writing fanfiction is about as fannish as can be.

Perhaps arguing over what fandom is is part of fandom. A dear friend of mine said that, "Nerds argue over what the definition of 'nerd' is, while geeks just go with the flow." That doesn't tell me which of the two great families of fandom I belong to! Am I a nerd or a geek? That could be important! It goes on my resume!

I believe that the vital role of the National Fantasy Fan Federation is making fannish activity more accessible to fans. We have always encouraged participation. The short story contest, the round robins, the numerous wonderful fanzines,

all are open and willing—eager!—to receive content from fans. The N3F gives people a voice, a place where they can contribute, where they can be seen and heard. That is our most important role and our highest duty.

The Directorate doesn't have much of a role right now. The institution evolved as a "check and balance," but the running of the club is so smooth and well handled today that such checks and balances don't serve much of a purpose. If we ever become embroiled in controversy, then we might all be thankful for such divisions of power. But, of course, the wiser path is to avoid controversy as much as possible—unless it's fannish! Kirk vs. Picard! Now there's a controversy we can all enjoy!

I wish for what is best for the N3F because the N3F is so very much a part of what is best for fandom. It's a place where people who feel "outside" can be welcomed into the heart and soul of activity, where anyone can pipe up with a good idea, and where fannish activity is greeted with joy and enthusiasm.

Cartoonist Dan O'Neill once said, "If the revolution isn't fun, I don't want to go." (He also said he was in favor of violence, so long as nobody gets hurt.) I see the Prime Directive of the N3F leadership as to Keep It All Fun!

Letters of Comment

Hi George;

Received the September TNFF and that I would send along a few comments. I am sorry to learn about the death of Will Mayo, who has been super-active in the N3F for the past few years. I cannot say I necessarily enjoyed every thing he wrote, or wrote about. I always thought his reviews and comments were way too short and should have been fleshed out more, but that was his style, and he seemed to have an endless curiosity about a wide variety of subjects, some of them only obliquely related to science fiction/fantasy, or to our little hobby. There was no information in the notice on how he died. I hope his passing was peaceful. I think his viewpoint and his prolific output of mini-reviews and comments will be very much missed by our club members.

On the same subject of obituaries, Justin E.A. Busch asks why there was no mention of the recent passing of either Bob Lichtman or Ed Meskys in the N3F publications. I suggest that your comment that neither of them were members at the time of their deaths is a bit inappropriate. Both of those folks were long time, and strong time members of the N3F. I don't know about Ed, but Bob Lichtman was an active member as of a few years ago when he made regular comments to the *Tightbeam* issues I was editing, and wrote at least one article for that zine. The situation is that the health of both these fans declined drastically in the final years of their lives, to the point where they were not doing fanac, and were barely holding onto the threads of life. In that kind of situation I doubt maintaining their active N3F membership was even a consideration.

I am not sure that the club should necessarily be running fan obituary notices, altho we do have a current-events-in-fandom zine that comes out every month. The reality is that a lot of us

old fans who were active in the 1950s and up are aging out and many of us are dropping off. I turned 79 this past August, and altho I am in reasonably OK health, I've seen an increasing number of people who I corresponded with, swapped zines with, wrote articles for and wrote comments about their zines to, die in the past few years. That number will continue to increase, and there is not much that can be done about it either.

I suggest that the club either adopt a policy of reporting all fan deaths in the pages of The Fan Activity Gazette; or none at all. If the decision is to report deaths, then I don't think any kind of distinction should be made as to whether they were active N3F members or not.

On the subject of why the club Laureate Awards do not overlap more with the Hugo winners, I think that the people who are making that complaint are ignoring the fact that the field of SF/Fantasy is enormous these days. If you take a look at all the major awards being given out in the hobby, from the Hugos, the Nebulas, the Locus Poll Awards, the Dragoncon Awards, the N3F Laureates and everything in between, I think you will find that there is really very little overlap in the titles and individuals receiving those specific awards. That's because there is simply way more stuff being produced every year than anybody could possibly read/watch/listen to even if s/he devoted every single minute of every single day to the effort. There is simply more new material out there than anybody can take in.

Reviews and word of mouth recommendations are useful, but even if a person were to only concentrate on the things that are getting rave reviews from several different sources, there would still be too much new stuff to possibly read/watch/listen to each year.

In that situation, people nominate and vote for the things that they have personally experienced, not material that they have never personally encountered. Considering the enormous diversity of stuff out there I am surprised there is much overlap in the various awards at all.

