



The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 74 Number 9

September 2015

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Elections!

Annual Elections are upon us. Indeed, this announcement should have gone several issues back. I missed that, and no one else corrected me. Having said that, we are electing a President, and we are electing five members of the Directorate. *To be on the ballot or be elected, your dues must be paid up through all of next year. Please renew at once if you are going to run. Send your nominations to George Phillies 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609 phillies@4liberty.net. Nominations and platform statements will appear in the October issue. Comments, other nominations, and the election ballot will appear in the November issue. I realize that we are running a bit late on this.*

President's Report

Steps are gradually being taken to reinvigorate our bureaus. Heath Row has regretfully indicated that he wants to concentrate on other N3F activities and is withdrawing as head of the N3F Bookwyrms. Jean Lamb has had to gafiate temporarily, so for the moment I am the Collator of N'APA. An issue went out a few days ago; ask me for a copy. I have added Judy Carroll as a second bureau head for the Round Robins.

New member Kevin Trainor asks me where we have any local chapters. I'm not aware of any, but that may just prove that I have missed the obvious.

I shall add the pious hope for members...N3F is like every other volunteer organization. You get out of it no more than you put



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



into it.

Treasurer's Report:

\$2529.55 Starting Balance (August 13, 2015)
+ 24.00 Paypal Dues
+ 0.00 Cash Dues
+ 0.00 Check Dues
- 0.00 Reimbursements Submitted
- 1.35 PayPal Fees
+ 0.00 Interest

\$2553.20 (September 13, 2015)

Birthday cards

Judy Carroll will be doing the electronic birthday cards.

Round Robins

Your President has given this bureau a second bureau head. New Bureau Head judy Carroll writes: The Round Robin Activities are under additional management so we are having a do-over. Since I am new to this, I am going to start with 4 RRs to get the ball rolling. If interested in joining, please select 6-8 subjects. The 4 with the most requests will become the current RRs. Following are the choices:

- Marvels Agents of Shield-TV series
- Beauty and the Beast-TV series with Kristin Kreuk & Jay Ryan
- Current Reading
- General Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Dreams
- Avengers Movies
- Divergent Series-Books & Movies
- Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists
- Japanese Anime
- Star Wars-Books & Movies
- Cartoons & Cartooning
- Science Fiction & Fantasy Games

Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

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Editor and Publisher, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Keeper of the URLs: Ruth Davidson

Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Maintainers of Electronic Publications: vacant

Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Sarah E. Harder artistsbureau@yahoo.com.

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com; Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

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N3F Bookworms: Vacant

Round Robins: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com; Patricia Williams-King doofusming@yahoo.com

Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com

Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange Bureau: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

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

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- Comics & Graphic Novels
- The Hunger Games-Books & Movies
- Grimm-TV series
- Falling Skies-TV series
- Horror
- Fairy Tales & Folklore
- Dragons
- Beauty & the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies & TV
- Zombies
- The Maze Runner-Books & Movies
- Once Upon a Time-TV series
- Science Fiction & Fantasy Movies Remakes
- Jurassic Park/World Movies
- Star Trek Movies-Old vs. New
- Neil Gaiman- Books & Movies
- George R.R. Martin-Game of Thrones-Books & Movies
- Tim Burton Movies
- Diana Gabaldon-Outlander-Books & Movies
- Dean Koontz-Odd Thomas Books
- Margaret Atwood-The Maddaddam Trilogy
- Octavia E. Butler-Seed to Harvest series
- Jim Butcher-The Dresden Files
- David Weber
- Supergirl TV Show
- Neffie Awards

Make your selections. List them in order from most wanted to least. Email this list to me and I will notify you when I have all I need to start a Round Robin. If you would like to be a Robin Master (person in charge of that particular RR) let me know. I will need one Robin Master for each RR.

If you have an idea for an RR that is not listed, let me know, and I will see if we can get enough people to start that RR. If you are currently in an active RR, please send me the name of the RR, the RM name and address. Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

SPECIAL NOTE: I would like to thank Patricia Williams-King for all the time and hard work she put in keeping the

Join or Renew

We offer three different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Joint memberships at one address are \$22. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

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Round Robins rounding along. Thank You, Patricia!

Welcommittee

So far, I am still a Welcommittee of one. Sending out greetings to new club members doesn't take too much time, but I could really use some help contacting current members to see how they are doing, and to let them know we value their membership and that they are not forgotten. I feel keeping in touch with all the members is very important. They are not just people that help keep the N3F alive; they are friends. If you would like to join me in welcoming new members and keeping in touch with "old" members please contact me at AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com . I hope to see a flood of emails pouring in soon.
My email AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Judy Carroll

Our Founding Members: Dave Kyle

David Ackerman Kyle, born February 14, 1919, started as a science fiction (SF) fan in the 1930s. He was a member of one of the leading New York City fan groups, The Futurians.

