

# ScientiFiction

Summer, 1998



**The First Fandom Report**



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Cover showing Len Marlowe in the background and Joe Hensley in the foreground. Taken around 1945. Photo courtesy of Bob Tucker.

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## MILLENNICON WINS FOR 1999

### BLUE ASH SITE OF REUNION

Millennicon, a convention sponsored by Miami Valley, Ohio fandom, has won the bid as the site of First Fandom's 1999 reunion.

The convention will be held in Blue Ash, Ohio in March, 1999. The convention committee has offered a banquet at which the various First Fandom awards can be presented, and a gracious invitation to its traditional Friday night party. Other amenities will be on a par with previous reunions.

More information on the reunion will be published as received.

## COKER WINS AWARD

### IS 1998 SAM MOSKOWITZ FAN AWARD RECIPIENT

ICON Science Fiction announced the creation of a new award at I-CON dedicated to the memory of Sam Moskowitz. The Sam Moskowitz Fan Award will be given annually to encourage and recognize outstanding fan activity.

This year's recipient is John L. Coker III. ICON believes that

John exemplifies some of the attributes it would like to encourage, thoughtfulness, dedication and a Sense of Wonder.

And, as if it weren't enough, John has just gone and gilded the lily. He's written, edited, produced, and published "Days of Wonder: Remembering Sam Moskowitz and Conrad H. Ruppert." This 17 page 8½ X 11 inch volume is a remarkably good tribute to two of our dinosaurs. It contains reminiscences, interviews and photos of these two gentle men which is almost a fitting memorial to them (a fitting memorial would be written on the lunar surface in words 50 miles high).

Get a copy if you can -- it's a limited printing -- you will enjoy it.

## SIMS ON BALLOT

### AIMS FOR BEST FAN WRITER AWARD

Roger Sims, former MISFIT but now Cincinnati resident and CFG member, is a nominee on the current Hugo award ballot for best fan writer of the year. Roger has made numerous contributions to publications over the years, and is now in a position to be honored for his efforts.

He urges all his friends to vote for him on the current ballot.

## SIR ARTHUR GIVES ADVICE

### KNIGHT COMMANDER OF BRITISH EMPIRE INSTRUCTS COLONIALS

Sir Arthur has graciously requested his staff to issue the following instructions to visiting natives from the American Colonies, who may be ignorant of the correct protocol.

\*\*\*\*

After removing footwear, remain standing in a submissive posture at the designated spot. When dismissed from the Presence, however, it is not necessary to exit backwards. A low bow from the waist (or a curtsy in the case of ladies) followed by a normal departure is perfectly acceptable.

Sgd. Sunil: Deputy Assistant  
Undersecretary (E-mail)

## WANTED: A FEW GOOD FEN!

### FIRST FANDOM SEEKS APPLICANTS

There are two positions which need to be filled within the ranks of First Fandom. Applications are now being solicited.

### ARCHIVIST -- First

Fandom has acquired a sizeable archive during its period of existence, but it is in abysmal shape. Records for most of its history have been stuffed into filing cabinets and left there without much order at all. We desperately need someone who is willing to take on the duties of Archivist, put the records in some sort of order, and make them available for inspection if need be.

### EDITOR -- SciFiction

has been edited by the Secretary-Treasurer for about 10 years. During that time it has changed from a haphazard and irregular report into a quarterly magazine which reports on First Fandom affairs, and generally represents the organization. A decade is quite long enough for any editor to grow into and out of his job. The current editor longs to be replaced, and begs someone to volunteer for the job.

Members who wish to accept either position are asked to contact either President Ray Beam or Secretary-Treasurer Mark Schulzinger. REAL SOON!

## STATEMENT BY SIR ARTHUR C. CLARKE, K.C.B.E.

As -- obviously -- I am now taking legal advice, I cannot go

into details, but I realize that responsible members of the media deserve some kind of statement, and that silence can easily, though wrongly, be taken as an admission of guilt.

Having always had a particular dislike of paedophiles, few charges could be more revolting to me than to be classed as one. However, as I have already said, the allegations are wholly denied. Indeed the accusations are such nonsense that I have found it difficult to treat them with the contempt that they deserve. My conscience is perfectly clear.

