



The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 75 Number 5

May 2016

Wanted: Members!

Your N3F needs more members. It is only through members that we have fannish activities. Remember, electronic memberships are only \$6. Associate Memberships, while non-voting, are **free!** Please recruit your fannish friends as members.

Fandbook

In honor of our Federation's 75th anniversary, we are issuing a new Fandbook "Nebula Awards for Best Novel". In the history of our illustrious Federation, this is Fandbook 7. We were waiting for the 2015 nebula awards to be announced, but that announcement just appeared. I would estimate that we will be publishing sometime near the 4th of July weekend.

Fanthology

Last call! Next month your Editor will start assembling the first Fanthology "This Sea of Stars Like Diamonds". I am looking at publication sometime in the Fall.

Yes, in honor of our Federation's 75th anniversary, we will publish a collection of fiction. Recent winners of the N3F Short Story context have been invited to contribute their tales, and many have contributed. All N3F members, amateur or professional, are also invited to contribute. There will be an editing pass with right of declination, but we realize that most of us are not pro writers.

On advice of some of our pro writers, "This Sea of Stars Like Diamonds" will be treated as a fan publication, so you will retain all rights other than letting us publish your tale in our volume. We plan to publish via Kindle and Smashwords. Amazon Kindle has a minimum price below which we cannot go. Any income from the book will be used to publicize the N3F Short Story Contest and its successors.

2016 Neffy Awards Nominations

Go to Page 11. There is a form. You may also submit electronically to George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net. Ask your friends for suggestions.

Back Issues

We have a repository. A letter from Edie on the last issue goes: Hi George, It's up at <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/TNFF/TNFF-7540.pdf>. The index for all of them is at <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/TNFF/>

Cheers...Edie

Editor's Note

I have all this good material. No matter what order I insert it into the issue, some readers will feel slighted. I do not have a solution.

Birthday Card Bureau

5 cards were sent out in April.

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

N'APA

Issue 222 of our bimonthly APA, founded 1959, will be out at the same time as TNFF. New contributors are welcome. N'APA is electronic; there is no charge to join.

Round Robins - Judy's List

Snail Mail

I will have a revised list of Round Robins in the June TNFF. Some will be combined and others will be dropped in an effort to make the RR subjects more appealing to potential members.

Art in this issue: Cedar Sanderson—Punk Dragon—Page 3
James Schardt—The Hard Way to Break Chains—Page 7

Contributions Needed! We need more reports! We need more art! We need more letters and comments, and fannish news of every sort. Please send to the Editor of this, our Official Organ: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859



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Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films.

Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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The following Round Robins have members, but we need at least 3 members to start a Round Robin:

Jim Butcher -1 member
General Science Fiction & Fantasy - 2 members
Fairy Tales & Folklore - 2 members
Star Trek: Old vs. New - 2 members

If you see an RR you would like to join please contact
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR:

The Marvel Universe
DC Superheroes and Villains
All Things Star Wars
Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV and in the Movies

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and on TV

Bookworms - 3 members In this ERR the members read books from a list selected by the Bureau Heads of the Bookworms reading club.

If you see an ERR you would like to join contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange Bureau

Last month I gave you this list of writers and asked you what they had in common.

Did you guess correctly?

They each had their first, or a major work, published when they were 40 years old or older.

Daniel Defoe - 59 - Robinson Crusoe
George Eliot - 40 - Adam Bede
Sherwood Anderson - 43 - Winesburg, Ohio
Mark Twain - 41 - Tom Sawyer

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

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Deborah Eisenberg - 42 - Transactions in a Foreign Currency

O. Henry - 44 - The Gift of the Magi

Dostoevsky - 45 - Crime and Punishment

Bram Stoker - 50 - Dracula

Richard Adams - 52 - Watership Down

Mary Wesley - 57 - The Sixth Seal

Frank McCourt - 66 - Angela's Ashes

William S. Burroughs - 45 - Naked Lunch

Raymond Chandler - 52 - The Big Sleep

Henry Miller - 43 - Tropic of Cancer

Laura Ingalls Wilder - 65 - Little House in the Big Woods

Alex Haley - 54 - Roots

They represent a wide range of writing; Children's, Drama, Biographies, Semi-Autobiographies, Horror, Adventure, Controversial - in the form of novels and short stories. They represent writers in the United States, Ireland, Russia and England. Some of these people continued writing into their 70s and 80s.

