



FIRST FANDOM  
MAGAZINE  
# 13

SPRING 1967



## L E T T E R S . . . .

Dan McPhail            I checked my FFM folder and find the current  
Lawton, Oklahoma    issue to be #12 (unless I have missed a number)  
My files show that you issued numbers 1 thru  
5 (August 1959 to February 1962), when Roy Tackett put out issues  
6 thru 11 (ending with April 1964). So, unless Roy put out some-  
thing between #11 and your revived edition, there have been an  
even dozen published.

I was very much pleased over the selection of the old Gernsback  
Scientifiction design for our emblem. And the blazer patch is  
a good idea, too.

David H. Keller is a fine selection for the Hall of Fame Award.  
He was one of four names I had sent Dale Tarr as my pick of men  
deserving the initial honor. The others were Hugo Gernsback,  
Frank R. Paul and Edgar Rice Burroughs.

I was happy to read that the 23rd Worldcon in London paid a  
special tribute to Don Ford. I recall so well his being at 2nd  
Oklacon and what a pleasant and accomodating fellow he was. In  
the years that followed we exchanged many letters and he always  
remembered me with copies of his zine, Pooka. And I've always  
been proud I had the priviledge of nominating him for his Taff  
award.

This 20-page FFM was most interesting and well laid out. J.K.  
Klein contributed a very good article, and editor Hickman did  
a fine reproduction job. It is a real shame that there was a  
gap from April 1964 to Fall 1966 in any First Fandom publications.  
← We hope to be able to stick to at least a quarterly magazine  
from now on, but it is up to the members. ye ed. →

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### FIRST FANDOM MEETING AT TRICON by Jay Kay Klein

The First Fandom Meeting at the Tricon was a very long,  
drawnout affair, with a great amount of discussion over pro-  
posed club-sponsored activity. At the height of the meeting,  
steam was coming from Ed Wood's ears over the exasperating  
slowness in resolving anything.

Lynn Hickman's excellent FFM was distributed, which in-  
cluded a copy of my report on the Old Films Project. I added  
verbally to this report. SaM said he thought the photos were  
well worth saving, and hoped we could get together with Will  
Sykora. The main stumbling block is Will's desire to hold a  
duplicate and provide a duplicate to the Library of Congress  
for copyright protection. This could push the cost beyond  
First Fandom's means, though no one questions Will's right to  
this. It was also thought desirable to place a copy in some  
safe, accessible repository, such as the Syracuse University

(Continued on page 10)



## EDITOR'S REPORT . . . . .

It has been too long between issues but it seems the winter doldrums set in on almost all First Fandomer's including myself. Except for a few letters and a few replies to queries and several phone calls from Dale Tarr, there has been little interest shown in a resumption of a First Fandom Magazine. I'm hoping this will change as more issues appear and the membership will start sending material in.

Jay Kay Klein has been very good and has worked beyond the call of duty in getting material in. Many thanks, Jay. However, many other members queried for articles or news have not answered and a club magazine of this type should not be a one or two or even three man show. It takes an active interest by all members to make a good and an interesting magazine. We need some articles of interest in regard to early fandom and the early science fiction and fantasy magazines and fanzines to promote discussion. And I know its not all just lack of time. My fanzine, The Pulp Era draws many letters of comment from First Fandom members regarding the articles etc. I can reprint some of these articles in F.F.M. if you like, but 47 of our members already receive it.

So come on members -- get those articles in! Lets make F.F.M. a magazine of interest that you'll want to save and that others will want to reprint from.

Dale Tarr and myself had planned to spend a weekend together at my house going over the membership list and deciding on the dues situation, but illness prevented this. We are now hoping to get together at MARCON II in Toledo, Ohio April 8th & 9th and the roster and dues list will be published in the next issue.

Enclosed with this issue is your ballot for The Hall of Fame Award. Be sure to use it. The votes will be tabulated at the MIDWESTCON in June. Nominated at the Tricon were Edmond Hamilton, Murray Leinster, and Seabury Quinn.

