



# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 3

March 2017

## Directorate

As the new chairman of our Board of Directors, I'd like to make a short monthly statement on how and what we are doing. Presently we are concerned with functioning effectively and the publicity matter last year is all that has come up. But we are maintaining a continuing interest in all the bureaus and activities in the N3F. I have been making suggestions about certain of the activities and have noted Jefferson Swycaffer getting around as well. I have communicated with two other directors and will be contacting the others—it's all so new! Hope we will play a major part in improvement of the N3F over this new year.—John Thiel

## Treasurer

\$2,729.79 (Feb. 20, 2017)  
+ 44.00 PayPal Dues  
+ 0.00 Cash Dues  
+ 6.00 Check Dues  
- 2.10 PayPal Fees  
-----  
\$2,777.69 (March 12, 2017)

## Kaymar Award

This year, the Kaymar Award is being run by Jon Swartz [jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com). Named after fandom legend K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986), the KAYMAR award has been given every year since 1959. The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or popularity, but for work, for the benefit of the club and its members.

It is a fitting memorial to K. Martin Carlson, who originated, maintained and financed it for 25 years. Now it is paid for by the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value of the

work done by the winners over the years. Prizes include a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems worthy of the KAYMAR Award by sending a nomination to the chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee. Nominations are usually collected beginning in January, but need to be submitted promptly so that the names can be voted on in time for the award in April. All names will be kept confidential. This is an honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be made public.



## Eldritch Science

Yes, issue 1 is soon upon us. Behold the cover.

We have a considerable number of short stories and one longer work.

The novel is being held for issue 2.

## Your Project

I have projects that need people willing to do the work.

Convention list: Do web searches. Find SF Conventions. Add their info to a spread sheet, so I can send them TNFF samples and recruit them

Club searches: Do web search, find clubs, add to spread sheet.

Fanzine archive project (idea by Gary Casey): find old fanzines. They appear for sale on ebay. Scan them, and send the scans to fanzine archiving sites.

Publicize N3F with facebook posts.



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](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) 508 754 1859



## Your Volunteer Team

### Directorate:

John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net—Chair  
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.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, TNFF: George Phillies  
 phillies@4liberty.net

Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Editor, Tightbeam: Bob Jennings FabFicBooks@aol.com

Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Keeper of the URLs: Ruth Davidson

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

### Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau: John Thiel  
 kinethiel@comcast.net

Franking Service: George Phillies

Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Historian: Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

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Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soch  
 @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

N<sup>3</sup>APA: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.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. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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## Membership Report

Information updates

#206 - Michael Simon - Regular

IRL: Medical Care DOB: May 2

Interests: Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, Publishing, Writing

Fan since: "for many moons"

Fanac: Have not been involved

Genre: I read many types, but have an 'affliction' for military sci/fi.

Authors: No favorites---always searching for a good read--recently read Dan Abnett, John Dalmas and R M Meluch.

#206 - Stan Hyde - Public stan99hyde@gmail.com

#207 - Joshua Bulliner - Public bullinerson@gmail.com

#208 - Sherrill Philip Neese - Public spneese@verizon.net

IRL: System Engineer DOB: Sept. 26

Interests: Blogging, Games and video games, Reading and book clubs

Fan since: 49 years

Fanac since: 1 day

Genre: Regular SF. Space adventures. Regular fantasy. Hard to pin down. I just love to read.

Authors: Same with authors. I just love to read. There are so many good books and so many good authors.

Sponsor: Kevin Trainor Jr

#209 - Katriena Knights - Public (interested in Electronic Membership)

krcknights@msn.com

IRL: Writer

DOB: Feb 27

Interests: Books, Conventions and clubs, Editing, Fanzines, Filk singing, Online activities, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Writing

## 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 or send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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Fan since: "since I learned to read"  
Fanac for: 20+ years  
Cons: Starcon, Denver Comic Con, Mile High Con, various cons in the depths of history which I don't remember the names of...  
Genres: High fantasy, space opera  
Authors: John Scalzi, Chuck Wendig, Roger Zelazny, Andre Norton, Christopher Nolan  
Sponsor: Angela Myers  
Interest in N3F: Writing for club publications , Publishing

#210 - Steve Fahnstalk stevefah@hotmail.com  
IRL: Retired DOB: Jan 9  
Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Art, Blogging, Books, Collecting, Computers and technology, Editing , Fanzines, Publishing, Reviewing, Teaching science fiction, Writing  
Fan since: 64 years  
Fanac: 42 years  
Clubs: Palouse Empire SF Association (PESFA), Northwest SF Society (NWSFS), Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Arts Society (ESFCAS), British Columbia SF Association (BCSFA)  
Cons: Too many to list.  
Zines: A number of them, on and off, Amazing Stories Online  
Authors: RAH, Sturgeon, Sawyer, Duncan, Kay, Butcher (both), many more  
NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS & INFO UPDATES  
#211 Lynne Taylor Fahnstalk - Family member of Steve Fahnstalk - Household Voting Member  
Expiry: March 2018  
(Hopefully, along with a name, we'll get a Member Form on this newbie for appropriate egoboo in the next ish)

RENEWED:  
#49 Kent McDaniel Expiry: March 2018  
#135 Thomas McGovern - Electronic Expiry: March 2018  
#153 Gary Casey - Electronic Expiry: December 2017

EXPIRED/EXPIRING  
Renew Now!!

