

THE ZINE DUMP 48

A zine about zines by
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The Zine Dump is a fanzine devoted to the science fiction fanzine world. It wants to see and list every generally-distributed amateur publication devoted to SF and its fandom published in English, and hear and comment on all news connected with the hobby. Published on eFanzines.com, by e-mail, and by hard copy for trade and in mailings of the Worldcon Order of Fan-Editors.

Dedicated to Earl Kemp.



Like everyone else alive, we SFers are locked in a season of sickness and isolation. **Coronavirus**, as I write, has us trapped in the velvet prisons of our homes. That means that the spring of 2020 could be an important time for fanzines – and blogs, and podcasts. Face-to-fannish-face encounters are *verboten* while COVID-19 rampages, so fandom *needs* written communication. Here, in fanzine fandom, *the word* has always been primary – and now, it's all we have.

So pub your ish and flog your blog. Keep our connections alive even as we hunker down. *If we can't have the Kiwi Worldcon, let's flood the 'net with fanzines and blogs and podcasts.* Show the world we're still here.



Speaking of the New Zealand convention, I again inquire if anyone has been tapped to collate the **Worldcon Order of Fan-Eds** mailing for this year. Thanks to our enforced cloistering and the resulting boredom, I've already started my WOOFzine for this year – a mere five months before collation.

Clearly, another on-line edition like last year's WOOF is called for. I've contacted guru John Hertz and volunteered to take charge of the fisty, but we both figure the con may want someone more closely affiliated with the event to handle this most ridiculous but enjoyable fanzine tradition. So if no one from the antipodes leaps into the barrel this year, I'll do it. WOOF!

FAAn Awards for 2020 were presented at Corflu in March. Despite the developing COVID-19 crisis, John Purcell reported a decent attendance of 33. They, and other voters, honored the following fanzines and fan-edds:

Best Fanzine : *Banana Wings* (by one vote over *SF Commentary*)
Best Personal Zine : *This Here*
Best Genzine (tie) : *Banana Wings* and *Chunga* (by one vote over *Portable Storage*)
Best Whatchamacallit Zine (tie) : *Ansible* and *Lofgeornost*
Best Special Publication : *Thy Life's a Miracle*
Best Fan Writer : Mark Plummer (by one vote over his *Banana Wings* co-editor, Claire Brialey)
Best Letterhack : Stephen Jeffery
Best Online Achievement : Fanac.org
Best Fan Artist : Ulrika O'Brien
Best Fanzine Cover Art : *Thy Life's A Miracle*
Lifetime Achievement Award : Robert Lichtman
Past President, 2019 : Rob Jackson.

For a righteous discussion of the awards, check out Nic Farey's *This Here*. Personally, I have no complaints, especially since the FAAns are more comprehensive and less in-groupish than was the criticism before – and the results reflect in large measure my own ballot. I hope future FAAn contests follow the lead that brought *Lofgeornost* and Fanac.org recognition, and stray outside the traditional winners. Let's see the fandom honor such zines as *Alexiad* and *Opuntia*, just as examples, and fan writers like Rich Lynch and Bob Jennings. Spread the wealth, as it were.

And Those Awards ... Except for *Journey Planet* and *nerds of a feather* I am unacquainted with any of the nominees for the Best Fanzine Hugo for 2020. No apologies: the others are all blogs, of which I know nothing. I've never encountered any of the candidates for Best Fan Writer or Best Fan Artist, either. I've never felt so Out of Touch. Behold the candidates:

- *The Book Smugglers*, editors Ana Grilo and Thea James
- *Galactic Journey*, founder Gideon Marcus, editor Janice Marcus, senior writers Rosemary Benton, Lorelei Marcus and Victoria Silverwolf

- *Journey Planet*, editors James Bacon, Christopher J Garcia, Alissa McKersie, Ann Gry, Chuck Serface, John Coxon and Steven H Silver
- *nerds of a feather, flock together*, editors Adri Joy, Joe Sherry, Vance Kotrla, and The G
- *Quick Sip Reviews*, editor Charles Payseur
- *The Rec Center*, editors Elizabeth Minkel and Gavia Baker-Whitelaw

I promise to sample each of these before voting. Just because *I* don't blog doesn't mean I don't acknowledge they can be fun and worthwhile.

But get a load of the nominees for the *Retro-Hugo* for 1945.

- *The Acolyte*, edited by Francis T. Laney and Samuel D. Russell
- *Diablerie*, edited by Bill Watson
- *Futurian War Digest*, edited by J. Michael Rosenblum
- *Shangri L'Affaires*, edited by Charles Burbee
- *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*, edited by Forrest J Ackerman and Myrtle R. Douglas
- *Le Zombie*, edited by Bob Tucker and E.E. Evans

Those are names.



Links to Note: Joe Siclari and Edie Stern's **Fanac.org** is another marvel, a huge site – preserved through the Library of Congress – devoted to fan history. To quote from their website: “This site is devoted to the preservation and distribution of information about science fiction and science fiction fandom. There are [*many great and ancient*] fanzines, photos, and all sorts of strange and wonderful information about fandom's past ... If you would like to submit material, drop us a line at one of the addresses below. If you'd like to know how you can help, drop us a line. This is the product of many, many hands.” You can find updates on the aforementioned site or, usually, through Andrew Porter's posts.

Neos to the fanzine world would do well to spot references to **apas**, amateur press associations, in these listings. Therein many publications by many fan editors can be found. If you check out and like a zine said to be written for an apa, and are moved to create your own, ask the editor – they'll be pleased, I'm sure, to refer you to the powers that be.

Essential to any understanding of the current fanzine world is **eFanzines.com**, Bill Burns' comprehensive – and generous – website where most of today's fanzines can be found. Seek the publications listed below there, first – and be prepared to tarry along the way. Bill also provides links to sites devoted to the various fan funds and much else.



