

The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 75 Number 1

January 2016

Jack Robins 1919-2015

Jack Robins passed away on December 23, 2015 after a short illness. Robins was the next-to-last living member of the Futurians. He was a member of the International Scientific Association, and a member of First Fandom. In 2012 he was made a Life Member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Our pages in this issue are graced with what is probably his final large fannish work, and perhaps his last Letter of Comment.

R.I.P.

Our 75th Year

Yes, the N3Fs 75th Birthday is approaching. In honor of the Birthday, we already have several important projects.

We are going to publish a new Fandbook. In terms of our history, this would be N3F Fandbook Number 7. The draft is on my desk. It will cover the Nebula Awards for Best Novel. Because Nebulas are given out in the Spring, we will wait to publish until this year's awards are given -- so we can add the novel/author for 2015. Your Editor and President has promised to write a Foreword for it, mentioning that it is part of the celebration of our club's 75th anniversary.

We will I expect publish the first Fanthology, an edited collection of fiction works from Short Story contest winners and other Nef-fers. More details on the Fanthology as become available.

I hope that TNFF will continue its regular monthly publication. We do, however, need a new Editor for Tightbeam.

Neffies

Since 1949, the National Fantasy Fan Federation has offered an annual set of awards, the Neffies, honoring particular contributions

to all aspects of fantasy, broadly defined. A draft list of categories appears later in the issue. Comments, especially those that point out missing categories, are invited. The category list appears below.

Kaymar Award

Nominations are now open for the Kaymar award. Send your nominations to David Speakman davodd@gmail.com.

The Kaymar Award is the highest award given by the National Fantasy Fan Federation. It is not given for talent or for popularity, but for work — work for the benefit of the club and its members. The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson [1904-1986], who originated, maintained, and financed it for 25 years. Carlson was a long-time N3F member who held many positions in the club, including club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar.

The Kaymar Award is given in April every year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The selection is made by a committee consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. Unlike other awards in fandom, the Kaymar Award can be awarded only once. Past recipients, some of whom have now alas joined the honored dead, are:

| Year | Recipient |
|------|------------------|
| 1959 | Ray C. Higgs |
| 1960 | Eva Firestone |
| 1961 | Ralph M. Holland |
| 1962 | Janie Lamb |
| 1963 | Art Hayes |
| 1964 | Seth Johnson |
| 1965 | Stan Woolston |
| 1966 | Donald Franson |
| 1967 | Alma Hill |
| 1968 | Ann Chamberlin |
| 1969 | Donald Miller |
| 1970 | Elinor Poland |
| 1971 | Gary Labowitz |



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 Phillis, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

Heath Row kalel@well.com
 David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

President: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Treasurer: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Editorial Cabal:

Editor and Publisher, Tightbeam **Vacant**

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

Maintainers of Electronic Publications: vacant

Keeper of the URLs: Ruth Davidson

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

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

Historian: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com

N'APA: Jean Lamb tlombs1138@charter.net

N3F Bookwyrms: Graham and Wolf
 leeandjj@gmail.com

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, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films.

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1972 Ned Brooks
 1973 Elaine Wojciechowiski
 1974 Joanne Burger
 1975 Sheryl Birkhead
 1976 Will Morris
 1977 Lynne Holdom
 1978 Harry Warner, Jr.
 1979 Frank Denton
 1980 John W. Andrews
 1981 Edward W. Ludwig
 1982 Owen K. Laurion
 1983 Sally A. Syrjala
 1984 K. Martin Carlson
 1985 Howard DeVore
 1986 Lola Ann (Andrew) Center
 1987 David Heath, Jr.
 1988 Fred Jakobcic
 1989 William Center
 1990 Catherine Mintz
 1991 Tim Gatewood
 1992 Marianne Turlington
 1993 Sandra Morrese
 1994 Lyne-Marie Masamitsu
 1995 Michele (Nowak) Center
 1996 Craig Boyd
 1997 Diane (Miller) Blackwood
 1998 Susan VanSchuyver
 1999 Jefferson Swycaffer
 2000 Janine Stinson
 2001 Jacqueline Lichtenberg
 2002 Dennis Davis
 2003 Harold Marcum
 2004 Ginny Benson
 2005 Joy Beeson
 2006 Ruth Davidson
 2007 George Phillies
 2008 Patricia King
 2009 R-Laurraine Tutihasi
 2010 Jon D Swartz
 2011 Jean Lamb

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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2012 Heath Row
 2013 Sarah Harder
 2014 David Speakman
 2015 Holly Wilson

Short Story Contest

The Results of the 2015 National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) Amateur Short Story Contest are here.

The First Prize winner is "The Bazaar of Forbidden Dreams" by Sean Gillhoolley. This is a sterling example of the "cyberpunk" genre, with two really memorable and personable protagonists, a lovely pair of adventurers who have been twisted by their environment...and go out and do some twisting right back.

The Second Prize winner is "The Last Ordeal of James Willoughby" by Jeff Spitzer, a solemn and thoughtful story about a different kind of "First Contact," where a naturalist finds an alien colony struggling for survival in the Appalachian hills, and has to figure out what to do about it.

The Third Prize winner is "Fabiana's Fairy Godmother" by Kristin Janz. Here, an eager and bright-eyed Fairy Godmother finds herself assigned to a poor girl living in a Brazilian slum, trying to bring joy to the heart of someone in the midst of grinding poverty. This clash of cultures makes the story both heart-warming and very sad.

