

# SCIENTIFICTION

IN MEMORIAM:

## ERLE M. KORSHAK (1923 - 2021)

**Erle Melvin Korshak** was a prominent SF fan-turned-pro starting in the mid-1930s. He went to Nycon and the 1939 World's Fair. He was a committee member for Chicon (1940) and TASFiC (1952). He was a WWII veteran, a graduate of the University of Chicago and a successful lawyer. Attended each of the first 15 Worldcons. Founder of Shasta: Publishers. Elected First Fandom Hall of Fame, 1996. First Fandom's International Vice-President, 2014.



Erle M. Korshak at the Society of Illustrators, 2017  
(Photograph by and copyright © Andrew Porter)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

P. 02: President's Message; DisCon III  
 P. 03: Notable Birthdays (Fourth Quarter)  
 P. 04: Obituary Notices; Remembrances  
 P. 09: PulpFest 2021 Convention Report  
 P. 10: Windy City 2021 Convention Report  
 P. 11: DisCon III Update; STF News  
 P. 12: Two AMAZING STORIES Updates  
 P. 13: Two New ebooks Announced  
 P. 14: Jefferson Starship; FF Experience  
 P. 15: Seeking to Locate Two FF Members  
 P. 15: STF Milestones; Dinosaur Tracks  
 P. 18: Photo Gallery; Officers and Staff

### REMEMBERING ERLE M. KORSHAK (By John L. Coker III)

I met Erle in Orlando at the 50th Worldcon in 1992. He was the same age then as I am now: 68 years old. We'd often see each other several times a year at conventions, reunions, SF parties and special events. We worked together on art projects and on First Fandom.

Erle telephoned me in mid-August to let me know that he had just come back from another trip (I believe that it was Monaco with some other exotic stops along the way). He said that he was in great health except for some recurring fluid on his legs that he had been getting successfully treated at the veteran's hospital in San Francisco. Erle said that he had the usual backlog of mail to read and telephone calls to return. We set another time later that week to have another conversation.

And then, he was gone. Died at home in his sleep, like a prized family heirloom grandfather clock that just finally wound-down and stopped. He was looking forward to being FF GoH at Chicon 8. The forthcoming FF Annual 2021 will be "Remembering Erle M. Korshak."

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Jason V. Brock, Steve Davidson, First Fandom Experience, Mike Glycer, Rob Hansen, John-Henri Holmberg, Stephen D. Korshak, William Lampkin, David Langford, Fred Lerner, Scott V. Norris, Mark Olson, Lloyd Penney, Andrew I. Porter, David Sanders, Keith W. Stokes, Jon D. Swartz, and Lisa Tran.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

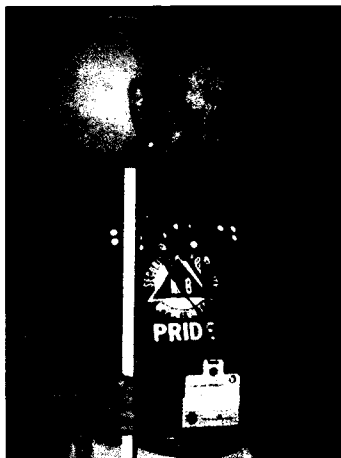
### IN MEMORIAM

We sadly acknowledge the passing of several incredible people, two of whom were First Fandom members:

- Alistair Durie
- Stephen Hickman
- Elizabeth Anne Hull
- Erle M. Korshak
- Ed Meskys
- William F. Nolan

These names should be familiar to all fans. Over the years I was fortunate to get to meet and speak with many of these wonderfully-accomplished folks. They'll be remembered for their important contributions to our field and how they inspired the work of others...

**Ed Meskys** was a highly-regarded SF fan for more than 65 years. He was a long-standing member of numerous fan groups, including First Fandom, ESFA, N3F, NESFA, SAPS, Metrofen, The Little Men and others.



Ed Meskys (2006)  
(Photograph by Mark Olson)

He was a co-founder of Tolkien fandom and editor/publisher of the enduring and Hugo Award-winning fanzine NIEKAS. His steady presence and participation is already missed.

**William F. Nolan** was a successful author (Ray Bradbury Review, Logan's Run), avid reader, movie fan, artist, screen-writer who wrote biographies, short stories, poems and novels. Nolan was an only child. At the time of his passing, he had no living relatives, but he had many people that he called friends.



William F. Nolan (2006)  
(Photograph by Scott V. Norris)

### FIRST FANDOM AND DISCON III

The names of the recipients of the First Fandom awards will be announced this year at the Worldcon during Opening Ceremonies. All recipients and families have been notified so that they may either attend the event or send written remarks to be read by the emcee.

We will prepare the traditional First Fandom exhibit to be on display in the Exhibition Hall.

### NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION SPECULATIVE FICTION AWARDS, 2021

Best Literary-Critical or Fan-Historical Work:

*First Fandom Annual 2020: Celebrating Robert A. Madle* by John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please send your membership dues via a \$15 check (payable to Keith W. Stokes) to Keith at 14305 West 83rd Place, Lenexa, KS - 66215.

**BIRTHDAYS - FOURTH QUARTER****October**

- 1 - J. Allen St. John, Terry Jeeves, Martha Beck, Donald. A. Wollheim, Mike Ashley
- 2 - Alex Raymond, Willy Ley
- 3 - Ray Faraday Nelson
- 4 - Earl Binder, Al Ashley
- 5 - Tetsu Yano
- 6 - Frank Dietz, John Carter Tibbetts
- 8 - Frank Herbert
- 9 - Harry Bates
- 10 - Laura Brodian Kelly-Freas Baraha
- 11 - Gay Haldeman
- 12 - Lester Dent
- 15 - James H. Schmitz, Chester Cuthbert
- 16 - Ed Valigursky
- 20 - Erle M. Korshak
- 21 - Ed Hamilton, Ursula K. Le Guin
- 23 - Roy Lavender
- 24 - Leo Morey
- 27 - Takumi Shibano
- 28 - Amy Thomson
- 29 - Fredric Brown, Hal W. Hall
- 30 - Walt A. Willis
- 31 - Art Saha

