



**The Official Monthly Bulletin of the
National Fantasy Fan Federation's
History and Research Bureau**

**Researching and unearthing the background
of fantasy, science fiction, and its fandom**

Edited by **John Thiel**, bureau head, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 kinethiel@mymicronet.net

Staff: **Jon Swartz**, history contact, 12115 Missel Thrush Ct., Austin, Texas 78756 jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Judy Carroll, columnist, 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

ORIGIN is published monthly and distributed within the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Its purpose is to provide information and history on fandom, science fiction, and the N3F itself. We are looking constantly for more information sources and research resources and when we find them, we call them to the attention of the membership, as we want to keep this particular interest going strong and to make it possible to obtain further knowledge of the science fiction *milieu*. (How strange it is that we have to go to another language to express what encompasses and comprises science fiction.) Lately I, the editor, have been highly encouraged in this project by making discoveries of what the internet offers in this line. Information about fandom and science fiction has become easier to find, as I will indicate with links. That is real progress in what we're doing, and should prove beneficial generally speaking. So far we have had pretty good success in building up this new bureau through the use of this departmental fanzine. Hopefully we will be standing tall and looking good in months to come. Read on, reader, you'll come to know us better, and gain an insight into what we are striving to do. Issue 13, start of our second year.



EDITORIAL



HAVING A LOOK AROUND

It's often asked, does fandom have a purpose, or are they just people there for games and enjoyment. One answer is, "Don't bother me, man, why do you want to know?" But then it occurs to the person being asked that these questioners might be people considering becoming sf fans, and his answer becomes one of wanting to help and find for the person asking it the proper answer for his question.

The answer, I think, is that fandom does have a purpose, or, in fact, more than one major purpose. Fandom is organized to communicate about science fiction, which is certainly a literary form which people want to talk about after having read some. This talk is not only about how well written a story may be or what form it is written in, but concerns also what the story is about. SF comes up with some amazing ideas which are out of the ordinary, and the ideas require discussion and are sometimes controversial. So that purpose is the enabling of those in fandom to discuss what they are reading in depth and to see what others think about it. That is a purpose which serves fandom itself. But does fandom have a *raison d'être*, a reason for being? As it seems to me, the writers of SF are wanting support in putting forth unusual contentions, and fans are apt to furnish them with this support. Not only do they say what they like and dislike about a book, but they augment the writing with ideas of their own, which are always interesting to an author. Science fiction has reason to like fandom being there. The purpose here is the furtherance and development, one might say progress, of science fiction.

Fandom has been doing a great job of entering science fiction and knowledge of it into the mainstream and popular culture. But there is the matter of perpetuating its existence. It may be that a return to the source is needed, the coming into being of new sf ideas and the promotion of new ways of looking at things.

Contributing to this issue is the always active Jeffrey Redmond, with a look at scholastic interest in science fiction.

ACADEMIC SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY: A RESEARCH GUIDE by Jeffrey Redmond

This is a research guide to science fiction and fantasy literature and film, emphasizing reference resources and databases available at the Cornell University Library in Ithaca, New York.

Scholarly and substantive articles on fantasy and science fiction have been appearing in academic journals with regularity since the 1970s. While there is no database exclusively devoted to indexing secondary work in these *genres*, the sources listed below include articles published in academic journals centered on literary, film, and cultural studies.

Note that these resources generally do NOT index creative work in science fiction magazines (*e.g.* **Strange Horizons**, **Interzone**) or material appearing in fanzines and other amateur publications.

The Library provides networked access to many more secondary source databases—indexes and full-text—than can be listed here. Others may be located through the Library Catalog and Databases.

Academic Search Premier

This multi-disciplinary database provides full text for more than 8,500 journals, including full text for more than 4,600 peer-reviewed titles. PDF backfiles to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for more than 1,000 titles.

America: History & Life

America: History and Life (AHL) is a complete bibliographic reference to the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. Published since 1964, the database comprises over 530,000 bibliographic entries for periodicals dating back to 1954. Additional bibliographical entries are constantly added to the databases from editorial projects such as retrospective coverage of journal issues published prior to 1954.

Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)

ABELL covers monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, scholarly book reviews, collections of essays and doctoral dissertations published anywhere in the world from 1920 onwards. All aspects and periods of English literature are covered, from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day. British, American and Commonwealth writing are all represented. Also accessible through Literature Online.

FIAF International Index to Film Periodicals

Contains over 500,000 article citations from more than 345 academic and popular film journals. Each entry consists of a full bibliographic description, an abstract, and comprehensive headings (biographical names, film titles and general subjects). Coverage extends back to 1972.

