

SUMMMER

2000

SCIENTIFRICTION



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COVER

CATHERINE & SPRAGUE
DE CAMP, CIRCA 1966,
BEN JASON COLLECTION
PROVIDED BY JOHN L
COKER III.

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'Dr. Acula' savoring libel lawsuit victory

By Jesse Hiestand
Staff Writer

Proclaiming ghoulishly that "Dr. Acula lives," horror film cult figure Forrest J. Ackerman celebrated a Van Nuys jury verdict Wednesday that awarded him \$724,500 in a civil lawsuit.

The Superior Court jury ruled against the publisher of "Famous Monsters of Filmland" magazine, saying he owed Ackerman pay for his writings, wrongly claimed ownership of his pen name "Dr. Acula," and committed libel by saying he was merely a hired contributor, not an editor.

The 83-year-old Ackerman — who counted on testimony from science fiction guru Ray Bradbury, director John Landis and KISS rock star Gene Simmons — said he might use the money to open a museum of his extensive collection of horror memorabilia.

"This will go a long way to my dream of opening a museum for the public," Ackerman said, while signing autographs for jurors. "The first thing is — am I going to be able to collect the money?"



ACKERMAN

From Van Nuys Daily News May 2000
Submitted by NOREEN SHAW

NECROLOGY

CATHERINE DE CAMP —see page 4

SHIRLEY E DAVIDSON

Mother of Donald Dailey, SF artist
Interpreting Flash Gordon etc.
1933-42

Magazine publisher Ray Ferry said he is optimistic the verdict would be overturned on appeal.

"This case was one of sympathy vs. fact," Ferry said. "It's what you get when you paint the poor old man against the young entrepreneur."

Jurors saw it differently.

"We, the jury, saw him as 'Dr. Acula.' For over 60 years this man has been the voice of 'Famous Monsters of Filmland' and 'Dr. Acula,'" said jury forewoman Teresa Cassidy, 41, of Valley Village.

The jury also rejected Ferry's countersuit claiming Ackerman stalked him through harassing behavior and violated a trademark by using "Dr. Acula."

"He was stealing his persona, his character, his very essence," Cassidy said.

Juror Richard Havner, 63, of Reseda said Ackerman had a right to feel slighted when his contribution to the revived magazine was questioned.

"It was an inference of senility — that he's in his 80s and is kind of losing it," Havner said.

The jury awarded Ackerman \$88,000 for libel and \$54,000 for breach of contract and services rendered. In all, the compensatory damages verdict totaled \$382,500, including \$184,000 for trademark infringement and other claims related to the dispute over "Dr. Acula," a play on the word Dracula that Ackerman said he coined in 1939.

Jurors tacked on \$342,000 in punitive damages, a figure they said they settled on after much debate. While a verdict in civil court can be reached if nine of the 12 jurors agree, the jury was unanimous on most of these issues.

The four-year legal battle has pitted Ackerman, founding editor of "Famous Monsters of Filmland" magazine from 1958 to 1982, against Ferry, the magazine's new owner and publisher.

The two had a falling out as they worked to revive the magazine in 1993.

"We left a lot of hard factual evidence out of our case because we thought it would get ugly, but that will now come out on appeal," Ferry said.

Landis and Bradbury testified on Ackerman's behalf at trial that he has long been known to his fans worldwide as "Dr. Acula."

Simmons was expected to give similar testimony but did not testify because of scheduling conflicts, said Ackerman's attorney, Jacqueline Appelbaum.

Ferry said the damages award will not threaten the future of his magazine, which he publishes out of North Hills.

Until the appeal is resolved, Ferry said, he will continue to use "Dr. Acula" in the magazine. He insisted at trial that his right to the phrase grew out of his ownership of the magazine and all of its trademark styles and traditions.

Throughout the trial, Ackerman wore some of the prized pieces from his vast collection of memorabilia — Bela Lugosi's "Crest of Count Dracula" ring on one finger and Boris Karloff's ring from "The Mummy" on another.

For decades, he has tried to find a permanent display for the 300,000-item collection of horror and science fiction memorabilia that fills his 18-room Los Feliz house.

The collection, a focus of the trial, is home to Lugosi's Dracula cape, the Martian machine from "War of the Worlds" and other curios.

If he cannot afford a new home for the collection, Ackerman said, he might use the damages to fly some friends in from overseas to see the collection.