The Honorable Mention goes to "Track Invasion" by Deborah Rocheleau. This is a saucy satire on the service economy, where a nice chap, hired as a waiter, has to cater to the needs of a most remarkably unsavory clientele. In this story, "Biting the hand that feeds you" can be taken literally!

There were sixteen stories submitted to this year's contest, most from the U.S.A., but also some from Canada and one from Malaysia. It is wonderful to have such a diversity of entries. The stories ranged from conventional science fiction, to "social" science fiction, from "cyberpunk" to "first contact," with a healthy dose of fantasy, and several humorous stories with very surprising twist endings.

The stories in this year's contest show that imagination is still vibrantly alive in the fannish community. The stories are strong and mature, with advanced narrative and dialogue skills, and most especially thoughtful and clever plotting and inventive depiction of backgrounds. We will see some of these writers in the future, selling to magazines and publishing books of their own. For now, let us celebrate good writing, creative imagination, sparkling wit, the depth of insight and empathy, and the living art of the authorship of short science fiction and fantasy fiction.

Late Issues

Your Editor's very good color printer is not working and was

sent back for repairs. Naturally, this happened over Christmas weeks, and efforts to swap in replacement parts did not work but used up a lot of time. On the other hand, I now know how to swap in the electronics module, IO module, print head system, and ink loader on a Xerox Phaser 8560. So soon as I have a working printer, I will send out the papermail issues you are missing.

Fandbook

The draft of Fandbook 7, the Fandbook on the Nebula novel awards, is now on my desk. It awaits the 2015 awardee announcement. This contribution of Fannish history is expected to appear in Summer 2015.

Fanthology

The proposed second celebratory publication is Fanthology 1, a collection of short story contest winners and edited fiction from N3F members. You'll hear more about this by and by.

Welcommittee

Greetings People!

I hope everyone has had restful and fun-filled holidays.

Since this is the beginning of a new year I would like to invite you to join in several activities provided by N3F.

Are you feeling good and wanting to connect with new people?

Join the Welcommittee and be among the first to contact new members and guide them through all the wonders to be found as a member of the N3F.

If other activities beckon, check out the list of bureaus at the beginning of this publication and contact the Bureau Heads. They would be glad to help you discover the fun and rewarding experiences awaiting you.

To join the Welcommittee contact Judy Carroll AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange

It's a New Year!

Did you promise yourself you were going to do something you have always wanted to do? Something just for you? Something you have been dreaming about for months or perhaps years?

Is this the year you are going to get serious about your writ-

ing?

If the answer is YES! Join the Writer's Exchange!

It's very simple. Just contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Electronic Round Robins

To make Round Robins available to our members overseas and to speed up the rounding process we have decided to make some RRs available in electronic form.

I have decided to start with 5 electronic round robins (ERR). If these are successful I will consider adding more as needed. Instead of using the RRs listed in previous TNFFs (Sept. and Oct.) I have chosen 5 subjects with a broad range of possibilities for discussion. They are:

- The Marvel Universe
- DC Superheroes and Villains
- All Things Star Wars
- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror on TV
- Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and TV

Since we have never done this before, it is not quite clear how to make it work. As a first working plan: There will be a list of participants in order, each with an email address. Robin members take turns sending each other messages, but only when it is their turn to send.

Each participant will send her, his, its, or their contribution as a file attachment...PDF is recommended.. to all other robin members. The file attachments from each of the other members will be left attached.

When the Robin comes back to you, you remove your old file and add a new one. Inserting comments inside someone else's file is not allowed.

To join an electronic Round Robin, contact Judy Carroll, autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Birthday Bureau

Laurraine Tutihasi advises us: a woman who used to be a member sent me a bunch of Musgrave cards. They are unprinted, but I can add greetings. Four of the cards are auto-graphed and might be used as prizes .

Website Report

Over the Christmas-to-New Year break, I updated the website to be compatible with the mobile era.

The bones of this Website update was the first refresh of the site since May 2007 version of the site, which was launched before the first iPhone went on sale and before people started browsing the Internet with mobile devices like their phones and tablets.

The reconfiguration of the new website is complete - with mostly the same content - had the main goal of making every page mobile friendly - and changing the fonts so that the pages are easier to read.

What still needs done: The blog portion of the site (which is now just links to N3F publications as they are released) needs to be prettified. Some of the content will need to be updated, but that was not my focus this time.

So far, the website has served multiple uses:

1. A place for general information and history of the club.
2. A means for people to pay their dues and fill out the membership form online (added in 2012)
3. A library for past publications in PDF and archive lists of past award winners and presidents (Added in 2013)
4. An archive of past Bylaws and Constitutions (Added in 2013)

We will need to figure out if that is enough or if we want to do more.

Some future possibilities include email and the blog:

N3F EMAIL:

N3F.org email addresses. We have the capability to provide an N3F.org email address to people. These can exist in two types:

1. A generic email that forwards to a person's existing email address. (i.e. president@n3f.org would simply forward to phillies@4liberty.net as long as George stays in the office. Upon the election of the next president, the address would be set to forward to the new president's email.) This could be useful for both officers and bureau heads.
2. A log-in personalized email address for a person. This would be a normal email account that someone would log into with a username and password. There are positives and negatives with this type of email. Positives include every time a ****@n3f.org email is sent, the club gets "free" publicity. The negatives would include the risk that an account gets hijacked and used to spam folks, that a user misuses the account for illegal purposes (online harassment, illegal pornography, etc.) and has the club liable for stuff stored on its email servers.