At the first Worldcon in 1939, there was a rift between The Futurians (who had originally been chosen to lead the convention) and the members of New Fandom (who replaced them). It was expected that there might be some friction between the groups at the convention. Anticipating this, Kyle published a small warning pamphlet. He hid the copies in the lobby when he entered the hall where the convention was being held. Other Futurians found the copies and started distributing them. When the convention committee learned of this, chairman Sam Moskowitz banned them from the convention. Those banned in this "Great Exclusion" act included Donald A. Wollheim, John Michel, Frederik Pohl, and Cyril Kornbluth. Kyle, who wrote and published the pamphlet, was not banned because he was already inside the hall.

Kyle has been responsible for several "firsts." He created a fanzine that is often credited as being the first comics fanzine. He was a partner in Gnome Press, one of the first fan book publishers. He was also part of the first Science Fiction Book Club. In addition, he has written two illustrated books on the history of science fiction, and sequels to the famous Lensman series of E. E. "Doc" Smith.

Kyle was chairman of the 1956 New York Worldcon (Nycon II). He headed the "Amalgamated Greater New York Fan Groups in 1953" bid and was co-chairman of the "Syracuse In 1967" bid.

His awards/honors are many. He was FGoH at ConStellation, the 1983 Worldcon. Other GoHships include the following: 1976, Novacon 6, 1982; RiverCon VII, 1989; Lunacon 32, 1990; Genericon 6, 1994; Arisia '94; Balticon

35, 2004; Alvacon 2004, 2012; Philcon 2012, and 2013; and SFContario 4. He was awarded the Big Heart Award in 1973 and took over management of the award from Forrest J. Ackerman in 2000. He received the Raymond Z. Gallun Award in 1991. He was part of the group that created WSFS, Inc. He co-chaired Metrocon I and was a member of the Hydra Club. He is also a Knight of St. Fantony.

He married Ruth Landis, a fellow fan, in 1957 and, for their honeymoon, organized the first fannish tour to the first non-U. S. Worldcon, LonCon, in 1957.

As of 2011 he had attended more Worldcons than any other SF fan or pro. He wrote his reminiscences of the many Worldcons he had attended for the Noreascon Three Program Book.

In addition to all his other accomplishments, he was a founding member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Today, he is one of only two founding N3F members still with us.
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

Our Higher Purpose

by David B Williams

Not surprisingly, this too began with Hugo Gernsback.

He published what he chose to call "scientifiction" stories in his radio and electronics magazines years before he launched *Amazing Stories*, the first magazine dedicated to SF.

Since he wasn't responding to a market demand by providing SF stories to his amateur-radio and science-hobbyist readers, Gernsback must've thought this type of story conveyed some special value to this audience. He didn't give them westerns or detective thrillers.

Radio was the most futuristic development the early 20th century. Telegraph and telephone signals traveled along visible wires, like wagons along roads and barges along canals. Electricity also traveled through wires, like water or gas through pipes.

But radio signals were invisible, undetectable until captured and converted to sound by an electronic receiver. Radio signals went everywhere, even passing through solid walls, unconfined to any kind of pre-existing conduit. This was sense-of-wonder technology.

Gernsback's readers were up to speed on this new technology and wanted to know what was coming next. They viewed science as an endless cornucopia of progress. They were future-oriented and expected more big changes and amazing technologies to come, an ideal audience for the scientifiction stories Gernsback offered them.

But Gernsback wasn't just providing entertainment to those readers. He believed SF's mission was to awaken readers to

the power and potential of science, to stimulate the imaginations of scientists and inventors, and even inspire readers to seek careers in science. The readers who read about future wonders could then help to make those wonders come true. Unlike westerns, detective tales, or love stories, SF had a job to do. SF had a higher purpose.

In 1926, Gernsback described the ideal SF story as “a charming romance interwoven with scientific facts and prophetic vision,” proclaiming his model of SF is the bearer of science education and prediction. And he never changed his mind. When he launched his last SF magazine, *Science-Fiction Plus*, in 1953, the subtitle was “preview of the future.”