"I would also like to publish some books, maybe a story of my life or a book of my fantastic movie posters," he said.

CATHERINE DE CAMP PASSES ON

Catherine Crook de Camp, teacher, author, and editor, born in New York City on November 6, 1907. greatly beloved wife of L. Sprague de Camp passed away quietly on April 9, 2000. Formerly a resident of Villanova, Pennsylvania, she and her husband have called Plano, Texas their home since 1989.

Catherine is survived by Sprague, her husband of 60 years, her sons Lyman Sprague de Camp of Garland, TX and Gerald Beekman de Camp of Dallas, TX; grandchildren, Michael Rossman, Patricia Chalmers, and Veronica de Camp; great grandchildren Nicholas Rossman and Samuel Rossman.

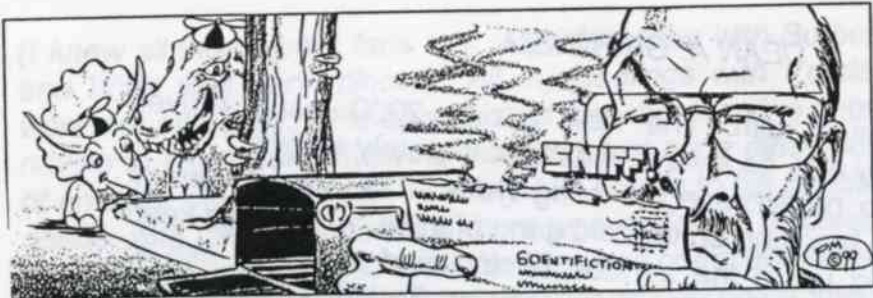
Catherine will be cremated and her final resting place will be Arlington National Cemetery with her husband.

Catherine graduated Magna cum Laude from New York's Barnard College in 1933, where she received her Phi Beta Kappa key. She double majored in English and Economics. As a young graduate, she taught English and tutored students until her sister introduced her to her future husband.

In addition to co-writing and editing science fiction and nonfiction books with her writer husband, Sprague, she was an accomplished author in her own right. Her published works include "The Money Tree", "Teach Your child to Manage Money" and "Creatures of the Cosmos".

A member of Science Fiction Writers of America, The Authors guild, First Fandom and other distinguished organizations; Catherine was also a world traveler. She enjoyed attending numerous science fiction conventions with her husband, Sprague.

Catherine Crook de Camp will be remembered for her warmth, charm and intelligence as she reached out to science fiction colleagues, friends and fans worldwide, to respect the world in which they lived and to participate in the world around them. She enjoyed coaching beginning writers to excel in their work. She will be sorely missed. Donations to Alzheimer's Asso.—SANDY CHICOSKIE Page 4



DINOSAUR DROPPINGS:

RICHARD KYLE

Dear Jim: Congratulations! I know you'll do a fine job as editor of *Scientifiction*. If there ever anything I can do for the magazine, let me know. --- Long Beach, CA 90807

(Thanks for the reception. Since you are a book dealer, perhaps a book review would be a nice addition. I should have written you personally, but getting this first issue of mine out offered difficulties. I might say that in addition to being the new editor here, at 67 I am still writing and get out a book a year on popular culture, often old time radio, including SF programs from Buck Rogers to X Minus 1. My The Great Radio Heroes: Revised and Expanded will be out from McFarland around September 2000. I also manage to

write and produce a few new radio productions, most recently presenting and editing new 1990s episodes of I Love a Mystery, a complete serial "The Fear that Creeps Like a Cat" in a 3-cassette album. It's sold thousands but is no threat to rock and roll. I also do a biweekly program on Yesterday USA, Radio Rides Again, in which I talk about radio history, do interviews, some new productions and of course play old radio shows. WWW. Yesterdayusa.com is the second most popular audio site on the Internet and I'm told I get one of the most interested responses. I am working on several new books, and I'm holding up pretty well in my late sixties. My wife Barbara and I have started in the last year to work out at a gym and I have lost weight and firmed up. Still, the knees are at least the second thing not to work as well as previously.) SUMMER 2000 – Page 5

DEAN A. GRENNELL

Dear Joe & Jim: The new Spring 2000 issue arrived yesterday and, as always, was intemperately enjoyef.