Film Literature Index

Indexes 150 film and television periodicals from 30 countries cover to cover and 200 other periodicals selectively for articles on film and television. The periodicals range from the scholarly to the popular. More than 2,000 subject headings provide detailed analysis of the articles. The FLI Online contains approximately 700,000 citations to articles, film reviews and book reviews published between 1976-2001.

Humanities International Index

Indexes articles and books across the arts and humanities disciplines from a multitude of U.S. and international publications. Hill also provides citations for original creative works including poems, fiction, photographs, paintings and illustrations. Many links to full text.

Performing Arts Periodicals Database

Formerly the international index to the Performing Arts (IIPA), covers dance, film, television, drama, theater, stagecraft, musical theater, broadcast arts, circus performance, comedy, storytelling, opera, pantomime, puppetry, and magic. Full text from 1999 onward.

JSTOR

JSTOR is a fully-researchable database containing the back issues of several hundred scholarly journals in the humanities, social sciences, mathematics, music, ecology and botany, business and other fields. It includes the following collections: Arts & Sciences I, II and III, general science, ecology and botany, business, language and literature.

Literature Online

A full-text collection of poetry, drama, and prose with complementary references sources. Primary texts include English poetry from 600 to the present, American and African-American poetry from 1603 to the present, English drama, English prose, articles, monographs and dissertations from the annual bibliography of English language and literature (ABELL), full-text articles from literary journals, and biographical information on widely studied authors.

MLA International Bibliography

The premier scholarly bibliography covering languages, literature, folklore, film and linguistics from all over the world. Online coverage back to 1926. Includes books, articles in books, and journal articles. Does not index book reviews.

Periodicals index Online

Index to thousands of periodicals in the arts, humanities and social sciences across more than 300 years, covering each periodical from its first issue. Every article is indexed. The scope is international, including journals in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and other languages. Previously known as Periodicals Contents Index (PCI).

Project Muse

Full text of scholarly journals in the humanities, social sciences, and mathematics. Covers such fields as literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, and others.

ProQuest Research Library

ProQuest Research Library, formerly known as Periodical Abstracts, is a comprehensive database available through the ProQuest online system. It indexes

and abstracts general interest magazines and scholarly journals in the social sciences, humanities and sciences. It comprises two components: a core list of periodicals covering about 800 publications, and 15 subject-specific modules that supplement the core list. Modules cover arts, business, children, education, general interest, health, humanities, international studies, law, military, multicultural studies, psychology, sciences, social sciences, and women's interests. Full text of many articles is provided.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database

An on-line, searchable compilation and extension of Science Fiction and Fantasy Reference Index 1878-1985, SF & F Reference Index 1985-1991, and SF & F Reference Index 1992-1995 (all by Halbert W. Hall), including material located since publication of the last printed volume. Based at Texas A&M.

Web of Science

Thompson Reuters Web of Science (formerly ISI Web of Knowledge) is today's premier research platform, helping you quickly find, analyze, and share information in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. You get integrated access to high quality literature through a unified platform that links a wide variety of content and search terms together, creating one common vocabulary and one seamless search.

Bibliographies

Bibliographies are rich sources of citations to both journal articles and monographs. To locate these in the library catalogs, enter the word bibliography as a Subject term, in conjunction with keywords such as fantasy, science fiction, gothic, Asimov, *etc.* A few general bibliographies, in English, French, and German are:

Bibliographie der Utopie und Phantastik 1650-1950 im deutschen Sprachraum by Robert N. Bloch. Call number: Olin stacks PN6071 F25 B56 2002. Publication date: 2002.

Bibliography of German-language utopian and fantasy fiction, including translations into German from other languages.

Ecrits sur la science-fiction: bibliographie analytique des etudes & essais sur la

science-fiction publiés entre 1900 et 1987; literature, cinema, illustration by Norbert Spehner. Call number: Library Annex Z5917 S36 S64x 1988. Publication date 1988.

International bibliography of secondary works on science fiction (literature, film, art). Covers books, periodical & newspaper articles, and theses published between 1900 and 1987 in English, French, and other languages.

Science fiction, fantasy, and horror reference: an annotated bibliography of works about literature and film compiled by Keith L. Justice. Call number: Olin Reference Z5917 S36 J96. Publication date: 1989.

An annotated bibliography of 300 secondary works on science fiction and fantasy literature.

Fanzine index: listing most fanzines from the beginning through 1952, including titles, editors' names, and data on each issue by Bob Pavlat and Bill Evans, editors. Call number: Uris stacks Z5917 F3 P33 1965+. Publication date: 1965.