**November**

- 1 - Gordon R. Dickson, Dean Grennell
- 2 - Sue Francis, Ed Gorman, Steve Dikto
- 4 - Wendyne Ackerman, Stephen Jones, Kerry Kyle
- 5 - H. Warner Munn, Jim Steranko
- 6 - Catherine Crook de Camp, Ed Cox
- 7 - R.A. Lafferty
- 8 - Bram Stoker, Ben Bova
- 9 - Alfred Coppel, Larry Shaw, Rob Hansen
- 10 - Charles Nuetzel
- 11 - Mack Reynolds, Jon D. Arfstrom
- 13 - Phillip Francis Nowlan

- 15 - William Hope Hodgson, J. G. Ballard
- 16 - A. C. Kyle, Milt Stevens
- 17 - Raymond F. Jones, John Trimble
- 19 - M. E. Counselman
- 20 - Len J. Moffatt
- 21 - Jane Frank, Vincent di Fate
- 23 - Nelson Bond, Wilson (Bob) Tucker
- 24 - Forrest J Ackerman, Earl Kemp
- 25 - Poül Anderson, Amelia Reynolds Long
- 26 - Frederik G. Pohl
- 27 - L. Sprague de Camp
- 30 - E. Everett Evans, Milton A. Rothman

**December**

- 2 - Jerry Sohl
- 4 - Lawrence Stevens, Karl Edward Wagner, Richard Lynch
- 3 - Donald H. Tuck
- 6 - Arthur K. Barnes
- 5 - Fritz Lang, Walt Disney
- 7 - Leigh Brackett
- 8 - Georges Melies, E. C. Segar, James V. Taurasi, Rick Baker
- 9 - Margaret Brundage, Nicki Lynch
- 11 - Fred Patten
- 16 - Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick, Randall Garrett, Norm Metcalf
- 17 - Jack Chalker
- 18 - Alfred Bester, Walter J. Daugherty, Steve Davidson
- 19 - Harry Warner, Jr., Yvonne Penney
- 21 - Hubert Rogers
- 23 - David H. Keller
- 24 - Fritz Leiber, Ray Beam
- 25 - Rod Serling
- 27 - Thea Von Harbou, Ken Slater, Perdita Lilly, Fred Lerner
- 28 - Jon D. Swartz, Stan Lee
- 29 - Charles L. Harness, Art Rapp
- 31 - Bob Shaw, Connie Willis, Val Kilmer

## OBITUARIES

*Alistair Durie*

(1944 – 2021)

"British fan, collector and author Alistair Durie, 76, who had been in declining health, died August 5th. He had an enormous collection of books and pulp magazines, and a large collection of fanzines, many acquired from the sale of Sam Moskowitz's estate."

Alistair was born in 1944 in Yorkshire to Alec and Joyce Durie. After going to Rugby School, Alistair was accepted at Christ Church, Oxford.

After graduating from Oxford, Alistair joined the large city firm of Chartered Accountants, Binder Hamlyn. He went on to become a senior partner and enjoyed an interesting and varied career.

During his professional career, Alistair's appointments included being the Treasurer of the Institute of Directors and Treasurer of the Surrey County Cricket Club.

Alistair decided to take early retirement a few years after his firm was absorbed by one of the largest international accounting firms.

Alistair was married to Linda Durie (nee Collopy) and they lived in Norfolk. He has a son and a daughter by a previous marriage and now has a total of five grandchildren.

Alistair's other interests have revolved around cricket and collecting SF magazines and books. His own book *Weird Tales* (Jupiter Press, 1979) is an essential pictorial guide to the great magazine. He used his large collection to assist with research into the history of modern SF."

(Excerpted from the Durie Family History. Thanks to Andrew Porter for preparing and sharing the report.)

*Stephen Hickman*

(April 9, 1949 – July 16, 2021)

Born in Washington, D. C., Stephen Forrest Hickman illustrated SF and fantasy amateur and professional publications, beginning in the 1960s. He also wrote fiction in the SF genre, and reported that his work was inspired by some of the masters of the field, including Tolkien, Lovecraft, Merritt, Doyle, and Burroughs. He attended the art school of the Richmond Professional Institute/Virginia Commonwealth University. He taught himself anatomy and painting.

His illustrations have been used as cover work for many contemporary writers, including Gordon Dickson, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Anne McCaffrey, Larry Niven, Andre Norton, and Jerry Pournelle.

His work earned him critical acclaim, including a Hugo Award, six Chesley Awards, and two Spectrum Gold Awards. He was known for his belief that illustrating fiction should be mostly a subconscious process. He illustrated over 350 book and magazine covers for publishers such as Ace, Ballantine, Bantam, Berkeley, Dell, Del Rey, Doubleday, Tor, and Warren Publications.

In 1988, Hickman wrote *The Lemurian Stone* (Ace Books), which formed the basis for his *Pharazar Mythos* illustrations.

His most widely known work is a series of SF postage stamps done for the U. S. Postal Service. He also tried his hand at writing and illustrating his own work.

Hickman of Red Hook, New York, died July 15, 2021 of natural causes at home with his wife Vicki at his side. He is also survived by his two daughters and his brother.

(Prepared by Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Ed.)

## Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull

(1937 – 2021)

(By Mike Glycer for [www.File770.com](http://www.File770.com))

Academic, activist and author Elizabeth Anne Hull died August 3rd from complications a few months after falling and fracturing her hip. She was 84 years old.

Hull served as President of the SF Research Association from 1989-90, after editing the *SFRA Newsletter* from 1981-1984. She was recognized for service to SF research with the organization's Thomas Claeson Award.

She was a member of the panel for the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best SF novel intermittently from 1986 until her death. For over ten years, she served as North American secretary for the World SF International Organization for Professionals.

A frequent contributor to Worldcon programs, she co-organized the academic track at Chicon 7 in 2012.