I highly recommend we pursue Email Option 1 and avoid Email Option 2.

N3F BLOG Content.

Along with our PDF publications, we have the option to have articles, con reports, fiction, art, and reviews can live on the N3F website as well as the pubs. This is already set up and ready to go.

...David Speakman

Letters of Comment

Jack Robins sent us this on December 19, 2015. He passed away four days later, so you see here one of his final letters of comment:

Editor:

Just read the latest N3F issue and thought it was great. The information on Donald Wollheim was extremely interesting to me since I knew him as a friend but was not aware of all the things he did for SF. Thought I'd let you know.

Jack Robins

Dear Neffers:

Thanks for Vol. 74, No. 12 of the National Fantasy Fan, and I will see if I have anything I can add to it for a future issue.

I am sure you're all glad to see the elections done, but with the size of the membership, only nine ballots were cast? Folks, you've got to do better than that. It's a sign of apathy.

The article by Jack Robins is a valuable article for fan historians, by a Futurian who was there, the last of his kind, by the sounds of it. It sounds very much like the kind of experiences we were hoping for when we all were in our neofan-nish days. I hope there will be more next issue.

I will never attend a DragonCon...too big and too far, but reading the report is still informative. It tells me that perhaps I am too old for that it offers, and perhaps the only thing I might like about DragonCon is the steampunk track, assuming it still has it. And, Ken Burnside's article, seeing he was one of those burned by the five No Awards in the last Hugos, simply makes me glad I don't nominate and vote on them any more.

Time to go and get this to you...I hope my next letter will be a little bigger. Hope your Christmas and New Year's were great fun, and I am looking forward to more in 2016.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Hey Boss,

I have a bit of a puzzle for the group. as you know, I'm a member of a group that scans the old pulp magazines in an effort to preserve them before they crumble to dust. Last month we raised \$1200 to buy a big stack of Weird Tales and smaller stack of Planet Stories (all came from different dealers on e-Bay). We also ended up with a unusual copy of Amazing Stories.

The copy of Amazing Stories in question is volume 7, number 2 (May 1932). At the top of the first page of this issue (page 97...back then Amazing;s page numbering picked up where the last issue left off, not to start back at page one until the first issue of the next volume) a very small address sticker reads:

FORREST J ACKERMAN

SCIENTIFUNCTIONIST
530 STAPLES AVENUE
San Francisco, California, U. S. A.

I know 4e use to deal in SF books, back issue pulps, collectibles and the like back in the early days of fandom. My guess is this is one such item and he put that address sticker there to remind the buyer where he got that copy of Amazing Stories and where to go for more. Yet part of me wonders if it might have possibly been part of 4e's personal collection at one time...it IS a nice copy, but surely he wouldn't have gone about pasteing address stickers inside all his personal collection...would he?? I know at one point he sold off some of the duplicates from his collection at auction...could this have been an example? What ever happened to 4e's collection after he left us? Didn't it goto some University library?

Anyone have any info that would help??

I will gladly supply a copy of the scan to any interested members free of charge if it is allowed.

Gary Casey

Editor:

The attached (Editor: which I have no way to attach here, as it has active links, but the VCON VANGUARD has an astonishing attached video) is Graeme Camerons latest zine promoting the next VCON. <http://www.vcon.ca/>

Highly entertaining material.

His tireless promotions of fandom are a good example of what fandom can create once they get fired up by a goal and an idea. His habit of having a good time is one that others should emulate at every opportunity.

As always I appreciate the efforts of others, saves me a lot of work and always shows me things I might never find alone.

Warm Regards
Dave Haren

Editor:

Thanks for sending the zine and for running Ken Burnside's essay on the Hugos. I have always taken recommended reading lists with a grain of salt, because I am not aware of anyone on the planet whose tastes are identical to mine, not even my wife. I would certainly never use one when filling out my Hugo nomination ballot.

I am one of those people who read as many of the nominees as possible before the voting deadline. I thought the nominees in the short story category were actually better than the ones in the previous year and that while there was a decline in quality in both the novelette and novella categories, I did not think it was a drastic one. The Three Body Problem was actually my first choice in the novel category. I did not have enough time to read any of the nominees in the Best Related

Work category, so I left that one blank. I did vote for both Mike Resnick and Toni Weiskopf in the editor categories. Best wishes,
Tom Feller

Hi George;

I also approve remembering the good things people did, unless their bad things overwhelmed and outweighed their good points. In particular I dislike the current trend of stripping honors and awards from people in sports or entertainment of whatever because it is suddenly revealed that they did something in their past. I know people who cannot admire the work of artists like Pablo Picasso because the creator acted like a jerk in his younger days.

This is different from my stance supporting the removal of the Lovecraft statuette as the award trophy for the WFC. Nothing can diminish Lovecraft's status as a writer of supernatural and weird fiction, but I do not think any person, living or dead, should be a trophy icon, and as of this new year the WFC will be using something completely new as their award trophy.

Rumors have circulating for a long time that Dragon-Con would like to establish some kind of award they can give out, something that could supplement, rather than replace the Hugo Awards. After 2015's blazing battles over the Hugos they may decide to push forward with the plan. I would presume that any Dragon Awards would be heavily weighted toward the electronic entertainment arena, which would include awards for games, electronic publishing, music, costuming and some other categories that the traditional World Con ludites have chosen to ignore up to this point in time.