Following are two quotes I hope you will think about and then act upon:

"Whenever a new writer arrives, a new window of life is opened..." John Updike

"It is never too late to be what you might have been." George Eliot

To join the Writers Exchange Bureau as a reader, a writer or both Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Welcommittee

Here at the Welcommittee we are plugging along doing our best to Greet and Welcome our new members. Sometimes it takes longer than expected to get to everyone, but we are doing our best. We haven't forgotten our 'old' members. We are striving to contact each of you to let you know you are an important part of N3F.

If you would like to join the Welcommittee please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

The Futurians— A Personal Experience

What about Me, Jack Robins, the Author?

There were two sides to my character. In one I was the chemist, the scientist, the family man. In the other I was the poor kid from the slums, a most avid science fiction reader and fan, wanting to really be one of the Futurians like Wollheim and the others. Let me first discuss the aspect of me as a scientist.

As a chemist I was quite successful. I received a BS



Punk Dragon by Cedar Sanderson

degree from CCNY. Years later, when I lived and worked in Niagara Falls, NY, I managed to get a Master's degree from the University of Buffalo. When I finally returned to New York, about 1948, I started working for my Doctorate part time. Then I met the woman who became my wife. We were both in our mid thirties then and got married the same year we met, 1949. She gave birth to two children while I was taking courses in the evening. It was she who found out about a Research Fellowship that was open. I applied and was accepted. The job then paid about \$2,000 a year, but the work was part of my thesis for the Doctorate. Out of that \$2,000 I had to pay tuition. Fortunately, we were partially helped by my wife's brother.

We loved that period when I was working for my degree, but I definitely did not have it easy. Having a wife and family to support put tremendous pressure on me. I absolutely had to get that degree to get a good job. There was no plan B.

We lived in a three room apartment in Flatbush. We gave our two kids the bedroom while we slept in the living room on a sofa bed we opened up every night. I had a desk near the window but the living room also had the TV, a

child's phonograph, a stereo, any one of which was in constant use at full volume. And I had to study for exams! I managed to develop an invisible shell around me as I studied and that made the noise recede to the level of outside traffic noise and I could concentrate on the things I had to learn and remember. Despite these difficulties, I managed to complete the course work, take my qualifying exams, my preliminary exams and complete my thesis problem.

The worst part of getting your Doctorate is the final orals. A group of a half dozen or more professors have you in a classroom and ask you question after question, supposedly having you defend your thesis, but actually testing the limits of your knowledge. I remember one of my fellow PhD candidates coming out of his orals, his face was completely white and he couldn't speak. Days afterwards he described the scene as the worst experience he had ever had. Those professors, he said, wanted you to know you had a lot to learn before you could come to their level, namely to earn a PhD.

Then my turn for the orals came. I dressed up in my one good suit to make a good impression. But when I entered the classroom I was numb, scared out of my wits. They knew it and to a degree they were lenient to the extent of letting me rest outside from time to time. After an hour or more of questioning I found I was unable to provide a chemical formula. My mind was a complete blank. I was just unable to think of it. There I stood, my entire Doctorate in limbo because I couldn't remember the formula. They told me to go outside, take a drink or go the bathroom, and, after resting, come back in.

I did as they said and walked around in the hall. Then I remembered I had a sheet of paper in my jacket pocket which (I was sure) had the formula. But when I tried to take out the paper, I couldn't. I found I simply could not take out that piece of paper. But I knew I could derive the formula from basic chemical principles. I returned to the classroom and proceeded to derive the formula. Then I heard one professor say, "I've heard enough. Let's take a vote." They had me wait outside and 10 or 15 minutes later called me in. I had passed. I realized years afterward that if they had encountered someone with a terrific memory, they would proceed further and further until the student reached his limit. But when they saw me derive a formula from basic principles, that impressed them more than anything else I could have done.

I got my PhD and managed to get a good job in Pennsylvania where we lived for 25 years until I retired and moved to New Jersey to be closer to relatives and to happenings in New York..

Now for my "poor kid from the slums" mindset.