Hull was Professor Emerita of William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, where she taught English and SF for over 30 years, earning the school's Distinguished Faculty Award in 1997.

The Alumni Association of Northwestern University honored her contributions to her profession with its Award of Merit in 1995.

She married Frederik Pohl in 1984, her second marriage, his fifth. They first met at the 1976 Worldcon. Together Hull and Pohl edited the international anthology *Tales from the Planet Earth* (1986). She edited the 2010 anthology, *Gateways: Original New Stories Inspired by Frederik Pohl*

She is survived by two children from her previous marriage, and two grandchildren.

## Erle M. Korshak

(1923 – 2021)

(By John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz)

Born October 20, 1923, Erle Melvin Korshak was a SF enthusiast much of his life. In the mid-1930s he was reading and collecting SF. In July 1939, Mel attended the first Worldcon (Nycon) and visited the New York World's Fair. He was one of the organizers of Chicon I, the second Worldcon. He presided over the first day of that Convention when the official chairman, his friend Mark Reinsberg, fell ill.

Korshak is the only fan known to have attended each of the first 15 Worldcons.

After serving in combat during World War II, Korshak established a used book business, partnering with T. E. (Ted) Ditky to form Melvin Korshak Bookseller, the business that led to Shasta Publishers in 1947, one of the first hardback SF specialty presses.

The verdict of Jack Chalker and Mark Owings in their reference book, *The Science Fantasy Publishers* (1966), was that Shasta "had more lasting impact than many major specialty presses of today ever will or could."

Korshak knew SF/fantasy author L. Ron Hubbard, who offered Shasta his book on Dianetics. They declined to publish it, telling Hubbard that he needed to go with a medical book publisher rather than a publisher of SF. Korshak later said that this was the biggest mistake of his publishing career, since Hubbard's book became a best-seller.

Korshak was also involved with some of the early SF movies, including *This Island Earth* (1955) and *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951), negotiating the film deal for the former and arranging that the latter be screened at a downtown theater during the 1951 Worldcon.

He was a committee member for TASFiC (the 1952 Worldcon) and in 1957 he was aboard Dave Kyle's trans-Atlantic fan flight that went to the Worldcon in London.



L-R standing: William L. Hamling, Erle M. Korshak, Willy Ley. L-R seated: Olga Ley, Frances Hamling. 1952 Worldcon, Chicago. Photograph by Ben Jason.

After the late-1950s, Korshak did not have as much contact with SF fandom for the next thirty years but he continued reading and collecting. He graduated from law school and became a successful lawyer and businessman in California and Nevada. Starting in the late-1980s, he began attending conventions again.

With his son, Stephen D. Korshak, he revived the Shasta imprint (as "Shasta/Phoenix") in 2009 to publish collections of classic SF art.

Korshak counted among his friends many notable people, including Farnsworth Wright, Frank R. Paul, Raymond A. Palmer, Hannes Bok, Forrest J Ackerman, E. E. (Doc) Smith, Julius Schwartz, L. Sprague de Camp, Jack Williamson, Wilson (Bob) Tucker, Willy Ley, L. Ron Hubbard, Robert Bloch, Ray Bradbury, Alfred Bester, Robert A. Heinlein, John Collier, Hugh Hefner, Joel Gray, T. S. Elliot, James Thurber, Aldous Huxley, and others.

Korshak was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1996. An original member of First Fandom, Korshak served for the past five years as their International Vice-President.

Then, on August 25, 2021, after a brief illness, he passed away peacefully in his sleep with family members by his side. He is now like Housman's *rose-lipped maidens, sleeping in fields where roses fade*. May he rest in peace.

## Ed Meskys

(March 11, 1936 – July 25, 2021)

(Excerpted from Fancyclopedia)

"Ed Meskys (pronounced "mesh-keys") was an American fan who had been active in fandom since joining a local Bay Area club in December 1955. In 1959, influenced by Leslie Gerber, he started subscribing to fanzines, and at Belle Deitz's urging, joined the N3F apa, N'APA.

He moved away from the Bay Area, first to New York City (where he was a member of the Metrofen and ESSFSCCNy) and then to New Hampshire, where he has lived since, when not wintering in North Carolina. He called visits to his home in New Hampshire by other fans a Meskon.

Beginning in 1962, Meskys edited and published the Hugo-winning fanzine *Niekas*.

He was one of the founders of Tolkien fandom. He was president of the Tolkien Society of America from 1967-1972, and also edited *The Tolkien Journal*, *Valinorian Times*, and *Green Dragon*. He organized the 1968 Belknap College Tolkien Conference.

Other clubs included ESFA, N3F and NESFA. He was an associate member of the modern First Fandom club. He was a member of Almack's Society for Heyer Criticism and the Little Men. He was a founder of the Lakes Region SF Group.

Meskys was a member of the Boston in '67 and Boston in 71 Worldcon bids, and helped found *Locus* as a bidzine for the '67 bid (he was one of the original rotating editors). He was one of the ill-fated Silvercon committee.

He published the e-fanzine *The View From Entropy Hall* which was also distributed through APA-Q, and *Polhode*, *Herpolhode*,

and *Peskys* which were sent to N'APA. He was a member of IPSO and The Cult. He published *A. Merritt's Fantasy Magazine* and *The Avenger* for SAPS. He edited at least one issue of *Tightbeam*. He contributed to *Who Killed Science Fiction?*

While in his early 20s, Ed lost his sight due to Type I diabetes. He was active in the blind civil rights movement through the National Federation of the Blind, and in Lions Clubs.

He lived in rural Moultonboro, NH, in the summer and in North Carolina in the winter, with his wife, Sandy, his seeing-eye dog, Gyro, and his fourth-hand cat, Amber."