Expiring in March  
#16 - Patsy King  
#136 - Boyko Antonia  
#173 - Jeff Barnes

Expiring in April  
#4 Diane Blackwood  
#5 Bob Blackwood

STATUS CHANGES  
#15 - Sarah Glasgow Harder - Regular to Public Exp 1/31/2017  
#129 - John W. Andrews - Regular to Dropped (no email) Exp 1/31/2017  
#210 - Steve Fahnstalk - Public to Regular Voting - Exp

3/31/2018

## Birthday Bureau

February:  
Birthday cards sent=8, renewal notices=5  
R-Laurraine Tutihasi

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Hi, Neffers! Getting used to the presence of a fan-pro coordinating activity in the NFFF? We're awakening a lot of new interest in this organization from people we are contacting about fan-pro relations. Any comments you have to make about this new activity are welcome and will be answered, possibly in the letter column of IO (as I call our publication for short). We're getting situated nicely, and ought to be able to contribute more and more to the active status of this organization. If you need more insight into fandom, you'll be seeing that in forthcoming issues of IO, as the first issues have demonstrated.

...John Thiel

## Franking Bureau

We continue to send out fanzines received as trades. We still have a size limit of 2Mb, but we have found a path that lets us distribute edited selections of larger fanzines, enough to give you a sampler of what their fine fan-ed's are doing.

## Games Bureau

In "Grand Austria Hotel", each player is the manager of the nineteenth century Austrian hotel. Players compete to get the best customers to eat at their hotel's restaurant. If you serve those customers the right foods then they will book rooms in your hotel and score victory points for you. There are four types of foods, represented by colored cubes. There are three types of rooms on your hotel board, color-coded red yellow or blue. There are four types of customers, represented by cards green customers will take any color room. Red, blue, and yellow customers will only take rooms of the same color. Each turn dice are rolled, which each with each number representing one of the six possible actions a player can take. Players take turns claiming action dice. Some dice will allow you to acquire food cubes. Other roles will allow you to gain money or staff cards. Hiring staff gives you extra abilities. The biggest problem with "Grand Austria Hotel" was the numerous symbols on the customer and staff cards. My friends and I often had to refer to the rule book to figure out what the various symbols meant. This is a good game, but it has a steep learning curve. "Grand Austria Hotel" is marketed by Mayfair games. ...Wesley Kawato

In an important aside, my zine Nova SF #33 is now available. That issue has a story "Whirligig" by our own Jefferson Swycaffer. Copies are available for \$6.50. California residents please add \$0.45 sales tax. Make out all checks to Wesley Kawato. Send all orders to: Nova SF, c/o Wesley Kawato, 17983 Paseo Del Sol, Chino Hills, CA 91709

## Membership Recruitment

We two recruiters might like some help from the membership at recruitment. See if you can find people who would like to join the NFFF. If you succeed in finding a new member, report it to us and your name will be listed as having acquired a new member for us.-John Thiel

## Round Robins

Have you ever looked at the cover of a science fiction magazine and was swept away by the illustration and wondered about the person who could create such a glorious vision? Or read a book that sent you to a world so fascinating you day-dreamed of going there? Or found a quote that meant so much to you that you wanted to share it with the world? Have you wished you had someone with which to share your discoveries?

Round Robins are the place you can share your discoveries with others who Share Your Interests.

To start your adventure -

1. Pick out a round robin from the lists below (we have Electronic Round Robins and Snail Mail Round Robins)
2. Contact Judy Carroll - (AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com) with your choice
3. You will be put on the Round Robin of your choice. (You can join more than one.)

## Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 3 members

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members - Only One more member needed.

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member

The Marvel Universe - 0 members

DC Superheroes and Villains - 0 members

All Things Star Wars - 0 members

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

For more information about the Bookworms reading list and their round robin contact --- Graham & Wolf lee-andjj@gmail.com

## Paper Mail Round Robins

Following is the list of current Snail Mail Round Robins and the number of members in each.

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in TV, Movies and Books. - 2 members

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 2 members

Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies and TV - 1

member

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.