To paraphrase the song lyrics a bit, "those funeral bells are breaking up that old gang of mine." Thoughts keep swimming up to the surface of my mind which I'd like to share with people such as Bill Rotsler, Redd Boggs, Charles Burbee or Walk Willis abd it always comes as a jar to recall they no longer have forwarding address.

In the early days, when Rotsler was turning out *Ktetic Magazine*, he would do up one or maybe two issues and include a mailing schedule to five or six recipents, with my names as the last to receive the given copy. Thus, I have a fairly complete backfile of the early issues, including the one in which he recounted going house-hunting with Marilyn Monroe. Rotsler was a skilled artists, with his own distinctive and hightly recognizeabler style, but he was not the slightest slouch at string words together.

I'd like the names and addresses of a few good and reliable dealers in old s-f and fantasy prozines. I have a fair stack of old ASFs and the first four-foot or so stack of F&SF. I'd hate to think of my heirs throwing them out for scrap paper.

As far as I;m concerned, e-mail is a pain where it ain't polite to scratch in public. If there's some really panicky need to communicate right now, I can always call the party via telephone.

Minor problem is that I spent most of WWII as an aerial gunnery instructor (MOS 938) with the USAAF and the exposure to loud noises left my ears rather battered. I can usually understand male voices on the phone, but often have problems talking to ladies, especially if they speak at the rate of around 7000 words per minute. Happily enough, at age 76 and somewhat, I continue to enjoy 20/20 vision and use a pair of dugstone spec's for reading fine print under dim lights. - Mission Viejo CA 92691.

(I knew all those great fans too. My interaction with Burbee and Willis was very minor. All my dealings with Rotsler were not all happy. He approached me about writing short novels to tell a story involving his photos of nude girls., sort of an adult Big Little Book. I wrote two novels to his specific needs, with the understanding there was no "spec" involved, but only got paid for one. Kris Neville once commented that people like Rotsler and movie stars walk around being "over-confident". Sometimes it is a problem for others.

I never met Marilyn Monroe to my regret but I once had a wonderful evening with Penny Marshal, then very young and cute as a bug. I think you could call it a "date" one time when Bob Greenberg introduced us. It never happened again. I did not even know she was in show business at the time.

Redd Boggs was my best friend in Fandom for fifty-one years, beginning when I was twelve and wrote him my first letter. With a few breaks, we continued that correspondence for the next half-century. When I got into my late teens, and he could no longer be suspected of questionable motives, I suppose, Redd drove down from Minneapolis to my hometown of Mount Carmel, IL. And we had our first in-person meeting. Many other encounters followed over the years. We even roomed together for a few months in Los Angeles in the early sixties. I tried to get Redd into writing for money. As an editor, I accepted two short SF stories from him for a mostly monster movie magazine I was editing, Fantastic Monsters. We also collaborated on a published sexy mystery paperback, often called a "sex novel" but the type I turned out was too tame to really deserve that title. Later, Gretchen, his companion and then wife, would frantically urge me to get Redd to change his whole life style and become a professional writer. No one who knew him or his work could doubt he could probably become a significant novelist. But he did not wish it. Finally, I told Gretchen that I did not have the powers of a Billy Graham to get people to completely turn their lives around. I wished I did. I could possibly do some good, and I certainly could get very rich. — JH)

EARLE M. KORSHAK

Dear Jim: Inasmuch as Ray Beam in his President's Message in the Spring issue of *Scientifiction* publicly called upon me to to "get off my duff" and assume the duties of West Coast First Fandom Vice President I can do no less than respond in kind: I most graciously accept. For while it is true that I have made no effort to conceal the fact that I fervently believe that First Fandom should seriously consider a number of structural changes, it is also true that one can contribute to an organization more effectively from within than from without. Thank you for this confidence in me. Warm regards to all our members. – San Francisco CA 94109

(Wonderful to see one of the leading lights of Fandom still active and involved after all these years. There are some darker areas of discussion involved here, I believe, but I came in too late to follow it all. – JH)

RICHARD LUPOFF

Jim – Pat and I are off to the annual conference of the Science Fiction Research Association on Tuesday. (*June 27 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio –JH*) . Don't know if you've encountered these guys before. Title is a slight misnomer – they're not particularly involved in research, they're actually a bunch of professor types who teach litter-rat-shoor at various colleges and who specialize in science fiction.