After I got my first library card, I borrowed and read book after book. I found fantasy and science fiction books to be the most interesting. Whenever I was able to get a Tom Swift book, I practically devoured it. Tom Swift was my

hero. I especially loved Tarzan and all other Burroughs books. I was a science fiction/fantasy reader from the time I was able to read.

Then I was introduced to the ISA and I graduated from reader to fan. I realized that the fellows in the ISA were highly intelligent and very talented. As a poor kid from the slums I wondered how I could ever be on their level.

In retrospect, I figured it out. When one of the fellows started bragging that he had done "this" or "that", one of the others might be sarcastic and say "Yeah! Yeah!" Another might "one up him" and say "Oh, I did one better," and describe his great thing. Not I. With my poor kid mentality, I really was interested in what the narrator had to say and would ask questions for details and look up to the fellow as if what he had done was the most marvelous thing I had ever heard. I unintentionally raised the fellow's self esteem a couple of notches. I also had a good sense of humor and might point out something funny in what they said and we would both laugh. I never had anything negative to say about anything. Also, I rarely spoke about anything I had accomplished feeling that what I had done was ordinary and unimportant. Thus they accepted me as I was and I was well-liked.

Nevertheless, I was haunted by a desire to be as good as they were. Pohl and Kornbluth had written all kinds of poetry. Finally, one day I sat down and struggled through the torture of writing first one sonnet, then another.

My wife and I took writing courses and one day a Professor said that if you spent a half hour a day you could write a novel. I had a typewriter where I worked and every lunch hour I would type several pages of a novel. Unfortunately, although I had completed a rough draft of the novel, when I retired in 1982, I had no more lunch hours. So I let my novel lay in a drawer until recently (2015). I find I had some real good writing but a lot of the material was out of date. I decided to work on bringing the story up to par and in a final form. But I am 96 and a half years old so it will be a race. If I die before I am finished, my kids will undoubtedly throw it in the trash. If I do finish in time I will send it to SF historians as proof that I really was on a level with the other Futurians, that I really belonged. A few years ago I had a creative urge and wrote some plays and short stories.

To keep my status as an SF fan I am a member of both N3F and First Fandom,

In conclusion, I believe I am the last living person of the Wollheim group of Futurians. But as a science fictionist, I am also a modern type of Futurian who is confident that mankind has a future, that global warming will be resolved before the tipping point (where temperatures keep rising out of control), that new sources of energy, such as Fusion, will become prevalent; and that new forms of space propulsion will be developed so that a trip to Mars would take only a week or two, not months.

...Jack Robins

N3F Founders: Johnny Michel

by
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

John B. Michel (1917 - 1969) was one of the leaders of the famous Futurian Society of New York City ("The Futurians"), founded in 1938 by a baker's dozen of avid science fiction (SF) fans. The group never had more than 20 members at any one time, including wives and girlfriends; but the Futurians produced some of the most successful people in the genre. From this little group came scientists, SF writers, anthologists, editors, literary agents, and even a publisher. Michel was one of the early leaders, and the club's acknowledged political firebrand. He was also the one who many thought had the most promise -- yet he came to a tragic end, drowning at the age of 52 in a foot or so of water.

Michel was an only child and suffered from poor health most of his life. He contracted diphtheria when he was nine, and the illness left him paralyzed in his right arm and left leg. Before he completely recovered from this illness, he contracted osteomyelitis. As a young man he wore glasses and was described as bandy-legged and with several missing teeth. Michel was in and out of hospitals until he was in his forties -- when penicillin cured most of his illnesses. Then, unfortunately, he began to experience mental problems. Friends said one of his major problems was that he "was obsessed with fatherhood." Michel and Donald A. Wollheim were close friends until Michel's erratic behavior became too much for Wollheim and his wife to tolerate.

Michel used several pseudonyms, including Hugh Raymond, Louis Richard, Edward Bellin, E. Bellin, Bowen Conway, Arthur Cooke, John Tara, and Lawrence Woods. Hugh Raymond was the one that became most known to SF fans. Some of these by-lines were joint pseudonyms with other Futurians. Michel is said to have used pseudonyms because he wanted to reserve his real name for his serious writing.