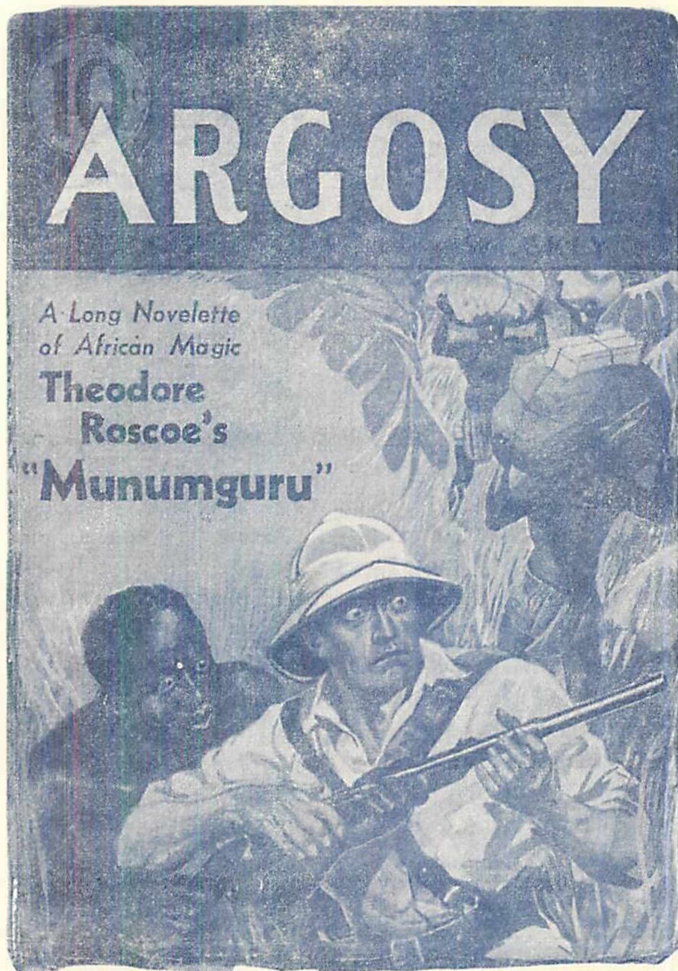
The Board of Directors for First Fandom for this term are as follows: Bob Madle - President, Lynn Hickman - Publisher, Alva Rogers - VP (West Coast), Mike Rosenblum - VP (Europe), C.L. Barrett, Lou Tabakow, Dave Kyle, Dale Tarr - Sec.-Treas., \* Don Ford.

As I imagine most of you know, Corinth Publications are publishing reprints of a number of the old pulp hero novels (Dusty Ayres, Secret Agent X, Operator #5, The Phantom Detective, etc.) as you will notice by this issues cover and some of the illustrations. It is hoped that you will support these and write the publisher urging reprinting of some of the fine old science fiction and fantasy novels in a science fiction series.

Next issue will be started right after the Marcon, so please get your letters and material in as soon as possible. Help us to make this magazine bi-monthly or at least quarterly.

Lynn Hickman





past three Midwestcons, the Pacificon, Westercon, and the Loncon. There was a giant meeting at TRICON. These meetings have helped keep the organization together but, as we all know, without a published journal an organization cannot actively progress. Now that we have this publication again, please support it with those articles all of you are capable of writing.

FIRST FANDOM suffered a terrible blow with the tragic death of Don Ford -- so did all fandom, for that matter. Don was one of the organizers of FIRST FANDOM and had done the lion's share of the work in keeping the organization moving along. ALL of FIRST FANDOM has, and will, miss him.

Bob Madle

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to welcome Lynn Hickman back as Official Editor of First Fandom Magazine. At the same time, I want to thank Roy Tackett who filled in as Official Editor until the pressure of other work compelled him to drop the magazine. Interesting enough, another member, Gus Willmorth, volunteered to edit the magazine about the same time Lynn offered to return as editor. So, although the magazine (and the organization to a great extent) has been dormant for the past two years, I sincerely feel that we can get moving again.

Although a publication did not appear, meetings of the organization were held. There were meetings at the





## IN MEMORIAM

David H. Keller, M.D.  
1880-1966

David H. Keller, M.D., Lieut. Col., U.S.A., Ret., author, fan, and a most remarkable human being, embarked on the "Great Adventure" of which he once spoke in a hospital in his home town of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 1966. Doctor Keller had undergone emergency surgery for gangrenous gall bladder on July 6th, and, after five days of intense suffering, appeared to be on the road to recovery, when life took its leave of him. He had been seriously ill last year, and had since then had a series of falls; he also suffered from diabetes, and had spent the past year as an invalid, attended by his wife at Underwood (the Keller family's ancestral home, in Stroudsburg). Weakened by his trials of the past year, the emergency operation was apparently too much for him, and life just drifted out of him as he passed away peacefully, in the night, while asleep. He is survived by his wife, Celia.

