

SCIENTIFICTION

Ben Bova --- Phyllis Eisenstein --- James E. Gunn --- Richard A. Lupoff

IN MEMORIAM

BEN BOVA



Ben Bova (GoH, Chicon 2000)
(Photograph by John L. Coker III)

Ben Bova was a highly regarded and widely published author of hundreds of award-winning books, articles and short stories; a journalist, rocket scientist, editor, professor, member of many professional organizations, conventioneer, honored guest who knew and worked with nearly everyone in the SF field.

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IN MEMORIAM

JAMES E. GUNN



James E. Gunn
(From the collection of John L. Coker III)

James E. Gunn was an award-winning author, editor, journalist, anthologist, lecturer, academic, PR director, SF Grand Master who wrote short stories, articles, novels, screenplays, radio scripts, verse and criticism. Gunn was a WW2 veteran. He served as president of SFWA and SFRA and chaired juries for the Campbell Award and the Sturgeon Award. His stories have been adapted for radio and television and reprinted in many languages.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN MEMORIAM

Rest in Peace: Ben Bova, Phyllis Eisenstein, Susan Ellison, James E. Gunn, Richard A. Lupoff, David C. Paskow, Roberta Pournelle.

(Please see their obituary notices on pp. 3-7).

NOMINATIONS FOR FF AWARDS, 2021

Please send your nominations for candidates for our three historic awards by no later than February 15, 2021 to jlcoker3@bellsouth.net.

WORLDCON 2021 DISCON III UPDATE



DisCon III, the 79th World SF Convention will be held **August 25-29** in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. This is the third time that D.C. has hosted the Worldcon. First Fandom will be displaying our traditional exhibit, participating in panel discussions and presenting our three annual historic awards. For more info, visit: [www.discon3.org/](https://discon3.org/).

FF ANNUAL 2020 ALREADY SOLD OUT

This year's Annual -- "Celebrating Robert A. Madle" -- went out of print in just three days.

In a long article featuring vintage photos and illustrations, Bob recounts his involvement in SF fandom over the course of ten decades. He also reflects on the early days of Amazing Stories, the origins of FAPA, and the genesis of First Fandom. Highlights include a 1968 poem by Robert Bloch and a bibliography prepared by historian Christopher M. O'Brien.

Thanks to all of the people who supported the production of this publication. (See P.10 for a review of FF Annual 2020 by George Phillips.) Work is well underway on next year's Annual.

A FEW FF ANNUALS STILL AVAILABLE

- * 2016 – “Science Fiction Milestones” - \$30.
- * 2018 – “Remembering Jack Robins” - \$30.
- * 2019 – “A David A. Kyle Centenary” - \$50. (Two vols. - one with Kyle signature label)

Includes all packing, shipping and insurance. Send checks (payable to John L. Coker III) to 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL - 32808.

EMBROIDERED MEMBERSHIP PATCHES

We recently uncovered a limited number of colourful cloth embroidered FF membership patches. These can be worn proudly on your jacket or hat to let people know that you are a member. Or you can display them at home. Send \$15 check payable to John L. Coker III.

BOB MADLE IN THE NEWS

[Allison Braden](#) is a contributing editor for [Charlotte Magazine](#). She recently wrote an article entitled “Forbidden Planet, Forgotten History: The Story Behind a Sci-Fi Classic’s Premiere in Charlotte” which appeared in print on November 8, 2020. The 1,100-word story reveals how this famous film debuted in Charlotte, NC and the role that was played by Robert A. Madle in helping make this happen.

With the kind permission of the author (Allison Braden), here is a link to the story:

<https://www.charlottemagazine.com/forbidden-planet-forgotten-history-the-story-behind-a-sci-fi-classics-premiere-in-charlotte/>

A CONVERSATION WITH BOB MADLE

On November 17, Bob Madle telephoned me to express how much he liked First Fandom Annual 2020. He was impressed that we could put this together without him knowing about it in advance. Bob really enjoyed the section of appreciations from some of his friends. He especially liked the bibliography that was prepared by Christopher M. O'Brien.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Ben Bova (b.1932)

First Fandom member, and 2016 inductee into the First Fandom Hall of Fame, science fiction (SF) author/editor **Ben Bova** died November 29, 2020, another victim of Covid-19 and its related health issues.