Michel won seventh prize (\$2.50) in a Wonder Stories plot contest when he was 14. A story by Raymond Z. Gallum, "The Menace from Mercury," was written from this plot and published under a joint Gallum/Michel byline in the Summer, 1932, issue of Wonder Stories Quarterly. This was Michel's first publication.

"Mutation Or Death," a speech written by Michel, was delivered by Wollheim at the Third Eastern Science Fiction Convention in Philadelphia during October, 1937. Apparently, Michel had a speech impediment at the time and felt uncomfortable giving the speech.

What, if anything, can be concluded about the life and work of John Michel at this date? Nothing of his fiction is still in print, and only secondhand copies of a book he wrote on model motors can still be found in used book stores. Damon Knight wrote in The Futurians that Michel could be an excellent writer, even in the so-called "sex" novels he wrote

late in life with his wife Joan. After praising his writing, however, Knight concluded that -- while Michel deeply felt some things -- his tragedy was that "all his depth was in shallow places."

Michel was one of several Futurians who were founders of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation, celebrating our 75th anniversary this year.

Sources: The Futurians; Science Fiction and Fantasy Pseudonyms; Mutation or Death; The Immortal Storm; Science Fiction Fandom; Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines; Operation Phantasy; internet sites, including Wikipedia, Fancyclopedia 3, and ISFDB.

SF Magazines: Startling Stories

by
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

Startling Stories was a pulp science fiction (SF) magazine, published from 1939 to 1955 by Ned Pines' Standard Magazines. Startling was founded by Leo Margulies and initially edited by Mort Weisinger, who was also the editor of Thrilling Wonder Stories, another Standard SF title. Startling originally was 128 pages in length, and sold for 15¢. The initial issue was dated January, 1939.

Startling Stories ran a lead novel in every issue; the first was "The Black Flame" by Stanley G. Weinbaum. When Standard Magazines acquired Thrilling Wonder Stories (formerly Wonder Stories) in 1936, it also gained the rights to stories published in that magazine's predecessor, Wonder Stories, and selections from this early material were reprinted in Startling as "Hall of Fame" stories.

Under Weisinger the magazine focused on younger readers and, when Weisinger was replaced by Oscar J. Friend in 1941, the magazine became even more juvenile in focus, with clichéd cover art and letters to the editor answered by a "Sergeant Saturn." Friend was replaced by Sam Merwin, Jr. in 1945, and Merwin was able to improve the quality of the fiction substantially, publishing Arthur Clarke's "Against the Fall of Night" and several other excellent SF stories. Merwin was also editor of Standard's reprint pulp magazine, Fantastic Story Magazine.

Much of Startling's cover art was painted by Earle Bergey, who became strongly associated with the magazine, painting almost every cover between 1940 and 1952. He was known for equipping his heroines with brass bras and implausible costumes, and the public image of SF in his day was partly created by his work for Startling and other SF magazines. Interior illustrations were by some of the most popular SF artists of the time, including Hans Wesso, Virgil Finlay, Alex Schomburg, Ed Emshwiller, and Kelly Freas. After Bergey's death in 1952, some of these artists began to contribute cover art as well.

Merwin left the editorship in 1951, and Samuel Mines took over; the standard of stories remained fairly high under Mines, but competition from new and better-paying markets such as *Galaxy* and *F&SF* had an impact on Mines' ability to acquire quality stories.

In mid-1952, *Standard* attempted to change *Startling's* image by adopting a more sober title typeface and reducing the sensationalism of the covers, but by the mid-1950s the pulp magazine market was collapsing. *Startling* absorbed its two companion magazines, *Thrilling Wonder Stories* and *Fantastic Story Magazine* in early 1955; but by the end of that year it too ceased publication.

Leo Margulies

Leo Margulies (1900 – 1975) was born in Brooklyn but raised in Norwalk, Connecticut. After briefly attending Columbia University, he began working for *Munsey's Magazine*, selling subsidiary rights to its stories. He later spent five years as head of East Coast research for Fox Films, a predecessor company of 20th Century Fox, and afterward became editorial chief of *Standard Magazines*. At one time in the 1930s, he reputedly helped edit 46 magazines, including the SF magazines *Startling Stories*, *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, and *Captain Future*.