In any even, I categorically state that "The Sunday Mirror"'s article is grossly defamatory and contains statements which in themselves and by innuendo are quite false, grossly inaccurate and extremely harmful.

However, one good thing which has come out of this is that I have received support from so many friends and admirers all over the world; some of whom I never knew I had. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and express my regret for the embarrassment the allegations in the "Sunday Mirror" have caused to Arthur C. Clarke, Kt, CBE  
25, Barnes Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.  
Phone: (94 1) 694 255; Fax: (94 1) 698 730

## APPLICATIONS

The following has applied for associate membership:

T. Edward Westen

## DEADLINES

The deadlines for First Fandom events and StF are as follows:

### First Fandom:

May 31, 1998 — last date for nominations for 1999 Hall of Fame award. Last date for nominations for 1999 first Sam Moskowitz award.

Labor Day weekend, 1998 — First Fandom Reunion, Dragon Con, Atlanta.

Dec 31, 1998 — last date for balloting for the various First Fandom awards.

### SciFiction:

July 18, 1998 — Closing date for Autumn, 1998 ish.

October 17, 1998 — Closing date for Winter, 1998 ish.

January 16, 1999 — Closing date for Spring, 1999 ish.

## DUES

Dues in First Fandom are now \$6.00 per year. The number on your mailing label will tell you to the end of which year your dues are paid. Please keep your dues current if you possibly can.

## REVENGE OF THE SCIFAN

### THE NEW ASSAULT

Just when you thought you were politically correct, it turns out not to be the case. The PC police, having destroyed the English language so as not to give any possible offense to men, women, Native Americans or the dead, have found a new area to assault.

Humor.

Well, what's so bad about humor? I wondered myself when I was suddenly subjected to a vicious attack for having made a joke over the Internet. It took a while before I realized the rationale behind the animosity (which was remarkably vitriolic), but if you look at my reasoning I think you'll find it makes the same twisted sense that all other PC attacks make.

Humor is a way of getting rid of hostile emotions, emotions that would otherwise find an outlet

through anger, and, as a matter of fact, the core of all humor is anger. A tasteless example follows: Princess Diana on the last night of her life is approached by the hotel manager. He notes that she seems a bit unsteady on her feet, and asks her if she would like to stay overnight in the hotel. "No thanks," she says, "I'll crash with Dodi."

See? There's anger directed at intoxication, death, and a woman who was living the kind of life to which few of us can aspire. The core of the joke embodies anger. So why do we laugh? Because it's easier, and safer, than crying or striking out. Just take a look at the career of Don Rickles which was based on naked hostility, but which was accepted as humor, and for which people asked over and over again.

Yet to certain segments of the population the release of laughter is not Correct, the defusing of anger is not allowed because the anger embodied in a joke will undoubtedly hurt someone. And, of course, the goal is to label anyone who indulges in humor to be labeled mentally ill or to be ostracized by society.

In a recent article William Raspberry wrote of his bewilderment at the all-too-ready anger of many people, which exploded at the most minute slight. This pent-up hostility is easy to understand; these folks are



forbidden to make jokes. Sure, some jokes are more cruel than others: Jesus visited the Navajo. Before He left He told them: "You're all right now; don't do anything 'till I get back." The fact is, though, that laughter is a lot better than lynching. As usual, of course, the PC crowd haven't figured that out.

### WHERE ARE THE HEROES?

In this latter part of the 20th century Great Britain has lost her colonies, her battleships, and even the honor and respect granted the royal family. Still she retained her preeminence in the field of Letters. The Englishmen who have become luminaries of that polyglot tongue, and who have turned it into one of the most expressive languages in history are still of lofty stature, much to be admired.

But when the Press reigns supreme, and English Law falls before the Code Napoleon of the fourth estate, men of letters are subordinated to the base craftings of wordsmiths and sensationalists of the tabloids.