Note Well: The following listing doesn't claim to be comprehensive reviews of the zines listed, although the opinions – and memories – of the editor will be obvious when expressed. For more exhaustive critiques, *TZD* refers you to Bob Jennings' *Fadeaway*, Andy Hooper's *Flag*, Nic Farey and Ulrika O'Brien's *Beam*, Bruce Gillespie's *SF Commentary* and other publications as noted. Our purpose is to celebrate what fans are saying in print and to let you know what's out there. I urge someone literate in such matters to perform a similar service with the galaxy of SF blogs and podcasts. Coverage this issue: the first third of 2020.

Alexiad Vol. 19 No. 1 / Joe & Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville KY 40204-2040 / jtmajor@iglou.com / efanazines.com or trade / An issue of one of my favorite fanzines from early March. I find no mention of any pernicious viruses. Lisa opens with a paragraph on minimalizing; later she tells all about Trumpybeats, which sound menacing. Joe talks about one of his specialties: fan fiction. (He pens a Joker pastiche for almost every *Challenger*.) A eulogy for Christopher Tolkien precedes pages of superlative reviews of tomes reflecting Major's deep interest in matters military (here: World War II).

Lloyd Daub's notice on Sue Burke's *Interference* touches cringingly on the novel's gross insect aliens, and praises a collection of Jerry Pournelle's writings. Redford Edmiston discourses on Betelgeuse, which I eye every night in hopes that it chooses to supernova while I watch. As you can see, from this and all the many previous issues, *Alexiad* is a righteous mix of material on a multitude of subjects. Taras Wolansky even reviews *Doolittle*, and Taral Wayne takes on *Joker*. The zine has never gotten the egoboo it deserves. Personal note: Joe is one of the most generous guys I know. His care for his friends in Louisville and in fandom is beyond admirable. He might not mention coronavirus here, but it's a certainty he's dealing with it mightily among his friends. A fine example: such folk will get us through this mess.

Ansible / David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK / news.ansible.uk. / Latest issue as I write, Whatever issue you find on your Facebook page is going to rock your worm with news and gossip of the SF world, "How Others See Us", "Thog's Masterclass", and so on and so forth. You'll be informed and you'll be delighted, even as the full list of RIPS saddens. But before you click that link, the huge guide on Dave's web page to every aspect of science fiction will stun you with the breadth of our hobby. Events, awards, art shows, **fanzines** past and present, magazines, publishers, clubs, research resources, artists and writers ... *Ansible* encompasses it all. *Absolutely essential*. I only say that about one other publication here: *File 770*.

Askance / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926 / j_purcell54@yahoo.com /

Asked #29 / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station TX 77845 / j_purcell54@yahoo.com / John begins this "Special Corflu Heatwave Recovery Issue" of his perzine with details on the FAAn Awards (supra), tabulating all votes. I've noted the winners (and close runners-up) above. Referring to Nic Farey's comments in *This Here ...*, see below, he explains/defends his conduct of the poll, and expresses contentment with both the awards and the convention which presented them.

The Baloobius #3 / Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Ave. #2111, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5K 1S6 / E-mail Taral@bell.net / Taral, as good a fan writer as he is a fan artist, ruminates in this perzine on the state of fandom, and it isn't good. Sex he: "Hardly anyone reads fanzines anymore. Why bother, when it can be produced live, acted out in amateur productions, or created with sophisticated graphics programs? Connect with people in print? How droll, Boomer." Yet we, and he, carry on. Taral completes this issue with an episode in the continuing adventures of Kiki and Darl of Fraggie Rock – remember, Taral, a onetime Fan Guest of Honor at a Worldcon, is probably fandom's most devoted student of Furry.

Banana Wings #76 / Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES U.K. / fishlifter@gmail.com / *BW* is an outstanding zine of excellent production values and strong content. As you see, it won this year's FAAn Award for the field's best fanzine and tied for best genzine. Coming forth just before the virus bit hard, its emphasis falls on the Dublin Worldcon – a superlative report from Caroline Mullan – and highlights of the past. Andy Hooper, who has become the best writer on fannish – and other – history around, contributes a piece on the Japanese submarine that sunk the USS *Wasp* during World War II. (Well, one should hope that the Japanese didn't sink any American ships *after* World War II.) Tony Keen talks Beatles (debate over the White Album is ne'er-ending). Niftiest item is a reprinted article by Walt Willis and Vinc Clarke on the great fan cartoonist, Arthur Thomson (ATom). Mark and Claire always contribute entertaining editorials to *Banana Wings*; here Mark endorses Alison Scott for this year's GUFF, a fan fund that lofts winners from the U.K. to Australia/New Zealand. What's the story now that the kiwi Worldcon has gone virtual? Since they're helping with the Hugo Awards this year, Claire and Mark decline any 2020 nominations. There's always next year.

BCSFazine #539 / God-Editor R. Graeme Cameron / graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com / New editor and new style to the British Columbia SF Association's monthly clubzine: a 77-page genzine. The cover depicts Whitman Publishing's *Assignment in Space with Rip Foster*, of which I had *two* copies. After this welcome nostalgia, the new God-Editor opines on his club, and it is sad: "A stray strand of fossil DNA

embedded in the super-organism matrix. Remarkably self-aware, if only because its components share common interests including a ghost memory of the way things used to be. They're scattered now, their fanac reduced pretty much to zero, but when reminded, can still recall how much fun they used to have at BCSFAzine collation parties and other club events. They were young then, inclined to drink continuously at parties where everybody did silly things, like argue over the latest books and films, participate in trivia conquests or group story writing, form competing cabals plotting to rule VCON, and mainly, drink and talk, drink and talk. It was loads of fun. Now? Aging former BCSFAans prefer to spend sober evenings at home where they can relax and avoid stress." Cleverness continues as Cameron relates recent news of the solar system as captured by science but passed through his quirky sensyuma. Turning serious, he eulogizes astronaut Al Worden, whom I photographed in 1971 with his crewmate, David Scott. Taral Wayne does the same for an artist friend, followed by a fine portfolio of Steve Stiles' 'toons. Robert Sawyer chimes in with a rumination on the nastiness of some fans. Reviews of novels and a Canadian zine of note. Lots of movies. A piece on *Trek* fandom. Garth Spencer on the state of fandom. Murray Moore on Corflu Heatwave. Apas. Conventions. It is clear that Graeme is pulling out the stops, as they say, creating a righteous genzine, and we look forward to watching him do it again and again.