Gernsback emphasize this higher purpose in his editorials, and he transmitted this kind of thinking to his readers. It’s no surprise that the earliest stirrings of organized SF fandom came from science hobbyists who were at least as interested in the science of SF as in the fiction. The first two recognized fanzines were pubbed by these amateur-science enthusiasts. *The Comet* appeared in May 1930 as the journal of the Science Correspondents Club, followed two months later by *The Planet* from the New York Scienceers. The pages of both publications were devoted to science, although *The Planet* also included reviews of recent prozine content.

The International Scientific Association tried to mix the amateur scientists and SF fans, but the fans soon became dominant. The first two Eastern SF conferences (Philadelphia 1936, New York City 1937) were essentially exchange visits between delegations from the ISA’s two major branches.

The growing rift between science and science fiction was simply the first dispute of fandom’s first decade. But that dispute didn’t spark widespread feuding. The fans simply won by attrition. The focus on science gradually waned, replaced by increasing attention to SF and to fandom itself.

But if fandom wasn’t about promoting science, what was it about? If, as Gernsback claimed, SF had a higher purpose, shouldn’t SF fandom also have a higher purpose? This question plunged all fandom into war.

The Futurians, a group of New York City fans who coalesced around Donald A. Wollheim in the mid-1930s (and thus were written initially known and fandom as “Wollheimists”), would prove to be the driving force behind this conflict.

In addition to Wollheim, key Futurians included John Michel, Fred Pohl, Cyril Kornbluth, Robert “Doc” Lowndes, and, in a widening circle, Richard Wilson, Dave Kyle, Damon Knight, James Blish, Larry Shaw, Jack Gillespie, even Isaac Asimov, though he was really only one of several social affiliates who did not participate in actual combat.

Wollheim and his circle could not countenance the idea that fandom could just be for fun. Gernsback had already explained that SF had a higher purpose. The Futurians believe that SF fandom also needed a higher purpose.

Wollheim classified most fans as “shallow-minded adolescents” and considered discussion of SF as “childish” and “inane”. His goal was to “raise science-fiction from merely a childish puerile hobby to being an active force toward the realization of those things that science fiction is already believed.”

At the third Eastern convention in Philadelphia in 1938, Wollheim read a speech entitled “Mutation or Death” written by fellow Futurian Michel, whose severe stutter made him incapable of delivering the oration. This speech introduced the doctrines of Michelism to fandom.

According to Waldheim, “Michelism is the belief that science-fiction fans should actively work for the realization of the scientific socialist world-state as the only genuine *justification* [emphasis added] for their activities.”

The address ended with the proposed resolution:

“THEREFORE: Be it moved that this, the Third Eastern Science-Fiction Convention, shall place itself on record as opposing all forces leading to barbarism, the advancement of pseudo-sciences and militaristic ideologies, and shall further resolved that science-fiction should *by nature* [emphasis added] stand for all forces working for more unified world, a more Utopian existence, the application of science to human happiness, and a saner outlook on life.”

After prolonged debate, the motion was defeated 12-8, with several extensions. No one voted against the resolution’s content, but the opponents did object to introducing politics into fan affairs.

In 1940, as General Secretary of the Futurian League, Wollheim defined a Futurian as one who, *through SF* [emphasis added], attains a vision of the greater world, a greater future for the whole of mankind. A Futurian seeks to utilize his idealistic convictions, always a democratic, impersonal, and unselfish ways, for the betterment of the world.

General Secretary! Working behind all this was Communism, the doctrine that dared not speak its name. Textbook Communism (“the scientific socialist world-state”) embodied all the utopian principles that appeals to idealists in the 1930s. Several Futurians joined or attended meetings of the Young Communist League, and Michel joined the Party when he was old enough.

The question remains as to whether “Michelism” was really initiated by Michel or whether Wollheim nominated Michel as the titular leader to deflect attention from himself. Recall that President Truman, fearing Congressional opposition to anything that bore his name, cunningly called his reconstruction program for Europe “the Marshall Plan.”

Some kind of conflict was inevitable in the first World SF Convention convened in New York in July 1939, because the Futurians had lost ownership of the event. Leading Futurians had been appointed to the planning committee two years earlier but had accomplished nothing. So, at the New York

“national convention” in 1938, Sam Moscowitz, William Sykora, and their New Fandom group stepped forward and were authorized to form a new organizing committee.

It must’ve been bitterly infuriating to the Futurians to know that they had allowed this plum to be plucked from their fingers by their despised opponents, and then to see those opponents host a very successful, even historic, meeting.