### Fanzines and Apazines

- *Merritt's Fantasy Magazine* (for SAPS)
- *The Avenger* (for SAPS)
- *Green Dragon*
- *Herpolhode* (for N'APA)
- *Niekas*
- *Peskys* (for N'APA)
- *Polhode* (for N'APA)
- *The Tolkien Journal*
- *Valinorian Times*
- *The View from Entropy Hall*

### Awards, Honors and GoHships

- 1966 -- Best Fanzine  
Hugo nominee
- 1967 -- Best Fanzine  
Hugo for *Niekas*
- 1975 -- Mythcon VI
- 1978 -- Prunecon/Ozymandias
- 1989 -- Best Fanzine  
Hugo nominee
- 1998 -- Ditto 11

## William Francis Nolan

(1928 - 2021)

(By Jason V. Brock)

Author, screenwriter, artist, and occasional actor William Francis Nolan passed away on July 15, 2021, during a brief stay in the hospital following complications from an infection. He was 93 years old. He had no living relatives and was married one time.



William F. Nolan at Multnomah Falls  
(Photograph courtesy of Jason V. Brock)

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Nolan was an only child. His father, Michael Cahill Nolan, was an adventurer and sportsman. His mother, Bernadette Mariana Kelly Nolan, was a stenographer. The family resided on Forest Avenue in a predominantly Irish section of the city. Nolan spent his youth riding his bike up and down nearby Troost Avenue, close to the Isis Theater, meeting with friends to spend hot days in the cool of the movie palace, where they watched Westerns, ate candy, and reveled in the adventures of Tom Mix and other film heroes of the day.

An avid reader, he devoured Max Brand, comic books (especially *Batman*), pulps, and

any other books he could get his hands on. He held very fond memories of his childhood.

Later, the family moved to Chula Vista, California just after World War II (Nolan was unable to serve due to flat feet and poor vision). Though the times were hard, his cherished parents had unflinching Irish roots, and the family endured, eventually winding up in Los Angeles. It was during this time Nolan caught the Science Fiction fandom bug.

Talented at drawing, Nolan spent many hours working as an artist (including a stint at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City), still enthralled with pulps such as *Black Mask*, *Weird Tales*, and comics, especially Jack Kirby's output. Movies eventually became his greatest enthusiasm, and for years he attended several a week. Being in L.A. only added to his interest in all forms of genre, from Noir to Horror to Science Fiction.

Once established in L.A., he stumbled across a fresh new writer named Ray Bradbury, becoming an instant convert. Seeking Bradbury out, by 1952 he had learned enough about him to compile his first serious book, *Ray Bradbury Review*. It contained a mix of art, stories, and nonfiction, including pieces by writer Chad Oliver and Bradbury. After a few years of doing art, active semi-pro fanzine work, and other fan-related organizing, Nolan made his first big professional sale, "The Darendinger Build-Up" to *Playboy*, and decided he wanted to be a writer full-time.

Around this time, Bradbury introduced Nolan to the man who would become his best friend for ten years, until his untimely death, Mr. Charles Beaumont. Beaumont, Nolan, Richard Matheson, George Clayton Johnson, Chad Oliver, Charles E. Fritch, Kris Neville, John Tomerlin, Mari Wolf, and several others eventually comprised "The Group," meeting to discuss stories and hang out together.



William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson  
(Photograph courtesy of Jason V. Brock)

Nolan's career flourished as a writer and later a screenwriter, primarily for Dan Curtis. *Logan's Run*, which he co-wrote with the late George Clayton Johnson, propelled both men into the public consciousness in a major way, especially after the release of the classic MGM film adaptation in 1976. Although Nolan has written roughly 2000 pieces, to include biographies, short stories, poetry, and novels, *Logan's Run* retains its hold on the public consciousness as a political fable and dystopian warning.



William F. Nolan and Jason V. Brock  
(Photograph courtesy of Jason V. Brock)

As Nolan has stated: "That I am known at all is still astonishing, as I can so vividly recall the boy flying down the road on his bike in Kansas City all those years ago. My later years have brought me much happiness, especially my current family, Jason and Sunni Brock. We've been a unit for nearly 15 years, and it's been one of the best times of my life."

(Thanks to Jason V. Brock for this remembrance.)



## PULPFEST: A CONVENTION REPORT (By Scott V. Norris and John L. Coker III)

Fans gathered Aug. 19-22 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh – Cranberry.

This was a long-anticipated gathering for fans to enjoy the company of other enthusiasts and the hospitality of the Convention and hotel.

In addition to pulp magazines, attendees perused paper collectibles, vintage paperbacks, rare hardcover books, original artwork, old-time radio, classic movies, Big Little Books, comic books, and science fiction.

PulpFest is known for its programming. This year, Henry Franke, Christopher Paul Carey, and Cathy Wilbanks discussed “Beyond the Farthest Star” by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Laurie Powers interviewed author Will Murray. Ed Hulse and Will Murray spoke about Walter B. Gibson and his Shadows.

From PulpFest’s website:

*The theme of PulpFest 2021 is “Love in the Shadows,” acknowledging the centennial of Street & Smith’s Love Story Magazine, the bestselling pulp magazine of all time.*

*Among the programming: The Queen and Her Court – Great Women Pulp Editors (with Laurie Powers), and The Weird Tales of Margaret Brundage (with Doug Ellis).*

The theme of this year’s two-part film festival was “The Shadow on the Silver Screen.”

*Thursday’s Shadow film festival featured the Detective Stories short feature, A BURGLAR TO THE RESCUE, and THE SHADOW STRIKES, starring Rod La Rocque.*

*On Friday, it was HOUSE OF MYSTERY and INTERNATIONAL CRIME, starring Rod La Rocque. For Saturday, they presented THE CIRCUS SHOW-UP and THE INVISIBLE AVENGER starring Richard Derr.*

Several authors gave readings, including Christopher Paul Carey, Craig McDonald, Wayne Carey, and Darrell Schweitzer.

The auction featured a wide variety of pulps, paperbacks and rare books. Examples: a copy of *Sea Stories* (Nov. 1927) sold for \$100. Copies of *Weird Tales* from the mid-to-late-1920s sold for \$50. Copies of 1930s issues of *Ghost Stories* and *Doc Savage* sold well. A set of *Pulp Vault* sold for \$80. A unique offering of Walter Gibson’s typewriter and a 1930s *Shadow* mask sold for \$725.