Brooklyn! / Fred Argoff, *Penthouse L. 1170 Ocean Pkwy., Brooklyn NY 11250-4060* / trade or \$10 for four issues / quarterly / *Where y'at, Fred?*

Bunyip and ayotochtli #s 16-17 / Bob Hole, roberteddingsf@gmail.com / eFanzines / "Do you like classic science fiction? Do you like history? Science? Fun & games? You just might like Bunyip & ayotochtli. Every issue you'll find a classic speculative fiction story from some really great authors. You'll find other things too - exactly what varies from issue to issue. So far there has been artwork, paper dolls, word search puzzles, science, history, poetry, and other stuff. I hope you'll enjoy it." "Paper dolls"? These two issues from last winter are the first in more than a year, and yes, *Bunyip* is a good deal of fun. Some original fiction, reprinted stories by wonderful masters like Ray Bradbury and Fredric Brown, a Retief tale by Keith Laumer (who else?), and indeed, lots of other material. Creative and jolly ... but ... paper dolls?

Captain Flashback #16 / Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 / fanmailaph@aol.com / eFanzines.com / A zine, they say, for the Turbo-Charged Party Animal Amateur Press Association, which will have to go a long way to justify its name. Andy and Carrie do a lot through this very neat zine. To quote: "CAPTAIN FLASHBACK is devoted to old fanzines, nitro-burning funny cars, film noir and other fascinating phenomena of the 20th Century." Andy leads off with a report on Corflu Heatwave, which he describes as "a pretty wonderful convention" despite the unfortunately-timed coronavirus outbreak. Stars of the show seem to have been Howard Waldrop and Tommy Ferguson, whose superb *TommyWorld-Redux* is mentioned below, but Hooper enjoyed the delight of seeing his play, "The Fan Who Shot Liberty Campbell", performed, and of presenting the Lifetime Achievement FAAn Award to Robert Lichtman. (Boy, is *that* well-deserved.) As is the tradition, a classic reprint finishes the issue, this time Terry Carr's Toastmaster's Speech from the first Corflu. I haven't mentioned the mailing comments to the previous disty of the Turbo-Charged etc., APA, as I'd be wandering into the middle of multiple monthly conversations, but *Captain Flashback* holds his own.

Christian*New Age Quarterly Vol. 24 No. 3 / Catherine Groves, P.O. Box 276, Clifton NJ 070150276 / 4/year, \$12.50/year / Always a surprisingly *apt* part of SF zinedom, *C*NAQ* often features articles of SFnal interest. For instance, this issue leads off with a fun study of "The Theology of *Preacher*", the AMC adaptation of the Vertigo graphic novel. Author Robert Price describes the goings-on in enough detail to acquaint non-viewers, like me, with the plot, and addresses its underlying concept of God intelligently and incisively. (Its nihilistic answer: He's irrelevant, possibly because the show sees Him as just another character.) Joanne Winetski reviews a book on *The First Sisters: Lilith and Eve*, establishing the relatively superior position of Lilith. It's all news to me, and I thought I knew my Good Book. Joanne,

a very good writer, also contributes a thought piece which concludes, quite sanely, “Let’s view differences as opportunities to strengthen and clarify our convictions ... we just might mitigate strife among us.” The need for and wisdom of connection is also the theme of Frederick Moe article that ends the issue, and in this moment when people literally fear to connect, the virtues of this most basic of human instincts is good to read about.

Chunga / Andy Hooper and Carl Juarez, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 / fanmailaph@aol.com / See *Flag*.

Claims Department #28 / Chris Garcia / see *Journey Planet* / In a recent issue, some terrific fan art from Garcia’s focus for the issue, Selina Phanara, who paints in a Native American style that is quite fetching. And speaking of fetching, Chris accompanies this beautiful work with his story of being bit by a dog, which leads into an account of his day, which includes a long conversation with a fannish waitress (we’re *everywhere*), which culminates in a sad note about the passing of a great wrestler. Wow. Nice LOC from Bill Wright on a previous issue I definitely recommend, celebrating the great Aussie fan artist, Ditmar. Here in #28, a nifty survey of “The Women of POP” (art) with remarkable color illustrations. Amazing what you can accomplish in fanzine illustration if you don’t have to rely on ink. Chris’ commentary is quite informed. Pieces on Andy Warhol’s films – 9 hours of the Statue of Liberty? – and pro wrestling complete things, but for a *superb* bacover art piece. Nice to find the fine arts so well-appreciated in a fanzine.

Comics Review / Rick Norwood, Manuscript Press, P.O. Box 336, Mountain Home TN 37684 / f.norwood@att.net / \$19.95@ / A beautifully produced magazine featuring great comics of the past, *Mandrake, Rich O’Shay, Steve Roper, Drago, Modesty Blaise* – usually including the full ongoing stories. Among the talents on display, Burne Hogarth, Lee Falk, V. T. Hamlin (just *guess* what strip) Milton Caniff ... and many more. Yes, expensive, but well worth the price. Obviously a trove to treasure.

CounterClock / Wolf von Witting, *Dia dei Vanduzzi* 6/4, 33050 Bagnaria Arsa (Ud), Italia / wolfram1764@yahoo.se / According to the editor, “**CounterClock** is mostly about European science fiction-fandom, its history and future, sf-conventions, the art of writing and fantastic film. It wasn’t Philip K Dick’s novel which inspired to the name of this fanzine, but rather the potential usefulness of certain windings. But it might as well have been P.K. Dick.” Last issue in August of ’19. Hope Wolf is hanging on in the first European nation truly clobbered by COVID-19.

CyberCozen Vol. XXXII, No. 4 / Leybl Botwinik, leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com / Monthly publication of the Israeli Society for SF and Fantasy. After the usual Hebrew colophon – a beautiful language to look at as well as hear – Leybl gives an encouraging word about surviving the virus. It is encouraging to read such a message from across the world. The zine then lofts into fannishness: reviews of an Israeli prozine, 10 Best lists of great SF films (*where is Forbidden Planet?*), “Sci-Fi Universes We Need More Of” and behind-the-scenes facts about the original *Planet of the Apes* franchise. Follows a link to a fact piece on our universe’s multiple dimensions – I’m too dumb to understand it – and best of all, a Biblically-themed short story in the original Hebrew and an English translation. Cool.