As fans from across the country gathered in Caravan Hall, the Futurians handed out pamphlets crying alarm and warning fans about the nefarious plans of the “controlling clique.” Headings included “Beware of the Dictatorship!” and “High Handed Tactics.”

This agitprop Salvo perturbed Chairman Moscowitz, who feared that the Futurians were bent on disrupting the convention. He therefore decreed that any Futurians not already in the hall who did not pledge to behave would be banned from the proceedings.

Six of the Futurians (Gillespie, Kornbluth, Lowndes, Michel, Pohl, Wollheim) refused to give such an assurance and, as a result, never got to attend the First World Con. Thus arose the infamous Exclusion Act.

Moscowitz later speculated that the targeted Futurians welcomed their exclusion, because they thereby gained the advantageous position of victims. Crying injustice and fascism, they subsequently garnered widespread sympathy throughout fandom.

Anyway, the war was on to expunge fascism and restore democratic principles to fannish affairs. Fanzines on both sides were filled with accusatory diatribes. It was hard to find fans who didn’t take sides. It was hard for fans who didn’t give a damn and to enjoy SF and fandom in peace.

But in their quest to give fandom a higher purpose, the Futurians and chosen the wrong tactics. Even sympathetic fans came to resent the intrusion of politics and fandom, for whatever reason. And the Futurians’ aggressive attacks on their opponents became more and more tiresome to uncommitted observers.

And what was all the fuss about? What the Futurians offered was not in action program but resolutions. For them, it was enough that fandom express its support for Right Thinking. This was all very exciting. They were engaged in the Great Struggle. They were *doing something*.

But it was all talk. The Futurians did not choose to engage in the politics of the Real World. Instead, they focus their considerable energies on becoming SF writers and editors and disrupting fandom with her obstreperous behavior. They were successful in both endeavors.

It became widely believed that the Futurians’ operating principle was simply “Rule or Ruin”. For example, Wollheim and three Futurian acolytes showed up at a meeting of the Sykora-led Queens SFL chapter and joined. This seemed odd because Sykora was on the Futurians enemies list. However, he was absent from that meeting and no one objected to ad-

mitting the new members.

It wasn’t long before the Futurians sparked dissension with a motion to send a delegate to a leftist youth Congress. Director James Taurasi blocked a vote. The Futurians accused him of dictatorship and initiated impeachment proceedings. They also blackballed new members who were known to oppose Michelism.

Sykora skipped some meetings because of the newly hostile atmosphere, and the Futurians used an attendance requirement in the bylaws to expel them. Taurasi was subject to a second impeachment proceeding and resigned in disgust. Both sides appealed to SFL headquarters at *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. Leo Margulies, magazine publisher and SFL director, dispensed with the problem by declaring the chapter dissolved.

In just six months, the Futurians had penetrated destroyed an active and growing club. If the original plan had been take to take over the SFL chapter, the Futurians had made wonderful progress, expelling the president and forcing the director to resign. But dissolution of the chapter left the Futurians with nothing to control.

They then formed the Futurian Science-Literary Society of New York, but most of the non-Futurians followed Sykora and Taurasi into a new and thriving Queens SFL. So, in the end, the Futurians won a Pyrrhic victory.

In 1945, after a pause for World War II, several Futurians holding Fantasy Amateur Press Association offices resigned and formed the Vanguard Amateur Press Association with an all-Futurians board. Based on past performance, it was immediately alleged that they were set on wrecking FAPA, and replacing it with an apa that they totally controlled.

But that was the end of it. The world war had change things. Real fascism had been defeated on the battlefield, and Communism had revealed itself as a flawed Ghod. In the postwar world, and following internal dissensions (revolutions always devour their own), the Futurians dispersed into grown-up careers and marriages. Fandom could no longer demand the total commitment of their energies and ambitions. It was time to get on with life.

Gernsback’s faith in SF’s power to educate readers and inspire them to enter the sciences was not totally misplaced. A number of space scientists have acknowledged that reading SF in their formative years help to guide them into scientific careers. But they certainly didn’t learn their science from SF, and the number of scientists truly recruited by SF was minimal.

Of more concern within the genre was the effect of Gernsback’s formula on the development of SF’s fiction. Western stories didn’t screech to a halt to explain how cattle-ranching works. Why did SF stories need to pause to explain the science? Rather than the Father Of Magazine Science Fiction, fandom might have chosen to honor Gernsback as the Father Of The Info Dump.

Following the glory days of Gernsback's preeminence, writers and critics began to challenge his literary ideology. According to Gary Westfahl in the online edition of *The Encyclopedia Of Science Fiction*, "some maintain that Gernsback's impact on SF was harmful because it led to a sterilized didactic insistence that the road to the future was best apprehended through a focus on science and technology in isolation."