So it has happened to Sir Arthur Clarke, writer, explorer, innovator and First Fan. To the best of my knowledge Sir Arthur has brought glory to the English language through his lucid writing both in the field of science fiction, and in that of naturalism. His accomplishments are

so great that when he decided to retire to Sri Lanka, the government there gladly provided him with a state-of-the-art communications system; this approximates that which was done for Dr. Stephen Hawking. It was, and is, obvious that Sir Arthur graces any abode he chooses to inhabit.

Sir Arthur, like another Sir Arthur before him, is a literary hero. But to some people heroes are merely individuals created to be destroyed. And so this man of letters, this jewel in the British crown, is being subjected to vile attacks upon his behavior. And it is apparently being done for no reason than that he is Sir Arthur.

What possible reason this vicious attack can serve is beyond me. I really wonder if Britain is so steeped in envy of those who work hard to accomplish something worthwhile during their lives that it finds it necessary to destroy those who have helped make it a cultural colossus. Or maybe it's just a simple lust for money at the expense of anything else.

If all the legitimate heroes are destroyed who will be left? Will it be the thugs who insist they make music, the corporate deal-makers who destroy jobs in order to increase their incomes, or those same tabloid journalists who will eventually have to resort to attacking one another once there is no one left to attack.

## THE ULTIMATE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION: THE DEFINITIVE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

Edited by David Pringle  
JG Press, Inc. South Dighton,  
Massachusetts, Unpriced.

Every now and then I get a glimpse into the future, and I find it both stupid and illiterate. This is one of those glimpses, and it is certainly a harbinger of things to come.

David Pringle, the editor of this horrid mess, is supposedly a winner of a Hugo, which just goes to show how debased this particular cachet had become over the years. He's also supposed to be the editor, publisher, and co-founder of *Interzone*, which must also be a very poor magazine if this book is any indication of his skills and abilities.

The volume is coffee table size, and contains 304 slick pages, each and every one printed in Dubai (Dubai?). The state of color printing in Dubai is very nice.

If nothing else, this volume shows off a remarkable amount of provincialism on the part of the editor and his writers. I don't think that this is because they live in the United Kingdom, their provincialism would have been as pronounced had

they lived in Dubai (Dubai?). To read the book, one gets the distinct impression that the only movies that matter are those that contain British actors, the only television shows are those produced in the UK, and the only writers are British. Now that's all well and good were this entitled "The Definitive Dubai Guide," but it's insulting when it promises to include the entire world of science fiction.

A particularly blatant example of this bias can be seen in the book's review of "Dr. Strangelove." Considerable space is given to the presence of Peter Sellers in his three parts, but absolutely none to the brilliant casting that put Keenan Wynn and Slim Pickins in their respective roles. I can't help but wonder why a British Jew is worth more page space than an American Jew (hey, gotta compare apples to apples you know).

For some unknown reason, John Landis's remarkable "Schlock" was not included in the cinematic section, nor were any of George Melies' pioneering films (nor "Dr. Mabuse Der Spieler," or any other really good films. Not science fiction you say? Pish, tush, say I.). For some reason "Akira" is mentioned, but not that plagiarization entitled "Lensman."

In the part of the book devoted to the boob, matters are just as chaotic. "Captain Video" is



mentioned, but not "Buck Rogers" or "Flash Gordon," both of which kept the kiddies glued to the flickering screen on weekend mornings. "Tom Corbett" is mentioned, but not the fact that Willy Ley was technical advisor for the show. Many, many British television productions are mentioned, and it's an eye-opener to see how many productions of good stories there were when compared to US productions, but to cite "The Avengers," "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." and "Wild, Wild West" as science fiction is to insult (of course to merely mention Diana Rigg is to excite, so maybe I can forgive one citation.).

How strange that all the movie posters shown are for the British screenings. Wasn't 4E's library consulted for US examples? How is it that Cyril Kornbluth rates only a paragraph, about as much space as given to Stanley Weinbaum? Where is Abraham Merritt? And what is Peter Cushing doing with his hand on that woman's boob?

The references to written science fiction (remember when there was such a thing?) are abominable. The Gallagher stories are said to be about "Gallegher." True, there's a typo on the book jacket that misspells the protagonist's name, but these stories were so much fun I can't imagine a writer not even reading one or two of them. Show me a writer who doesn't know the history of his

genre, and I will show you a make-believe writer. Hmm, seems like either all the folks who contributed to this thing are make-believe writers, or just appended their names to a mess of boilerplate cobbled together in Dubai.