The Pulpster (the program book, published by Mike Chomko) is filled with fascinating essays and illustrations, including celebrating “The Shadow at 90” and “Romance Pulps at 100.” This is an essential annual publication.

**Rich Harvey** of Bold Venture Press has been named the winner of the 2021 *Munsey Award*.



**Rich Harvey** recipient of the Munsey Award  
Artwork by David Sanders  
(Photograph by William Lampkin)

We extend our thanks to **William Lampkin** (<https://thepulp.net>), who is PulpFest’s Advertising Director and also Editor of The Pulpster, for his daily reporting and excellent photographs from this year’s PulpFest.

For more info, visit: (<https://pulpfest.com>).

## 20TH WINDY CITY PULP & PAPER CON (By John L. Coker III)

The Convention was held Sept. 9-12 at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL. Fans gathered to enjoy pulp magazines, paperbacks, original art, movie memorabilia, old-time radio, SF, comic books and more.

There were two nights of auctions of rare books, pulps, manuscripts, letters and other items from the estates of Robert Weinberg, Glenn Lord and August Derleth. The art show featured a tribute to Phyllis Eisenstein.

At least seven associate members of First Fandom were in attendance this year: David Aronovitz, John L. Coker III, Doug Ellis, Mark A. Hickman, Scott V. Norris, Curt Phillips and Martin J. Swiatkowski.

The film festival show-cased a number of *"obscure but meritorious motion pictures based on stories from our beloved pulp magazines. Among the genres: comedy, mystery, horror, adventure. Among the Hollywood stars seen on the screen are Bette Davis, Loretta Young, Rita Hayworth, Bela Lugosi, Edward G. Robinson and more."*

On Friday, film programming featured THE ROARING WEST (1935, Chapters 1-8), THE WORKING MAN (1933) and TENTACLES OF THE NORTH (1926).

Saturday's film programming included THE ROARING WEST (1935, Chapters 9-15), THE HATCHET MAN (1932), THE HUMAN MONSTER (1939), and THE SPIDER (1931).

On Friday evening, a panel of Edgar Rice Burroughs aficionados participated in a discussion about new Burroughs projects: "Tarzan, John Carter and the ERB Universe."

On Saturday evening, a panel of pulp experts discussed the legendary detective pulp magazine, "Remembering Black Mask."

Auctions included beautiful copies of Weird Tales and other pulp magazines, rare books, inscribed items, manuscripts, fan magazines, correspondence, other ephemera. A number of people commented about the high prices.

One of the most remarkable items offered at auction this year was a hardcover copy of the incredibly rare book A GENT FROM BEAR CREEK by Robert E. Howard (published by Herbert Jenkins, UK, 1937). It sold for \$2,600.

(One could still smell the pulp in the air of the Dealer's Room through our required masks.)

On Sunday, two well-attended "New Pulp" panels were held. Topics: "What inspired you to become a pulp writer/artist...and do you still feel that passion?" and, "My favourite pulp writer of all time is ... and why?"

Others in attendance: Nancy Aronovitz, Doug Bennett, Brian J. Bohnett, Randy Broecker, Nick Certo, Mike Chomko, Deb Ellis, John Gunnison, Stephen Haffner, Bill Hauser, Ed Hulse, Greg Ketter, John Knott, Tom Lesser, John McMahan, Terence McVicker, Richard Meli, Will Murray, Daniel Ritter, David Ritter, Anthony Tollin, Lisa Tran, Ray Walsh, Phyllis Weinberg, Robert Wiener, F. Paul Wilson and a few other enthusiasts. We missed our good friends from Great Britain and Canada, and hope they will be with us for next year's show.

The program book "Windy City Pulp Stories" #20 is subtitled "On the Trail of Dashiell Hammett and Black Mask." Edited by Tom Roberts (of Black Dog Books), it is richly illustrated and features an impressive set of new and old articles, short fiction and book reviews by Black Mask writers. There is a lot of informative and entertaining reading here.

Next year's convention will be held during **May 6-8, 2022** at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center. Hotel: (888) 627-9031. For more info: [www.windycitypulpandpaper.com](http://www.windycitypulpandpaper.com).

## WORLDCON UPDATE

**"Mary Robinette Kowal** is the new chair of the 79th World SF Convention. She is a former President of SFWA, and a four-time Hugo Award winner. She has a long history with conventions beginning with her career in theater, extending through SF and fantasy.

Prior to becoming president of SFWA, she ran programming for the Nebula Conference for six years in addition to stepping in to reinvent and manage the programming for 2018's Worldcon 76 in San Jose. Last year, she chaired the 2020 Nebula Conference which made the rapid and highly successful two-month pivot from in-person to virtual."



## HOTEL/ CONVENTION VENUE

DisCon III will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in the Woodley Park neighborhood of Washington, DC from December 15-19, 2021.

## DISCON III COVID POLICY

"The 2021 Worldcon committee has notified members that under DisCon III's COVID Policy they will require proof of completed vaccination, and that masks must be worn at the con. They also have posted a FAQ."

## MEMBERSHIPS

Attending Adult (25 years and up) is \$225.

Attending Young Adult (12-24 years) is \$115.

Attending Child (6-11 years) is \$90.

Virtual Membership is \$75.

Supporting Membership is \$50.

To register, visit [registration@discon3.org](mailto:registration@discon3.org)

For more information, visit [info@discon3.org](mailto:info@discon3.org)

## NEW 3-OUNCE 95 CENT STAMP HIGHLIGHTS AUTHOR URSULA K. LE GUIN



"The 33rd stamp in the Literary Arts series honors Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018), who expanded the scope of literature through novels and short stories that increased critical and popular appreciation of SF and Fantasy." This postage stamp was issued on July 27. Artist for the stamp was Donato Giancola."

(This notice was provided by the U.S. Postal Service.)

## THE ARTHUR C. CLARKE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2021 CLARKE WINNERS

(Note: This is a different honor than the literary Arthur C. Clarke Award.)