Dagon / John Boardman, Room 108, 2250 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando FL 32822-2704 / for *Apa-Q* and trade / Zine for *Apa-Q*. I hope John is doing well. I should drop in and see but there’s this virus ...

DASFax March-April 2020 / Jeanne Jackson, 31 Rangeview Dr. Wheatridge, CO 80215 / DASFAEditor@HotMail.com / “I have this picture of everyone moving about like a sea of protons, their like charges preventing the distance between particles from closing up.” That’s the Denver club’s President Tay Van Hageman summing up his fears about DASFA, but it seems from this newsletter that the krewa has everything under control. The monthly meetings and parties are canceled, not surprisingly, but editor Jackson vows to keep the newsletter going and keep members informed. In

this issue, Jackson publishes the first part of an article on Heinlein's juveniles, concentrating on *Rocket Ship Galileo* and *Space Cadet*. In the April issue, Jackson reveals that DASFA will be meeting online – as soon as they master the technology – and pans the living poop out of the “new” Heinlein, *The Pursuit of the Pankera*. We wish *DASFax* luck; while the world is sick, it'll be the tie that binds in fandom of the Mile High City.

De Profundis #564 / Marty Cantor for LASFS, 2 Tyrone Ave., Van Nuys, CA, USA / www.lasfs.org. / \$1 for domestic mail / Says a prominent notice on the first page, “**AS OF PUBLICATION WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN LASFS MEETINGS WILL RESUME.**” This is tragic in and of itself, what with all of the housing troubles the great Los Angeles SF club has suffered of late. Also, the Biard of Directors canceled its April meeting. Is COVID-19 going to kill of SF clubs as well as SF cons – or is this only a coma? Other announcements: Marty is looking for a successor editor and LASFS ‘ temporary home, were it meeting, is a Lutheran church in beautiful downtown (?) Burbank. The “Menace,” or meeting notes, date from May 2019 and are very sparse. Curses on that damned virus.

The Drink Tank #419 / Chris Garcia, Alissa McKersie, Chuck Serface, James Bacon / journeyplanet@gmail.com / Chris won a Hugo for this prolific publication, fetching the trophy with such joy that his acceptance was nominated for a Hugo the *next* year. One of his secrets is his depthless scope of interests. Here he focuses on the award-copping series *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, with pieces by him and Chuck Serface on Midge and Lenny Bruce and the sites at which they appeared. True appreciation. There's even a Word Search puzzle! What next? Keep checking eFanzines to find out.

Eldritch Science March 2020 / George Phillies, see *The National Fantasy Fan*. / This is the N3F's fiction outlet, where “Neffers” can submit their work. I generally don't comment on fan-written fiction, believing that such critiques are too individual, but I will say that I like the character name “Rick Broadstar”! Anyway, nicely produced, as are all of George's publications, and Jose Sanchez' cover illo is cool.

Event Horizon #4/ John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904 / kinethiel@comcast.net / eFanzines / Formerly known as *The PDF Dragon*. John opened his first issue of this perzine with thanks to yours truly for reviewing this and his other publications. It's what I'm here for. This fourth issue, from February, contains lots of poetry and fan-wrought fiction, on which I am loath to comment, except that I really liked the haiku and other verse. The color artwork is exceptional.

Fadeaway / Robert Jennings, 29 Whiting Rd., Oxford, MA 01540-2035 / fabficbks@aol.com / \$25/6 issues

File:770 / Mike Glycer, 1507½ S. Sixth Ave., Arcadia CA 91006 / mikeglyer@cs.com / Here is the other *essential* fanzine I mentioned above with *Ansible*, a newszine of vast scope and quality, with more Hugos (7) than any other fan publication except *Locus* before it was considered a semiprozine. The April 7 number touts the Hugo and Retro-Hugo nominees (with links to excerpts), the Rondo Awards, a NASA grant involving stem cell research, birthdays of notables and anniversaries of notable films and TV shows (with links to *Science Fiction Theater*, *King Kong* and *The Thing from Another World*, which premiered on April 7th's past), mourns supreme Aussiefan Merv Binns ... much else. Indispensable.

Flag #22 / Andy Hooper, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 / fanmailaph@aol.com / Nice & thick perzine from one of fanzinedom's best writers. Hooper begins this issue with a regrettable announcement: he and one of his co-editors on *Chunga*, Carl Juarez, have decided to fold their genzine after two more issues. Apparently the zine is too closely tied in their minds to the late Randy Byers, the other honcho, to continue; the next issue will be another tribute to the terrific fan-ed. Can't really blame them. Onward with a humorous account of Andy's years-long struggle with *War over Lemuria*, which leads into a nifty review of Raymond Palmer's life and career. (Julie Schwartz loved the guy.). A long essay on *The Man who Shot Liberty Valence* (there's such a corner in Nawlins) leads to an essay on his personal genealogy,

a page of fiction from Ray Palmer, and his enviable lettercol. Andy's fanzine reviews are excellent, include a couple of pubs I haven't seen, and are very kind to *Challenger* #42. Really nice fillos here. I single out those by "Radell" (I'm in love with the depicted fangirl) but Foster, Mitcheroney, and Stiles are among the others.

The Fossil #382 / Tom Parson, 157 S. Logan St, Denver CO 80209 / I found this listing in *Opuntia*, which reveals that it's a zine about fanzine history. Sounds too cool to miss. I've sent Tom the last **TZD** and asked him to trade. Otherwise, we're told it's \$10 for ten issues.

