

The Canadian Fancyclopedia: Introduction (April 2009)

An Incompleat Guide To Twentieth Century Canadian Science Fiction Fandom
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History:

For 15 years I've been working on an "incompleat" guide to Canadian Science Fiction fandom & fanzines, and it could be years yet before it is complete. It may never be complete, since I intend to update it whenever new information comes to hand. How to publish a work in progress?

At one point I transferred my working notes to a web site so that fandom could access it as it developed. This worked for some years, but then my computer went kabloolie and for reasons too complicated to get into a web site doesn't seem viable anymore.

So now I've decided to put a 'frozen' version of the work in progress online in PDF format at Bill Burns' <http://efanzines.com> site. This will enable fans to peruse and perhaps download my work to date. Meanwhile I will continue adding more material, making corrections, etc., until I have sufficient new material to ask Bill to replace the files with updated ones. My intention at this point is to replace the files available online on an annual basis, which gives me plenty of time to research and update as the mood hits me without any pressure to worry about.

This Canfancyclopedia is already massive enough to represent a good exposure to its topic, but experienced fans will note many a missing item, and even those unfamiliar with the lore will see that my coverage of zines in particular is spotty, describing some at length and merely listing others. In part this is due to what is and what is not available to me, but also because I've not yet put in enough time to describe all that I do have access to, never mind what further research turns up. But give me time. This is a work in progress. I'll keep adding to it as long as I can. A lifelong hobby in other words.

Purpose:

I note that few people on this planet have access to ANY of the zines described herein, let alone a significant collection. Consequently, my intention is not so much to write a bibliography to aid collectors of the material – there being very few collectors -- as to describe the milieu in which these zines exist so that readers can come to understand what this phenomenon was (and is) all about.

Since Canadian organized fandom (clubs & conventions) AND Canadian Fanzine production appears to be on the decline, predictions of the 'death' of Canadian traditional SF fandom are once again being sounded. In my own small way, I want to acquaint contemporary Canadian fandom with its 60 or 70 year heritage in the hope this will lead fans into greater fanac, yea, even unto being moved to pub their ish, by Ghū.

Say again? Fandom has its own terminology, mostly American in origin, much of it now obsolete, and quite obviously pointless and silly to outsiders, but to those in the fold, an expression of the fannish COMMUNITY. For the first fans were fanzine fans, loners in their own neighbourhood

mayhaps, but reaching out to each other via fanzines exchanged by mail and in the process developing their own culture, their own shared mental environment where everyone instantly related through the basic concepts they all held in common. Out of this shared vision sprang wonderful things, like clubs and conventions, and more fanzines.

It's hard for a newcomer to understand traditional SF fandom, hard to grasp that it DOES have a tradition, that it IS a shared vision of complexity and depth infinitely more elaborate than the shallow, superficial nature of fans as perceived by outsiders. It is even harder to explain fandom in a coherent, to the point, concise manner without making it sound like a load of shallow, superficial (albeit complicated) nonsense.

You have to grow into fandom, get used to it, increase your participation, immerse yourself slowly into it like some great wallowing hot tubber until finally you are relaxed and comfortable in the fannish environment. Unfortunately there are fewer and fewer venues available for this process to occur.

But as you browse through the Canadian Fancyclopedia, dipping a toe here, testing the water temperature there, I am confident you will gradually begin to gain a sense of what it was like to be a fan in the twentieth century. I include enough information to illustrate what SF fandom in general was like, but with particular emphasis on anything pertaining to Canadian fandom and, as far as fanzines are concerned, exclusively Canadian fanzines. Thus you will, if only by osmosis, slowly become aware of what it means to be a traditional fan, a Canadian traditional fan.

And if you should be so moved as to want to get involved with other fans, or even start your own fanzine, I will have accomplished my goal.

Cheers! The Graeme

P.S. You can reach me at < canfancyclopedia@shaw.ca > I'd greatly appreciate your comments and, in particular, any new info you old-timers out there can give me about Canadian zines.

SOURCES

Sources include:

- **THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION ARCHIVE: FANZINE COLLECTION** - Currently estimated to contain more than 5,000 individual issues under 700 + titles. Approximately 20% of the archive consists of Canadian zines.

