

Origin #6



August 2018

Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

History and Research Bureau

Editor of this publication is John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 kinethiel@mymetronet.com

OUR STAFF MEMBERS

Head of Bureau: **John Thiel**

Historical Assistant: **Jon Swartz**, 12115 Missel Thrush

Court, Austin, Texas 78750 jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Outside Assistant: **Joe Napolitano**, 4036 N. Nora

Avenue, Covina, California 91722-3820

justjoeguytwo@aol.com

Origin is published once monthly and is sent out at the time of the mailing of The National Fantasy Fan, the organization's central magazine. It is made available to general fandom *via* efanazines, where it is displayed, and may be found along with previous issues at the National Fantasy Fan Federation website, n3f.org .





EDITORIAL

Origin 6, that's six months of Origin. "Well, get it together and thriving, man, it's been half a year, you're still talking about 'here's Origin'!" Well, hold on a minute, now, you have to remember that a new bureau is a complicated matter and we're getting it going as fast as we can, so that must be how long it takes to get things together, now, anyway, with some of the problems we've been running into being what they are. Stage one, conception: We'll have a bulletin for the bureau, have to wait to see what we're doing before we'll know what to put in it. Announcement issue is produced. It has a gander at what we're doing in it. The Neff now has some idea of what we're doing, or going to be doing. Stage two, preliminary trial and experiment: We put what we can think of into the issue and keep it up to date. It is announced as a bulletin, so what it needs to have is a tabulation of developments. Stage three, development of the bulletin: A mere bulletin is not enough, and we have valuable and timely things in the issue, keeping readers fully aware of our progress, so they can identify with the development of the new bureau. That's a third of a

year, the amount of time between issues of Lowndes' magazine Science Fiction Quarterly. Issue number four, inspection: We go over Origin and see where we've gotten to and what faults we may have had in the development we have been doing, and discuss the problems we have encountered. Now, if these four issues have not had in them what I've said they should have in them, you won't know it if you haven't read the issue, and won't be able to criticize them very successfully—but the officers have read them, I assume, and that may be what's to be looked out for. Issue five, full presentation of the magazine and a mature look at what's been accomplished, or perhaps complaints about what's not been accomplished. Now at the half year point, the aim of the issue is to grab some air and begin to work with what we've gotten. Yes, half a year is a h--- of a long time to spend getting a department organized, but you know, new bureaus are often meditated for many months before they're started at all, but this one was flashed into existence as soon as it was thought of and you may be looking at preparations that should have been done in advance of the bureau being presented, but it didn't seem like we should wait on the bureau; perhaps it could get some action going—you know things were rather inert at the time the bureau was started. At least you're looking at action in the pages of Origin, if not seeing it manifested in the general organization, but in my opinion, the two bureaus that have been started in the last two years are having some effect in getting things going here, though some of what's been gotten going is contumacious. Anyway, you've gotten a chance to look at some of the construction occurring in the making of a bureau, which might be some compensation for the slowness of our progress, and I hope you find some entertainment in this as you read the pages of Origin.

Some bad news at the present time is that Robert Jennings has decided to cease being the editor of Tightbeam; as you saw in the last issue of TNFF, he was concerned that people had not been writing

LoCs to the zine, and were not contributing as much as they should to the contents generally. He did a lot to revive that publication, but he seems to have felt that he did not revive it enough, and I hope that whoever takes over Tightbeam will, first, be someone, and secondly, will be able to do an effective job with keeping it afloat and improving it. Here I'll quote from a letter I received from Jennings on this subject:

"I have thot long and hard about Tightbeam. It is not merely a matter of people not writing LOCs, and it's certainly not a matter of egoboo...I don't believe very many N3F members are even reading the fanzine, at all. I am fully aware that this is a Catch-22 type situation: nobody is reading Tightbeam, but if Tightbeam disappears, then nobody will ever have a chance to read it, and thus, whatever potential for developing a readership the fanzine ever had will automatically disappear.