Mort Weisinger

Mortimer Weisinger (1915 – 1978) was an American magazine and comic book editor best known for editing DC comic books during the mid-1950s to the 1960s. He also co-created such comic characters as Aquaman, The Green Arrow, and Johnny Quick, served as story editor for *The Adventures of Superman* television series, and compiled the often-revised paperback 1001 Valuable Things You Can Get Free.

Oscar J. Friend

Oscar Jerome Friend (1897 -- 1963) began his career primarily as a pulp fiction author in various genres including horror, westerns, mysteries, and science fiction. As a pulp writer he submitted stories to *Wonder Stories*, *Strange Stories*, *Captain Future*, *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, as well as *Startling Stories*. He also edited several SF anthologies.

Sam Merwin, Jr.

Samuel Kimball Merwin, Jr. (1910 -- 1996) was a writer of mysteries and science fiction, as well as a magazine editor. He published his fiction mostly as Sam Merwin, Jr., but also used the pseudonyms Elizabeth Deare Bennett, Matt Lee, Jacques Jean Ferrat, and Carter Sprague.

Samuel Mines

Samuel Mines (1909 – 1998) edited *Startling* during the early 1950s. He was also editor of other *Standard* SF magazines during this period, including *Thrilling Wonder Stories* (December, 1951 – Summer, 1954), *Fantastic Story Quarterly*

(Winter, 1952 – Fall, 1954), and *Wonder Story Annual* (1952 -- 1953); he also edited all issues of the short-lived *Space Stories* during 1952 – 1953.

Earle K. Bergey

Earle K. Bergey (1901 – 1952) was an artist and illustrator who painted cover art for thousands of pulp fiction magazines and paperback books. One of the most prolific pulp fiction artists of the 20th Century, Bergey is remembered for creating the iconic covers of paperback books in the 1940s, especially Anita Loos' *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and John Erskine's *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*, both for Popular Library.

Format Changes

Page count ranged from a low of 96 pages in 1945 to a high of 176 in the late 1940s. By the time it ceased publication in 1955, it was at 112 pages. Prices ranged from 15¢ at the beginning of the run to 25¢ at the end. The total run of the magazine was 99 issues. *Startling* began as a bi-monthly, and ended as a quarterly.

Reprints

There were British editions of *Startling* during the late 1940s and early 1950s, but they appeared on an irregular basis.

An anthology of *Startling* stories, *From Off This World*, edited by Margulies and Friend, appeared in 1949. This volume purported to be a collection of "Hall of Fame" stories that had been reprinted in *Startling*. Virgil Finlay did the art for the dust jacket.

In 1953 *The Best from Startling Stories*, edited by Mines, was published. The title was something of a misnomer, however, as only six of the eleven stories included had originally appeared in *Startling*. The remainder had been published in its companion magazine, *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. Robert Heinlein provided an introduction to this collection.

Some Conclusions

Startling was considered a step above many of the SF magazines still being published in a standard pulp format during the 1950s. The "Hall of Fame" reprints were especially popular with readers.

Under Mines the magazine experimented with its fiction, publishing some stories that could not find a place in the leading SF digests. One such story was "The Lovers" by Philip José Farmer that was turned down by both *Astounding* and *Galaxy*. Mild by today's standards, it was nevertheless considered to be a breakthrough in sexually-oriented SF stories when it first appeared.

Startling generally was thought to have better stories than its two sister titles, *Thrilling Wonder Stories* and *Fantastic Story Magazine*.

Ron Hanna of Wild Cat Books revived a version of Startling Stories in 2007.

Sources

Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction. London: Orbit, 1993.

Gammell, Leon L. The Annotated Guide to Startling Stories. Mercer Island, WA: Starmont House, 1986.

Tymn, Marshall B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.

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

Poem—In Sprawling Shade

(Inspired by Auri in the book
The Slow Regard of Silent Things
by Patrick Rothfuss)

Apples full of wishes
Fall like shooting stars
Onto singing sweet grass
I stretch out too
Lovely, every bite
Bursting sweet
A rare sunshine treat
To still inner swirling
Then scamper down
Back underground
Before the moon sees me

...Sasha Kasoff

Sasha Kasoff's poetry can be found in two self-published books and many anthologies, magazines, and other literary presses. She is currently earning her MA in Creative Writing at Oxford Brookes University in England. Look for her author pages on Goodreads and Facebook.