I do think the N3F awards need more participation from our members. I hate to keep hammering on this subject yet again, but the number of people nominating and voting for the club awards is very low. Perhaps it might be time to expand the voting franchise to those club members who opt for the \$6 a year option. We need more people participating in these awards if they are going to be relevant to our membership,

Not much to add to Jon's article on the Captain Science comic. I bought the hardback reprint volume of the series, same as he did. I was curious as to why I had no memory of that comic, considering what an enthusiastic science fiction fan I was as a kid. I bought lots of different stf comics back then, but had no memory of Captain Science. After I read the collected volume of those issues it quickly became clear why I had no memory of the series. I probably tried a few issues and decided never to bother with the title again.

Reading those comics in the hardback collection as an adult now was difficult. The stories weren't very good and the art was only average. I was hoping for something interesting and well produced, but Captain Science was neither.

Another well produced TNFF. Looking forward to the next one.

---Bob Jennings

Dear Neffers:

Once again, I have two issues to respond to, so I will try my best to make my response twice as large, and to be honest, that almost never happens, but I do hope for the best...here are comments on Vol. 81, Nos. 8 and 9 of The National Fantasy Fan.

Vol. 81, No. 8...Congratulations to all Laureate winners! I should have a fast look at the N3F merchandise on cafepress, especially those with the new Alan White logo.

I would hate to think that I wouldn't be able to communicate with someone if I wasn't on a particular social media platform or streaming site, or needed some special software or hardware. Most of us are electronic in our communications, and we all have e-mail, so let's use that and make it easy for the majority. (I know some prefer letter mail, which is fine, too. I still mail out some locs.)

The passing of Nichelle Nichols...we have another beloved TOS star, which leaves us Bill, Walter and George. I cannot say we ever met Nichelle, though I wish we had. We have good memories of George, we've met a few times. George was passing through Toronto one time, and called Yvonne at her office and invited her to lunch. A classy gentleman, and I hope to meet him again.

No. 9...Greetings to Heath Row. I am indeed a Tuckerized character in Rob Sawyer's *Illegal Alien*, and the character is... Lloyd Penney. The character in the book wears Hawaiian shirts, and Rob has seen some of the shirts I have worn in the past. Anime North was extremely busy, hit about 35,000 in attendance, a record for them, and not only did Yvonne sell most of the vendors' tables in the main room, but also assisted at the con itself, when she had the time. We were busy at our nearby Crafters' Corner table, where saleswise, we set records of our own. We were masked the entire time at Anime North, which served us well. We got our fifth COVID shot the other day, so I hope we've been safe (and others safe from us) this past summer. Now that it's fall, we have planned three more shows, and we will see how we do there.

The newest book I have worked on, and is already out, is *Cents of Wonder*, by Steve Davidson and Kermit Woodall (and copyedited by me!), about the original writing contests staged by Hugo Gernsback with some of his original magazines, including *Amazing Stories*. It is published by Steve and Amazing, and is now available as a Kindle download or paperback, with hardcovers coming Real Soon Now. I am currently working on another *Amazing Selects* book, a sequel to the John E.

Stith book, The Tiny Time Machine.

All for now, a very busy day. Take care, and see you with some more issues.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Sercon

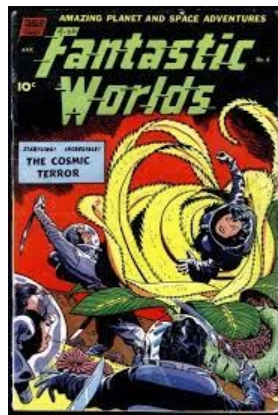
Fantastic Worlds & Lost Worlds

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Better Publications (1937 – 1959) was run by Ned Pines (1905 - 1990), a magazine publisher since the 1920s. His science fiction (SF) prozines were Thrilling Wonder Stories (1936 - 1955) and Startling Stories (1939 - 1955).



Better/Standard/Nedor/Pines began comic book publishing with Best Comics, dated November, 1939. During the publisher’s long comic book run, its most popular comic book was probably Exciting Comics, starring the super-hero character, the Black Terror. By 1949, Better Publications had canceled most of its super-hero comic books. By late 1959, it was out of the comic book business altogether, selling its remaining titles to Fawcett (Dennis the Menace) and Dell (Mighty Mouse).

The publisher’s SF comic books included Fantastic Worlds and Lost Worlds, with both books published during the early 1950s. These comics, published under the Standard imprint, are described in this article.