I suppose I could go on and on. This book has one saving grace: it contains a lot of nice photos. Buy it, and cut them out and you might have something nice to glue into your scrapbook. The final assessment of this volume, with its 1996 copyright date, is that it was found on a remainder table for \$13.00. That's about \$15.00 more than it's worth, but boy do them Dubais do purty printing.

## DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

Dear Mark:

I'm debating whether to bother sending in my dues for another year. April 18 is my 91st birthday and I'm wondering whether I'd get my money's worth gambling on another year...but so what? I can't take the six bucks with me, that's for sure!

I did drop out of my one remaining APA, but that was mostly because it was turning into a kaffe klatch of family gossip and shoulder-patting sessions with seldom a

sensible exchange of ideas. They'll probably miss me like they would a pebble in their shoe. Besides, it was just too much effort to read that much chit-chat, much less put my opinions about it onto paper!

But that leaves me with only you — my fellow dinosaurs — to query "what has happened to our Sense-of-Wonder?" Now that we have achieved so many of those fabulous ideas once only postulated, Isaac Asimov's network of communication finally achieved via Bill Gates; man has walked on the moon, we are building our platform in outer space both as habitat and launching-pad for our expected spaceflights; our probes are sending back information from our landings on Mars; our astronomers have charted our galaxy and mapped the surrounding universe as far as light can travel; and it is only a matter of perhaps another generation or two (unless WWII intervenes to stop us and send mankind back to the caves to begin again) before we reach out to the stars.

Is any of this reflected in the fannish drivel that has come my — admittedly seduced — way? No. Current fandom, so far as I can see (including these pages) never mentions it. Medieval knights and dragons on the one hand, and if there is any other it is still "cowboys and Indians in space suits".

No "Sense of Wonder," no excitement, no impatient

anticipation. At least none that I can see in Fandom. The closest anybody comes is that Art Bell radio program at nights. At least they are full of aliens, mysterious unidentified flying objects, abductees and mysterious embedded implants. He, at least, gives Richard Hoagland a hearing about the mysterious photographs missing from the NASA files, and the equally mysterious artifacts on Mars.

But we, us old dinosaurs who have lived to see so much of our wildest fiction come true, just seem to be ignoring it. Isn't anybody out there excited about it any more?

Well, I admit there isn't much use for us to get steamed up. None of us is likely to be able to participate. It practically took an act of congress to allow our aged astronaut a second trip into space — and good luck to him! But shouldn't we at least mention it? At our age we haven't much to feel Sense of Wonder about...except in one area. I admit I still feel Sense of Wonder about what will happen next when I step out of this old body of mine. What happens next? Will I have a chance to find out the truth about God? ...or anything???

G.M. Carr

*{Well, Gem, ya see, this ain't a scientific magazine, an' we don't report none o' that there scienterrific stuff. However we don't mind at all if our readers do so. Oh, and you didn't*

mention the fact that someone managed to teleport a photon a while back, thus proving that quantum mechanics makes some sort of bizarre sense in the Best of All Possible Universes. And just when I was getting a good handle on superstring theory, too. — Mark}

*The following is really news, but I since Sir Arthur sent it to me e-mail I figured it was more of an open letter to First Fandom. So I am printing it here.*

Independence Day Banquet, 5 Feb 1998

After running a gauntlet of journalists outside President's House, I went upstairs to the main Reception Room, where some 300 VIP's were being lined up to meet Prince Charles. I was delighted when President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga grasped my left hand (the right was holding my stick!) and shook it vigorously, saying "I'm so glad you were able to come!"

Then some kind official jumped me up the queue to meet Prince Charles as early as possible. After we'd shaken hands, (and been photographed doing so) I reminded him of our last meeting at the 2010 Premiere. He asked, "Are you still writing?" I answered "Yes, Sir - I've just sent half a million words to my agent." Then, as there were some 200 people waiting behind me, I left

him and sat in the back of the room, where I was greeted by literally dozens of local dignitaries, all very friendly. One was the Maldivian Ambassador, and I asked him to give President Gayoom the good news that global warming isn't going to happen.