Benjamin William Bova was born November 8, 1932, in Philadelphia. He graduated from South Philadelphia High School in 1949. He taught SF at Harvard University and at the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, where he also directed film courses. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Temple University in 1954, a master of arts degree in communications from the State University of New York at Albany in 1987, and a doctorate in education from California Coast University in 1996. He lived in Boston for many years, and was active in NESFA.

Bova was the author of more than 120 works of science fact and fiction, a six-time winner of the Hugo Award, editor of *Analog Science Fact & Fiction* (1972 - 1978), and editorial director of *Omni* (1978 - 1982). He served as president of both the National Space Society and the Science Fiction Writers of America.

His honors and awards were many. He was the 1974 recipient of the E. E. "Doc" Smith Memorial Award (*Skylark*) for Imaginative Fiction, the 1983 Balrog Award for Professional Achievement, the 1985 Inkpot Award for his outstanding achievements in SF, the 1996 Isaac Asimov Memorial Award, the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award of the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation, and the Robert A. Heinlein Award "for his outstanding body of work in the field of literature."

In addition, in 2000 he attended the 58th World SF Con (Chicon 2000) as Author Guest of Honor; in 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and, in 2004, reviewing a

collection of his Grand Tour novel series, *The New York Times* described him as "the last of the great pulp writers." His 2006 novel *Titan* received the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best novel of the year, and in 2012 he received a Space Pioneer Award from the National Space Society.

He was married three times. His first wife, Rosa Cucinotta, and he had a son and daughter before divorcing in 1974. That same year he married Barbara Berson Rose, who died in 2009. In 2013 Bova announced on his website that he had married Rashida Loya.

(Prepared by Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Ed.)

Phyllis Eisenstein (b.1946)

Phyllis Eisenstein was born Phyllis Leah Kleinstein in Chicago, Illinois, on February 26, 1946, and lived there most of her life. While attending the University of Chicago, she went to meetings of science fiction fans, where she met her future husband, Alex Eisenstein. She and Alex married in 1966, and then participated actively in SF fandom together.



Phyllis Eisenstein
(Author's Book Jacket Photograph)
BORN TO EXILE - Arkham House Publishers, 1977

Her first two SF stories were published in 1971; her first was a collaboration with Alex. During her career she wrote 6 novels and more than 40 shorter works that appeared in

the leading SF magazines of the day, including *Amazing*, *Analog*, *F&SF*, *Galaxy*, and *IASFM*.

She earned a B. A. degree in anthropology from the University of Illinois in 1981, and for many years thereafter worked as a proof-reader for advertising agencies.

She was nominated for several Hugo and Nebula Awards and won the Balrog Award in 1979 (for her *Born to Exile*) and the *Science Fiction Chronicle* Award in 1982 (for her novella "In the Western Tradition").

She spent much of her adult life teaching creative writing, beginning by assisting Roger Zelazny at the Indiana University Writers Conference in 1977. For 20 years she was a member of the part-time faculty of Columbia College Chicago, where she taught courses in SF and fantasy. She is credited with convincing George R. R. Martin he should include dragons in his Game of Thrones stories.

She suffered from neurological problems during the last few years of her life, lapsed into a coma in 2019, and died December 7, 2020. She is survived by her husband, Alex.

(Prepared by Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Ed.)

Susan Ellison (b.1960)

Susan Ellison was born in England in 1960 as Susan Toth, the daughter of Tibor Toth. She loved reading, particularly the weird and fantastic. Her love of books and reading prepared her for the decisions she would make that would change her life.

She attended Hereford Sixth Form College beginning her studies in mathematics. She soon found an interest in psychology and changed her curriculum and transferred to Manchester Polytechnic. She was a student in 1985 when she attended the Albacon 85 convention in Glasgow where writer Harlan Ellison® was attending as a guest of honor. Susan observed rude behavior by Harlan and

expressed her displeasure. Harlan was smitten and invited her to dinner and Los Angeles. She accepted the invitations and married Harlan in 1986. They remained married until his death in 2018.



Susan and Harlan Ellison
(Photograph by Scott V. Norris)

Susan was thrust into the literary spotlight as a columnist for Aboriginal SF, a scriptwriter for Dinosaucers, the editor for Rabbit Hole, the Harlan Ellison Record Collection newsletter, and editor of 8 in 80, a collection of stories by Harlan Ellison® which included one story for each decade of his career.