Academic SF/Fantasy Journals

The Library subscribes to several academic journals focusing on science fiction and fantasy. Here is a selection of currently received titles, as well as some freely available online:

Bulletin (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America) – Olin PS374.S25 S41.

Extrapolation – OLIN PN3448.S45 E96 + (online 1994 -)

Femspec—online only.

Horror Studies—online and print: OLIN P96.H65 H67.

Journal of Dracula studies.

Journal of the fantastic in the arts—OLIN PN56.F34 J86 (online 2007 -)

Mythlore—OLIN PR6039.049 Z93+ (online 2002 -)

Science fiction film and television—online only.

Science fiction studies—OLIN PN3448.S45 S44 (also JSTOR).

SFRA Review—freely accessible online from 2001; latest issue available 10 weeks after print publication).

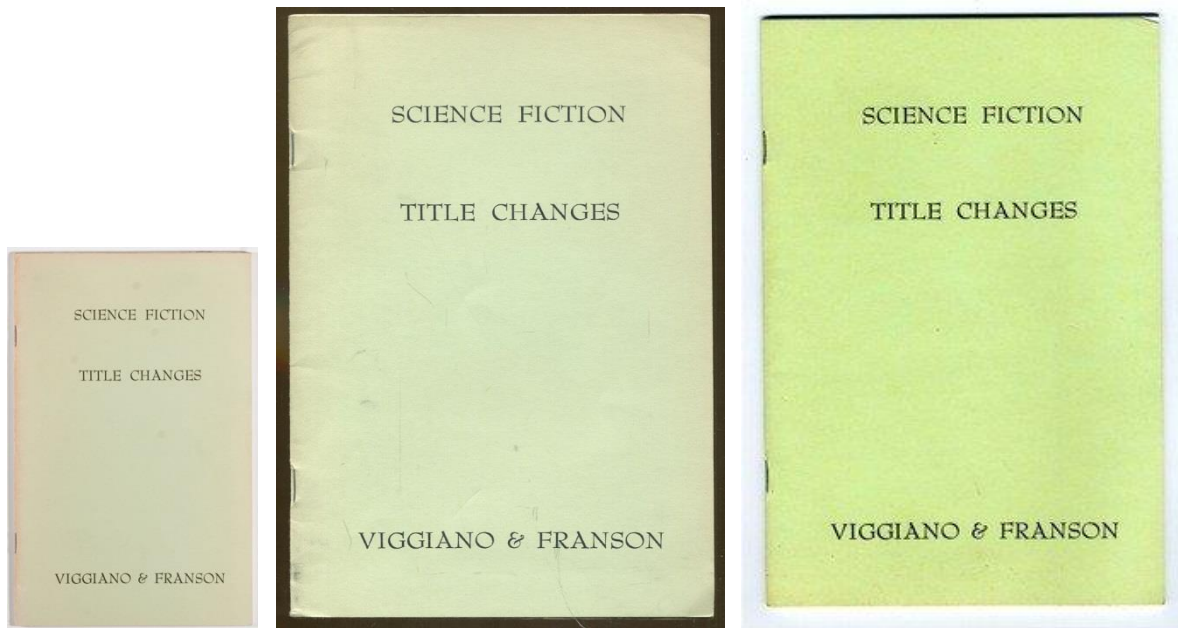
Studies in the fantastic—online only.

Link for the above article: <https://www.library.cornell.edu>

We have now one of Jon Swartz's vignettes:

HISTORICAL VIGNETTE

by Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian



SCIENCE FICTION TITLE CHANGES by Michael Viggiano & Donald Franson. Seattle, WA: The National Fantasy Fan Federation, 1965.

In the early 1960s the N3F published several Fandbooks. These were chapbooks on topics of interest to fans of that time: apas, fan language, historical facts about science fiction fandom, *etc.* Three of these Fandbooks were featured in an earlier historical vignette of mine. While the topics covered in these publications still are of interest to fans, it is rare today to see anything devoted to story title changes. Yet, in 1965, the club saw fit to have two of its members research such changes. A 48-page publication (plus covers), subtitled "a guide to the changing titles of science fiction and fantasy stories published in magazines and books", the topic of this historical vignette was the result.

From the book's first entry ("A For Anything"—part of THE PEOPLE MAKER by Damon Knight) to the last ("You're All Alone"/"The Sinful Ones" by Fritz Leiber), the compilers were able to list nearly 1700 science fiction/fantasy stories that had undergone title changes for one reason or another.

The authors cautioned that the duplicate stories were not exact duplicates, as even stories with the same titles sometimes differed in length and detail. Indeed, some of the

pairs they listed differed widely. In addition, titles of anthologies and single author collections were not included—as their contents were seen as varying too much to note without itemizing all their contents—something that was thought to be beyond the scope of this particular undertaking.