**The Arthur C. Clarke Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Dr. Michio Kaku** "...for Exceptional Contributions as a Theoretical Physicist, Futurist and Science Popularizer."

**The Arthur C. Clarke Imagination Award** was presented to **Samuel "Chip" R. Delany** "...for Outstanding Contributions to Fiction, Criticism and Essays on Science Fiction, Literature and Society."

**The Arthur C. Clarke Innovators Award** was presented to **NOVA** "...for Inspiring TV Programs that Demonstrate the Role of Science in Uncovering Nature's Wonders."

Accepting on behalf of the WGBH / NOVA Production Team are **Julia Cort** and **Chris Schmidt**, Co-Executive Producers, NOVA.

(Reported by Mike Glyer, Aug. 5, [www.file770.com](http://www.file770.com))

## **LATEST SPECIAL "ALL CANADIAN" ISSUE OF AMAZING STORIES NOW AVAILABLE**

**(By Steve Davidson)**

"Experimenter Publishing has released the latest issue of the World's First Science Fiction magazine - Amazing Stories - with a Special All Canadian Fiction and Artwork issue.

Behind the scenes, Canadian authors, artists and fans (as well as a few expats living in Canada) have been an integral part of this publication effort. Not to mention that Canada has long rivaled the United States<sup>1</sup> in its contributions to both the genre and its Fandom<sup>2</sup>, and we felt that it was high time that those contributions received some recognition from one of its beneficiaries.

Here then is our Special All Canadian Issue, with a fanatastic and inspiring cover by Eric Lofgren, (Canadian) with stories by Douglas Smith, Matt Hughes, Julie E. Czerneda, Tanya Huff, Robert Sawyer, Karl Schroeder, Spider Robinson, Robert Charles Wilson, Judy McCrosky, Su Sokol, Robert Dawson, Sally Fogel, Susan Forest and Melissa Yuan-Innes, (all Canadians), with interior Art Direction (and art) by Canadian Michael Dean Jackson and interior art by Jeff Doten, James Beveridge, Laurine Spehner, Sagana Bouffard, Eric Chu, Richard Bartrop, G. W. Thomas and Eric Lofgren, all Canadians.

I don't think it inappropriate to ask if you happened to notice that this issue of Amazing Stories is comprised of All Canadian Content.

This issue is available through Amazon, Barnes & Nobel and the Amazing Stories store in electronic formats (EPUB & PDF) and in several Print on Demand formats including Paperback and Hardback formats."

To learn more, please visit: "Amazing Stories Special All Canadian Issue Now Available."

## **STEVE DAVIDSON ANNOUNCES A NEW FORMAT FOR AMAZING STORIES**

Publisher Steve Davidson announced that "Amazing Stories has had a rough past year, mostly owing to the fact that our former Licensee - NBC/Universal Television - has failed to meet their contractual obligations."

"Beyond denying you a regular issue of the magazine up till now, in order to continue publishing the magazine we have had to take the following steps as well:

Amazing Stories must change the way it produces issues, while at the same time attempting to do what is right by our subscribers. These are necessary, budget-related changes that represent our only option for keeping the magazine in publication. Those changes are as follows:

Amazing Stories will be changing to an annual format, producing one (over-sized) issue per year rather than quarterly (four) issues per year.

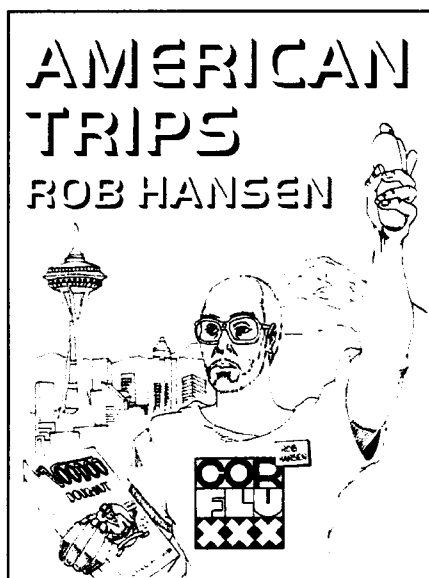
We are eliminating the print edition as a regularly available option. Print copies of each issue will remain available as a separately purchased Print On Demand (POD) product.

All current print subscriptions will be converted to Electronic Editions moving forward. In addition, former print subscribers may select one of the Amazing Select titles, electronic edition, for each year of subscription that is being converted.

Please know that we are not happy with having to make these changes, but following long discussion, we believe that these changes offer us our best chance of moving forward. Those with questions, please feel free to get in touch with the publisher, Steve Davidson via [steve@amazingstories.com](mailto:steve@amazingstories.com)."

**LATEST EBOOK FROM ROB HANSEN**

"Rob Hansen collects the rare and esoteric convention reportage of ... Rob Hansen! - in *American Trips*, the latest addition to the selection of free ebook downloads at David Langford's unofficial Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund site, where they hope you'll make a little donation to the fund if you please.



Following the 1984 TAFF trip described at length in *On the TAFF Trail*, Rob Hansen attended a number of other US conventions and wrote further reports collected in this ebook - covering multiple Corflus (1986, 1989, 1990, 2013), two Disclaves (1992, 1995) and the 1997 Boskone/Fanhistoricon at which Rob, as Britain's leading fan historian, was a special guest.

Cover art is by Rob Hansen. 41,000 words."

(Thanks to Mike Glyer at [www.file770.com](http://www.file770.com) who first published this announcement on July 8, 2021.)

**NEW EBOOK FROM DAVID LANGFORD**

"*Willis Discovers America and other fan fiction* by Walt Willis is the latest addition to the selection of free ebook downloads at

David Langford's unofficial Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund site, where they hope you'll make a little donation to the fund if you please."

Here's the download page.



"An attempt to collect all of Walt Willis's short fan fiction, in the old sense of invented stories about real-life fans and fandom.