If they do initiate an award system I'm sure they will have to enact a voting procedure similar to the one you have outlined. Only people buying attending memberships would be able to vote, and the voting process would be time sensitive and limited to prevent ballot box stuffing.

I don't think there is any doubt that DragonCon is big enuf to handle this kind of operation. Already DragonCon is larger than almost all recent World SF Conventions, and is only likely to expand in the future. Their nearest competitor might be ComicCon, which primarily focuses on comic books and comics related entertainment (altho there is a lot of spillover to everything science fictional). The SF World Cons may grow slightly in the coming decade, but I doubt they will add membership of activities as rapidly as DragonCon will.

I thot the 2015 Neffie was certainly well chosen.

My understanding is that the goal for most TV series these days is to stay on the air for at least three or more seasons, and establish a strong fan base. It is nice if the show turns a profit while it is running, but there are genuine profits to be made in reruns and DVD sets, as well as merchandising, which happens when a series can manage to stay on the air for at least three seasons.

I have only seen a few of the new Supergirl episodes.

I'm not much into TV these days, because, as I have probably mentioned before, the wall to wall commercials drive me nuts. From what I have viewed, the special effects are nice, but some of the story lines, especially the incidental background info, is gratefully inconsistent and sometimes the stories seem condescending, at least in my opinion. I suppose I should give it a fair chance, and maybe wait till I can view it on a DVD set sans commercials.

Let me know when you get "Airy Castle All Ablaze" finished. I am planning on getting a tablet computer so I can read e-books. Trying to read that stuff on the desktop or even the laptop is a pain in the butt, so I rarely manage it. In addition, several enterprising collectors are putting out CD collections of extremely rare dime novel material that I definitely want to read. The cost of these compilation sets runs about ten bucks each. You couldn't even buy a battered to pieces copy of a single one of the original dime novels for that price, and these CDs have dozens of issues scanned on them. That makes the decision to purchase a tablet much easier.

---Bob Jennings

N3F Founding Member: Harry Warner, Jr.

by Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

Harry Warner (December 19, 1922 – February 17, 2003) was a journalist and spent 40 years working for a Hagerstown, Maryland newspaper. He was also an important science fiction (SF) fan and historian of SF fandom.

Warner was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Due to poor health, he dropped out of high school in the tenth grade. Despite his lack of formal education, he was well-read and taught himself several languages. In 1962 he wrote:

"Always liked writing, monkeying around with words. You meet a lot of people you'd never know otherwise. It's given me a chance to express my talents."

He became active in SF fandom in 1936, although he was extremely reclusive, earning the nickname "The Hermit of Hagerstown" by the 1950s. He rigidly kept his professional life and his science fiction world separate, and few people in his hometown knew of his SF activities until after his death. He disliked to travel, and rarely attended conventions. Although in the 1930s he welcomed such visitors as Jack Speer, Bob Tucker, Fred Pohl, and Russ Chauvenet to his home, he discouraged visits from other fans.

Warner had his first LoC published in Astounding in 1936. In 1938, he published the first issue of Spaceways, one of the important SF fanzines of its period; and beginning in 1939, he supplemented it with Horizons, which was for decades a mainstay of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Horizons had its first issue in October, 1939 and its 252nd (and final) issue in

February, 2003. Warner also wrote prolifically for other fanzines, winning Hugo Awards for Best Fan Writer in 1969 and 1972.

Fanzine fans revered him for his letter writing. His home at 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, became the most famous mailing address in fandom. Using a manual typewriter, he wrote tens of thousands of letters commenting on fanzines. His reputation became such that fanzine publishers all over the country sent him free copies of their work as a matter of course. Almost without fail, Warner would reply with a thoughtful letter of at least two pages in length. Fanzine editors have described getting their first letter from Warner as like a rite of passage.

Warner was associate editor of the professional SF magazine *Odd Tales* in the 1940s. In the 1950s, he tried his hand at professional SF, publishing more than ten stories in various prozines and even editing an issue of *Other Worlds*.

He was the fan guest of honor at the 1971 Worldcon, a tribute he accepted with reluctance. He also won a Locus fan writer award in 1971. In addition, The Faan Award, formerly known as Best LetterHack, is now called The Harry Warner, Jr. Award for Best Fan Correspondent. A member of First Fandom, in 1995 he was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame. He remained active in fanzine fandom until the end of his life.

He is remembered in SF fandom today primarily for his two book-length histories of fandom, essential references in the field: *All Our Yesterdays*, about fandom in the 1940s, and *A Wealth of Fable*, covering the 1950s. His second book won the Hugo in 1993 for Best Related Book. “*All Our Yesterdays*” was also the title of a series of historical columns Warner wrote over the course of his career.

A classical music lover, he played the piano and oboe and performed in radio recitals, as well as reviewing local performances for his newspaper. He never married. On his death, he left most of his possessions to a Hagerstown Lutheran church. His demise received a bare death notice in his own newspaper, until outraged friends contacted the paper. Finally, after an indignant fellow journalist called the paper's editor on such shameful treatment of a veteran hometown journalist, the paper belatedly ran a farewell column. More happily, his many SF accomplishments are acknowledged here and on several Internet sites.

As a fan historian, he had a lot to say about our club. In part, he wrote as follows: “It would be hard to find a fan organization with a more turbulent history than the National Fantasy Fan Federation.” On the other hand, we are happy to report that, in 1941, he was one of our club's founding members, and that -- with Art Widner -- he edited the first issue of *Bonfire*, our original fanzine.