Letters of Comment

Gary Casey writes:

Hey Boss,
The April ish of TNFF was another good one!

A question about Roscon 2016...the con report said:

"The main stage was also a place where the prize "Science Fiction Year 2016" was awarded to the most highly rated and successful author of fiction of the last year. The winner was "Metro 2033" author Dmitry Glukhovskiy."

Wait a minute! I vaguely remember seeing a "Metro 2033" video game years ago...is this the same "Metro 2033"?

I enjoyed Jon D. Swartz's overview of Planet Stories. I've often heard the Planet Stories comic was something of a



The Hard Way to Break Chains by James Schardt

gateway drug for some kids. They would read the Planet Stories comic for awhile then pick up the Planet Stories pulp and from there discover the wider world of SF. I wonder if there is any truth to this...

Ray Bradbury had a good chunk, if not all, of his Martian Chronicles stories published in Planet Stories didn't he? I've read in several places Ray wouldn't send his stories to Astounding, even though Astounding paid the best rates. The reason given is usually hard feelings between Bradbury and Campbell but the cause of the rift is never given. Any of our members have the inside dope?

I enjoyed the piece about the Futurians. It's sad that Mr. Robins is no longer with us, but I'm glad he had the chance to put his memories down on paper before his passing. I often hear about the "greying of fandom"...maybe more of the fen should take the time to record their memories before it's too late (and no, that zine you did in the 1960s doesn't count).

I admit to being excited about the prospect of member "Want Ads" in the NFF...I'm always on the hunt for cool stuff for my collection...

Gary Casey
garycasey1701@gmail.com

Jon Swartz answers questions:

"Ray Bradbury had a few things published in Astounding in the early 1940s. Since most writers used agents, it was probably his agent (at one time Forry Ackerman) who submitted his stories to the other prozines. In general, Bradbury was seen as writing science *fantasy* and Astounding prided itself on publishing science *fiction*.

The Fiction House magazines began in the 1920s, and their

comic books didn't begin until the late 1930s, so it is doubtful that the publisher planned on comic book reading leading to pulp magazine reading. Fiction House started their comic book line because interest in the pulps was declining and comic books were becoming popular."

Jon

Pat (pmpacey@gmail.com) writes us:

We have been cleaning out my in-laws house and came across some very old blank letterhead for National Fantasy Fan Federation with a logo Science and Fantasy. It belonged to John [Jack] Gregor formerly of Adelaide then Brisbane Australia.

We were wondering if he was a member many years ago - he certainly had a very large science fiction library when he passed away. If you have any info it would be appreciated

Jon Swartz supplies some information:

"Science Fiction Review

Fanzine of John Gregor (John Dauvergne Gregor), writing as John Devern. There was but one issue of this very rare 16-page fanzine which was hektographed by John Devern in February 1939 for the Adelaide SFL. Only 18 copies were printed and only two seem to have made it into fannish hands. It was the first duplicated Australian fanzine."

This was all I could find. Gregor doesn't appear in any of the SF directories I have, dating from the 1940s to the present. If Gregor/Devern was active during the 1930s in Australia, I doubt there is much available on him at present in the U.S.

Dave Haren writes:

Hi George,

I'm continually fascinated by the origins of fandom being presented in TNFF. One of the things digging into history books will show is how little of the real lives of humans is covered by the sweeping narratives of battles and politicking that is the usual presentation.

Seeing the tale of some smart-ass preying on a nice gullible kid for nickels is a lot more real in the historical sense than a movie set viewpoint of Waterloo. The impact of that bunch of early fans is also under estimated. They went on to almost singlehandedly build a field where their enthusiasms could effect the lives of countless others. People in the weeds whose only contact with a wider world of imagination were dependent on those fans for a tenuous connection with a wider and different viewpoint. Whatever flaws they possessed fade into insignificance next to their virtues on a wider canvas.

How many fans does it take to screw in a lightbulb ?

They are still drawing plans for the InterRocitor that will let them get into a lightbulb.

Elon Musk is going to Mars while others are just talking about it.

Regards

Dave Haren

Tom Feller writes:

Thanks for sending the zines.