He cites Brian Aldiss's assessment of Gernsback as "the worst disaster ever to hit the science fiction field" and adds: "virtually all later voices for SF reform – from John W. Campbell, Jr. and H. L. Gold to the New Wave's Harlan Ellison and Cyberpunk's Bruce Sterling – have explicitly or implicitly presented their ideas as a repudiation of Gernsback."

In the end, the good guys won, in both SF and fandom. SF became less concerned about scientific plausibility and prophecy and more concerned about character development narrative technique. SF's job was to awaken a sense of wonder, not a sense of purpose. And, within fandom, the advocates of science fiction and fannish for its own sake replaced the amateur scientists.

SF did not need to justify itself with a higher purpose, nor did its associated fandom. It was okay to just have fun.

Letters of Comment

George:

We have a NEW SIME~GEN volume now coming available, (Volume 13, FEAR AND COURAGE, 14 writers explore Sime~Gen) first in Kindle, then rolling out in all ebook versions, then paperback.

<http://www.amazon.com/Fear-Courage-Fourteen-Writers-Sime-Gen-ebook/dp/B014TDP8JQ/>

<http://wildsidepress.com/sime-gen-complete-ebook-pack-by-jean-lorrah-and-jacqueline-lichtenberg-epub-kindle/> -- is the first 12 books in a bargain bundle. Vol. 13 is not yet on the publisher's website.

And I have a series of non-fiction books on Tarot rolling out this whole Month, concluding with all 5 books in 1 volume -- this is on Kindle-only.

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=The+Not+So+Minor+Arcana&rh=n%3A283155%2Ck%3AThe+Not+So+Minor+Arcana is the list.

Here's the pre-order form for the final compiled book. Getting that is cheaper than all of the individual ones. <http://www.amazon.com/Not-So-Minor-Arcana-Books-ebook/dp/B010E4WAOU/>

And here is my blog post on that:

<http://aliendjinnromances.blogspot.com/2015/09/tarot-just-for-romance-writers-now-on.html>

That's really all I have at this moment, but there is more coming --- audiobook announcements, the Sime~Gen Concordance, etc.

Jacqueline Lichtenberg

<http://jacquelinelichtenberg.com>

Dear Neffers:

Many thanks to George Phillis and all of the N3F for Vol. 74, No. 8 of The National Fantasy Fan. I will make what comments I can, and fire it off as soon as possible. I know all about publishing deadlines...

So many modern fans have no idea about the history of fandom. Even if they knew about it, they may not think it relevant to what they know in their own fannish actions, but it's good to see that you're telling all the N3F members there is a history to fandom, and it is 85 years long. Part of that is the biography of E.E. Evans, well done.

Condolences to David Speakman, and good luck to him with his bar exam.

DragonCon...I know of a few people from Toronto who will be there, but for us, it's simply too much. Too many people, and too expensive, too. Right now, we are already making hotel reservations for our trip to England in 2016, so have to save lots more for that.

All done, and off it goes! Many thanks for making the N3F publications available to all, and see you with the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Judy Carroll:

I would like to share something.

Several years ago I discovered the N3F. I cannot recall how or where I first heard of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, but hear of it I did, and something about it attracted my attention and I joined. I don't recall how long I was an active member, maybe it was only one or two years, but that time was very important to me. I was excited to have something to do. Something other than my regular activities. It's not that I didn't have enough to do and had hours of blandness stretching before me. I had plenty to do that could keep me busy 24/7. But other than reading there was nothing that was just for me. When I joined the N3F, during the time I spent on club activities, I became me again. Here, I no longer had any labels. No one knew anything about me except for what I told them. I was not judged by my appearance, color, religion, whether I was married or single, had one child, no child or several children. No one knew whether I was young, middle aged, or old or what college degree I had or didn't have or if I had even graduated from high school. I was me again and I was happy with the reunion. I hadn't seen me in many years. I thought the me I had grown up with had vanished or perhaps had died.

I was very involved with the N3F. I was on the Welcomittee,

Birthday Bureau, Writer's Exchange, Blind Services, Correspondence, Special Publications. And of course, the Round Robins. How I loved the Round Robins. I looked forward to receiving them. It was my chance to talk to people about things that I liked and to hear others' opinions and new stories. Oh, how I loved stories.