(Sources: *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*; *The Immortal Storm*; *All Our Yesterdays*; *A Wealth of Fable*; and several Internet sites, including Wikipedia, Fancyclopedia 3, and ISFDB)

Other Worlds Science Stories

by
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

Other Worlds Science Stories (usually referred to as simply *Other Worlds* or OW) was a digest-sized science fiction (SF) magazine, edited by Raymond A. Palmer -- with considerable help from his managing editor, Bea Mahaffey. It was published by Palmer's Clark Publishing in Evanston, Illinois, beginning in the late 1940s. Sold for 35 cents, the thick publication originally printed on pulp paper was bi-monthly until September, 1950, six-weekly until October, 1952, and then monthly.

The first issue, dated November, 1949, was credited to editor “Robert N. Webster,” one of Palmer's pseudonyms-- used by Palmer because he was, at the time, still employed as the editor of *Amazing Stories* for Ziff Davis.

Other Worlds debuted with “The Fall of Lemuria” by Richard S. Shaver, “Where No Foot Walks” by G. H. Irwin (a house name) and “Venus Trouble Shooter” by John Wiley. None of these authors would have excited the discerning SF reader at that time, although Shaver was something of a cult figure to some readers of *Amazing Stories*.

Ray Palmer

Raymond Arthur Palmer [1910-1977] was a SF fan (from early in the 1930s) who later became an author, editor, and publisher under his name and various pseudonyms. He is credited with publishing the first SF fanzine, *The Comet*, in 1930 (later titled *Cosmology*). He was editor of *Amazing*, beginning in 1938, and started *Fantastic Adventures* in 1939. After he founded *Other Worlds*, he began a sister magazine, *Imagination*. Palmer was also associated with the so-called non-fiction magazines *Fate* and *Mystic* -- and a later one titled *The Hidden World*. Some of the pseudonyms and house names he published under during his career were George Bell (with Bea Mahaffey), A. R. Steber, Frank Patton, G. H. Irwin, Robert N. Webster, and Rae Winters.

Palmer was accident prone all his life. At age seven, he had been hit by a truck and suffered a broken back. An unsuccessful operation on his spine stunted his growth (as an adult he stood only four feet tall), and left him with a hunchback. Later accidents interrupted his work for long periods of time, including at one time his editorship of OW.

He was elected to the First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame in 2013.

Bea Mahaffey

Beatrice (Bea) Mahaffey [1926-1987] was a Cincinnati, Ohio SF fan in the 1940s and member of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group. She was hired by Ray Palmer at the Convention in 1949 to be managing editor of *Other Worlds* in Chicago. She

later assisted Palmer in some of his other publishing ventures, and wrote SF with him under their George Bell pseudonym.

She left Palmer's employ in 1955 to get married. After her marriage, she was known as Bea Baird. She was a member of First Fandom, and was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1987. Her photo appears on page 219 of Harry Warner's *A Wealth of Fable*.

Regular OW Authors/Artists

Other Worlds continued as a bi-monthly, running stories by the authors who usually wrote for *Amazing* and *Imagination* (e. g., Rog Phillips, Hal Annas, S. J. Byrne, Melva Rogers [Rog Phillips]), plus more popular and well-known authors such as Ray Bradbury, Anthony Boucher, Fredric Brown, Lester del Rey, Daniel Keyes, Fritz Leiber, A. E. van Vogt, and Jack Vance. In 1952-1953, Other Worlds serialized L. Sprague de Camp's non-fiction *Lost Continents* (published as a book in 1954). Covers and interior illustrations were by artists such as Paul Blaisdell, Hannes Bok, Virgil Finlay, Robert Gibson Jones, Harold McCauley, James B. Settles, and Malcolm H. Smith.

I preferred the covers by Malcolm Smith, who had done the art on several paperback SF books in the late 1940s/early 1950s (e. g., *Invasion from Mars*, *Interplanetary Stories*, *Time Trap*, *Worlds Within*) and had also been a frequent *Amazing* artist.

In the eyes of my SF-reading friends, Other Worlds reached its peak with the July, 1950, issue that had Bradbury's "Way in the Middle of the Air" and van Vogt's "The Enchanted Village." In addition, this issue featured a tribute to Edgar Rice Burroughs by Darrell C. Richardson. The tribute included pictures of the cover of the first appearance of Tarzan in *All-Story* as well as Lex Barker with ERB and artist Allen St. John. My friends and I also enjoyed Eric Frank Russell's "Dear Devil" that had appeared in the May, 1950 issue, an issue that also had stories by van Vogt, Jerome Bixby, and Raymond F. Jones; a cover by Malcolm Smith, using his own son as a model for the boy in the arms of the alien on the cover; and a preview of the upcoming movie *Destination Moon*. Some genre historians believe this is the issue in which Other Worlds actually came of age.

The Devolution of Other Worlds

For many reasons, most of them economic, OW changed drastically over the years before its final demise in 1958. Recovering from an accident in 1953, Palmer suspended Other Worlds with the 31st issue (dated July, 1953). He then took over the magazine *Universe Science Fiction* (previously edited for two issues by "George Bell"). At the same time, Palmer began a short-lived companion magazine titled *Science Stories* (1953 - 1954). *Universe* ran for ten issues until March, 1955, when Palmer changed the title to Other Worlds while continuing the numeration of *Universe*. It ran for another 12 issues as Other Worlds with Palmer introducing

more material about paranormal phenomena, especially UFOs.