Doctor Keller was born in Philadelphia, in 1880. After receiving his education at the Boy's Central High School, in Philadelphia, and at the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to a small country town, where he practiced medicine as a "horse-and-buggy" doctor for ten years. He then became interested in Neuro-Psychiatry, in which field he stayed until his retirement in 1945. During this period he was in close contact with, and thus came to know very well, the abnormals of our society, while he was practicing in State hospitals for the insane in Louisiana, Illinois, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.

Commissioned in the Army Medical Service in 1917, Doctor Keller saw active service during both World Wars, and was retired in 1945, after reaching the age of 65, with the permanent rank of Lieutenant-Colonel -- after 28 years of commissioned service. His years after retirement were spent at Underwood, with his wife, Celia, and his small dog, where he spent much of his time adding to his prolific and varied output of stories, poems, and the like.

A great many of his stories are as of yet unpublished, but those which have seen print have appeared in many media -- from the early pulps to fan magazines -- from novels to short stories (his weird stories have been called: "The greatest horror stories in the English language"). His hard-cover appearances have mostly been in the form of limited editions, including such works as THE DEVIL AND THE DOCTOR; THE SOLITARY HUNTERS and THE ABYSS; LIFE EVERLASTING and Other Tales of Science, Fantasy and Horror; THE HOMUNCULUS; and THE SIGN OF THE BURNING HART (the last-named work being published by the National Fantasy Fan Federation, of which Dr. Keller was a life member); if our memory serves us correctly, THE LADY DECIDES and THE ETERNAL CONFLICT have also seen hard-cover publication.

Fifty-Eight of Dr. Keller's short stories and novelets have been published in the professional science-fiction magazines.

His first such appearance was in the February, 1928 issue of AMAZING STORIES, with "The Revolt of the Pedestrians". He has appeared in such magazines as AIR WONDER STORIES, AMAZING DETECTIVE TALES, AMAZING STORIES, AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY, COSMIC STORIES, FANTASTIC, FUTURE FICTION, MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES, OTHER WORLDS SCIENCE STORIES, SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE MONTHLY, SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY, SCIENCE WONDER STORIES, STARTLING STORIES, STIRRING SCIENCE STORIES, UNCANNY STORIES, THRILLING WONDER STORIES, WONDER STORIES, and WONDER STORIES QUARTERLY. He has also had another 24 stories published in the weird-fiction magazines, ORIENTAL STORIES, STRANGE STORIES, and WEIRD TALES. Reprints of his stories have appeared in many of the above magazines, and also in AVON FANTASY READER, FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE, MAGAZINE OF HORROR, and TALES OF WONDER.

Among his novels which have appeared in the magazines are "The Conquerors" (two parts, beginning December, 1929, in SCIENCE WONDER STORIES; reprinted in the summer, 1951 issue of FANTASTIC STORY MONTHLY); "The Evening Star" (two parts, beginning April, 1930, in SCIENCE WONDER STORIES; reprinted in the Winter, 1952 issue of FANTASTIC STORY MONTHLY); "The Fireless Age" (two parts beginning August 1937 issue of AMAZING ATORIES); "The Human Termites" (three parts beginning September, 1929 in SCIENCE WONDER STORIES; reprinted in four parts beginning in the Winter, 1940 issue of CAPTAIN FUTURE); "Life Everlasting" (two parts beginning July, 1934 in AMAZING STORIES); "The Metal Doom" (three parts beginning May, 1932 in AMAZING STORIES); "The Solitary Hunters" (three parts beginning January, 1934, in WEIRD TALES). He also wrote a novel, "The Time Projectors" (two parts, beginning July, 1931, in WONDER STORIES), in collaboration with David Lasser.

Always a fan at heart, Doctor Keller has had many appearances in fan magazines and semi-professional magazines, in the way of short stories, articles, reviews, poems, and even artwork. These appearances are too numerous to enumerate here, but we refer you to "A Checklist of the Non-Professional Writings of David H. Keller, M.D." compiled by Bruce Robbins, which appeared in Bruce's excellent fanzine PARADOX (issue #7) (30¢ a copy, 4 issues for \$1, available from Bruce at 436 South Stone Ave., LaGrange, Ill. 60525).

Among the published works of Doctor Keller in fields other than S-F are THE KELLERS OF HAMILTON TOWNSHIP (history), THE SONGS OF A SPANISH LOVER (poetry), PORTFOLIO OF ANATOMICAL MANIKINS (medical), and SEXUAL EDUCATION SERIES (medical). There well may be others, but the above are all of which we are aware at the moment. We might add here that his stories have been extensively reprinted in France and in England.