But, as so often happens, life started throwing boulders at me; things I couldn't catch, expectations I couldn't meet, promises I couldn't keep. So, gradually or abruptly, I don't recall which, the N3F and I parted ways—me back to my labels and the N3F to march on without me as I faded into the distance.

Then a few months ago the N3F began popping into my head. It was persistent. It kept nagging at me. I kept seeing N3F whenever I got on my computer. Memories lost began to reappear. They were fond memories. Happy memories. I began to wonder if the N3F was still in existence. I looked it up. And there it was. It was still alive. It still breathed. It still was. My heart started beating faster. My mind went into confusion mode. My body froze. And then I did what I always do in a terrifying situation. I ran. I got off the website. Scrambled to a safe site that didn't ask anything of me but mindless clicking. I began asking myself, "What do you were doing? What were you thinking? Do you really want to go there again?" I admit this behavior went on for several days. Finally, I got on the N3F website, sat up straight, took a deep breath. And joined the N3F.

I would like to hear how other members became interested in the N3F. Oh, how I love stories.
Judy Carroll

Thanks. Good issue, as usual. --Ralan

I feel quite remiss in not sending any letter of comment in the past. I do enjoy reading TNFF and am not ignoring it.
Many Thanks
Dave Haren

Neon Galaxy, Inc is a Fantasy & Science Fiction (F&SF) Club in Las Vegas. We have meetings on the 2nd Thursday of Each Month at the Green Valley Branch Library Neon Galaxy on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NeonGalaxy/?ref=bookmarks> Las Vegas Sci Fi on Meetup.com was begun on May 18, 2013 as a vehicle for Neon Galaxy, we built it up to 537 members <http://www.meetup.com/SciFiVegas/> Thanks,
Woody Bernardi, President

Games Bureau

Forthcoming Cons Courtesy AHKS.com, the Steve Jackson game site: <http://sjgames.com/con> and the Columbia Game site: <http://columbiagames.com/convention/conventions.shtml>

Sept. 18-19, Williston, North Dakota BAKKENCON
GAME CONVENTION russ_larson1@yahoo.com

Sept. 18-20, Topeka, KS TOPCON <http://topcon.us/>

Sept. 25, Baltimore, MD HIGH ROLLERS: A GAMER'S NIGHT OUT <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/high-rollers-gamer-s-nightout#/story>

Sept. 26-27, Peterborough, Ontario PHANTASM phantasm.pfga.ca/

Science Fiction Magazines: Brief Histories Astounding/Analog

Jon D. Swartz N3F Historian

In 1926 Hugo Gernsback began *Amazing Stories*, the first all-science fiction (SF) magazine. William Clayton, a successful publisher of several pulp magazines, considered starting a competitive title in 1928. According to Harold Hersey, one of his editors at the time, Hersey had "discussed plans with Clayton to launch a pseudo-science fantasy sheet." Clayton was unconvinced. The following year, however, Clayton decided to launch a new magazine, mainly because the board on which the color covers of his magazines were printed had space for one more cover. He suggested to Harry Bates, a newly hired editor, that they start a magazine of adventure stories. Bates proposed instead a SF pulp, to be titled *Astounding Stories of Super Science*, and Clayton agreed.

Clayton's *Astounding*

The first issue appeared in January, 1930, with Bates as editor. Bates aimed for mainly adventure stories, with scientific elements present to provide some plausibility. Clayton paid much better rates than *Amazing*, 2¢ a word on acceptance, rather than half a cent a word, on publication; and, consequently, *Astounding* attracted some of the better-known SF pulp writers. In February, 1931, the original name *Astounding Stories of Super-Science* was shortened to *Astounding Stories*.

Financial difficulties led Clayton to start alternating the publication of his magazines, and he switched *Astounding* to a bi-monthly schedule with the June, 1932, issue. Some printers bought the magazines which were indebted to them. Clayton decided to buy his printer to prevent this from happening to him. This proved a disastrous move, however, because Clayton didn't have the money to complete the transaction. In October, 1932, Clayton decided to cease publication of *Astounding*, with the expectation that the January, 1933, issue would be the last. As it turned out, there were enough stories in inventory to publish one more issue -- so the last Clayton *Astounding* was dated March, 1933, instead. In April Clayton went bankrupt and sold his magazine titles; the buyer quickly resold the titles to Street & Smith, a large and well-established magazine publisher.

Street & Smith's *Astounding*

SF was not an entirely new departure for Street & Smith. They already published two pulp titles that ventured into the

field: The Shadow, which had begun in 1931 and was very successful, with a circulation over 300,000; and Doc Savage, which had been launched in March, 1933. They gave the post of editor of Astounding to F. Orlin Tremaine, an experienced editor who had been working for Clayton as the editor of Clues, and who had come to Street & Smith as part of the transfer of titles after Clayton's bankruptcy.