Susan attended conventions with Harlan throughout the world and coordinated the sales of his books and recordings on the Internet, through the record collection known as HERC, and at conventions. She actively researched and protected trademarks and copyrights for Harlan and his works.

Susan brought her warmth, poise and generosity to the many people who met her. She brought those qualities as well as her courage and resolve to her partnership with Harlan.

Theodore Sturgeon once said, "There is no absence of love in the world, only worthy places to put it." Susan Ellison was such a worthy place and is loved and missed by many.

(This notice was prepared by Scott V. Norris)

James E. Gunn (b.1923)

First Fandom member **James Edwin Gunn** was born July 12, 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri, and died in Lawrence, Kansas on December 23, 2020. He was a SF author, editor, anthologist, and academic. During World War II he served in the U. S. Navy. He attended the University of Kansas, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism in 1947 and a Masters of Arts in English in 1951.

Gunn's first published science fiction (SF) story was "Communications" in *Startling Stories* (September, 1949); and his first SF novel was *This Fortress World* (Gnome Press, 1955). Some of his other notable novels were *The Joy Makers* (1961), *Kampus* (1977), and *The Dreamers* (1981). Early in his writing career he used the pseudonym Edwin James. He had over 100 stories published, and many were reprinted in foreign languages.

The anthologies he edited included six volumes of his *The Road to Science Fiction* (1977 - 1998). Also among his published writing was a SF encyclopedia, *Alternate Worlds* (1975), and an autobiography, *Star-Begotten: A Life Lived in Science Fiction* (2017). *Saving the World Through Science Fiction*, a biography of Gunn, was also published in 2017.

Gunn's genre awards were many, and included a Pilgrim Award in 1976, a Worldcon Special Award in 1976, a 1976 Locus Award, a 1983 Hugo Award, the 1991 J. Lloyd Eaton Memorial Award, and the 2007 Damon Knight Grand Master Award. In 2015, he was inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame. And he was GoH at many cons.

He was president of both the Science Fiction Writers of America (1971 - 1972) and of the Science Fiction Research Association (1980 - 1982). He was also a professor emeritus of English, and the founding director of the Center for the Study of Science Fiction, both at the University of Kansas. He served for several years during the 1970s and 1980s as chairman of the Campbell Award jury to select the best SF novel of the year.

Gunn lectured in several foreign countries for the U. S. Information Agency. He was the author or editor of nearly 40 books, and his master's thesis was serialized in *Dynamic Science Fiction* in 1953 - 1954. Four of his stories were dramatized over NBC's "X Minus One" radio program during 1956 - 1957. His *The Immortals* was an ABC-TV Movie of the Week in 1969, and became a series in 1970 - 1971.

Jane, his wife, died in 2004. He is survived by his son Kevin.

(Prepared by Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Ed.)

Richard A. Lupoff (b.1935)

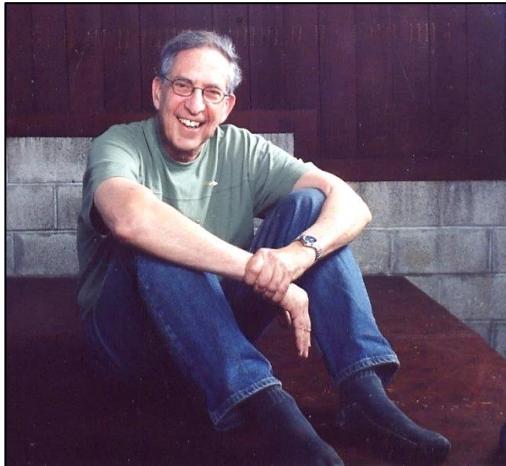
Richard Allen (Dick) Lupoff was born February 21, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. He died October 22, 2020 in Berkeley, California, at the age of 85.

He attended The University of Miami, majoring in journalism. After graduating, and a two-year hitch in the U. S. Army, he worked at a variety of jobs, including technical writer, before becoming a full-time author in 1970.

As a SF fan, he discovered fandom in 1952; he was one of the founders of the Fanoclasts and of Eastercon; he was one of the first members of the Fan Awards Poll Committee; and he was a member of APA-F and of the Second Futurian Society in Manhattan, New York -- where he and his wife Pat hosted meetings of the group.