Japanese Anime

Cartoons and Cartooning

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games

Comics and Graphic Novels

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

## More Active Round Robins

For these contact

Patricia Williams-King doofusming@yahoo.com

Worldwide Folklore

the Speculative in Films

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine and the New Generation

Fairy and Folk Tales

Dreams

Mysticism and Religion in Science Fiction and Fantasy

Celtic Folklore and Druid Folklore

Harry Potter, Books and Movies

Mercedes Lackey

Mythology

Science Fiction in Films

Star Trek: Voyager and Enterprise

Star Trek: Classic

Star Wars, Books and Movies

Star Wars: the Force Awakens and Rogue One

Vampires

Current Reading

Firefly / Serenity

CJ Cherryh

J. R. R. Tolkien

Comics, Graphics, Novels, Animation

Sherlock Holmes

Torchwood

Science and Technology in Society

Thieves World

Women SF and F Writers

Darkover/Marion Zimmer Bradley

The Hobbit, Book and Movies

Terry Pratchett/Disc World

High Technology in the Ancient World

General Science Fiction and Fantasy Books and Movies

The Mazerunners

The Martian, Movie

## Writers Exchange Bureau

We are happy to announce, that since our January issue, we have two writers who have come forward and are sharing their work with us. John Thiel has sent us a flash fiction short story and the beginning of a novel and Mike Simons has sent us four short stories. Thank You, John and Mike, we really



appreciate your trusting us with your work.  
A regular contributor is George Phillies who sends us chapters of a novel he is writing. Thank You, George.

A few members have sent us their work to read over the last year. Please send us more!!

We would love to see many more writers willing to share their work with us.

We love reading and we love writing and we love discovering others who share these interests.

You may send your work to Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com OR  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## A Touch of Trivia

We all know Benedict Cumberbatch was chosen to play the character of Dr. Strange in the 2016 movie of the same name.

I wondered what other actors had been considered for this role.

I went to four websites (Looper, Movie Pilot, Screen Rant and Huffington Post) looking for information on the actors who had been considered to play Dr. Strange. None of them had the same list of actors.

Following are the actors and the number of times their names appeared in the above listed websites:

Joaquin Phoenix - 4	Tom Hardy - 2
Ryan Gosling - 3	Jon Hamm - 1
Jared Leto - 5	Colin Farrell - 1
Ethan Hawke - 4	Viggo Mortensen - 1
Ewan McGregor - 3	Johnny Depp - 1
Jake Gyllenhaal - 3	Oscar Isaac - 2
Patrick Dempsey - 1	Matthew McConaughey - 2
Aiden Gillen - 1	Joseph Gordon-Levitt - 1
Nicolas Cage - 1	

\Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Welcomittee

Hwan-yan Ham-ee-doh

Korean - 환영합니다 (hwangyong-hamnida).

Perhaps the toughest one on the list, it is a lot of syllables that come pretty quickly. Take your time learning each part before putting it all together. •"Hwan-yan Ham-ee-doh" (From How to Say Welcome in Different Languages - wikihow.com)

Today we will continue our stroll through the streets of Littleton looking at the signs in the shop windows.

## Round Robins Bend

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror  
Love discussing the latest in movies, TV and books?  
We can set you up with others who have the same interest.  
Come in and join the fun!  
Proprietor, Judy Carroll  
AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Gourmet Square

Love Good Food and Good Books?  
Step right in for a unique experience.  
Discover good books and good food to eat while you read them.  
Proprietor, Cedar Sanderson  
cedarlili@yahoo.com

The Town Shop Keepers are all set up in their various shops and are open for business. Following are the shops, what they specialize in and the name of proprietor:

Artists Keep -Discussing Art and Artists - Cedar Sanderson - cedarlili@yahoo.com  
Birthday Grove - Birthday Greetings to Town Members - R-Lauraine Tutihasi - lauraine@ mac.com  
Fan-Pro Road - Coordinating Fan Activity in the Town: John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net  
Games Away - Town Gaming Interests - George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net  
Gourmet Square - Delicious Food - Cedar Sanderson - cedarlili@yahoo.com  
History Heights - Town Historian - Jon Swartz - jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
Lord High Gardens - Providing Proofreading for Town Publications - Jon Swartz - jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
Recruitment Circle - Inviting People to Join Littleton - Kevin Trainor - wombat.soch@gmail.com  
and John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net  
N'APA Woods - A Town Publication By Town Members - George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net  
Book Row - Town Members Reading Club - Graham and Wolf - leeandjj@gmail.com  
Round Robins Bend - Town Members Get Together and Discuss Various Subjects  
Judy Carroll - autumnseas8012@yahoo.com or  
Patricia Williams-King - doofusming@yahoo.com  
Story Trail - A Yearly Writing Contest for Town Members - Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com  
Video Point - A List of News and Reviews of Interest to Town Members -  
David Speakman - davodd@gmail.com  
Welcome Avenue - Greets New Town Members and Informs Them of the Towns Activities -  
Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com  
Writers Way - A Gathering of Those Who Like to Write and Those Who Like to Read -  
Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