In the main Banquet Hall, I was seated at the table adjacent to the main one, so I had a clear view of the President and the Prince, who were obviously enjoying themselves and engaged in animated conversation. Their ability to keep going after standing for two hours to receive guests absolutely astounded me.

I was sitting at the table with the U.S. Ambassador and his wife, and next to the Indian High Commissioner. I was delighted to find that he'd read 3001, was a keen science fiction fan, and had seen all the latest films. And he was anxious to learn SCUBA diving - so needless to say, I told him about Underwater Safaris.

The Banquet was excellent but didn't finish until about 12:15, when it was announced that a cultural event would take place on the lawn. So I left quietly, rather tired, but very happy.

While waiting for my car I was again accosted by British reporters with TV cameras and microphones, asking if I had any statement to make. I referred them to the Press Release which has

apparently already gone around the world. While I was doing this, a gentleman in Arab dress came up to me, shook hands, engaged me in conversation and said: "I am the Ambassador from Kuwait." I was delighted that the reporters were able to observe this.

I left about 12:30, after one of the most enjoyable and possibly important evenings.

Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Kt, CBE

Dear Mark:

Your editorial last time was such a confusion of true fact, derogatory myth, and distorted racial memory that I hardly know where to begin with corrections, yet some memory of the true history of our people must be preserved. I will try to be succinct.

First, we are the aliens.

The Bestial creatures that live among us, mimicking our form and ways, are the true inhabitants of this planet. Descendants of a star-sailing race, we have been stranded here for the several thousand years necessary to develop the equipment to relay our messages across the galaxy and for the decade or two needed for an expedition to be formed and to reach us.

If the memories of the first ones have been correctly preserved

the time of our release is soon, although there will many to welcome the mile-long ships when they fill our skies. As the native inhabitants adapted themselves they became able to cross-breed with us.

There are almost none of the pure blood left, not many to dream of the great vessels that leap across time and space, of the beauty lying at the heart of the galaxies, and of the marvels of the worlds beyond the rim.

Instead, our history has been reduced to the crude and negative images of Saturday night TV and the cineplexes, and our own foreparents to outsize versions of the snakes and spiders that the native proto-apes instinctively fear. We have become corrupted by minds alien to our own.

It is my hope that this brief reminder will give heart to those among us fortunate enough to have a sense of wonder and will reassure those who do not or have become discouraged. Fear not, our people will come in peace for -- excepting a few minor diplomatic misunderstandings and several police actions nowhere near Earth at the moment -- all the universe.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Mintz, Sustaining Patron

*{Hmm...and yet, suddenly, I remember Lemuria! -- Mark}*

Dear Mark,

The Spring issue arrived yesterday and I was glad to see that you could use the Merritt photo. Catherine Mintz's letters reveal a very knowledgeable fan of the Old Master; I appreciate her passion, for the fans of pre-Gernsback science fiction are nearly as extinct as the men and women who wrote it.

Even with SaM's help, there wasn't much to learn about Merritt's winter home at Indian Rocks Beach. His Band Box cabins have, long since been demolished, and replaced by a monstrous apartment complex. However, an empty field across the road from it is commonly known as "Merritt Field," though nobody knew why until I explained who he was. Despite the disappointment I felt for having discovered nothing new, I was gratified by the genuine interest shown by the local Historical Society. I convinced them to purchase a copy of SaM's biography of Merritt, and gave them a paperback set of Merritt's books. Maybe, just maybe, somebody will read one of those books and get hooked like I, Catherine and so many others did.

Keep up the good work,  
Mark.

Very Best Regards,  
Sean Donnelly, Sustaining Patron

{Thanks for the additional information,

Sean. For those, like myself, who have lost or misplaced their Merritt books over the years I am pleased to report that Barnes & Noble keeps many of them in print -- Mark}

Dear Mark,

The wife and I are planning to attend Dragon\*Con in Atlanta and I have sent biographical info to the DragonMaster and am in touch by e-mail with Tracy.

Hope your health has improved, and both you and Ray Beam will make it to the only Con respecting First Fandom this year. Baltimore -- Boo.