The first Street & Smith issue was dated October, 1933. Street & Smith had an excellent distribution network, and they were able to get Astounding's circulation up to an estimated 50,000 by the middle of 1934. The two main rival SF magazines of the day, Wonder Stories and Amazing Stories, each had a circulation of about half that. Astounding was the leading SF magazine by the end of 1934; and it was also the largest (160 pages) and cheapest (20¢). Street & Smith's rates of 1¢ per word on acceptance were not as good as the rates that had been paid by the Clayton Astounding, but they were still better than those of the other SF magazines being published at the time.

Tremaine was promoted to assistant editorial director in 1937. His replacement as editor of Astounding was John W. Campbell, Jr.

Campbell and Astounding Science-Fiction

Campbell had made his name in the early 1930s as a writer, publishing space opera stories under his own name, and more thoughtful stories under the pseudonym of Don A. Stuart. Campbell began working for Street & Smith in October, 1937, and his first editorial influence appeared in the issue dated December, 1937. The March, 1938, issue was the first that was fully his responsibility. In early 1938, Street & Smith abandoned its policy of having editors-in-chief, with the result that Tremaine was no longer needed. Tremaine left on May 1, 1938, giving Campbell free rein.

According to Tymn and Ashley, one of Campbell's first acts was to change the title from Astounding Stories to Astounding Science-Fiction (ASF) with the March, 1938, issue. Campbell's editorial policy was targeted at the more mature readers of SF, and he felt that Astounding Stories did not convey the right image. He intended to drop the "Astounding" part of the title as well, leaving the magazine titled Science Fiction; but in 1939, a new magazine with that title appeared. "Astounding" was therefore retained, though thereafter it was often printed in a color that made it much less visible than the "Science-Fiction" part of the title. At the start of 1942 the magazine's price was increased to 25¢; the magazine simultaneously switched to the larger bedsheet format, but this change did not last. ASF became the first SF magazine to switch to digest size in November, 1943. The price remained at 25¢ per issue.

During the 1940s, ASF was one of the major publications of what fans and SF historians like to call the Golden Age of Science Fiction. ASF published many stories that subsequently were reprinted in anthologies, stories by such popular authors as E. E. "Doc" Smith, Theodore Sturgeon, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, A. E. van Vogt, and Jack

Williamson. The price increased to 35¢ in August, 1951, and was raised to 50¢ with the November, 1959, issue.

Analog Science Fact/Science Fiction

The following year Campbell finally achieved his goal of getting rid of the word "Astounding" in the magazine's title, changing it to Analog Science Fact/Science Fiction. The change began with the February, 1960, issue and was complete by October; for several issues both Analog and Astounding could be seen on the cover, with Analog becoming bolder and Astounding fading with each issue. SF fan Alva Rogers does an excellent job of illustrating this transformation in his A Requiem for Astounding.

Genre historians write that Condé Nast Publications bought Street & Smith in August, 1959, with Analog the only SF pulp magazine in Condé Nast's inventory – all the others were larger slicks. Condé Nast changed Analog to a larger size from the March, 1963, issue.; but, with the April, 1965, issue Analog reverted to digest size once more. Circulation, which had been increasing before the change, was not harmed, and continued to increase while Analog was in a slick format.

By 1950 Campbell's strong personality (some said abrasive) had led him into conflict with many of his leading writers, some of whom abandoned ASF as a result. The launch of both The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction and Galaxy Science Fiction in 1949 and 1950, respectively, marked the end of ASF's dominance of magazine SF. In the early 1950s many regarded Galaxy as the new leader. In addition, Campbell's growing interest in pseudo-science damaged his reputation in the field. Campbell was deeply involved with the launch of Dianetics (later re-named Scientology and labeled SF's first religion), publishing Hubbard's first article on it in ASF in May, 1950, and promoting it heavily in the months beforehand. In addition, he later championed other pseudo-sciences.

Analog after Campbell

Campbell died suddenly in July, 1971, but there was enough material in Analog's inventory to allow the staff to put together issues for the rest of the year. Condé Nast asked Kay Tarrant, who had been Campbell's assistant, to help them find a replacement. She contacted several regular contributors to ask for suggestions.