From May, 1955 until May, 1957, the publishing firm was given as Palmer Publications in Evanston, Illinois. In June, 1957, Ray Palmer changed the OW title to *Flying Saucers* from Other Worlds (later shortened to *Flying Saucers*). This apparent continuation of Other Worlds caused considerable confusion among readers, deliberately created by Palmer so sales outlets wouldn't have to be persuaded to take a new magazine.

In truth, the magazines overlapped for two issues with ambiguous titles. However, the magazine did continue to carry SF stories until September, 1957, at which point it totally focused on UFO articles. Other Worlds was dropped from the title after issue #29 (May, 1958).

Palmer continued to publish UFO material in different formats until his death in 1977.

Some Conclusions

Even if one didn't care for the rest of an issue of Other Worlds, Palmer's editorials were almost worth the price of the magazine. Always a salesman, in his editorials Palmer extolled the virtues of his magazine, issued challenges to authors and fans, complimented other SF magazines and their editors, and generally tried to drum up interest in SF and related areas.

A lifelong SF fan, he also attended conventions, at which he promoted his publications. Despite his faults, he was never boring. His replies to fans who wrote letters to his magazines were usually enjoyable, and often quite lengthy.

Other Worlds holds another distinction. It was the first ever, fully professional, SF magazine to be published by a SF fan.

At its peak, especially when it went to slick paper, Other Worlds could compete with most of the other SF magazine being published. Unfortunately, Palmer was not able to sustain this level of quality for very long. On the other hand, he could always be counted on to be innovative and – unlike other editors -- he would bare his soul to readers. Much of the quality in the stories published on OW, however, has been attributed to Bea Mahaffey.

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 Tynn, 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 Wikipedia, ISFDB, and *Fancylopedia 3*.

The Futurians—A Personal Experience

A series of Articles from Jack Robins
Part Two—The Formation of the Futurians

At first we met in Michel's home in Flatbush. After considering various names for the new group, it was decided to call ourselves Futurians. More fans became interested in us and joined the group, Lowndes among them. Michel knew someone in an organization called the "Worker's Alliance." This organization tried to help people who had lost their job, or didn't know where their next meal was coming from, or needed help of some kind, since this was still the depression. The Worker's Alliance had a meeting hall which they didn't use on Sundays. They allowed us to meet there only on Sundays. I don't know whether it was rent free or that there was a small rent charge. In the beginning of our meetings, a charge of 10 cents was made for dues. Arguments were also held whether to use Robert's Rules of Order or not. But as more people joined us, dues and rules of order were dispensed with.

Still there was something missing. No base of operations. No address. This all changed by a curious set of events.

Fred Pohl and Leslie Perri (a female fan) got married and rented an apartment in Flatbush, Brooklyn. They realized that their combined income was insufficient so they had the idea that perhaps they could sublet the extra rooms to fellow Futurians. Wollheim and Michel thought the idea was good. But then the Pohl's realized that Leslie would be the only woman and the Pohl's would be the only married couple so they backed out. Fred and Lesli then associated with other fan couples and were no longer a part of the Wollheim group. They made up a second Futurian group.

But Wollheim and Michel seized upon the idea that now they could have a base of operations and an address. A number of fans agreed to move in and share the rent and the cost of Food. Michel moved in his mimeograph machine and a typewriter they were all set, the first Science Fiction Fan Commune. But money was always short so after a number of months they had to give up this apartment. They found another, probably cheaper, and called it "The Ivory Tower." That Commune lasted a long time. In both places they always had fan visitors and at no time did they try to indoctrinate anyone with "Michelism," or anything else, nor did they tell any visitor that he or she was not welcome and should leave. In fact the group was a conglomerate of differently thinking people, a communist or two, an anti-communist or two, while most of the people, both Futurians and visitors, did not care one way or the other. So why did they stick together? The answer is that the group did interesting things together and had lots of fun. I will go into this aspect of the Futurians in more detail later. But now about the activities.

Wollheim had an extensive correspondence list and made it a point to be aware of anything going on. For instance, under his leadership we attended an early "Wheel of Fortune" broadcast that was fun. Another time Don learned of a free scientific lecture. He warned us, "No talking, not even whispering." We walked in quiet and subdued. The speaker (probably Goddard)

talked about his experiments with rockets propelled by liquids. He thought that liquid propellants were better than solid and more easily controlled.

When the H. G. Wells movie, "The Shape of Things to Come," was to show at a mid-Manhattan theater, we all were excited and arranged as a group to meet there before the first showing. The movie was enjoyable and was real science fiction. After the movie Michel invited everyone to his house that evening to discuss the movie's implications. But that might have meant that I would have had to eat out and I, the slum kid, did not have enough money for a meal. Moreover, my parents did not have a phone so I couldn't tell them that I might be away. So I opted out. Years later, in a book Fred Pohl wrote, he mentioned this group visit to the movie and, in describing the meeting in Michel's house, listed all the attendees. Strangely my name wasn't mentioned as having attended the movie with the others. This was the first of a number of times when I became the invisible science fiction fan who, being invisible, wasn't mentioned as being an attendee at something.

What was most interesting were the visits to the Philadelphia fans. As a group we attended some of their meetings. At one meeting (probably the first I had gone to) I felt my bladder reach the point of possibly bursting. I located a bathroom and relieved myself. When I returned to the meeting place, no one was there except an 8-year old kid who was minding a stack of magazines on a table. All the seats were unoccupied. "Where is everybody?" I asked the kid. He shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know." I sat down, not knowing what to do. Suddenly a door opened and in walked Donald Wollheim. He looked at me angrily and said, "Where were you? We looked all over for you. They just took a picture of the group." "Well I'm here now. Can I still get in the picture?" "It's too late," Don said. "The photographer has already left."