For those of you who would like to join in the uniqueness and history of this town, and not just pass through it window shopping, Please contact the Shop Keepers listed above for the Town Activities you would like to be involved in. Or contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Don't just pass through!  
Come in and join the activities

## Letters of Comment

Editor:

It seems a shame to me that the NFFF has been so dormant in recent times. Truly our once proud organization should make itself known again. It's been one of fandom's great achievements. I think it should be possible to stir up interest in it again, and have been doing my best to do that in Facebook and elsewhere on the net. Then there is stirring up interest within the organization. I'd point out to the membership which prefers to remain idle that there is much to be gained by being active. The round robins give you the opportunity for discussion, the writers bureau the opportunity to try your writing abilities, the games may be fun—activity is always more rewarding than simple observation and gives people a sense of accomplishment as well as making your acquaintances with others more rewarding. I know that a lot of the members are public members, but I would point out that there is nothing preventing you from taking part in the activities; the only thing you actually lack is voting privileges. If you have had the misapprehension that you are not welcome in our activities, the opposite is the actual fact. I'd like to see more happening around here, and it seems to be that everyone else feels the same, but are not knowing how to make more happen. Join in things, that should take care of it. I hope this statement gains the attention of the membership.

...John Thiel

Lloyd Penney writes  
1706-24 Eva Rd.  
Etobicoke, ON  
CANADA M9C 2B2

Dear Neffers:

I am still catching up on things, but now, it looks like I am making some progress. Here's a loc on Vol. 76, Numbers 1 and 2 of The National Fantasy Fan.

76/1...Congratulations to all who participated in the 2016 Short Story Contest. I didn't know there were so many entries, and so many winners from elsewhere in the world. And congrats to Jon Swartz and David Speakman on their Franson Awards.

A great piece of writing and research on Robert W. Chambers. His name is one of the few I recognize from that far back in our literature's history. I didn't know about his relationships with H.P. Lovecraft. As said last time, there's always something new to learn.

It's good to see something on Scottish traditions. My mother was from Ayr, Scotland, so I knew much about the Burns cottage and the origins of Hogmanay, but few outside Scotland remember these traditions.

The letter column...it's good to see that the Worldcon is actually embracing more of the world, with this year's event in Helsinki, Finland. I am hoping for John Purcell winning TAFF, so he can represent North American fandom in much of Europe. I think Jon Swartz's columns on the important founders of the N3F and fandom as a whole should be gathered together in a book. I think it could form an important research book.

76/2...I think the outreach project to introduce more fanzines to the membership is an excellent idea. Does anyone know how successful the project has been so far? I know there are some who are not yet online, but unfortunately, distributing paper fanzines can be horribly expensive. As you say, let's hope a solution can come about. There is always the idea of paying for the delivery and production of paper fanzines, but as John Thiel says, there's fewer and fewer disposable dollars around, and there's too much already that's out of our reach because of lack of funds.

I knew nothing about Marjorie Bowen...I now know a lot more thanks to Jon Swartz's researches. And, it's good to see more about Elmer Perdue. The convention list helps...I create a list of conventions at most a day's drive away from Toronto, and it goes as far east as Quebec City, and as far west as Detroit and Toledo. And, I distribute it to an expanding list that was originally meant to inform local fandom about the several fannish pubnights out there.

All done for now, and off it goes to George's inbox. Many thanks for this, George, and all those who work to make the N3F a viable reality. See you with the next issue.

Robert Lichtman writes

Hi, George--

In connection with the bio of Elmer Perdue, you might want to mention his 1965 fanzine, "'Myrtle Rebecca Douglas -- An Appreciation,'" is available online at this link....

eFanzines.com - Robert Lichtman - Trap Door <http://www.efanzines.com/Morojo/index.htm>

...and that it also contains Forry Ackerman's essay, "I Remember Morojo."

Also mentioned is that he published a FAPAazine -- in fact, it should be noted that he was a member of FAPA from 1940 until his death in 1989. I met Elmer for the first time at a LASFS meeting early in 1959, where he gave me a copy of a fanzine he did with Charles Burbee: Bublins combined with Elmurmurings. I saw him off and on for years after that, the last time at the second Corflu convention held in Napa, California, in 1985.

Best wishes,

Robert  
Heath Row writes...  
Dear fellow fen!

It is been forever and a day since I have caught up on N3F zines. I just this morning read volume 75 # 9–11 and volume 76 #1, catching up some since last September. I wouldn't say that I had gafiated per se, but my involvement certainly has waned.

So huzzah! to all the new active members. So good to see many new names-new to me-Cedar, John,... And also good to see old names re-contextualized-Robert Jennings! Thank you for your help in enlivening the N3F. You're good beans, all.

The review of *First Fandom Magazine* in #9 didn't include any contact information. Is it available to the general public? I quite enjoyed the write up of *Imagination*. Mari Wolf's contributions to fandom are impressive. Perhaps they outweigh the perception of low-quality fiction, though I wonder whether that was the reaction of the adolescent audience of the time. Occasionally, older readers dismiss young adult writing.