Fornax / Charles Rector, crector@myway.com /

Inca #17 / Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH, U.K. / robjackson60@gmail.com or jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net / Brits have such cool addresses. This one gives forth a cool fanzine. This issue's cover also, by Venetia Jackson Easton, features cool colors, evoking wintry fantasy. In his opening editorial, Rob talks about the possibility of a second U.K. Corflu and addresses the problem of attracting younger fans. This is, after all, an era of electronic media, of blogs and podcasts, where fanzine fans call themselves, like First Fandom, dinosaurs. Corflu Heatwave was awash in grey hair. Jackson's advice is to make physical zines more attractive and colorful – always a good idea, though I can't see that luring many young gamers and bloggers to our ken. Rob admits that his own publications are mostly nostalgic, but that certainly is no offense – not with the cascade of reminiscences he offers next. I don't know what IntheBar is, but it garnered some nifty memories by many divers hands, and the result is – again – cool. Delightful to read John D. Berry, Bob Lichtman and Graham Charnock again, and here are my friends Curt Phillips and John Purcell. Rob isn't finished: his Dublin Worldcon report follows, rich with photos and fond meetings. Finally there is "Circulation", his lettercol, which is thick with friendly exchanges, including a letter from Steve Stiles that brings the zine's only sadness. Rob's bacover is the Stiles Hugo acceptance 'toon I ran in the Sasquan souvenir book, and together they make clear our disastrous loss But *Inca*? It is indeed cool.

Instant Message #966 and before / NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 / info@nesfa.org / Monthly newsletter of the New England SF Association, the most business-like and widest-ranging SF club in America. Every month find updates on Boskone and the NESFA Press, the club's major projects, as well as their regular meetings. NESFA Press publishes the complete works of many great SF authors, from William Tenn to Poul Anderson, Cordwainer Smith to Ted Sturgeon. And Fredric Brown.

Ionisphere 17 / John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 / kinethiel@comcast.net / The official publication of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau. Says John: "The April IONISPHERE ... has an interview with James Gunn and a statement on TAFF by Mike Lowrey . Also a column about Orwell and Sheckley by Jeffrey Redmond and some representative creative work. Gunn called the interview a fine job and said he hoped the readers would like it also." Considering my respect for Dr. Gunn, he can rest easy. Elsewhere, John explains his misspelled title: "the aim is imaginative rather than scientific." Point taken.

Journal of Mind Pollution / Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22306 / richd22426@aol.com /

Journey Planet 49 / James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, Chuck Serface / journeyplanet@gmail.com / A Hugo winner and, again this year, nominee, ever different, ever excellent, *Journey Planet* devotes its latest issue to comics – three good articles on *Swamp Thing* (it's spelled "Berni," guys), an interview with Neil Gaiman, and a piece on *Hellblazer*. I wish I'd known about this issue; I think I could have talked Dave Michelinie, who took over scripting duties on "Swampy" from Len Wein, into an interview. Serface's piece on other swamp critters is delightful; do you realize that Marvel

actually published a comic called *Giant-Sized Man-Thing*? Must mention the beautiful and evocative foresty artwork.

Lightning Round Vol. 6 No. 1 / Alexander Bouchard, 586 Kinglet St. Rochester Hills MI 48309 / Email: ajlbouchard@gmail.com. / No doubt inspired by my encouraging words in the last *TZD*, Alex has “moved his glutes” and produced another issue of his two-page perzine. In “Vamp until Ready” he discusses his distraction from writing – it has nothing to do with ... that thing. Attention Mark Strickert, in another short column he recalls his first experience with amateur publishing. “Seeing my work preserved on twiltone was a thrill.” He also mentions *Picard*, for which he has especially purchased CBS All-Access, but his review merely says that the captain, at 92, has mellowed nary a bit. I thought he was almost narcoleptic to start with.

Lofgeornost / Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 / fred@fredlerner.org / *Our deep sympathies to our friend Fred, who lost his wife in the early part of this year.*

MarkTime #131 / Mark Strickert, 969 W. Marshall Blvd., San Bernadino CA 92405 TEMP NEW ADDRESS / busnrail@yahoo.com / trade, e-mail / \$2, trade, LOC / We’ve been worrying about how Strickert, mass transit fanatic that he is, would handle this time of solitary walks and bike rides; now we know. This zine begins *before* the virus hit. In fact, it starts at the end of January, noting the 50th anniversary of Mark’s first zine, sneaked into existence at his mother’s office. (*N.B.*: He asks for *our* first zine stories, and he shall have mine.) Nothing can keep this wanderluster – is that a word? – from wandering, and so he is off to the Palm Desert of California on the bus, the train (and various buses) to sites in Arizona, visiting the training camp for the Chicago Cubs (scarfing a Portillo hot dog – any comparison to Nathan’s?), by car to San Francisco, by plane to Boston. Meals and tourism at the various destinations receive just description (and many dark but discernible photos). Unlike me, Mark and *famille* were able to find Harvard. They also railed it to Rhode Island, thence to Maine, reveling in the journey; how rough it must be for such footloose folk to be stuck in COVID-19 quarantine! A note appended to *MarkTime*, however, avers that the Strickerts are doing well, but Mark asks that zines-in-trade and LOCs go to the home address, given above.

MT Void / Evelyn C. Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net / <http://www.geocities.com/evelynleeper/> / free subs through mtvoid-subscribe@yahoo.groups / Consistently well-written and consistently varied. *MT Void* arrives by e-mail once a week, Current issue as I type is Vol. 38, No. 42, Whole Number 2115 – as you can see, they’ve been at this for a while. Among the many matters discussed in just this one number are *Twilight Zone*, *Independence Day* and, aptly enough, *Contagion*. Evelyn reviews the Hugo and Retro-Hugo nominees. The previous issue hit on animal-themed SF and an *honest* review of *Foundation and Earth*: “Lord, is FOUNDATION AND EARTH bad! Bad as in just plain awful.” Very enjoyable reading, as you can tell.