My name was never mentioned as having been an attendee, the second time I was invisible.

There were more meetings with the Philadelphia fans and at least one of them was called a "Con" (Convention). The idea was broached that New York should also have a Con and Wollheim was to be in charge. By this time, Sykora and Wollheim had become enemies and at one meeting almost came to blows. Meanwhile, the Futurians had acquired the stigma of being a "communist organization" owing to Michel's old opinion articles on the purpose of Science Fiction (as well as the propaganda Sykora spread around). However, we were now simply "The Futurians" and Michelism and politics were no longer a factor. But only we and visitors to our group knew this. However, the reputation had spread. The Philadelphia fans did not care and they liked us.

It was now close to 1937 and the New York World's Fair was about to open. I pointed out to Don that a New York Con would be good thing to have at the same time as the Fair because fans from all over the country and perhaps also from Europe would be attending. He thought it was a good idea and so told other fans. But because of our tainted reputation, he could not get the backing of Science Fiction editors like Campbell. Instead the torch

went to Sykora, Moskowitz and Taurasi and, with Campbell's blessing, the First World Science Fiction Convention was born.

On the first day of the Convention, we went there as a group. At the entrance, before we could pay our entrance fee, Moskowitz approached. He told us one by one, from Wollheim on, that we were barred from going in. When it came to me (I was last) he hesitated, thought a moment, meanwhile I stood there feeling numb, then said "You can go in." He left. Pohl said they would go to the Cafeteria across the street.

Later on, Isaac Asimov, Lesli Perri and perhaps other Futurians were allowed in. Isaac was supposed to say something about the barred Futurians but Campbell got hold of him and introduced him to the audience as a promising new writer. Isaac was so pleased that he forgot to say anything about the barred people. Lesli did mention it but she was ruled "Out of Order."

The Convention was well organized and a complete success. Occasionally I would leave the meeting and describe the events to the barred people who were really quite interested. A year or so later, articles were written saying that barring the Futurians was a mistake. Many years later I met Moskowitz at a Lunacon meeting and he confessed to me that he had gone to the "Ivory Tower" (the Commune). "I made my peace with the Futurians when I looked in the refrigerator and found nothing there but some moldy cheese," he told me. Many more years later, Wollheim had a stroke which affected his whole body, even his speech. Elsie, his wife said it was hard to understand anything he said. Meanwhile, Moskowitz had lost his larynx and had an artificial larynx in place. In order to talk, he had to touch his throat with a finger and his voice came out monotonous and robotic. But Moskowitz told Elsie he wanted to visit Don at the hospital. She gave him the address and Sam was probably the last fan to visit Wollheim before the latter died. I wondered how they managed to communicate with each other.

Added note regarding the Convention. Recently an article in an N3F bulletin said that only 3 fans who had attended the Convention were still alive, but my name was not mentioned. Again I was invisible.

Among the fans who attended the convention were Forrest Ackerman and his female fan friend Morojo. They spent a lot of time with the Futurians. There was no proselytizing by us but Ackerman (dressed in a "futuristic" costume) tried to talk us into learning Esperanto. He thought that all SF fans should learn that language. Meanwhile we felt that he should not go back to California without seeing Coney Island and Forrest and Morojo, therefore, got a guided tour.

Wollheim, with his vast correspondence and the many fan magazines he subscribed to, learned of an impending convention in Boston (actually a Boskone meeting, perhaps the first). A group of us took a late bus and slept in it (sitting up in our seats) until we reached Boston early in the morning. Wollheim brought us to a hotel and we were to pretend, if asked, that we had slept in the hotel. We got directions and went to the meeting, which was held in a finished basement lined with shelves

of books. The host and hostess were very gracious. At no time was there any proselytizing by anyone. The talks were all of science fiction. There was an attractive young woman attendee and Michel spent the entire afternoon paying her a lot of attention, which she seemed to enjoy. I took some pictures with my 35 mm camera. Our SF historian, John Coker III has them.

And now to the Science Fiction Commune. (Continued next issue.)

Electronic Interactive Fiction

Many of you will know the concept of the interactive novel, in which you reach a page and are told to make a choice, and then go to one of several other pages depending on your choice and continue. Clearly, interactive fiction can also be carried out electronically, computer games being an example. It has long been believed that electronic interactive novels were first introduced in the 1970s. Very recently, Brian Moriarty, who created *Zork* and *Loom*, discovered that the first electronic interactive fiction was actually created twenty years earlier, in 1995, using the Brainiac Home Computer device. He wrote your editor, saying:

The Brainiac project was successfully presented last Sunday (15 Nov) at the Practice 2015 conference in Brooklyn. A complete, illustrated transcript of the lecture is available here: <http://www.ludix.com/moriarty/electric.html> Make sure you view it using a browser that supports YouTube embedding, or you won't be able to watch the videos.

Proposed Neffie Categories

"Paper" publication is from a traditional publishing house. "Electronic" publishing is modern self-publishing via SmashWords, Amazon Kindle, etc. The length divisions for written works are based on the published recommendations of Eric Flint on his blog. One could readily imagine replacing "100,000" with "50,000". Some awards could be divided between science fiction, fantasy, horror, superhero, and romance works.