Fantastic Worlds (1952 - 1953)

Fantastic Worlds #5 (September, 1952, 36 pages, 10 cents)

Cover inks by John Celardo.

“Triumph Over Terror,” pencils by Alex Toth. A science fiction (SF) writer and his wife are captured by aliens who read their minds; the aliens decide not to invade Earth because they realize that humans would do anything to protect it.

“Flying Saucery” humorous half-page story. A man from Mars decides not to fly to Earth. “The Space Treasure,” script by Otto Binder, art by Murphy Anderson. A meteor smashing rocket's crew finds a dia-



mond covered meteor.

“Johnny Randall's Body,” script by Jerome Bixby. Johnny Randall, whose body is destroyed in an accident, gets a new body, a spaceship. A 2-page text story.

“Space Dictionary,” art by George Roussos. Definitions of space travel terms.

“Hero of Space,” art by John Celardo. A woman falls in love with a man who ends up being a robot.

“Flight to Venus” one-page story, art by George Roussos. Description of what will be needed for a trip to Venus.

“The Invaders,” pencils by Alex Toth. Aliens from Mercury try to invade Pax, a peaceful Earth colony, but end up being destroyed.

“Science Fiction Pioneer” Reporter Richard Adams Locke, friend of Edgar Allen Poe, publishes what “might have been the first SF story.”

Fantastic Worlds #6 (November, 1952)

Alex Toth cover.

Contents: “The Cosmic Terror, with art by Art Saaf;” “Run, Martian, Run, with art by John Celardo;” “The Space Lorelei, with script by Otto Binder and art by George Roussos;” and “The Boy Who Saved the World!, with art by Alex Toth and Mike Peppe.” Artists: George Roussos and Alex Toth; Writer: Otto Binder

Fantastic Worlds #7 (January, 1953). Final issue of the series.

Cover by John Celardo.

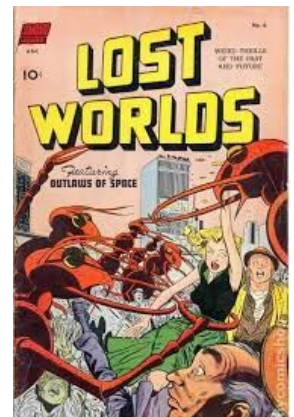
Contents: “The Music Makers of Aldebaran, with art by Ralph Mayo and Mike Peppe;” “The Ace of Space, with script by Otto Binder and art by Ross Andru and Mike Esposito;” “The Asteroid God, with art by John Celardo;” “Flight to Forever, with script by Harry Neal; and “Doom in the Depths, with art by Jon L. Blummer.”

Although it ran for only three issues, Fantastic Worlds contained some of the most colorful stories by comic book’s most respected writers and artists of the 1950s.

Lost Worlds (1952)

Only two issues (numbered #5 and #6) of this SF comic book from Better/Standard/Nedor/Pines were issued under the publisher’s Standard imprint. Both issues were dated 1952.

Alex Toth and Nick Cardy provided much of the art. SF author Jerome Bixby was one of the writers.



Lost Worlds #5 (October, 1952)

Contents: “The City That Escaped from Tomorrow, with art by Nick Cardy;” “Terrible Time from Mars” (half-page story); “Visitors from Space” (one-page story); “the Quest of the Chlorophyl Monsters” with art by John Celardo; ”The Man Who Didn’t Know Venus” by Jerome Bixby (2-page text story); ”Worlds Apart” with art by Nick Cardy; “Aurora Borealis” (1-page science fact); “Alice in Terrorland” with art by Alex Toth and Jack Katz.

Lost Worlds #6 (December, 1952)

Cover by Alex Toth & Mike Peppe

Contents: “Men and Fire, with art by Ross Andre;” “Space Platforms” (1-page science fact article); “Space Race, with art by John Celardo”; “Peace Maker,” written by Allan Anders (2-page text story); “Outlaws of Space” (art by Alex Toth); and “The First Man to Reach the Moon” (writer: Otto Binder, and artist: Art Saaf).