Typical dry-as-dust acadmemic gunk. One of their featured topics is "Aristotleian Poetic Theory as Applied to Fantasy and SF."

Apparently, I've been selected as their Official Living Fossil of the Year. Gotta make a speech, read one of my stories, participate in a panel discussion, and sit at the head table at the banquet. At that last event, the chairman told me I do "not" have to make a speech – just smile and waves and be gracious, like Queen Elizabeth on some national holiday..

A lot like being GoH at a worldcon, I guess.

Gosh. This is what I dreamed about when I was a teen-aged fan. What's that old saying: "Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it". -Berkeley, CA.

(After all the books, stories and articles you have written, and all the fan projects you have advanced, you deserve to be Guest of Honor at any SF convention. Dick Lupoff was also instrumental in having me made A guest of the Monterey Fantasy Convention in 1998 in Monterey, more for my work in radio drama than my decades old SF and fantasy. It was nice to be remembered, but sad to see so few familiar faces. No Asimov chasing girls, no Bloch making puns, no Lynn Hickman talking pulps with me into the night. - JH)

ROBERT C. PETERSON

Jim - Glad to see you are taking on FF quarterly.

I read the sequel to Walt Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, and found it rather boring compared to the original. It seemed to me to be concerned mainly with just having the characters move around and fight. Also have finished Clark's *2061: Odyssey Three* and *3001: The Final Odyssey*. I enjoyed both of them a lot. Have also read C.J. Cherryh's *Rimrunners*, but did not like as much as others of hers. I have her new one, *Precursor* and am sure I will enjoy it. Also have read *Across the Sea of Suns* and did not care for it as much as the first in the series.

Read and enjoyed *The Stars My Destination* by Bestor and understand why it ranks near the top of all time favorite novels. Am now reading Farmer's *The Dark Design* and finding it up to the first two in the series. I recently read a biography of Gene Roddenberry by Joe Engel. I guess Roddenberry had some good and some bad characteristics as most of us do. - Denver, CO. 80210

(Thanks for the welcome aboard. I am using some of your

brief book comments to get some observation of current SF publishing in our quarterly. You must be one of the most dedicated readers of SF in the whole membership. I know these remarks are from your Notes sent to members directly by you but some may have missed them.—JH)

SIR ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Dear Ray *et al*: Thanks for sending *STF*. Best Wishes from 2 dinosaurs! (Photo of Sir Arthur with miniature stone *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. — JH)

U.K.-U.S. TRIP, 1999

September-October 1999 was one of the most hectic periods of my life and included a two weeks stay in Baltimore's famous Johns Hopkins Medical Center, where I was diagnosed for demyelinating polyneuropathy, which has been causing numbness of my lower legs. As its progress is charmingly described as 'indolent' it has not yet impaired my daily table-tennis, though as I am now wheel-chaired by Post Polio syndrome my service is slightly illegal.

During my trip the first target was the screening of Stanley Kubrick's *fianl* (awesome!) version of 2001 at London's National Film Theatre and then I officially opened the new Arthur Clarke Centre for Space Studies in Farnborough. I also enjoyed visiting my old *alma mater* Kings College, where I met Principal Arthur Lucas and Nobelist Maurice Wilkins, still surrounded with DNA models in the very lab where the Genetic Age began.

When I arrived in Washington, USAF's Colonel (now Brigadier-General) Pete Worden and Major Randy Correll took good care of me, and INTELSTAT gave a splendid reception where I met many old friends such as Fred Durant (Secretary of the ACC Foundation of the US), and new ones like the House of Representatives staff director Bobby Charles and super-lawyer Tedson Meyers.

While I was in hospital I much appreciated visits by NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and Apollo 11's Buzz Aldrin. Dr. Dan Dractman, who first examined me in 1988, supervised my tests and I enjoyed a visit to his beautiful Maryland estate.

In New York I stayed at my old venue, the Hotel Chelsea, where I spent many months in the 60's writing 2001. Here I also enjoyed meeting numerous visitors – Walter Cronkite, Rupert Murdoch, Lou Dobbs (I may join his new web site: space.com), Woody Allen and Dan ("Moonwatcher") Richter, who wields that bone club at the beginning of the movie.

As there were several hundred pieces of mail and a six foot pile of books and magazines waiting when I got back to Colombo, I doubt if I'll be up to speed until well in 2000 (which I've been reminding everyone is a year ahead of the real Millennium.)