Dr. Keller's experiences in his psychiatric work gave him a unique insight into people, which he put to good use in his writing. It also gave him the background and atmosphere for writing many of the weird and horror stories for which he is so well known. Many of his stories are almost certainly introspective, and the lead characters in many of his stories bear a curious resemblance to their creator. His horror stories are of the psychological type, which, in view of the unique insight we mentioned above, makes them stories which produce a real sense of horror in the reader -- ever so much more horrible than the type of horror stories which involve non-human monsters such as vampires, werewolves, and



the like in order to produce their horror effects. What greater horrors are there than the horrors which lie within a deranged mind?

But Doctor Keller's writing also involved humor, philosophy, compassion, and beauty. He wrote largely for the pleasure of writing, in a style which is noted for its simplicity and its beauty. We never knew him personally -- yet, through his writings, we knew him intimately. We shall miss him!

Don Miller

Reprinted from The WSFA Journal.

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Syracuse University has begun a major project to collect and preserve for research and scholarship that 20th century phenomenon known as science fiction.

Many universities have notable collections of manuscripts, including some by science fiction writers. Harvard has an excellent collection of science fiction books but does not collect manuscripts in the field. Syracuse is the first university to announce a special project of collecting science fiction books, magazines, manuscripts, correspondence, belles lettres and other resource material directly related to science fiction.

An article about the Syracuse project appears in the May 1967 issue of the quarterly magazine, Worlds of Tomorrow. Its author is Richard Wilson, director of the Syracuse University News Bureau and himself a science fiction writer.

Syracuse recently became the archival repository for The Science Fiction Writers of America, with the cooperation of SFWA President Damon Knight and Lloyd Biggle, Jr., Secretary-treasurer. The association's non-current records, files and correspondence are being preserved and maintained, in the words of the agreement, "in perpetuity" by the Syracuse University Library. The material is available for use by teachers, students and researchers.

Through SFWA, publishers of science fiction books send their latest titles as they appear, augmenting the University's collection. S.U. is collecting science fiction magazines, dating back to Vol. I, No. 1 of the original Amazing Stories of April 1926, edited by Hugo Gernsback. Space and other problems which afflict all libraries may result in a decision to preserve microfilm copies instead of the brittle originals.

The Syracuse project has the enthusiastic support of the University's Chancellor, William P. Tolley, and its vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculties, Frank P. Piskor, both ardent bookmen. Dr. Tolley collects Rudyard Kipling first editions and manuscripts and can speak knowledgeably about such imaginative Kipling stories as "They", "With the Night Mail" and "Wireless". Dean Piskor said recently: "We have an obligation to future generations to provide them with all the tools for research that we can. It's impossible from this era to say what will be vital to historians of literature in the year 2000 or 2067 or 5000. The special project of the Syracuse University Library devoted to collecting science fiction is in keeping with the traditions of teaching,

scholarship and research of which we are so proud."

Howard L. Applegate, Administrator of Manuscripts for Syracuse University, has described science fiction as "this prophetic kind of writing which forecast the nuclear age and space travel, and which has produced some of the most thought-provoking fiction ever published." Dr. Applegate added: "The scholarly world is becoming increasingly aware that science fiction writers are often far more perceptive than academicians."

Among the science fiction notables collected at Syracuse is Hugo Gernsback, the undisputed father of modern American science fiction. Frederik Pohl, author and editor, is represented by his own manuscripts and correspondence; his publisher, Robert M. Guinn, has provided papers pertaining to the Galaxy Publishing Corp. Other publishers represented are Joseph W. Ferman of Mercury Press (The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction) and A. A. Wyn (Ace Books). David Kyle, co-founder of one of the first publishing houses to specialize in science fiction, has donated records and papers of Gnome Press.

Forrest J Ackerman, an authority on science fiction films, has begun to ship parts of his formidable collection across the country from Los Angeles. From overseas, London's E. J. Carnell is represented by papers tracing his thirty years as agent and editor. Carnell has donated the morocco-bound volumes of his pioneering magazines, New Worlds and Science Fantasy.

Other papers being preserved are those of Damon Knight, novelist, editor and critic; Donald A. Wollheim, novelist and editor of Ace Books; Hralan Ellison, television and screen writer; novelists Will F. Jenkins (Murray Leinster), E.E. Smith, Clifford D. Simak, James Blish, Robert Silverberg, Keith Laumer and Roger Zelazny.