Artists/Writers

- Murphy Anderson (1926 – 2015) was an artist, who worked for comic book companies, starting in the 1940s. He worked on such characters as DC Comics’ Hawkman and the Spectre, as well as on the Buck Rogers daily syndicated comic strip. He was a member of First Fandom.
- Ross Andru (1927 – 1993) was a comics artist and editor whose career in comics spanned six decades. He is remembered for his work on Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, The Flash, and The Metal Men, and for having co-created the character called The Punisher.
- Otto Binder (1911 – 1974) was an author of SF and non-fiction books and stories, and comic books. He is best known as the co-creator of Supergirl and for his many scripts for Captain Marvel Adventures. He was prolific in the comic book field and is credited with writing over 4,400 stories across a variety of publishers under his own name, as well as 160+ stories under his pen-name Eando Binder.
- Jerome Bixby (1923 - 1998) was a short story writer and scriptwriter. He wrote the 1953 story "It's a Good Life," which was the basis for an episode of The Twilight Zone and which was included in *Twilight Zone: The Movie* (1983). He also wrote four episodes for the Star Trek series. With Otto Klement, he co-wrote the story upon which the SF movie *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) was based.
- Jon L. Blummer (1904 - 1955) was a comic book artist and writer. In 1939 he drew the syndicated newspaper comic strip *The Lone Ranger*. He later drew *The Sea Hound* and *Hop Harrigan*, which was very popular. Mutual Radio produced a *Hop Harrigan* series, which was widely followed. In 1940 - 1941 he drew *The Shadow Comic* for Street & Smith.
- Nick Cardy [aka Nicholas Viscardi] (1920 - 2013), known professionally as Nick Cardy and Nick Cardi, was a comics artist, best known for his work for DC on Aquaman and the Teen Titans. He was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of fame in 2005.
- John Celardo (1918 - 2012) was a comic strip and comic book artist, best known for illustrating the Tarzan comic strip.
- Jack Katz (born September 27, 1927) is a comic book artist and writer, painter and art teacher known for his graphic novel *The First Kingdom*, a 24-issue epic he began during the era of underground comix.

- Ralph Mayo (died 1956) was the art director of AC Comics in the 1940s. He drew the *Black Terror* for Better Publications. He also penciled some *Miss Masque* splash pages. In the 1940s - 1950s he drew *Jann of the Jungle* for Marvel, *Camilla* for Fiction House, and *Johnny Quick* for National.
- Mike Peppe (born 1921) was primarily an inker who embellished the pencils of cartoonists such as Mike Sekowsky, John Celardo, George Tuska, and Steve Ditko. Peppe was best known for being art director at Standard Comics, during which time he often collaborated with Alex Toth. He later worked for both Dell and DC Comics.
- George Roussos (1915 - 2000), also known under the pseudonym of George Bell, was a comic book artist best known as one of Jack Kirby’s inkers, including on early issues of Marvel Comics’ *Fantastic Four*. Over five decades, he created artwork for numerous publishers, including EC Comics.
- Art Saaf (1921- 2007) worked for many of the comic book companies from the 1940s through the 1980s, including Fiction House, Western, and National – for whom he did both *Superboy* and *Supergirl*. He also worked in television.
- Alex Toth (1928 - 2006) was a cartoonist active from the 1940s through the 1980s. Toth's work began in the comic book industry, but he is also known for his animation designs for Hanna-Barbera throughout the 1960s and 1970s. He was inducted into the comic book industry's Jack Kirby Hall of Fame in 1990.

Concluding Comment

All of these comic books were collected in a hardbound edition, *Fantastic Worlds/Lost Worlds, Volume One*, published by PS Art Books Ltd., in 2017, and printed in Great Britain. End paper artwork on this volume was by Murphy Anderson (front) and Ross Andru (back).

Sources

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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including Wikipedia, ISFDB, and Fancyclopedia 3.

Directorate News

The Directorate had called to its attention an issue covered by the N3F Bylaws, V.15. After discussion, a motion dealing with the issue was passed by majority vote.

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. 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. Before the contest is decided.
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. 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, 2022.
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.
11. 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. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2022. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2022. 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 2022 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



N3F Founding Member Robert A. Madle (1920 - 2022)

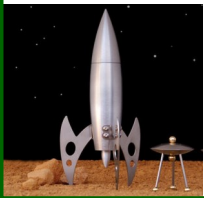
Bureau Reports
Games Bureau -- Treasurer's Report
The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono
Eldritch Science -- Round Robins -- History and Research Bureau
Films Fantastic -- Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau -- Writers Exchange
October Writing Suggestion -- Correspondence Bureau -- Postal Mail Round Robin
Netflix Streaming Round Robins -- Welcomittee -- Member of the Month: Graham J. Darling

The Directors' View

Letters of Comment
Bob Jennings Lloyd Penney

Fantastic Worlds & Lost Worlds
By Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

Directorate Acts



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