I will have to search my email for the bounty of APAs and distributed fanzines! I also cannot wait to see all of our new zines: the revived Tightbeam, Ionisphere, and Eldritch Science.

In #11 I enjoyed Jon's writeup of *Amazing Stories*. It is important to note the 1990s revival of that title as a standard sized full-color magazine published by TSR, maker at the time of *Dungeons & Dragons*. The relaunch had some fanfare, and my memories of it are that it was very high quality. I'll have to check my back issues to see whether there were any authors of note involved — but the color and artwork was glorious. There was also a television series that used the name, though not connected to the magazine. It aired in 1985–1987 and involved Steven Spielberg.

Congratulations to the new members of the Directorate, the short story contest winners, and the Franson winners. I'll have to check out *A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds*!

My son and I have been enjoying *A Series of Unfortunate Events* on TV — so much better than the previous movie! I hope to reread the short fiction of Robert Chambers, who in part inspired the first season of true detectives on TV. And I continue to enjoy Terry Brooks's *First King of Shannara*. I've only read *Sword* otherwise, and this is a worthy precursor.

## Articles Neglected Genre Authors:

**D. K. Broster**

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Dorothy Kathleen Broster (1877- 1950) was born near Liverpool on September 2, 1877, to Thomas Broster, a shipowner, and his wife, Emilie Kathleen Broster. Dorothy was privately educated. Her parents later moved to Cheltenham, and at sixteen she went to The Cheltenham Ladies College -- and then in 1896 to Saint Hilda's College, Oxford, where she studied modern history. Broster was among the first women students at Oxford; she completed her studies in 1898, but had to wait for her degree until 1920, when graduation was first extended to women.

She served as a Red Cross nurse during World War I with a voluntary Franco-American hospital. Following the war she returned to Oxford where she worked as a secretary to the Regius Professor of History. She wrote her best-selling novel, *The Flight of the Heron*, in 1925, following it up with two successful sequels: *The Gleam in the North* (1927) and *The Dark Mile* (1929). These three books were later collected as *The Jacobite Trilogy*, all featuring her dashing hero Ewen Cameron.

Broster produced fifteen popular historical novels between 1911 and 1947. An intensely private person, she always wrote under the pseudonym of D. K. Broster. On her death in 1950, critics were surprised to find that she was neither male nor Scottish, as had often been assumed. Because she was such a private person, next to nothing is known of her early life, and very little was written about her during her lifetime. Many remember her *Jacobite Trilogy*, in print for years, and *The Flight of the Heron* was dramatized on Scottish television in 1968. Her other historical fiction, however, is long out of print and largely unknown today.

While Broster was best known for her historical novels, there is another side to her writing, a darker one, as shown in some of her early poems. In addition to these poems, she later wrote what some have called "explainable" ghost stories (i. e., apparitions whose origin is to be found in some violent or unjust action in the past) and dark stories that have little or no explanation, even in supernatural terms. Add to these a reworking of the Persephone myth and some psychological studies, and there is a body of her work that definitely belongs in the horror genre. Most of these stories were collected in two early volumes, *A Fire of Driftwood* (1932), and *Couching at the Door* (1942). Broster reported on one occasion that many of her stories "were conceived in dreams."

Both of her early short fiction collections are hard to find today; there was only one edition of *Couching at the Door*, and that was at a time of paper restrictions. Today the first editions of these books are highly sought after by ghost and mystery story fans, as few of these stories have appeared in anthologies through the years (see below). A paperback collection of some of her short fiction was reprinted in 2000 by Ash Tree Press in Canada, and this was seen by critics as a welcome revival of a neglected side of Broster's writing. In 2007 another edition of *Couching at the Door* was published, so her genre short fiction is not as neglected as it once was.

Broster never married and died on February 7, 1950. During the last decade of her life, she suffered various health problems that largely put a stop to her writing. Her obituary in *The Times* stated that she had a “predilection for the supernatural and the occult.” At the time of her death she may have been estranged from her family, as the only family member at her funeral was a nephew.

#### Genre Books

*A Fire of Driftwood* (1932) [a mixed collection of 13 stories, including four of her supernatural tales: “All Soul’s Day,” “The Crib,” “Clairvoyance,” and “The Window”]

*World Under Snow* (1935) [with G. Forester/may be a mystery rather than science fiction, as reference works disagree on this]

*Couching at the Door* (1942) [five of her weird stories]

#### Genre Short Stories/Poems

“All Souls’ Day” [the ghost of a murderer warns his living victim]

“Couching at the Door” [a decadent literary man is haunted by a boa-like creature]

“From the Abyss” [an accident splits a woman into two separate entities]

“Clairvoyance” [bloodthirsty occurrences at an English mansion]

“The Pavement” [a study of obsession]

“The Window” [a house wreaks vengeance]

“Juggernaut” [revenge by a possessed chair]

“The Promised Land” [a psychological study of madness]

“The Peasuring” [persecution by a ghost who keeps asking about a chest]

“The Second of September, 1792” [genre poem: “So I wedded his pain/To my rapture of hate.”]