Science fiction material collected at Syracuse University joins the papers of such diverse twentieth century figures as poet Phyllis McGinley, pundit Dorothy Thompson, statesman Averell Harriman (900,000 items), cartoonist Dave Breger (most of his war-time cartoons), photographer Margaret Bourke-White, newsmen Arthur Brisbane and Fulton Lewis, Jr., philosopher Mortimer Adler, poet-dramatist Jean Cocteau, Gertrude Berg (her scripts for "The Goldbergs") and academy Award-winning actor Ed Begley.

A rare item is one of Albert Einstein's research papers in German, donated by his former assistant, S.U. physicist Peter G. Bergmann. In all, there are about seven and a half million items in the University's collections.

Richard Wilson



## NOMINATING AND VOTING PROCEEDURE FOR FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME AWARD

At a First Fandom meeting at the Midwestcon a few years ago the idea of the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award was conceived and carried through. At this time collection of dues was rather sporadic and our treasury consequently was anemic to say the least. It was decided that whenever we had sufficient money on hand we would award the trophy to some deserving science fiction personality. The donee could either be a professional or a pure fan or engaged in any facet of the field.

Since the continuity of our business meetings was rather irregular we decided that since we always had a relatively large group at the MidWestCon, we would nominate and elect the recipient there; especially since the trophy is made up here in Cincinnati.

We have never had any criticism of any kind about our choices in the past, but the group at the MidWestCon decided that some kind of formal nominating and voting mechanism be set up that would give all First Fandom members a chance to pick their favorite personality. Since First Fandom is by definition composed of the older, more stable fans we never exactly formalized what would make someone eligible for the award. We felt that the members of First Fandom were the best judges of that.

At any rate, at the Tricon a regular procedure for nominations and voting was set up. Each year the MidWestCon will nominate one person. A week later the Westercon will nominate another and then a third will be nominated at the national convention. Then sometime between November and March, the ballots will appear in our magazine. The ballots will have a place for first, second and third choice. You need not mark a second or third choice but you may only vote for any individual once. The same name may not appear as first and second choice. A simple majority will determine the winner. In the event a first tabulation does not give a clear majority the Australian system of tabulation will be used until a winner is determined. The ballots will be mailed to Dale Tarr, our secretary, and tabulated at the MidWestCon. This will give us two months to get the trophy ready for presentation at the National Con. In the event that any other regional con feels they should have a voice in nominations the matter must be brought up at a National Con and voted on there. I can foresee the time when there will be possibly six nominations each year; and when this happens the Australian ballot will be an absolute necessity.

This year, of course, the three nominations were all made at the Tricon and the winner will be picked at the MidWestCon in June 1967. This trophy will be awarded in New York.

At this same meeting (June 1967) the members attending the MidWestCon will nominate their choice for the award at the West Coast convention in 1968. If any members have any ideas or any other suggestions or bitches please contact ye old ed or one of the officers and your suggestion will be discussed and acted upon at the next meeting; even if you're unable to be there.

(continued from page 2)

Library, which has a large collection of science fiction research material. (Dick Wilson was at the Tricon for Syracuse University, and bid at auction for considerable amounts of original manuscripts.) I was empowered to discuss matters further with Will.

It was suggested that the historical interest exhibits, such as Stan Vinson's display on Jules Verne, be shown at the Art Show in future years so general fandom can see these. This was accorded a unanimous yea.

Ed Wood said that First Fandom has come up with many worthwhile ideas, but no action has ever been taken. I can site, for example, the idea of publishing a real "old time" large-size Amazing-style pulp. Ed suggested that we start in a small way, by producing the first in a series of pamphlets for sale to fandom. SaM volunteered that he thought Lynn Hickman would photo-offset this looseleaf style. The idea caught fire, and Ken Krueger said he would donate a Paul cover to the project. He also offered an unpublished Doc Keller manuscript. A committee headed by SaM was selected to work out just what was to be done. SaM picked Alva Rogers, Stan Vinson, Doc Barrett, and Ken Krueger to help him.

The subject of the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award came up. Lou Tabakow suggested that SaM present the award. In the absence of Doc Keller, who died shortly after being selected, I suggested Bob Madle should accept the award and send it to Doc Keller's family. I pointed out that both SaM and Bob had known Doc Keller very well and had each published a Keller Book.