The Condé Nast vice-president in charge of selecting the new editor decided to read both fiction and non-fiction writing samples from the applicants, since Analog's title included both fiction and fact. He chose Ben Bova, afterwards telling Bova that his stories and articles "were the only ones I could understand." January, 1972, was the first issue to list Bova as editor on the masthead.

Stanley Schmidt became editor in 1978, and Trevor Quachri in 2012. ASF editors stayed on the job. As Arthur C. Clarke wrote: "In its first fifty years, the magazine changed its name twice as often as it changed its editors."

Reprinted Stories from ASF

According to Clute and Nicholls (1993), editors Campbell, Bova, and Schmidt all edited anthologies of stories drawn

from ASF. Over the years stories reprinted in anthologies that had first been published in ASF far outnumbered those reprinted from all the other SF magazines. ASF was also reprinted in a British edition for hundreds of issues, from the 1930s on.

In 1981 the July, 1939, issue of ASF was published as a hard-bound book by Southern Illinois University Press. This "first great issue" edited by Campbell contained stories by veteran SF writers Nat Schachner, C. L. Moore, Nelson S. Bond, Amelia R. Long, and Ross Rocklynne and introduced newcomers Isaac Asimov and A. E. van Vogt -- whose "Black Destroyer" was the cover feature. The book also contained reminiscences by Asimov, Rocklynne, and van Vogt of their early stories and of ASF and its editors.

Analog Today

Today Analog is one of the principal SF magazines being published, although it is not the unquestioned leader it was during SF's Golden Age when it went by the name of Astounding. The company that now publishes it also publishes Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine, another candidate for the title of SF's leading magazine. An issue of Analog now costs many times the amount grateful fans paid for an issue of Astounding when it began back in 1930.

Sources

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Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 3: Miscellaneous*. Chicago: Advent, 1982.
Tymn, Marshall B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985. In addition to the above sources, several Internet sites were consulted, including Wikipedia.

Writer's Exchange Bureau

As of this writing the WEB still consists of two readers, Jefferson and me, and two writers. Good news. I have had two inquiries about the club, both from writers.

I know some people are 'closet writers.' They don't want anyone to know they are writing a short story or novel. I can understand that. Telling someone you are writing is like telling them you are dieting. You are proud of your efforts and want to tell someone. So you do. Then comes the monthly luncheon. What if you want dessert?

So if you are a closet writer and don't want to hear things like; "How is your novel coming along? Are you really writing about an alien running amok in a space station? I don't like science fiction. Couldn't you write a comedy? I love comedies." Or "You haven't finished it yet? I thought you said it was a short story." - Join the Writer's Exchange Bureau. I will not give out a writer's name without his/her permission. The only people who will know you are writing are myself and your reader. If you don't care that others know you are writing and would like your name mentioned as one of our writers let me know and I will put your name in the following TNFF. For more information about the WEB or to join as a Reader or Writer please contact me at AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

...Judy Carroll

Membership Recruitment

We welcome Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com as the new Bureau Head for membership recruitment. Please give him your support. And if you are going to a con, and would host a hospitality hour for the N3F, the N3F has for you \$10 for a bit of chocolate to sweeten the occasion.

Novels by Neffers

will return in the next issue.

National Fantasy Fan Federation Award Ballot

The Neffy Award was first given in 1949 to Ray Bradbury, Since then it has occasionally been given (including continuously since 2005) for outstanding contributions to the Science Fiction field. Voting is open to Life, Regular, and Founding members. This ballot is going only to voters. Non-voters will see a blank space here.

For this year, we have two nominations. The votes on these are "YES" and "NO". Only awards will be announced. Only dues-paying members may vote. **Send your votes to the Editor, George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net**. If you use papermail, please be sure to put your name and address on the envelope, so that your eligibility to vote may be confirmed. Email votes will be accepted. All votes will be kept anonymous. Votes are due by October 15. Winners will be announced in the next issue of TNFF.

To all of Hugo Fandom, for they are all fen: A Heroic Commendation for reviving the most ancient and honorable of all fannish customs, the all-hobby fan feud. Vote: YES NO

Mindful that editors are judged on their extended record, not a single work in a single year, and that other editors may in future years be honored for their work in the same time period, the nomination for 2015 for Best Editor is to Toni Weisskopf, Baen Books Vote: YES NO

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Birthday Cards — Round Robins

Your Volunteer Team — Welcommittee

Our Founding Members: Dave Kyle

Our Higher Purpose — Letters of Comment

Games Bureau

Science Fiction Magazines: Brief Histories

Astounding/Analog

Writers Exchange Bureau

Membership Recruitment — Novels by Neffers

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