As explained by the authors, the practice of title changes reaches back into the beginning of science fiction. And with the advent of the mass market paperback (largely reprints of magazine stories), this practice expanded greatly. The motive, according to the authors, was not to sell the same story twice, but to attract a different audience. They explained further that, while sophisticated titles satisfied the science fiction *aficionado*, they were usually lost on the general reader—and so, with an eye to sales, simpler titles (not seen since the early days of magazine science fiction) were substituted. It was admitted that still other reasons for title changes have been given, both by publishers and by the authors of the stories.

Authors of existing reference books, bibliographies, indexes, and book reviews were thanked for their help in this endeavor. Some of the people acknowledged, listed alphabetically, were J.O. Bailey, Robert Bloch, Anthony Boucher, T.G.L. Cockcroft, Walt Cole, Len Collins, Robert Coulson, Donald Day, Bill Evans, Phil Harbottle, Earl Kemp, Damon Knight, Ed Meskys, Norman Metcalf, P. Schuyler Miller, Sam Moskowitz, William F. Nolan, Darrell Richardson, Bob Silverberg, Ken Slater, Donald Tuck, and Ed Wood. Fans of today will recognize many of these names.

In a Foreword by Franson, N3F members who submitted extensive title lists were acknowledged separately and identified as John Boston, C.W. Brooks, Rick Brooks, Nate Bucklin, George Fergus, Mark Irwin, Mike Irwin, Gil Lamont, Rich Mann, and Mike Viggiano, “who also consolidated them.”

Although this publication on story title changes was not identified at the time as another in the series of N3F Fandbooks, it is easy to see it as a part of the series. For one thing, its format is very similar to those earlier efforts. In addition, at the end of his Foreword, Franson stated that anyone who wanted to join the N3F should contact Janie Lamb, the club secretary, and gave her the mailing address. This information was also included at the end of earlier Fandbooks, and Franson himself was involved in writing and publishing some of the earlier ones.

The Authors

In the 1960s, Michael Viggiano was head of N3F's manuscript bureau and also did fanzine reviews in **The National Fantasy Fan**.

Donald Lewis Franson was active in the N3F for years. At one time or another, he was a member of the directorate, president, club historian, and editor of **The Fan**. In 1995 and 1998 he won the N3F's President's Award (later renamed The Franson Award in his honor); and in 1966, he received the club's Kaymar Award. The September 2002 issue of *The Fan* was a "Don Franson Memorial Issue"



A Convention Memento



FURTHER LOOKS AT FANDOM FROM THE WIKIPEDIA

Located by John Thiel

As a community devoted to discussion and exploration of new ideas, fandom has become an incubator for many groups that started out as special interests within fandom, some of which have partially separated into independent intentional communities not directly associated with science fiction. Among these groups are comic book fandom, media fandom, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and gaming, sometimes referred to collectively as “fringe fandoms” with the implication that the original fandom centered on science fiction texts (magazines and, later, books and fanzines) is the “true” or a “core” fandom. Fandom also welcomes and shares interest with other groups including Libertarians, neo-pagans, and space activist groups like the L-5 Society, among many others. Some groups exist almost entirely within fandom but are distinct and cohesive subcultures in their own rights, such as filkers, costumers, and convention runners (sometimes called “Secret Masters of Fandom”).

Fandom encompasses subsets of fans that are principally interested in a single writer or subgenre, such as Tolkien fandom and Star Trek fandom (Trekkies). Even short-lived television series may have dedicated followings, such as fans of Joss Whedon’s FIREFLY television series and movie SERENITY, known as Browncoats.

Participation in science fiction fandom often overlaps with other similar interests, such as fantasy role-playing games, comic books and anime, and in the broadest sense fans of these activities are felt to be part of the greater community of SF fandom.

There are active SF fandoms around the world. Fandom in non-English-speaking countries is based primarily on local literature and media, with cons and other elements resembling those of English-speaking fandom, but with distinguishing local features. For example, Finland’s national gathering at a convention is funded by the government, while all conventions and fan activities in Japan are heavily influenced by anime.—*Wiki*

A Quote from the Fancyclopedia

In the 1960s, the invective and venom flowed with such intensity that it would make a full-scale internet flame war look like a weenie roast, and for that reason the members [of The Cult] began, not entirely tongue-in-cheek but self-deprecatingly, calling themselves the “nastiest bastards in fandom”.—*Fancyclopedia III*

I was a member of the Cult in its earlier days and I found information on the Cult members they listed, which included information on myself:

John Thiel: A fan who currently belongs to the N3F and edits their recently revived fanzine IONISPHERE. He also founded the apa SLAPHAPA in 1977 and was a member of the Lafayette Interstellar Association. He has edited a number of fanzines, including THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNGFAN, PABLO LENNIS, SURPRISING STORIES, and VOR ZAP (a clubzine). He was a member of the Cult. He published an INDEX TO POPULAR AMERICAN FANZINES. In 2017 he was elected to the N3F Directorate and named its chairman. He was re-elected to Directorate in 2018, but is no longer chairman. He was the N3F's Kaymar Award winner in 2017. In 2018 he was appointed head of the N3F's new Fandom Introductory Bureau. The title of the Bureau's fanzine is ORIGIN. Jon D. Swartz was also appointed to this bureau in 2018.

That's very up-to-date, though you can see some of the errors in it. I believe this links to the Wikipedia, so that may be where the information was stored.



FROM JODY CARROLL

John asked me to “research—how easy or hard it is to research sf and fandom with the use of the computer...” Okay, I thought, not a big deal. I’ve looked up various topics on Science Fiction over the last few years. Just Google the question, click, and the answer appears on the screen giving me several cities that answer my question. Well, this turned out not to be as easy as I had expected.

I decided to ask the following three questions:

1. What book or story is considered the first example of science fiction?
2. Who is considered the first writer of science fiction?
3. How did the term science fiction come about or develop?

To my surprise, the first question gave me several different answers originating not only in different decades but in different centuries.

Wikipedia

A True Story was written by Lucian of Samosata (c. 125—after 180 AD).

He was a “Syrian satirist and rhetorician who is best known for his characteristic tongue-in-cheek style...”

This story “contains a number of SF elements, like travel in space, alien life forms, interplanetary colonization and war, artificial atmosphere, telescopes, and artificial life forms”. It is “a tongue-in-cheek satire against authors who tell incredible tales...” and is “regarded by some as the earliest known work of science fiction”. It is, also, his most famous work.

TheAtlantic.com—Science

The Science Fiction That Came Before Science –Literature imagined technologically marvelous cities, space travel, and aliens before the scientific revolution even hit its stride. By Edward Simon, November 18, 2016.

“The Man in the Moone” is a novel by Francis Goodwin, a bishop in the Church of England. It was published in 1638. “An explorer builds a space ship and meets aliens on another world. They are a “people most strange”, these extraterrestrials. They’re twice as tall as humans; they wear clothes spun of a mysterious material, dyed in a color unseen by human eyes; they speak only in haunting musical tones. Then the explorer returns to Earth.”

Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls

Mary Shelley: Meet the Teenage Girl Who Invented Science Fiction, by Whitney Milam, July 11, 2015.

“The next time someone tries to tell you science fiction isn’t for girls, quiet them down with one name: Mary Shelley, who invented the entire genre when she wrote the novel FRANKENSTEIN, or THE MODERN PROMETHEUS at the age of nineteen.” Frankenstein was

published in 1818.

From Sparknotes.com—Victor Frankenstein “enters the university of Ingolstadt to study natural philosophy and chemistry...consumed by the desire to discover the secret of life, and, after several years of research, becomes convinced that he has found it. Armed with the knowledge...Victor spends months...fashioning a creature out of old body parts. One climactic night...he brings his creation to life. When he looks at the monstrosity that he has created...the sight horrifies him.”

Other contenders for the title of First Science Fiction Book or Story:

—The Chemical Wedding by Johann Valentin Andrede, published in 1616.

—Somnium by Johannes Kepler, written in 1608, published in 1634.

—Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift, published in 1728.

The second question didn’t give me the answer I expected. I thought the person who was named as the writer of the first science fiction book or story would also be considered the first writer of science fiction. I didn’t find an answer to that question. Instead I received the following:

Who is considered the father of science fiction?

“H.G. Wells: the Father of Science Fiction. H.G. Wells was once referred to as ‘the Shakespeare of Science Fiction’. He is more often called ‘the father of Science Fiction’ and regarded, along with Jules Verne, as one of the creators of the genre.”

November 11, 2015. H.G. Wells: The Father of Science Fiction. Oxford Open Learning.

<https://www.oool.co.uk/blog/h-g-wells-the-father-of-science-fiction/>

Who is the mother of science fiction?

“Mary Shelley: Mother of Science Fiction.”

Mary Shelley: Mother of Science Fiction. British Literature 1700.

<https://britlitsurvey2.wordpress.com/2014/05/02/mary-shelley-mother-of-science-fiction/>

The third question will be tackled next month. I found a lot of interesting ideas I would like to share.





See you next month.