“The Taste of Pomegranates” [a reworking of the Persephone myth]

#### Genre Stories Reprinted in Anthologies/Collections/Periodicals

“All Souls’ Day” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“Couching at the Door” in *The Midnight Reader* (Stern, 1942)

“Couching at the Door” in *Bar the Doors* (Hitchcock, 1946)

“Couching at the Door” in *The Pocket Book of Ghost Stories* (Stern, 1947)

“Couching at the Door” in *Ghostly Tales To Be Told* (Davenport, 1950)

“Couching at the Door” in *Playboy* (March, 1956)

“Couching at the Door” in *13 More Stories They Wouldn’t Let Me Do on T.V.* (Hitchcock, 1957)

“Couching at the Door” in *These Will Chill You* (Wright & Sheehan, 1967)

“Couching at the Door” in *65 Great Tales of the Supernatural* (Danby, 1979)

“Couching at the Door” in *The Penguin Book of Horror Stories* (Cuddon, 1984)

“Couching at the Door” in *4 Classic Ghostly Tales* (Miller, 1993)

“Couching at the Door” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“Couching at the Door” in *Phantasmagoria* (Menville, 2008)

“From the Abyss” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“Juggernaut” in *The Virago Book of Ghost Stories* (Dalby, 1987)

“The Pavement” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“The Peasuring” in *The Virago Book of Ghost Stories 2* (Dalby, 1991)

“The Promised Land” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“The Taste of Pomegranates” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

“The Window” in *Couching at the Door: Strange and Macabre Stories* (Adrian, 2001)

Note: Stories are listed alphabetically by title and then by year of publication of the anthologies/author collections/periodicals in which they appeared.

#### Poetry Collection

A slim volume of Broster’s poetry was collated and published posthumously by Gertrude Schlich, her “close friend and long-term companion.”

#### Concluding Remarks

When she is remembered today, Broster is usually described as a leading historical novelist; but she also wrote some memorable horror stories, especially “Couching at the Door,” her most anthologized story (see section on reprinted stories). *The Flight of the Heron* is probably her best known and most popular novel.

One critic wrote about a collection of her horror stories: “All of the stories demonstrate Broster’s eye and ear for the macabre, the sinister, and the horrifying; and her ability to fashion nightmares out of such seemingly innocent incidents as a discarded feather boa, a visit to a prehistoric cave, or a recuperative holiday at the seaside.” Another critic wrote: “She was a brutal, hard-hitting writer, with enough odd romance to give her work some similarity to Baroness Orczy’s *Pimpernel* tales and suchlike.”

Jack Adrian concluded in his Introduction to the 2001 collection of her genre fiction: “It may well be the case that her more macabre imaginings will in the end far outlast even her major offerings to the genre (i. e., historical novels) that brought her fame and some of her fortune.”

#### Bibliography

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Ashley, Mike. *Who’s Who in Horror and Fantasy Fiction*. NY: Taplinger, 1977.

Bleiler, E. F. *The Guide to Supernatural Fiction*. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 1983.

Broster, D. K. *Couching at the Door*. Hertfordshire, England: Wordsworth Editions, 2007.

D’Amassa, Don. *Encyclopedia of Fantasy and Horror Fiction*. NY: Checkmark, 2006.



Nicholls, Peter. *The Science Fiction Encyclopedia*. NY: Dolphin Books, 1979.

Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 1: Who's Who, A-L*. Chicago: Advent,

## N3F Founding Members:

### Jack Gillespie

by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

Jack Gillespie was brought into fandom by a fellow science fiction (SF) fan, Dick Wilson. In 1937, Gillespie joined with James V. Taurisi and Robert G. Thompson to announce their planned fanzine, *Cosmic Tales*, which ran for four issues -- but was subsequently criticized by many of the fans who read it. Gillespie tried numerous other fanzines, including *Just Things* in 1938; but he never managed to get his zines into the mainstream of fandom.

Gillespie and Wilson are known today in fandom mainly for the hoax they perpetrated on BNF Sam Moskowitz one morning by ringing his doorbell and informing him of the death of his friend Will Sykora, a hoax that caused Moskowitz to break off relations with both of the men.

A charter member of the New York Futurians, Gillespie hosted the third Futurians meeting at his parents' home near Fort Tryon Park. At the first Worldcon in 1939, he was also one of the six Futurians to whom "The Great Exclusion Act" was applied (other Futurians excluded from Nycon One were Donald Wollheim, Frederik Pohl, John Michel, Cyril Kornbluth, and Robert Lowndes).