My Back Pages / Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 / rw_lynch@yahoo.com / *Rich tells me the next issue of his collected essays and trip reports will be out in June.*

The NASFA Shuttle / Northern Alabama SF Association, P.O. Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857 / www.con-stellation.org/nasfa/ / *I can find no issues after January. Whuzzup?*

The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 79 No. 3, March 2020 / George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill, Worcester MA 01609 / phillies@4liberty.net / The National Fantasy Fan Federation publishes multiple zines, differentiated by color and font; this is the business-oriented one. News here of the N3F’s Kaymar Award (to artist Jose Sanchez), calls for nominations for the organization’s Neffie Awards (*Spartacus* was nominated last year; I wonder if it got any votes), reports from some of the N3F’s many bureaus (what does the “Gourmet Bureau” do?) and descriptions of the lot. Nice lettercol, including a note from the

president of First Fandom, and a solid overview of Lee Falk's *Phantom* by Jon D. Swartz, very well researched and enthusiastically written.

The N3F Review of Books March 2020 / George Phillies, address above / And here is the N3F's reviewzine, obviously enough. Books include *Aliens vs. Zombies* – a sequel to *The Left Hand of Darkness*? I doubt it – *Cryptic: the Best Short Fiction of Jack McDevitt*, and Phillies' own *Eclipse: The Girl who Saved the World*. Not surprisingly, the reviewer likes it – and gives reasons. As has been said about my own reviews, there's not much scholarly depth to these notices, but whether a book is fun to scan is a matter of viscera. After the reviews, L. Jagi Lamplighter discusses "The Trick" in writing, and the proper use of "The Foil." Interviews with writer and instructor Hank Quesne (he was inspired by *Catch-22*) and "ghostwriter" Charlie John take us through.

The Nova Mob 2019 Year in Review / Murray MacLachlan, Bruce Gillespie, see *SF Commentary* / A zine prepared for the Nova Mob end of year event, Dec 2019. Bruce writes: "This one-shot zine recaps the Mob's 2019 year and includes Ian Mond's recommended reading list, book tips from the year's speakers, and a financial report." Is quite jolly. Must be a righteous group.

OASFis Event Horizon Vol. 32 No. 10 #38 / Juan Sanmiguel, P.O. Box 323, Goldenrod FL 32733-0323 / sanmiguel@earthlink.net / \$12/year, includes Orlando club membership / Perhaps taking up the torch set down by Mike Kennedy when he quit the Huntsville clubzine, Juan concentrates here on awards – the nominees for the Nebula and the Stokers – and brief reviews of short fiction. I wonder if any of the events he lists avoided COVID-19 cancellation.

Opuntia #466-472 / Dale Speirs, opuntia57@hotmail.com / Dale's squib on eFanzines reads "*Opuntia* began in March 1991 as an SF and Canadian fanhistory zine and has evolved over its decades of monthly publication. It now concentrates on reviews of SF and mystery, economics, history, and vignettes of life in Calgary. No fiction or poetry, but does include zine reviews other than those posted on eFanzines." Speirs doesn't mention his beautiful photography, a feature of every recent issue, or the wider-than-Canada scope of his interests. He's done *seven* issues since February 2020, and hasn't repeated himself once. A quick tally: manhole covers (yes, that's what I said), "little free libraries" (saw one in Nawlins), a report from Joe Siclari on his Fanac Fan History Project, alien invasion stories, "cozy" mysteries, and involved scientific literature. That's one issue. Then there's a photo essay on Calgary's Glow Festival, replete with warming globes of human size, snow sculptures and the like, series detectives known and unknown, and a review of *The Fossil* which provokes a packet of zines to the editor. Skipping to the latest issue, we find photos of Calgary's attempts to shut away the virus (the free libraries are locked), more series detectives, a letter from Lloyd Penney (of course) and more scientific papers reviewed with such titles as *Discovery of the oldest bilaterian from the Ediacaran of South Australia*. Never mind what a bilaterian is; suffice it to say that we all have them, and some confuse them. Summing up: encyclopedic and amusing both, a good trick. By the way, opuntia is prickly pear, I hear.

Origin 25 / N3F c/o John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, kinethiel@mymetronet.net / E-mailed / "Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's History and Research Bureau," whose purpose is to keep N3F members "aware of their antecedents." Herein Jon D. Swartz, "N3F Historian," performs that task by reprinting an old article, a discussion and transcription of Vol. 1 No. 1 of *Science Fiction Bibliography*. The 12-page pamphlet was published by D.R. Welch of the Science Fiction Syndicate, dated 1935 – and is credited with being the first such attempt in the genre. Apparently Welch used the *Bibliography* as his dealer's catalogue. Next up is a rather charming paean to the N3F by Judy Carroll, praising its throngs of bureaus, and an essay on SF as literature by Jeffrey Redmond – don't we usually find him in *Alexiad*? Finally, Thiel tells us of a strange N3F project from the far, distant past – 1979 – called the SF Line, apparently a public access TV show. The zine closes with a portrait of Hugo Gernsback. You can't get much further antecedent than that. A word: Ms. Carroll is right. N3F is a very

good pathway for young neos to dampen their feet in the ocean of science fiction fandom. It's a good beginning – but I do advise all to broaden their activities once they know their way around.

Pablo Lennis #s 382-384 / *John Thiel, see Origin.*

PKD otaku #40 / Patrick Clark, pkdotaku@gmail.com / Any zine devoted to Phil dick has a happy home here.

Pluglunk / John Purcell, see *Askance* / Once upon a time when pigs could talk and nobody had ever heard of bacon, fans when they gathered would take turns hammering away at a typewriter (remember those?) and produce a *oneshot*, a pointless waste of time and stencils (remember *those?*) memorializing the event. The tradition survives at various bright spots in the fannish expanse. One is DeepSouthCon, the Southern gathering which is my home convention, and another is Corflu, the fanzine fans' convention, which this year gave forth with this 6-page mess-terpiece. Jeanne Gomoll provides the cover, Tom Becker, Sandra Bond, Teresa Cochran, Andrew Hooper and Purcell the content, John Moffitt(p.6), Joe Pumilia (p. 5,6), and Carrie Root the fillos. In the body of the beast, Hooper explains its title with a Corflu fable, Teresa remarks on the heat, Becker mentions “pumpjacks” in his three-line contribution and Sandra – whose perzine we miss – declaims on the lessons a Corflu has to teach. Purcell finishes matters with a description of GeezerCon 7, a week before Corflu Heatwave, where veterans of the Texas A&M SF club from the late sixties gathered to gum over old times. A fun mix. I rejoice in this publication. Oneshots were a staple of my early days in the New Orleans Science Fiction Association and the Southern Fandom Press Alliance. In fact, if you don't count a couple hundred LOCs to comic books, my first written fanac was *Alack* #1, just such a calamity. Here is a reminder of those halcyon days.