Bob Madle started the discussion rolling on how to select those to receive the award in the future. He pointed out that the previous methods had been rather arbitrary and generally done by a small group meeting at the MidWestCon. A long heated discussion ensued, during which many fans melted away to go to other parties. I can scarcely blame them, because everyone had a different idea and was loudly plumping for it.

There appeared two generally opposing ideas. One was to make an award to just one person a year. The other was to add a group of outstanding authors/artists at a time, to honor these persons before it's too late. The general consensus seemed to be that both ideas could be reconciled, with one person receiving the actual award, while a group of persons could be "Enrolled" without a plaque, but with a scroll. I made a motion to appoint a committee to make a list of persons eligible for enrollment to the Hall of Fame. I think SaM, Alva Rogers, Don Wollheim, and Forry Ackerman were finally chosen.

It was decided that three nominations were to be made at each Worldcon, MidWestCon and Westercon. Ballots are then to be mailed to each member so everyone can vote. Presumably, these are to be printed and mailed by Lynn Hickman, preferably along with a copy of FFM.



I hope I've presented the outcomes correctly. The meeting was very long and many, many alternate proposals put forward, some of which were half voted on and then dropped. Among other happenings, Dave Kyle discussed the Blazer Patch, which he said would cost \$6.00 and be made in England. As a temporary expedient, Howard Devore had printed and distributed paper stick-on patches.

President Bob Madle announced that Stan Skirvin and I had been elected Associate Members at the Midwestcon. Both of us have been hanging around so long, I guess Bob thought we might just as well pay dues.

J.K. Klein

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#### Report on the Old Fan Movies Committee:

While in New York City the end of October, I called Will Sykora up and we discussed the old movies he has on hand. He said he agreed very largely with what I had said in my report that appeared in the Fall 1966 (Tricon) issue of FFM. He said, though, that he did not insist of having custody of all the copies that may be made. Will said he wanted to hold the original and one copy, while another copy could be held elsewhere. He especially thought it a good idea if some permanent, safe archives like Syracuse University Library could hold the copy.

Will was pleased to see that funds had been made available, pledged on a "loan" basis, to make the print(s). He is checking out the cost of duplicates and titles, and will let me know the estimate. When this is established, I will report back to First Fandom Officials for further guidance: to proceed, or not to proceed on the basis of the cost. Will is very solicitous of the precious film and wishes to have the duplicates made in New York under his guidance. He will, of course, furnish the duplicator's bill to First Fandom.

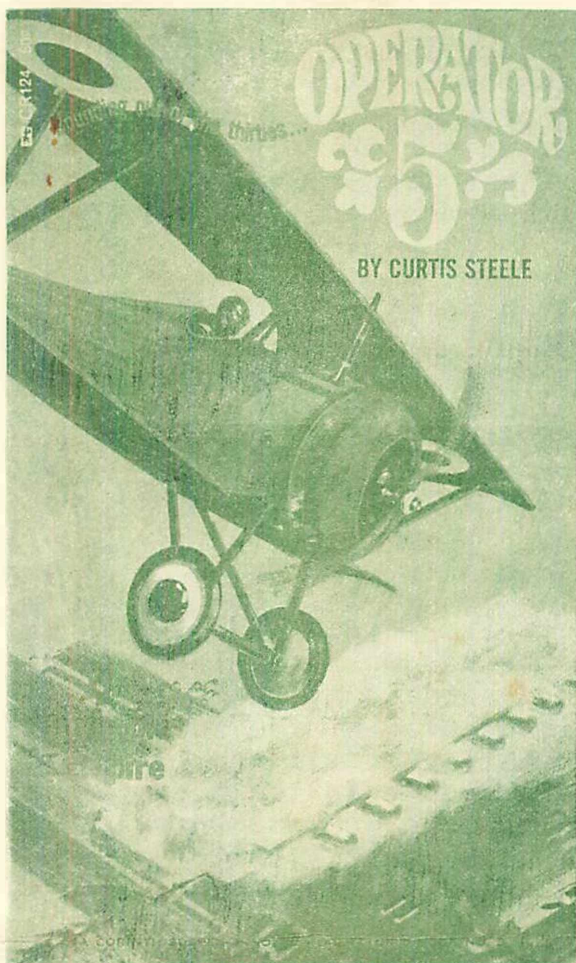
J.K. Klein

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#### W A N T E D

Material and reports for the next issue of FFM.  
High payment rates are now in effect -- a snort  
from our bottle of Old Agitator at the MidWestCon.

W A N T E D



First Fandom Magazine

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