The title piece is a wildly silly imagining of Walt's first trip to the USA in 1952, written and serialized in multiple fanzines before he actually began the journey; the text used here is from the collected edition of 1955, which included a new preface and annotations explaining some of the more arcane in-jokes. Further items range from scripts for two recorded "taperas" or tape operas that had fans rolling in the aisles at 1950s conventions, to a 1987 recasting of *The Enchanted Duplicator* as a computer text-Adventure game. Most of this material has never before been collected.

Edited by David Langford, who has added a few more explanatory notes; research work by Rob Hansen and others; proofreading by Pat Charnock. Cover artwork is by Bob Shaw. 45,000 words."

(Thanks to Mike Glyer at [www.file770.com](http://www.file770.com) who first published this announcement on July 16, 2021.)

## JEFFERSON STARSHIP SOARS AGAIN

Rescheduled from 2019 – a live performance of 1971 Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo finalist *Blows Against the Empire* will take place Oct. 23 at The Newton Theater in New Jersey. (Tickets are still available - All Ages.)



*The Airplane Family & Friends reunites Jefferson Airplane, Jefferson Starship, Hot Tuna, Grateful Dead, Bob Weir's Rat Dog and David Crosby alumni to perform the 50th Anniversary of the Paul Kantner / Jefferson Starship masterpiece "Blows Against the Empire", in celebration of the late Hall of Fame musician's birthday-next March.*

*The album was recorded in San Francisco in 1970, the results derive from a period of cross-collaboration by Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young recording at the same time in the city.*

*The credit to Jefferson Starship reflected many things: the ad-hoc all-star line-up; the album being an evolutionary progression from Jefferson Airplane; and finally, the narrative concept that tells the story of a counter-culture revolution against the oppressions and a plan to steal a starship from orbit and journey into space in search of a new home.*

*It was the first album to ever be nominated for literary science fiction's Hugo Award in the category of Best Dramatic Presentation.*

(Thanks to Mike Glycer for helping publicize this once-in-a-lifetime musical / cultural phenomenon.)

## FIRST FANDOM EXPERIENCE UPDATE

David and Daniel Ritter drove from Boston to PulpFest and Windy City this year. They had a table at each show and enjoyed getting out.

David reported that they sold more books on one day at PulpFest than on any previous single day. The Earliest Bradbury was most popular. Several copies were bought as gifts.



Daniel Ritter at the First Fandom Experience table  
Pulpfest 2021 - August 19-22, 2021  
(Photo by David Ritter)

The FFE team had another strong presence at this year's Windy City Pulp & Paper show. Fans enjoyed the newest offering, a beautiful B&W poster (from the original wood blocks) featuring Virgil Finlay artwork for the 1949 Borden edition of A. Merritt's Ship of Ishtar.



L-R: Daniel Ritter, David Ritter, John L. Coker III  
Windy City Pulp and Paper Con - Sept 9-12, 2021  
(Photograph by Lisa Tran)

## SEEKING TO CONTACT TWO MEMBERS

For the past three years we have sent paper copies of our newsletter as well as nomination forms and award ballots (all by certified mail) to the post office box for **Lester Mayer** (of Wheaton, MD). He has not responded at all.

For the past several years, **Jack Cordes** (of Roseville, CA) has paid his annual dues and voted by mail for the First Fandom awards. When I tried to contact him, he is no longer living at the last known address, and his phone and e-mail address are no longer valid.

## SF MILESTONES IN THE 3RD QUARTER OF EACH YEAR DURING THE 1930s

**1930** - The Scienceers published the first issue of The Planet (July 1).

**1931** - First issue of Strange Tales appeared from Clayton Publications (September).

**1932** - First issue of Science Fiction Digest (dated September) was published.

**1933** - Charles D. Hornig published the first issue of The Fantasy Fan (dated September).

**1934** - Brooklyn Chapter of the Science Fiction League published The Brooklyn Reporter.

**1935** - Julius Schwartz and Mort Weisinger formed the Solar Sales Agency.

**1936** - Milwaukee Fictioneers founded.

**1937** - First mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Alliance (dated August) was sent out.

**1938** - Announcement of the organization of New Fandom in Fantasy News (August 7).

**1939** - The World Science Fiction Convention (Nycon) was held in New York City (July 2-4).

## DINOSAUR TRACKS

### From Fred Lerner (26 July)

I just received a call from Sandy Meskys telling me that **Ed Meskys** died yesterday morning at the age of 85 from a heart attack.

He had been in declining health for some time, but was in good spirits when I visited him and Sandy two months ago. I first met Ed 58 years ago and have treasured my friendship with him ever since.

### From Andrew I. Porter (26 July)

\*Sigh\*

I met Ed at the Open ESFA meetings, I think, more than 60 years ago. Perhaps the first fan I ever met. A good friend for all this time.

So many memories of Ed, ranging from his fanzines (including Hugo Award-winning NIEKAS) to his enthusiasm for all things Gilbert & Sullivan, his days at Livermore Radiation Labs, where he worked on designing A-bombs, his enthusiasm for the NYC subway system, his booming voice, his passion for Lithuanian food, his ability, after he became blind, to see us as we were when he was sighted, not as we've aged to become, his many service dogs which doubled as vacuum cleaners for any food on the floor at parties...I could go on. For more, please visit [https://fancyclopedia.org/Ed\\_Meskys](https://fancyclopedia.org/Ed_Meskys)

### From John-Henri Holmberg

In late 2018, I was given a fairly prestigious award, given annually since 1970 to some literary translator the academy handing it out considers to be good at his/her work. So since early 2020, I've been offered more work

than I've been able to take on, and have so far delivered translations of twenty-one novels or story collections, four children's books, and three graphic novels in the last eighteen months. A few, unusually, have even been SF - included are both of Ted Chiang's story collections, Andy Weir's new novel *Operation Hail Mary*, and the graphic novel of Octavia Butler's *Kindred*. The good thing is that it's kept me quite busy, enough so not to fret about not doing anything else than working and walking the dog; the downside is that my own professional writing has dwindled to only two essays during the same time.