Portable Storage #3 / William Breiding, 3507 No. Santa Rita Ave. #1, Tucson AZ 85719 / portablezine@gmail.com / Huge, beautiful, rich and heartfelt zine devoted throughout its 178 pages to San Francisco, the dream across the Bay. Highly recommended to the max, this epic genzine features contributions from multitudes ranging from Grant Canfield (a long report thick with caricatures of SFers – good ones, too; he really captures Robert Silverberg's eyes) to Bob Lichtman (a reprinted piece on hippies dating from 1967 – yes, the thick of the era) to Rick Coad (on the baseball Giants) to writers I didn't know but enjoy much here. The city, its people, its arts (the Cockettes once performed on Sproul Plaza while I was at UC-B), its fandom – it brings a sadness as well as a jolt of joy to see jolly Jerry Jacks depicted; he was a mainstay of the Little Men in my neohood. I'll be reading this masterpiece for weeks. Oh yeah – the cover is evocative and lovely. Highly recommended to the max, or have I said that?

Purrsonal Mewsings #71-2 / R-Laurraine Tutihasi, P.O. Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 / Laurraine@mac.com / t.u., \$5, Stipple-Apa / Beautiful nature photos by Mike Weasner adorn every cover of Laurraine's per- and apazine; a noble owl bedecks #71 in this series; a natural stone arch fronts the next. They can be found within, too: a beautiful sunset; the Horsehead Nebula; the ISS silhouetted against Luna. La Tutihasi doesn't rely on his brilliance, though. She writes a cool Westercon report, an account of a Star Party, all reviews and Stipple-Apa mc's herself. As is often the case, her friendly lettercol prints the Chorus' LOCs in red, forever reminding me of my mother's King James.

Random Jottings 17: A Corflu Fanthology / Michael Dobson, 8042 Park Overlook Dr., Bethesda MD 208172724 / editor@timespinnerpress.com / Superior fanthology; see if Michael has any more copies.

Ray X-Rayer / Ray Palmer, raypalmx@gmail.com / e-mail

Scientifiction New Series #60, 62-3 / John L. Coker III, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando FL 32808 / jlcocker3@bellsouth.net / Quarterly / Here is *the* find of this *Sine Dump*: the quarterly newszine of First Fandom, “the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction.” It's a well-produced, comprehensive survey of the inhabitants of the genre, with good photos and solid, journalistic writing. These issues range in time from summer of 2019 to this unfortunate spring. #63 eulogizes Earl Kemp and Mike Resnick, with photos from their lives and fine memories by Special Features Editor Jon D. Swartz and Mr. Coker. An obit for Dr.

Samuel Sackett is also included. Nominees for the First Fandom Hall of Fame – apparently given Yea or Nay votes by the membership – are profiled: anyone who votes against Roger Sims for this or any other accolade will answer to me! Short pieces on Es Cole (by John Hertz), Devore's Science Fiction Sales and I got an even better boost from the special zines John sent me. Volume 2 of *Stories from the First Fandom Archives*, including some wicked old photos from the '30s and 'early '40s and writings from Murphy Anderson (!), Bob Tucker, Bob Madle, Jack Robins and the ineffable Julius Schwartz, who tells a hilarious story about Jack Williamson's first exposure to a subway. I must find Volume 1. Jack himself talks in *Conversations with Members of First Fandom* on the First Worldcon, Again, we're treated to magnificent daguerreotypes of SFdom's early days (wow – there's Forry Ackerman in the first cosplay) and contributions by SaM Moscovitz, Erle Korshak, Forry himself, Dave Kyle and Julie again – revealing that he. Mort Weisinger and Otto Binder split the first Worldcon for Yankee Stadium, where they saw Lou Gehrig retire. Since I started in active fandom >50 years ago – over 60 if you count letters to Julie's comic books – I might qualify for First Fandom. Who cares if people call you a dinosaur; look at the company you keep! I've applied.

SF Commentary #101 / Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, VIC 3088, Australia / Phone: 61-3-9435 7786 / Preferred means of distribution: PDF file from <http://efanzines.com> / email address: gandc001@bigpond.com / Bruce himself encapsulates this issue of the best fanzine on Earth in a few lines: "The usual stuff by Bruce Gillespie, plus tributes to Steve Stiles, Les Robertson, and Adrienne Losin. Articles by Russell Blackford, Tim Train, and Casey Wolf interviewing Eileen Kernaghan; and a poem by Jenny Blackford. Umpteen letters of comment. Covers by Ditmar (Dick Jenssen) and Steve Stiles." Gillespie does not do his zine justice. Opening with a rare political cover from Ditmar – the Statue of Liberty drowning in flame – Bruce editorializes on global warming, a catastrophe that toasted Australia in the last part of 2019. He memorializes his cat, and then Steve Stiles, a juxtaposition Stiles would have enjoyed and is nowhere near as inappropriate as it might sound. The photo of Steve is *churce*. Two Aussie fans eulogize another, Les Robertson – moving pieces – and another mourns Adrienne Losin. Bruce ruminates on various fanzines of note – he applauds the tribute to Randy Byers, *Thy Life's a Miracle*, as has everyone else – before turning over his pages to Russell Blackford, who contributes a superb article, "Science Fiction as a Lens onto the Future." It's rich with history and insight; his wife Jenny's poetry is rich with feeling and compassion. Moving on, Tim Train hits me right where I live with "My Philip K. Dick Bender" – the best panel I ever manned dealt with Phil Dick's unique writing. We agree on most everything except the worth of the villain in *Dr. Bloodmoney*, and the value of the author's discovery of religion near the end of his life. (*Timothy Archer* – and especially *Valis* – are the sanest works outside of Cordwainer Smith in modern SF.) Casey June Wolf's interview with Eileen Kernaghan prompts me to look up the latter's work. And then there are the LOCs – *oodles* of them. *SFC* #100 had no room for a lettercol, so comments on it and earlier numbers swell this issue. Class stuff, too – John Hertz, Leigh Edmonds, Martin Morse Wooster, Greg Benford, Michael Bishop, Curt Phillips, many more. I was especially moved by Ron Sheldon's memories of my 20th birthday – he remembers exactly where he was and what he was doing ... on July 20, 1969. Bacover by Steve Stiles, atypical for him, but nevertheless, welcomed with grief and delight. What did I say a while back? Best fanzine in the world? No argument to be found in *this* zine.