When the Futurians began to split between Wollheim and Pohl, Gillespie joined Pohl's camp. According to Pohl, "Jack Gillespie was the shortest of the Futurians and the most likely to be up for any fun idea anyone had. Jack's parents were divorced. He lived with his mother, a devotee of . . . Richard Wagner. His father ran a trucking service with an unwonted record of having merchandise fall off the backs of the trucks, so Jack always had plenty of cigarettes and Milky Ways."

Gillespie and Pohl were great friends and collaborated on various fanac projects, including three-act plays; and they sometimes killed weekends by hitchhiking to various cities around New York.

During World War II, Gillespie joined the Merchant Marine in lieu of army service. After the War was over, he found that he was still subject to the draft, so he stayed in the Merchant Marine for several more years.

After his service in the Merchant Marine, Gillespie married a pretty blonde, Lois Miles, a former schoolmate of Pohl's wife Carol. Gillespie and his wife then moved to Pennsylvania, where he ended up running a plastic cooker in Pottstown, polymerizing long-chain molecules into plastic -- which apparently he did for the next twenty-five years. He told Pohl that he had moved to Pennsylvania because that's where the jobs he wanted were located. Pohl blamed the Merchant Marine for Gillespie's choice of

work, writing that the unintellectual environment that Gillespie experienced there for so many years was one he could not get out of mentally, even after he had physically left.

Gillespie is also remembered today because he was one of the founding members of our club, The National Fantasy Federation (N3F), in 1941.

Sources: *The Futurians*; *All Our Yesterdays*; *The Way the Future Was*, *The Immortal Storm*; *Fancylopedia 3*; ISFDB; Wikipedia; and other Internet sites.

## Give and take

by Cedar Sanderson

I can't speak for everyone, but this writer is socially awkward and uncertain. Last week I talked about networking as an Indie author, and creating a barter system that would help those with no budget, but time, get off and running. What if I don't have a network? was asked.

Well, here's the thing about networking. It's a mixture of being willing to ask, and being willing to give. The system is one built on trust, like any other relationship, and that makes it a delicate balance for those of us who aren't terribly socially ept. I can't help much, other than to talk about my experiences and how I tend to feel like a clumsy ox when it comes to human interactions.

Writers' groups are the best place to start building this network, of course. I first joined one when I was submitting bits of stories for critique to an online forum, and was invited to take part in a small group. That didn't go very well. I hear horror stories about the impact groups can have on delicate young writers' egos, but for me it wasn't an impact on my writing, it was a terrible feeling of having to pretend to be something I wasn't, in order to keep from being attacked and flamed. Because I didn't trust them on one level, I couldn't take seriously their criticism of my work -- and most importantly, looking back, I couldn't fully critique their work. That meant I wasn't giving my best to them. I was afraid that if I pointed out flaws, they would come back at me saying that I was only bashing them for other reasons (I was not the same religion they were, and much of the OT chatter was bashing my religion). Later still, after I'd moved on from that group, I did hire one of them for editing, only to have to hire another person to revert those edits. . . . It was a nightmare.

Lest you think I'm trying to discourage you! I am not. I am saying that if you don't fully trust the people in the group, it's a sign to bow out and move on. I got lucky, for values of luck, when I did at last wind up invited to a group mentored by Sarah Hoyt and Dave Freer. The group was run by another writer, Darwin Garrison (whose stories are worth looking up) and it was a far better structure than the small group (remember the song in the *Music Man*, with the women singing "pick a little. . ." That was the first group) in that it was targeted at becoming better writers. Not that there wasn't off topic chatter, it's the first place I saw in-depth discussion of what the publishing world was really like. And ultimately it led me here.

That group went the way of most communities – the attrition of time washed some of us away. I stopped writing for some years, dealing with illness and depression as my marriage spiralled into darkness. I reconnected with some of them on Facebook, and in time I started writing again. At that point I also started to consider the writing as a business, once I'd finished a novel. I had a bunch of stories, not all finished, in a drawer. I had very little money, so I knew I'd be on my own for things like covers and formatting. I decided early on that I would hire an editor... The first time I used money I'd saved and set aside from my other business. After that, all monies from sales were put back into the writing biz until it turned a profit.

I've always worried about asking too much of my friends, who were accomplished writers when I was struggling to begin. I've been blessed with good friends, but I try very hard to give as much as I get. I took a workshop on cover design (Dean Wesley Smith, it was \$300 four years ago) so I could do my covers and help others. Later there was a class on design at college. I spent countless hours on art, learning how to take incoherent elements and make something that would sell a book. At this point, I have a skill I'm confident has value, which I can trade with others, towards editing my writing. I can edit, but I enjoy the art and design. You get the idea – if you are confident that what you are offering in trade is worth it, you're more likely to ask for a barter.