I do have some good memories of the previous WorldCon in Baltimore because I was able to spend a lot of time with my very dear friend, Lynn Hickman. I do plan on sending his son, Mark, one of those letters he has invited members to submit. Lynn nominated me for membership in First Fandom, and I haven't gotten over the shock of his death. Had I learned of it sooner I would have attended his funeral.

Regards,  
Fred D. Brammer

Dear Mark,

Yesterday I received my new driver's license, and I was



bemused to note it will expire in the year 2002, on my 80th birthday, an anniversary which at this point appears to be well within my reach. 2002, to one who discovered magazine science fiction in 1931, is a very stfmal date indeed, and I can hardly wait. Everybody will be flying his personal autogiro, all the buildings of our cities will be connected by walkways on their nineteenth floors and there will be regularly scheduled flights for tourists to Venus and Mars.

When I was 10 I yearned with a mighty longing to see the future, and now, be George, I will.

Regards,  
Bob Leman

*{Bob, should that not have been by Hugo? -- Mark}*

Dear Mark:

Thank you for sending me notice of my selection for the First Fandom Hall of Fame award.

Unless my health improves greatly in the future, I probably won't be going anywhere, much less to Atlanta, Georgia.

Reading the current issue of *ScientiFiction*, I was surprised to read about President Ray Beam's illness. I recently went through the same illness described along with complications. I hope he is feeling

better every day.

I have a few observations.

To be given this award along with two distinguished Science Fiction Fans like John Baltadonis and Milt Rothman is an honor seemingly undeserved.

To now be in the company of all the people I idolized, who have given their lives to the furtherment of Science Fiction and Fandom is overwhelming. I can't express my appreciation properly.

I have always taken more from Science Fiction than I gave. Associating with all the famous writers, scientists, fans, etc. left its mark on me. Just sitting and listening to them has helped my all my life.

For a Science Fiction reader and fan I was relatively uneducated. I parlayed my interest in Science Fiction and Fandom and a lot of reading along with a keen mechanical aptitude into a good life.

I always felt that Science Fiction helped lead the way into the future. Whenever I read of some momentous discovery, a Science Fiction follower or reader emerged.

I think Science Fiction and Fandom will continue to guide mankind's way into the future as I believe it has in the past.

I would also like to thank my cousin, Bob Madle, for submitting my name for this award. He has always encouraged me to achieve things that I thought were beyond my capability. His help in most everything I did in the Science Fiction world was greatly appreciated. He is truly one of Science Fiction's greatest promoters, if not the greatest.

Sincerely,  
Jack Agnew

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I see that Boston has changed location to Orlando for their Worldcon bid. The reason being high Hotel room prices, in excess of \$200 a night. We have been led to believe by the Federal Reserve that the inflation rate is the lowest that it has been in many years. The Hotel owners apparently are unaware of this.

I enjoyed Boston the several times that I have been there. The room price tag would not stop me if I really wanted to attend although I wouldn't like it. The truth is I gave up on Worldcons several years ago when they ceased being fun.

I am planning on three conventions this year, Midwestcon, Inconjunction and Dragoncon.

Fortunately the boy is old enough that we can leave him to his own devices. He will have started school at Dragoncon time. I understand that Dragoncon is as large as some Worldcons but I am willing to try it since they are sponsoring a First Fandom Reunion. I hope to see many of you there.

Till next time——  
Ray

## CLOSING NOTES

John Coker has informed me that copies of his memorial tribute to SaM and Connie Ruppert are available from him, postpaid, for \$6.00 a pop. Send your order to

John L. Coker, III  
3701 Glenn Garry Lane  
Orlando, FL 32803

It has been suggested we begin running bios on our newer members. Sounds good to me. If any of you folks want to send in a brief bio for publication, I'll be glad to run it. I will not contact you personally, though, I have more than enough work to do right now.

DON'T FORGET THE  
REUNION AT DRAGON CON!

FIRST FANDOM  
Dinosaurs of Science  
Fiction

Mark Schulzinger  
4 Nevada Circle  
Gallup, NM 87301

BULK RATE  
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48120

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