SideTreked / Stephanie Hanna & Mark Ambroglio, ScienceFictionLondon@gmail.com / "the official journal of Science Fiction London"

Skyliner /Summer 2019 / Alan White / A beautiful – nay, **ornate** zine from one of the great fan illustrators.

Stapledon Sphere / Reece Morehead, skywise@bellsouth.net / Newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society (aka the Nashville sf club). / E-mailed / Has this collection of cool links come forth this year?

This Here ... #27 / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142 / fareynic@gmail.com / Nic's perzine is always an energetic ride. He's a lively and passionate writer, even when, as here, he opens with obits for Frank Lunney and Earl Kemp. He's quickly off to go off on the viral delays inflicted on Mike Lowrey's TAFF trip – which will, quite unfairly, cost the fund big bucks in cancellation fees – and the recent FAAn Awards. He interrupts himself to wish everyone sanity and continued health during the COVID-19 catastrophe. About the FAAns, as I understand him, the major problem is in the placement of zines in particular categories. *Lofgeornost*, a FAPAzine distributed outside of the apa via trade and eFanzines, is “particularly ill-served” by being called a “Whatchamacallit.” It belongs in the perzine category, he says ... and there are several other examples. (This minor argument didn't keep *This Here...* from winning the FAAn for perzine, you'll note.) A piece on “Footy” leads to an excellent lettercol where Farey converses enthusiastically with the Chorus. The “Egotorial Extra” with which Nic closes the zine is marvelous: he acknowledges that people have much more important things than fandom to worry about these days, but with verve, argues that we shouldn't let COVID-19 erase all of life's joys. Like fanac.

Tightbeam #306 / National Fantasy Fan Federation c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. E-mail phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com / E-mailed / The genzine from the N3F, usually pretty good, is remarkable here for the exceptional pieces by Bob Jennings on *The Bride of Frankenstein* – probably the best “monster” movie ever made – and *Caltiki the Immortal Monster* – which doesn't enjoy such an exalted reputation. The other reviews are worth a read; if I had to single out another article it would be Heath Row (really?) on comics.

Tommyworld – Redux and NICON 86 Remembered / Tommy Ferguson, 125 Haypark Ave., Belfast BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland / tommy@tommyworld.net / Received from Tommy's U.S. agent, Curt Phillips (1931 Pleasant View Dr., Abingdon VA 24211) who may have copies. Although he doesn't request it, I'd send Curt a couple of dollars to defray postage, but LOCs go to Tommy's address, please. And LOCs there should be, because *Tommyworld – Redux* is a gem of a zine, beautifully repro'd on slick paper, reprinting 19 of Ferguson's pieces from his “letter substitute” of the late '90s. They range from fannish reports on cons to impressions of Seattle to a heartfelt eulogy for James White, written with verve and humor. My only complaint: the teensy-weensy font is a strain for us old farts. But it's worth the trouble. The four-page *NICON 86* zine contains a timeline for Northern Ireland fandom, which Tommy avers began with the meeting of Walt Willis with James White in 1947.

Transcendental Basenji Sermons & Enlightenment #86 / Garry Dalrymple, 1 Eulabah Avenue, Earlwood N.S.W. 2206 Australia / jtfson@gmail.com / Just call it *TBS&E*; that's what Garry calls it in this zine for the great Australian/Kiwi apa, ANZAPA. The squib on eFanzines reads “*TBS&E* could be seen in some sense as a continuation of the 1940s Sydney *Futurian Observer* newsletters. About a quarter of each issue consists of notes from the Sydney Futurian meetings, from 2003 to the present. There are also book reviews, notes from other Sydney SF&F events, and coverage of local Science/Astronomy meetings.” Very detailed and intelligent book reviews, ranging from David Weber's *On Basilisk Station* to Alexander McCall's splendid *Number One Ladies Detective Agency*.

Trap Door / Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland CA 94611-1948 / trapdoor@rocketmail.com / No issues since December 2018, but TD is such a grand zine that it merits mention here, anyway, best wishes to Robert.

Vanamonde Nos. 1385-88 / John Hertz, 236 So. Coronado St. #409, LA CA 90057 / Four issues of John's inspired one-sheet Apa-L zine, running weekly for God knows how long. Look at those issue numbers and guess! John garners much praise for his comments on the other publications in Apa-L – official amateur press association for the Los Angeles group (LASFS) – and indeed here one can find commentary on everything from the etymology of “burlesque” to James Bond films to “cowbirding,” an apa term I've never heard in 50 years of apac (apa activity). But for me the highlight of every issue is the intro, where John expounds on topics many and various (electroactive bacteria, famous Jewish women in sports) or occasionally just prints a cool quote or a nifty haiku. A past DUFF winner, he's a fine writer and extraordinarily supportive of his fellow fans. And yes, the artwork in *Van* is good stuff indeed.

Warp / Cathy Palmer-Lister, via MonSFFA, c/o Sylvain St-Pierre, 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7R 1Y6 / cathypl@sympatico.ca / <http://www.monsffa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WARP-106LR-1.pdf>

The White Notebooks / Pete Young, 136/200 Emerald Hill Village, Soi 6, Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan 77110, Thailand / peteyoung.uk@gmail.com / editorial whim

As ever, *italicized* titles were missed this issue. Please alert me at once as to any errors. Next issue, this summer ... when I hope we'll all be free of fear and hassle. What are you waiting for? *Pub that fanzine!*



and lest we forget ...