The Hugo Award finalists have been announced, and I see that none of my nominations in the fiction categories that made the final list, although one of my nominations, "The Deeper Water Bride" by Tamsyn Muir, is a Nebula Award nominee.

Best wishes,

Tom Feller

Jacqueline Lichtenberg writes about the April TNFF:

Yippee good work.

Jacqueline Lichtenberg

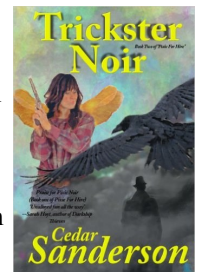
Novels by Neffers

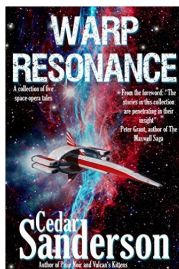
Honoring our member-authors



Dragon Noir The pixie with the gun has come home to see his princess crowned a queen and live in peace. But nothing is ever easy for Lom. A gruesome discovery on his doorstep interrupts their plans and sends Lom off on a mission to save not one, but two worlds. It's personal this time and the stakes are higher than ever before. With friends falling and the enemy gathering, Bella and Lom must conquer the worst fears and monsters Underhill can conjure. Failure is not on the agenda.

Trickster Noir After the battle of Tower Baelfire ended, Lom lay dying. Bella was tasked with not only the job she never wanted, but the one she did. Could she keep Lom alive long enough for him to come to the rescue when their kingdom needed them? And what did Raven, mysterious trickster spirit and honorary uncle to Bella, want with them? If the threat was big enough to have the trickster worried, Bella knew she needed to have Lom at her side. Underhill might look like a soap-bubble kingdom, but Bella and Lom knew there was a gritty underside. Why else would fairyland need a dark man willing to carry a big gun and be the Pixie for Hire?





Five Space Opera tales, short stories and novels with a foreward written by Peter Grant.

Tamashira has a dilemma. Stay with the ship and crew she knows, or risk being stranded on an unknown planet forever when the warp node goes out of resonance. Really, it's not a hard decision to make. But then a girl is kidnapped and she must face her past or have a death on her conscience.

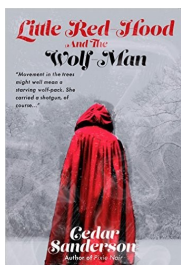
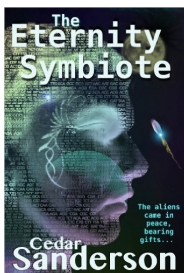
Lira is a space scout. Like the mountain men of old Earth, she explores and blazes trails. But her duty has taken her to a very settled planet, to retrieve a young woman, and it's no milk run.

Lissa looks to the stars, excited to leap off the Earth and into her destiny. But first, there is someone she has to see one more time.

A lonely young woman on a faraway planet tends her family and wishes she had someone to talk to, other than family. High above in a courier ship, a ship's officer is about to learn how content she really is, even if she doesn't feel that way...

Susan is not afraid of bugs. But when she makes a second contact with aliens, that lack of xenophobia might not be enough to keep her alive. The cat is, she learns, sometimes smarter than the human. ... by Cedar Sanderson

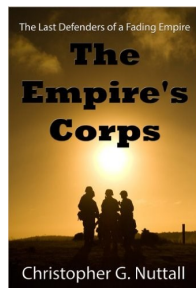
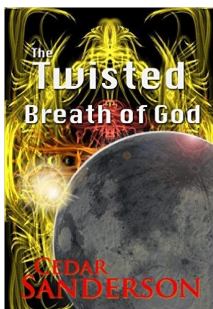
Earth sits at the center of a galactic power struggle humanity knows nothing about. Then an alien delegation suffers a fatal accident and hidden plans unravel around the wreckage in the Alaskan wilderness. Infectious disease expert Gabrielle McGregor discovers the hidden machinations and what they'll mean for her and her family. ... by Cedar Sanderson



A short story retelling the classic tale, where little Red Riding Hood carries a shotgun and the Wolf may not be all bad. It is Grandmother, or as she is known in her native Russian, Babushka, who has the biggest secret of them all...