With Pat, he edited the SF fanzine *Xero* which they unveiled at the 1960 Worldcon in

Pittsburgh. A regular feature of *Xero* was a nostalgic look at Golden Age comic books called "All in Color for a Dime" that later resulted in two books of essays: *All in Color for a Dime* (1970) and *The Comic Book Book* (1973), both of which Lupoff co-edited with fellow fan Don Thompson.



Richard A. Lupoff

(Photograph by Beth Gwinn - Courtesy of Bold Venture Press)

Dick and Pat appeared at Pittcon, the 1960 Worldcon, dressed as the popular comic book characters Captain Marvel and Mary Marvel for the con's masquerade event. Their picture as the two superheroes has been widely circulated in SF and comic book fandoms.

Xero won the 1963 Best Fanzine Hugo Award. A collection, *The Best of Xero*, published in 2004, edited by the Lupoffs -- and with an introduction by film critic Roger Ebert -- was nominated for the 2005 Best Related Book Hugo. In addition, Dick edited other popular genre anthologies, including the *What If?* SF series (1980 - 1984).

Dick's *Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of Adventure* was published by Canaveral in 1965; a paperback edition from Ace in 1966 corrected errors in the first edition. His Basic Burroughs Library, included in the book, was creative and very useful.

A most versatile author, Lupoff wrote/edited 60+ books and scores of short stories, screenplays, and magazine articles on a wide

variety of popular culture subjects, but principally SF, mystery, and horror.

His works of fiction included *One Million Centuries* (1967), *Into the Aether* (1974), *The Crack in the Sky* (1976), *The Triune Man* (1976), *The Ova Hamlet Papers* (1979), *Lovecraft's Book* (1985), *Circumpolar!* (1984), and *The Comic Book Killer* (1988).

One of his most ambitious, non-fiction works, was the massive volume, *The Great American Paperback* (2001). In my opinion, this is the finest reference work on paperback publishing in the United States ever written.

He used several pseudonyms in his writing, including Addison E. Steele in the late 1970s, when he wrote two books about Buck Rogers.

His wife Pat (Patricia Enid Loring Lupoff) died in 2018. They had three children together. Their photos, together with brief biographies, appeared in Bill Schelly's *Founders of Comic Fandom* (McFarland, 2010).

(Prepared by Jon D. Swartz, Special Features Ed.)

A Note on David C. Paskow

(BY CHRISTOPHER M. O'BRIEN)

While not a "First Fan" **David C. Paskow** demonstrated an interest in Gernsbackian SF and pulp-era weird fiction as evidenced by his letter in the final issue of Doc Lowndes' Famous Science Fiction. Paskow writes, "Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances delayed my entrance into the world until AMAZING STORIES was 21 years old" placing his DOB as circa 1947. Given this information and that on a Temple University site ("EDU '69, '71") I suspected the vital dates of (1904–1971) given for Paskow in The Internet Speculative Fiction Database are incorrect. His Locus obituary notes he died at the age of 24 on September 12, 1971 "after a lifelong illness."

A writer of letters to comic books i.e. Unknown Worlds No. 21 (February 1963), and the Julius Schwartz-edited Hawkman No. 1 (April-May

1964) before he appeared in letter departments of the SF zines of the day, Paskow edited the fanzine Science Fiction Bulletin (1960-64), contributed book reviews to Science Fiction Times and Luna Monthly, and made a sale to Lowndes' Health Knowledge digest publication Startling Mystery Stories ("The Full-Moon Maniac") which never saw print before the line's collapse.

As reported in Luna Monthly No. 40 (September 1972) "The collection of the late David Charles Paskow is being donated to Temple University's library to serve as the core of a science fiction collection. Jack Gaughan will design a frontispiece for the books." Paskow's family donated 5,000 SF paperbacks from his collection to his alma mater that year. Temple University Libraries has now begun digitizing the paperbacks in the Paskow science fiction collection for on-site use and via the HathiTrust Digital Library:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Search/Home?type%5B%5D=all&lookfor%5B%5D=%2A&filter%5B%5D=htsource%3ATemple%20University&page=3&pagesize=20&ft=&pagesize=20&page=1>

Roberta Pournelle (b.1935)

Roberta Jane (Isdell) Pournelle, wife of author Jerry Pournelle, passed in her sleep on Sunday August 2, 2020.