The whole trip now seems like a dream, though a very enjoyable one (apart from a biopsy which took weeks to heal!) I could not have managed it without the assistance of my partner Hector Ekanayake and my valet Lenin, whose excellent photos provide a wonderful record of places and faces which might otherwise fade from my increasingly fallible memory. – Sir Arthur Clarke, 9 Dec 99

(The back of Sir Arthur's informational letter has a list of his works and awards: Completed: Greetings, Carbon-Based Biped! (Voyager, St. Martins), The Light of Other Days (with S. Baxter: Tor, HarperCollins), Future Technology (memo requested for President Clinton), Stanley Kubrick Documentary (video: Jan Harlan) and books in print or to be published — Collected Short Stories (Orion, Tor), Space Trilogy (Islands, Earthlight, Sands: Gollancz), TheLost Worlds of 2001 (Del Rey), and all from Warner in the Fall of 2001: The Fountains of Paradise, City & Stars/Sands of Mars, Lion of Comarre/Against the Fall of Night. Also there is Clarke-C.S. Lewis Correspondence (Anamnesis Press), Mysteries (Prometheus Press, 2000), more. He has received numerous honors including Order of Knighthood Presentation (U.K. High commission), Sir Arthur Clarke Centre (opening). Movies based on his works optioned include Rendezvous with Rama (Revelations Entertainment, Morgan Freeman), Childhood's End (Universal Studios), Hammer of God (Spielberg/Dreamworks). Much More! – JH)



Jim Harmon, appropriately attired April 2000 for a meeting of John Lamonte's Tom Mix Straight Shooters Club, with wife, the former Barbara Gratz

Editor's Page: HARMONY

Harmony is the title I have put on my fanzine columns for about fifty-five years, since I was twelve, beginning with Charles Lee Riddle's *Peon* and continuing through a number of different publications, for the last dozen years or so in Lee Sapiro's *Riverside Quarterly* and recently in Robert Lichtman's *Trap Door*.

Editing this first issue was a little like the old system of teaching a kid to swim — throw him in the water and he swims or drowns. If this issue is missing anything, it is because I couldn't run something that I never had. The letter column was a bit light. I solicited some others but they did not all come through. I do appreciate all who did contribute, and their names are evident on their work.

When I was a boy, one of the big arguments was the difference between science fiction and fantasy. If the difference could be defined, fantasy should be kept out of the SF domain. Like many old time fans I do not often read the few current prozines. A familiar name like Jack Williamson or Harlan Ellison or Ray Bradbury may prompt me to pick up an issue (on the rare occasions I can find F&SF or *Analog* for sale) to check for the division but in the popular media the two seem inexorably intertwined.

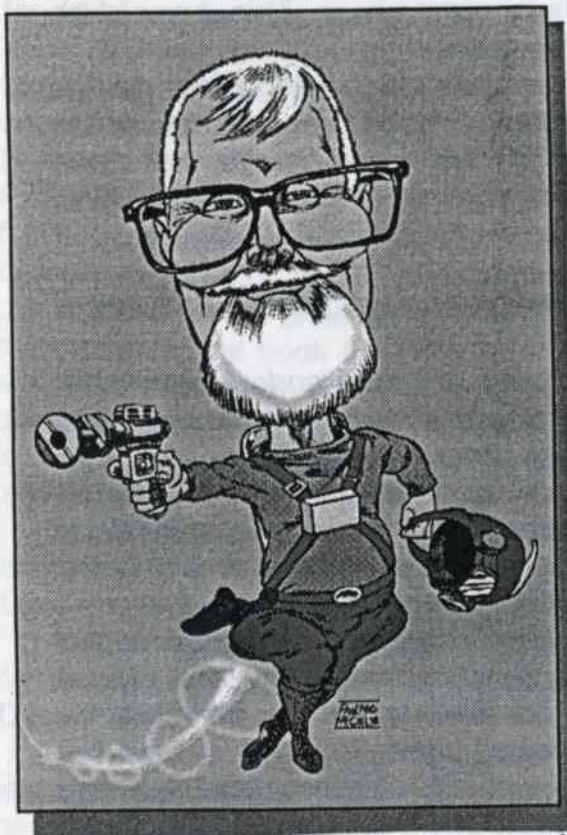
The Sci-Fi channel (that clever term invented by Forrest J. Ackerman but not necessarily beloved by all) runs everything from Lugosi in *Dracula* through the *Wonder Woman* TV series to Sir Arthur's 2001 as Sci-Fi. But we know everything fantastic, beyond the norm, is not really science fiction.