...by Cedar Sanderson

A short story of the second contact with an alien civilization. Trade is good, luring humans into rushing their translations and contact with the aliens. A young man and a classroom of alien children are caught in the misunderstandings that ensue. ... by Cedar Sanderson



You Should Never Speak Truth To Power...

The Galactic Empire is dying and chaos and anarchy are breaking out everywhere. After a disastrous mission against terrorists on Earth itself, Captain Edward Stalker of the Terran Marine Corps makes the mistake of speaking truth to power, telling one of the most powerful men in the Empire a few home truths. As a result, Captain Stalker and his men are unceremoniously exiled to Avalon, a world right on the Rim of the Empire. It should have been an easy posting...

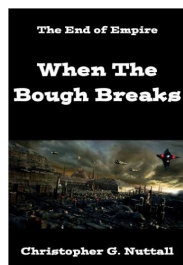
Well, apart from the bandits infesting the countryside, an insurgency that threatens to topple the Empire's loose control over Avalon, and a corrupt civil government more interested in what it can extort from the population than fighting a war. The Marines rapidly find themselves caught up in a whirlwind of political and economic chaos, fighting to preserve Avalon before the competing factions tear the world apart. They're Marines; if anyone can do it, they can.

The battle to save the Empire starts here. ...by Chris Nuttall

Six months ago, Colonel Edward Stalker and his Marines were abandoned on Avalon, left to fend for themselves as the Empire withdrew from the Rim. Since then, Avalon has been isolated from the settled universe...until now.

As a mysterious pirate organisation attempts to take over Avalon, the Marines find themselves struggling against a shadowy figure with dreams of power, while a young civilian is kidnapped and press-ganged into a pirate crew. They're fighting to preserve something of the Empire's order in the wake of its departure, but the pirates appear to have far greater resources and a plan that seems unstoppable.

The Empire is gone. What will take its place?
...by Chris Nuttall



The Galactic Empire is dying. In their high towers, the Grand Senators plot and struggle to grasp a larger share of power while on the streets, the poor struggle to survive just one more day. Chaos and anarchy are running through the megacities of Earth, while giant corporations tighten the screws and colony worlds plot to declare independence and escape the Empire's increasing demands for resources. Centuries of mismanagement are finally catching up with the human race. The end cannot be long delayed.

Specialist Belinda Lawson, a Marine Pathfinder who survived the fighting on Han, is assigned to serve as a bodyguard to the Childe Roland, the Heir to the Imperial Throne, and attempt to prepare him to be Emperor. But Roland is a puppet and a spoilt brat – and, perhaps, the only hope of saving the Empire.

2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2016.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The N3F may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2017. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2016. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

Neffy Nomination Form

Based on input, the Neffy categories for this year are listed below. All members are invited to nominate. Categories that do not receive at least two nominations will be dropped. "Paper" publication is a book from a traditional publishing house. "Electronic" publishing is modern self-publishing via SmashWords, Amazon Kindle, etc. but includes "Print on Demand", e.g., Third Millennium. The length divisions for written works are based on the published recommendations of Eric Flint on his blog. Series novels must have had at least one novel published in 2015.

Send nominations to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester MA 10609 phillies@4liberty.net

Best Paper Novel (> 100,000 words)

Best Paper Short Work (< 100,000 words)

Best Electronic Novel (>100,000 words)

Best Electronic Short Work (< 100,000 words)

Best Paper Series Novel (> 3 volumes)

Best Electronic Series Novel (> 3 Volumes)

Best Fan Author

Best Fan Artist

Best Fan Editor

Best Fanzine

Best Fan Web Site

Fan of the year

Best Pro Author

Best Pro Artist

Best Pro Editor

Best Live Film

Best Animated Film

Best Video (includes TV series)

Best Comic Series

Best Comic Single Issue

Best Paper Game

Best Electronic Game

Heroic Achievement

In this issue
Wanted: Members! — Fandbook — Fanthology
2016 Neffy Awards Nominations Invited
Back Issues — Bureaus — Birthday Cards
Round Robins — Artists—Writers Exchange
Welcommittee
The Futurians — A Personal Experience
N3F Founders — Johnny Michel
SF Magazines — Startling Stories
Poem—In Sprawling Shade
Letters of Comment
Novels By Neffers (Sanderson, Nuttall)

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609