Articles & Monographs:

(Listed in order by date of publication)

- **UP TO NOW: 'A (1939) 'A History of Fandom as Jack Speer sees it'** by Jack Speer -- 1994 edition by Richard C. Newsome -- ARCTURUS Press, Brooklyn, NY, U.S.A.

- **SF CHECKLIST #8** (Nov 1942) by R.D. Swisher & F.N. Swisher.

- **FANCYCLOPEDIA** (1944) by Jack Speer.

- **FANZINE INDEX** (Dec 1952 to Nov 1959) by Bob Pavlat & Bill Evans.

- **THE CANADIAN FAN DIRECTORY** (Fall 1952) published by the Canadian Science Fiction Association.
- **THE CANADIAN SF ASSOCIATION, A HISTORY** (1953) by Jack Bowie-Reed -- 1982 Edition produced & designed by Mike Horvat -- American Private Press Association, Stayton, Oregon, U.S.A.
- **FANCYCLOPEDIA II** (1959) by Dick Eney.
- **THE EDMONTON SF & COMIC ARTS SOCIETY GUIDE TO SF & FANDOM** (1977).
- **SAME AS IT EVER WAS** (1982) by Taral Wayne.
- **NILS HELMER FROME, FOUND & LOST** (1983) by Michael Dann -- NEW CANADIAN FANDOM V1#6, Beflatte Publications, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Publisher: Michael Hall. Editor: Robert Runte.
- **CANADIAN FANZINE BIBLIOGRAPHY** (June 1984) by Taral Wayne, Mike Hall & Keith Fenske. Listed alphabetically by name of Faneditor. 36 pages. Interestingly, the majority of zines listed are APAzines, reflecting the nature of Cdn zinedom at that time.
- **FANZINE BIBLIOGRAPHY BY TITLE** (12 August 1985), sent to me by Murray Moore. Compiler's identities not listed, but I suspect it is based on research originally done by Keith Fenske, Michael S. Hall, Taral (and Georges Giguere?) for the earlier CANADIAN FANZINE BIBLIOGRAPHY. Was widely available in dealers rooms at Canadian cons circa 1985/1986. International in scope, but at least 50% of the zines covered are Canadian. Listed alphabetically by title. 198 pages.
- **TORONTO THE GHOOO** (1988) by Taral Wayne -- A Taralble Mistake Publication #178, Willowdale, Ont, Canada.
- **HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT AND NILS HELMER FROME: A RECOLLECTION OF ONE OF CANADA'S EARLIEST SCIENCE FICTION FANS** (1989) Edited by Sam Moskowitz. Moshassuck Monograph series Number 5. The Moshassuck Press, Glenview, Illinois. Publisher: Kenneth W. Faig, Jr.
- **OF TIME AND RESEARCH** (1989) by Sam Moskowitz. Article appeared in TORUS #6, (Oct 1989). Valuable for Moskowitz's own career summary, but especially for his account of his relationship with Nils Helmer Frome and how the Moshassuck Monograph on Frome came to be.
- **IF YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING YOURSELF, IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM: EDMONTON FANHISTORY** (1991) by Garth Spencer. Serialized in BCAPA & OPUNTIA. Covers 1970s to 1990.
- **ON THE BONNY, BONNY BANKS OF THE FRASER** (1993) by Garth Spencer. A history of British Columbia fandom in general and the British Columbia science Fiction Association in particular. Covers 1930s to early 1990s. Previous versions serialized in BCAPA & OPUNTIA.
- **A CHRONOLOGY OF CANADIAN FANDOM** (1994) by Garth Spencer. Mostly a listing of Conventions but with mention of significant events, fanzines and fans. Covers 1930s to early 1990s.
- **TOWARDS A CALGARY FANHISTORY** (1994) by Garth Spencer. Previous version serialized in BCAPA & OPUNTIA. Covers 1970s to 1994.
- **TORONTO FANHISTORY** (1995) by Garth Spencer. Covers early 1940s to 1994 with emphasis on the Derelicts and OSFiC. At least a portion serialized later in OPUNTIA.