Most of us loved the old pulps with their marvels or science. I don't recall if it were actually ever prophesied but I can imagine a Gernsbackian tale that told of ordinary people being able to send and receive telegrams right from their own homes and have them printed out by machines without the Morse code having to be deciphered by a telegrapher. Of course, we do that daily on the Internet.

We all know that science fiction writers and fans can take some credit (how large or small open to debate) for the space program. So as much as we may love vampires and beautiful heroic Amazons, perhaps we should try to preserve some purity for the name of the *genre* that had has for so long been a part of our lives – science fiction. – *Jim Harmon*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

by ray beam



We have a new editor with this issue. He will determine the new deadline schedule.

Our sympathy goes out to our new Secretary-Treasurer Joe Hesley., for the loss of his wife in June. I

I attended the 51st Midwestcon, my 50th, at the end of June. Quite a few of our members were in attendance. On July 28th, Bill Beard and I will drive down state to Madison, Indiana. We are going to stay with Joe and drive to Louisville for the last Rivercon. I hope to see many of you there/

The first week end in July I attended Pulpcon at Dayton Ohio. This is not a Science Fiction Convention, but it an entertaining convention that many First Fandom Members attend. I had a nice long talk with Sam Basham. He agreed to make labels for our mailings. This is one of the many that Mark used to take care of.

There will be a separate mailing this year to get the ballots and dues notices out. Please give our new editor, Jim Harmon, response to this issue so he will have something to print for the next issue. This is about all I have this time, so until next issue --- RAY BEAM

JOE HENSLEY: SECRETARY-TREASURER SPEAKS

It's true that the funds of First Fandom have been transferred to me and are now in a Madison bank where I go and admire and make plans about them daily.

I've been an sf faaan since the late thirties. Tucker taught me to drink beer about ought '43 and Harland Ellison leaned me how to write them thar sentences at a penny a word in the late fifties. Such made me a writer.

As your new Secretary-Treasurer I now promise that I won't visit (m)any of the gambling boats along the Indiana shores, expendmonies on martinis for the president, or single malt Scotches for myself, often.

I am after all, 74 years old, widowed , and with only small appetites.

Please do not personally ask me if I'm an ex-judge.

I'm a former judge. Many ex-judges have been indicted and that ex-judge wordage makes me nervous and watchy. Before being on the bench I was a lawyer, a prosecutor, and a one term member of the Indiana General Assembly.

All this is written to fill you with exceeding confidence. You may call me Honest Joe, but I admit up front to you that no one around where I live does. — HJ

DONALD DAILEY'S COLUMN:

From down in the Fossil Beds

One of the many questions I have tried to answer since I accepted the position of Archivist for FF has been what books, if any, to include. This question was partially answered by trying to obtain copies of books and publications dealing strictly with the field of science fiction fandom (e.g. Sam Moskowitz's *IMMORTAL STORM*),

During the recent RIVERCON convention in Louisville, I had a brainstorm (or a major headache) and came up with another idea. With all apologies to Ray Bradbury, I call the project the FAHRENHEIT 451 PARADOX. For each FF member I question I set the following situation: Every science fiction in the world has been placed in a huge pile. Just before the "firemen" set the pile to blazing, the chief fireman turns to you and says you may retrieve one book from the pile to save. Which book would it be? After making that decision, you turn to a smaller pile of publications that you yourself had written/contributed to. Again the chief fireman gives you the opportunity to save one publication. Which would it be?

When I posed the paradox to Hal Clement, his answers were swift: "The Spacehounds of IPC" by E.E. "Doc" Smith and his own novel "Still River".

And Dave Kyle responded with "an Omnibus of the Works of H.G. Wells" and his own, soon to be published, "Daze if Wonder".

I'll let you know how Forrest J. Ackerman answered next time around. My goal in this endeavor is to ask each of the First Fans to respond in a like manner to add to the FF Archives, to help preserve the character of the First Fans, and lead to a "mini-library" of SF. eclectic even! PAGE 15

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