"But at the same time, altho it may look effortless, as a matter of fact a lot of time and work goes into creating those issues. As disturbing as the fact that almost nobody in the club is reading the fanzine, is the fact that nobody in the club has any interest in writing for the fanzine, or doing art for the fanzine. I am leaning on the same very small core of people to do the book and movie reviews, and meanwhile I have to search far and wide to find people to do articles. In many cases this has meant unearthing something that impressed me in the past and then getting permission to reprint the article in Tightbeam. I'm running out of sources and friends to tap for previously published material...

"I don't think I'll miss all the work and aggravation that goes with producing Tightbeam very much at all. But I am very concerned that the fanzine may die out. The N3F needs to offer material and activities that will interest its members, and as dismal as the response has been to the current Tightbeam, I honestly worry that this particular activity will disappear. I hope George will be able to find a new editor, and if

he does, that person might have a different vision for the publication than I had...I will keep my hand in by distributing each issue of Fadeaway to the N3F membership, thru the club's zine service. I do get some LOCs from club members for Fadeaway."

Spell-check acknowledges "infundibulum" as a known word.

Now you've seen what goes into the making of Origin, and I hope to begin expanding the contents of it soon. Its purpose is to make science fiction's history and makeup accessible to readers, to give them directions toward finding information, and to present columns and articles devoted to these topics. We'll see what we'll be coming up with in future issues.



A bit of creative writing now:

THE COMING REIGN by John Polselli



The sun came out so late today that I
Was sure the stars and moon usurped the light
That keeps the cages of the raven sky
Tight-fastened in a never-ending night,
Whose dreams that blossom, like a waking child,
Bestir and pace about the sable cell
In longing to escape into the wild,
And cast a parting glimpse toward its hell.
A morning that is blooming in your brain
Will shift its rays against eternity,
And whether night is stable or insane,
The dawn shall mock her in futility,
For every eye shall rise and curse the day
When the soundness of the moon has gone astray.



Here is a list of some of the sources of information and history of which NFFF members may avail themselves:

The Fanac Fan History Project <http://fanac.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/fanac>

Fancyclopedia 3 <http://fancyclopedia.org>

Fanac Fan History Project <https://www.youtube.com/c/fanhistory>

Fan History <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Fanhistory>

SF Fandom: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123316854506092>

We'll be referencing these ourselves.

“I’d suggest that fandom perhaps until the late 1940s by many was viewed as a training ground for prodom, with many fanzines imitating prozines. Gradually, fandom evolved its own culture, while fanzines tended to develop into different subgroups—those reflecting all interests of their publishers and contributors, like Bill Donaho’s HABAKKUK. Those still centered on sf, but on discussion and analysis rather than publishing stories; these turned inward to reflect and discuss fandom itself. A wide generalization, of course, and some fans still went on to become pros, but certainly it became much more unusual in the seventies than it had been in the forties and even fifties.” —John-Henri Holmberg

The above quotation adds more perspective to what was described in the first issue of Origin. Some of the early fanzines were done by writers and would-be writers.

We are still looking for staff members for this bureau. Can any of the membership lend us their abilities and talents? You could be helping the whole organization go places. What there is to do is anything relating to our interests—history, research, and explication of science fiction and fandom. And if you are interested in what is in Origin, remember to write letters of comment and tell us so. Other members will be interested in what you have to say. Help us make this fanzine work! (Not hard work, I mean work out for all of us.)

A KATHMANDU HAIRCUT by Will Mayo



I dreamed during a short rest a little while ago that I was getting a haircut in Kathmandu.

“Just a little bit off all the way around,” I said to the barber.

“You got it,” he said.

Then I asked, “What time is it?”

“About 9:30 in the morning,” he replied.

Finally, I asked what year it was.

“2030,” he said.

Somehow, that didn’t sound right to me, but I said nothing about the matter.

My haircut was then done. I paid the barber in the coin of the realm and walked out into the sunlight beaming off the Himalayas around and made my way through the pagodas and dancing priests to the squares above. Wonderful, I said to myself. Life was good and I was content.

Then I woke to my so-called real life and it was another day.

Time to get my bearings.





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