- **THE TRUFAN'S ADVISOR** (1995) by Arnie Katz.
- **MARCHING TO VICTORIA** (1996) by Garth Spencer. A history of Vancouver Island fandom with emphasis on Victoria and Nanaimo. Previous versions serialized in MAPLE LEAF RAG & OPUNTIA. Covers 1970s to early 1990s.
- **NET FANCYCLOPEDIA** (1996) From 'Usenet.rec.arts.sf.fandom' by Dr. Gafia (Rich Brown).
- **FAAN TERMS** (1998) Expanded version of the above Net Fancyclopedia, and still being updated, by Rich Brown.
- **NOTES TOWARDS MARITIME FANHISTORY** (1996) by Garth Spencer. Serialized in OPUNTIA. Covers 1980s to 1990s.
- **NOTES TOWARDS A QUEBEC FANHISTORY** (1996) by Garth Spencer. Covers 1980s to 1990s.
- **OTTAWA FANDOM (MAINLY THE OTTAWA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY)** (1996) by Garth Spencer. Covers 1940s to 1990s.
- **WIERDS DID IT! - THE CHRONICLES OF B.C.S.F.A. Volume one** (1998) by R. Graeme Cameron, BCSFA/WCSFA Press Publication #2. Detailed history of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association from beginnings 1968 to end of 1972, including VCONs 1 & 2, plus Philip K. Dick's life in Vancouver. (Note: Old English spelling of 'weird', a 'wierd' being a race of fates or supramundanes who do odd things.)
- **A BRIEF HISTORY OF SWILL** (2001), VileFen Press, Neil Williams, editor of SWILL.
- **REVISITING NYDAHL'S DISEASE** (2002) by Joel Nydahl. TRAPDOOR #21 (March 2002) edited by Robert Lichtman.

Books:

(Listed in order by date of publication)

- **THE IMMORTAL STORM** (1954): 'A History of Science Fiction Fandom' by Sam Moskowitz -- 1988 reprint edition -- Hyperion Press, Inc., Westport, Connecticut, USA.
- **ALL OUR YESTERDAYS** (1969): by Harry Warner, Jr. -- 1971 Paperback Edition -- Advent: Publishers, Inc. Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
- **A WEALTH OF FABLE** (1976): by Harry Warner Jr. -- 1992 Hard Cover Edition -- SCIFI Press, Van Nuys, California, U.S.A.
- **THE FUTURIANS** (1977): by Damon Knight -- John Day Publishing, New York City. 186 pages. Hardbound.
- **WARHOON #28** (1978 - May): collected works of Walt Willis. Published by Richard Bergeron, New York city. 614 pages. Hardbound.
- **THE WAY THE FUTURE WAS** (1978): by Frederik Pohl -- Del Rey Ballantine Books, New York City. 312 pages. Hardbound.

- **THE WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION** (1979): 'The History of a Subculture' by Lester Del Rey -- Del Rey Ballantine Books, New York City. 416 pages. Softcover.
- **YEARS OF LIGHT, A CELEBRATION OF LESLIE A. CROUTCH** (1982): 'A compilation & a commentary' by John Robert Columbo -- Hounslow Press, Toronto, Canada. 193 pages. Softcover.
- **HARRY WARNER, ALL OUR YESTERDAYS** (1991): An Omnibus of the Writings of Harry Warner Jr. by Chuck Conners -- Skate Press Incorporated, Sildan House, Suffolk, England.
- **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION** (1993): by J. Clute & P. Nicholls.

Individual sources are credited where possible, as in:

- (AK) - Arnie Katz
- (BK) - E. Bernie Klassen
- (BD) - Brian A. Davis
- (BP) - Bob Pavlot
- (CK) - Christine Kulyk
- (CP) - Curt Phillips
- (CR) - Cecil Rose
- (DE) - Dick Eney
- (DH) - Dale Hammell
- (DK) - Damon Knight
- (D&LZS) - Dick & Leah Zeldes Smith
- (EB) - Ed Beauregard
- (EG) - ESFCAS
- (FP) - Frederik Pohl
- (GF) - Gary Farber
- (GS) - Garth Spencer
- (HWJ) - Harry Warner, Jr.
- (JBR) - Jack Bowie-Reed
- (JGT) - J. Grant Thiessen
- (JN) - Joel Nydahl
- (JRC) - John Robert Columbo
- (JWH) - John Willcox Herbert)

(JS) - Jack Speer
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