Bartering is a trust relationship. If you're trading loaves of bread for a chicken, it's very physical and immediate. Trading skills takes time, and you may not see the results immediately. It's important to know the other person well. And building that kind of relationship is not a quick and easy process. I suspect there's a reason money has remained so popular over the ages. Friendships come and go, the work remains. I suspect that a more formal barter network for Indie Authors would be of use, some way to offer a skill you have, and say "I need x done" and there would be recommendations that paired you up. Pitfalls exist (don't they always?) In that cliques would form, monetary values would have to be set (if someone is convinced their editing ought to be \$500 per novel, they might not be happy to receive a \$250 cover in return), and people who fail to deliver would have to be removed from the list (see the first pitfall).

So how to start forming your network? Start talking to people who are like-minded. Don't limit the conversation to writing, only. Be an encouraging voice. And when you need help, ask. When help is asked for, offer to help. If you worry that you are asking too much, say that.

I'm bad about some of this. When I am deeply stressed, I tend to retreat from human contact. Some of this is a relic of my past, so when I feel I've upset someone, I go into full retreat mode with profuse apologies, which used to be the only way I could defuse an explosive rage. I know that this is not that, but if I'm not thinking clearly it is breathtakingly difficult to stop, open up, and reach out again. I've been trying to do this recently, and if you are like me, I encourage you to crack the shell a

little, and take a risk. Writing may be a solitary occupation, but writers are healthier with friends.

...Cedar Sanderson

## February SF Novels

The Smashwords Listing — items over 100,000 words.

Teddyhunter: The Neanderthal Gene by Kevin Williams  
 Dreaming in the Shadows by Ross Caligiuri  
 PhD. (A Time Traveler's Search for Bacon) by David Dubé  
 Skyjackers - Season One by J.C. Staudt  
 The Children of Liberty by D. L. Eagan  
 Darkstone by D Jordan Redhawk  
 Fuse: A Collection of Fantastical Tales by Alexia Purdy  
 Mars - End of Days by Kynan Waterford  
 Mars - Twin Prophecies by Kynan Waterford  
 Pluto - Secrets Within by Kynan Waterford  
 Making Shiva by Jenn Lyons  
 Absolution's Apple by Nicholas Brakespear  
 In Stone Series: Secrets in Stone by Cecilia Johnson  
 The Selkie by David Bischoff & Charles Sheffield  
 Heights of Green by Lise MacTague  
 The Dark Gate (Godsfade #3) by W.M. Driscoll  
 Lost Battleships of Karra by Patrick Briggs  
 More Than a Game (Fayroll Book 1) by LitWorld  
 Edge of Remembrance: Gods and Dragons by Carl Martin  
 The Chronicles of Heaven's War: Hell Above the Skies by Ava D. Dohn

Awakening in the Hollow (Godsfade #2) by W.M. Driscoll  
 Tales of the Vuduri: Year Four by Michael Brachman  
 The Fallen (The Complete Darkness Falls Zombie Trilogy) by Martin W. Francis  
 The Balance of Light - A Novel of the Mendaihu Universe by Jon Chaisson  
 Like Stars in Heaven by Eric Thomson  
 The Lady Far Freedom Part 3 by Warren Merkey  
 The Outside Series: A Post-Apocalyptic Adventure - The Complete Box Set by Shalini Boland

Zero Hour by B. A. Survivor  
 Luminous by Greg Egan  
 Oceanic by Greg Egan  
 Distress by Greg Egan  
 Axiomatic by Greg Egan  
 Permutation City by Greg Egan  
 Persistence of Vision by Liesel Hill  
 Cryptikon Far Freedom Part 2 by Warren Merkey  
 4 Novelas y un Volumen de Cuentos a un Precio Alucinante by J. K. Vélez

Keshona Far Freedom Part 1 by Warren Merkey  
 Ill Wind (Chaos Witches Volume Two) by Tal Turing  
 The Upheaval Series Box Set by Charley Marsh  
 Stones of Fire, The Spidy Chronicles Book 3 by Cooper Hill  
 Series: The Spidy Chronicles, Book 3.  
 The Puppet King by pdmac  
 The Yellow Hoods boxset (Books 1-3) by Adam Dreece

## 2017 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

### Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

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

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2017.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly between all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2018. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2017. Good luck!

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

**Title of story (for identification):**

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2017 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## In this issue:

Jon Swartz is managing the Kaymar Award this year. Send him nominations at [jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com)

Directorate—Treasurer—Kaymar Award  
Eldritch Science—Your Project  
Membership Report—Birthday Bureau  
Fan-Pro Coordinating Committee—Franking Bureau  
Games Bureau—Membership Recruitment  
Round Robins—Writers Exchange Bureau  
Welcommittee  
Letters of Comment  
Neglected Genre Authors: D. K. Broster  
N3F Founding Members: Jack Gillespie  
Give and Take  
February SF Novels  
Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF  
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