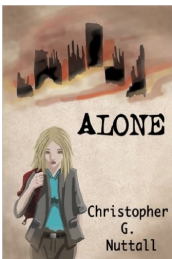
Please send Letters of Comment discussing these proposed categories.

- 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 Writer
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fanzine
- Best Fan Web Site
- Fan of the year
- Best Pro Artist
- Best Pro Author

- Best Pro Editor
- Best Live Film
- Best Animated Film
- Best Video
- Best Comic Series
- Best Comic Single Issue
- Best Paper Game
- Best Electronic Game
- Heroic Achievement

Books By Neffers

Yes, I finally have some space to resume the series, which began a year ago. We resume covering Chris Nuttall's many volumes:



Alone: The plague came out of nowhere. By the time world governments realised that they had a crisis on their hands, it had already swept the planet. The entire world appeared to be dying. Only a handful were spared.

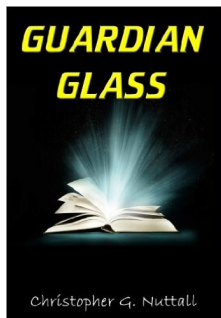
In Edinburgh, one young survivor sets off on a quest to find others, little suspecting the dangers ahead of her.

The Black Knife: The most dangerous form of magic on Touched – a world where those born with magic wield political power – is necromancy, the art of drawing magical power from the act of murder. It has long been banned and rightfully so, yet the ambitious and power-hungry Duke Herod – intent on placing his posterior upon the Golden Throne – has resurrected the art, planning to use it to destroy the Royal Family and take the Throne for himself.



On the eve of their wedding, Prince Eric and Mistress Hind are forced to flee the Palace as Herod's forces launch a coup against the Emperor. As they make their way to the only safety left in a world touched by necromancy and darkest magic, they are pursued by Herod's men, while behind them Herod sinks further into madness. If the necromancer cannot be stopped, the entire world is in terrible danger...

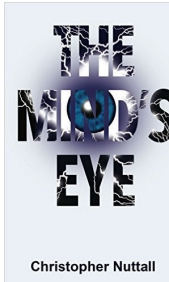
...And may be destroyed.



Guardian Glass:

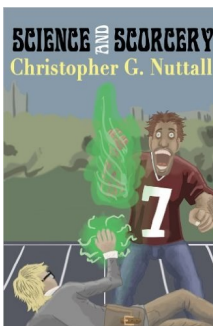
Fourteen years ago, the gateway to Faerie opened and the denizens spilled forth into our world, fleeing a war that was destroying their world. The Faerie, Elves, Imps, Goblins, Vampires, Werewolves, Dragons and thousands of other supernatural creatures infested our world, struggling to co-exist with humanity. And they brought back the magic. It's not a sane world any longer.

When a child is kidnapped through magic, Guardian Glass is ordered to find her, by any means necessary. As he begins his investigation, it becomes increasingly clear that nothing is what it seems...and that the kidnapping is only the first step in a plot that strikes at the very heart of magic, and threatens to plunge humanity into eternal darkness.



For centuries, men have been dreaming of telepathy, the power to read and influence the minds of others. Now, all around the world, telepaths are finally starting to appear. Men and women are developing awesome powers with the potential to dramatically change society. Governments are soon starting to become aware of them, even recruiting them, while striving to keep knowledge of their abilities hidden from the general public. Academic researchers too are discovering telepaths and it isn't long before awareness of their existence starts to spread. But non-telepaths, ordinary people, don't want to have their minds read or controlled; the telepaths soon find themselves widely regarded with fear and hatred. Inevitably, some of them want to fight back.

In this alternative history, albeit set in the near-future, Christopher Nuttall explores the likely impact of the appearance of telepathic abilities in some members of the human race. While telepathy and related psionic abilities have long been a mainstay of science-fiction, the impact of their emergence has not been as well imagined as, say, that of fantastic mutations. Almost everyone has something to hide, thoughts they wouldn't want made public. Governments have secrets they wish to keep, whether for national security or just to hold on to power. How would the general populace react to mind-readers in their midst? How would telepaths respond when threatened by a frightened mob, or constrained by politicians fearful of the disclosure of scandals and long-buried secrets. Intelligence agencies would be both alarmed at the threats and intrigued by the possibilities. Would all nations respond in the same way?



Science and Sorcery: Years ago, the magic faded away and was gone. Now, it is back ... and the nightmare is following close behind.

Strange events are being reported all over the globe. Werewolves and vampires, magicians and sorcerers ... ordinary people are becoming monsters, or developing strange inhuman powers. But as the government, the military and religions struggles to come to terms with a radically reshaped reality, a dark force from the days before science is slowly working its way back into the world. If science fails to come to grips with sorcery, the world will plunge into a nightmare without end.

And time is already running out ...

To be continued. And, yes, we have other Neffer authors I have yet to reach.

In this issue:

Jack Robins 1919-2015

Our 75th Year — Neffies

Kaymar Award—Your Volunteer Team

Short Story Contest—Fandbook—Fanthology

Welcommittee—Writer's Exchange

Electronic Round Robins—Birthday Bureau—Website Report
letters of Comment (Robins, Penney, Casey, Haren, Feller, Jen-
nings)

N3F Founding Member Harry Warner, Jr.

Other Worlds Science Stories

The Futurians -- A Personal Experience

Electronic Interactive Fiction

Proposed Neffie Categories—Novels by Neffers: Chris Nuttall

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

N3F TNFF