I have kept up some minuscule fan writing, though - a handful of book reviews for the last print fanzine published in Sweden (*SF Forum*, now in its 62nd year of publication, published by the Stockholm fan club SFSF; I was its editor for a few years back in the sixties and seventies), and around thirty fairly brief - one to two thousand words - portraits of forgotten or (at least to Swedish readers) probably little-known sf authors for an online Swedish fan site. But with a little bit of luck, I'll edit one and co-edit a second themed anthology of translated sf during next year; at least both have publishers interested, though so far, no contracts have been signed. One of them collects what I call "atheist SF stories", the other SF horror stories.

If the pandemic keeps abating, the Swedish national SF con initially planned for April 2020 will finally be held in November. I'll be sure to wear the cloth membership patch you were kind enough to send; it should go well with the talk on the importance of Campbell and *Astounding* I've been asked to give. (Which will be about as controversial here as it would be at a major US con nowadays, I can assure you; Sweden is no less into re-evaluating history and applying current views to past achievements than is America.)

## From Lloyd Penney (12 August)

Thank you for the latest Scientifiction, no. 68. Sorry it has taken some time to get to it, but there's never enough time to get it all done. (If you DID get it all done, what would you do afterwards?) Anyway, comments arise, and here they are...

A shame to read about the passing of Michelle Zellich. I think I talked to her once at a Worldcon, and that was probably it. That's my loss. We have had our own huge presence passing, just last night. Lorna Toolis, former head librarian of the Merrill Collection of SF&F in Toronto, passed away last night. Cause of death is listed as cancer. She was a huge influence in Canadian SF. She leaves her husband, SF writer Michael Skeet.

Some updates on Steve Davidson...the house in New Hampshire is sold, and Steve is now in Florida, and looking for a house somewhere in the Orlando area. There are still hopes for the latest issue of *Amazing Stories* to come out soon; I have to do a final edit, and will get it back to art director Kermit Woodall ASAP. For those enjoying the Captain Future books, the fourth one will be out soon.

The Ritters are producing what sounds like the best record of those who have fanned before us. I would love to see at least a few pages of this, and see the quality of the work.

My letter... Yvonne and I were able to get our second COVID-19 shots on Canada Day, July 1. We continue on with social distancing and mask-wearing, and there are hopes we can get into the US in October. There's a convention in Rochester, NY we'd like to get to, but no guarantees.

I can add little else...I am pretty well out of the loop on most things. Take care, and see you next issue and quarter.



**From Steve Davidson (13 August)**

I was traveling from New Hampshire to Florida to visit my mother for the first time since Covid (I was finally able to get my vaccinations and booked a flight for the day after my 2-week second shot anniversary). I had other things to do elsewhere as well, so I booked the earliest flight I could, which, instead of taking me through Philly or Atlanta or LaGuardia, took me through O'Hare.

While walking between gates for my connection at O'Hare, I had my third heart attack (I recently learned that my birth family, including mother and father, never lived past their mid-40s, all owing to one form of heart/lung disease or another, unbeknownst to me until January of this year).

After two, you recognize the symptoms.

I went to the desk at the gate and said "Excuse me. I'm having a heart attack. Can you call the EMTs or an ambulance for me?"

Her brilliant response was "Huh?"

I repeated myself, at which point she said, "There's a medical aid station at the end of this terminal."

I responded with, "I am going to die from a heart attack right here, right in front of you, if you do not call the EMTs or ambulance. I'm going to go sit down as I should not be standing."

She gulped and called her supervisor, who called the EMTs (who now are charging me nearly three thousand dollars for a very short car ride), who took me to a hospital right by O'Hare, where they confirmed my heart attack, announced that I would be having triple bypass surgery (typical, not even quadruple!) and that it was very common for them to get travelers in from O'Hare.

Now here's the kicker.

I was in the middle of selling my house. I'd spent months clearing stuff out, putting in a new hardwood floor, getting all manner of minor repairs and cleaning done, etc.; my closing was scheduled for about a month and this is what the doctors said to me, "We want you to go to rehab for a month following the surgery."

This is what my realtor said: "No, the buyers are not willing to push the signing date back."

Here's something else the doctor's said: "No, we'll not clear you to fly."

Anyone who really knows me would know it was reasonable for me to believe, even despite the current housing market, that if this sale didn't go through, I'd have a tough time finding another buyer, or the market would tank, or a meteor would take out my roof.

Fortunately, a good friend agreed to drive me from Chicago to New Hampshire on the day I was discharged, which we did in about 18 hours straight through.

Of course, things got better but weren't completely solved: you try packing up a house when restricted from lifting anything heavier than 5 pounds.

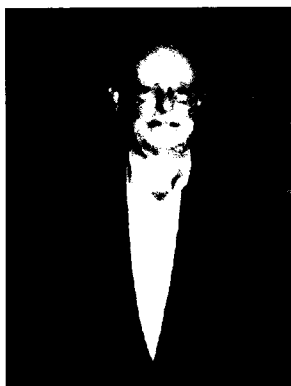
But endure I did; got the house packed up and shipped to Florida (Upak and a storage unit), drove down to Florida the same day as my last cardiology exam in New Hampshire and am now looking at homes to buy down here.

I've since quit smoking, have eaten more fruit and veggies in the past three months than in my entire previous life and have added two-mile walks to my daily routine, bookending sitting in front of the PC all day.

The real kicker is, two months before all of this happened, I obtained health insurance coverage for the first time in nearly 5 years.

Whew!

## FIRST FANDOM GALLERY OF PHOTOS



Alistair Durie  
From The History of the Durie Family  
(Courtesy of Andrew Porter)



William F. Nolan  
(Photograph courtesy of Jason V. Brock)



Erle M. Korshak, Julius Schwartz  
1994 World Fantasy Convention, New Orleans.  
Photograph by and copyright © Andrew Porter

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(We appreciate the award-winning SF journalism being  
done by Big-Hearted Mike Glycer at [www.file770.com](http://www.file770.com).)



(Adapted from artwork by Frank R. Paul)

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