She was the matriarch of the Pournelle clan. making calm out of Chaos. She was mother to four sons and a step-daughter, grandmother to four kids and sister to eight siblings.

Born in the mining town of Victoria, Idaho, she grew up in the Queen Victoria area of Seattle during meager times. The Isdell family was, however, rich in music and singing and reading and school.

Roberta put herself through college working at Boeing as a secretary to graduate from the University of Washington. There she met

Jerry Pournelle one night in 1958 at the Blue Moon Tavern. The epic romance spanned fencing, science fiction, aerospace, plays, writing, religion, philosophy and big dreams. They married a year later.



Roberta Pournelle
(Photograph reprinted from www.jerrypournelle.com)

Alexander Craig Pournelle was born in 1960. They lost a child, but persevered. Francis Russell Pournelle was born in 1966. Phillip Eugene Pournelle was born in 1968. Richard Stefan Pournelle arrived in 1970.

Roberta loved music, singing in the choirs of St. Nicholas in Encino and later at St. Francis De Sales in Sherman Oaks. She sang until nearly 80 years of age. Listeners could pick out her mezzo-soprano voice from a singing group no matter the setting.

She entertained often and held sway over the antics of family, friends and colleagues at ChaosManor for over 50 years.

Her achievements were prolific: author in her own right, holder of a Master's Degree in Education, programmer of an early dyslexia program (READINGTLC.com), retired teacher of music and reading, homemaker, retirement planner, muse and mother.

Roberta loved life and held a will over her destiny until the day she left this earth. She hoped you'd do the same. She believed everyone is redeemable and everyone has a soul. "You simply must put in the work."

(Notice reprinted from www.jerrypournelle.com)

BIRTHDAYS - FIRST QUARTER(Please send birthday names and dates to jlcoker3@bellsouth.net)**JANUARY**

- 1 – Chesley Bonestell, Norman Saunders
- 2 – Isaac Asimov, Charles Beaumont
- 3 – J.R.R. Tolkien, Stephen Fabian
- 4 – Ruth Kyle, Ramsey Campbell
- 6 – Eric Frank Russell, S. Fowler Wright
- 7 – Charles Adams, Christine Moskowitz
- 8 – Dennis Wheatley, Boris Vallejo
- 9 – Karel Capek, Algis Budrys
- 10 – Elizabeth Anne Hull
- 11 – Jerome Bixby
- 13 – Clark Ashton Smith, Ron Goulart
- 14 – Lou Tabakow, Don Ford, Ken Bulmer
- 15 – Robert Silverberg
- 16 – Nat Schachner
- 17 – Neville Shute, Alva Rogers
- 18 – Eddie Jones
- 19 – Edgar Allan Poe, Jim Pitts
- 20 – A. Merritt, Louis Charbonneau
- 21 – Judith Merril, Charles Eric Maine
- 22 – Robert E. Howard, Katherine M. MacLean
- 23 – Walter M. Miller, Hildebrandt brothers
- 24 – C.L. Moore, Joel Zakem
- 26 – Philip José Farmer
- 30 – Lloyd Alexander, George Barr

FEBRUARY

- 1 – George Pal
- 2 – Thomas M. Disch
- 3 – Stephen Fabian
- 4 – Ted White
- 5 – William Burroughs, Basil Copper
- 6 – Curt Phillips
- 7 – Eric Temple Bell, Harry Hasse
- 8 – Jules Verne, Ned Brooks
- 9 – Frank Frazetta, Lionel Fanthorpe, Pat Sims, Mark Hickman

- 12 – Louis Chauvenet, Juanita Coulson
- 14 – David A. Kyle, Dale Hart, J.T. McIntosh
- 16 – James Rusty Hevelin, Ed Emshwiller, Mike Glyer
- 17 – Charles R. Tanner, Andre Norton, Jack Robins, Margaret St. Clair
- 18 – Gahan Wilson, Jill Bauman
- 19 – Walter Gillings, Alan Hunter, Terry Carr
- 20 – Richard Matheson, Suford Lewis
- 21 – P. Schuyler Miller, Ross Rocklynne, Richard A. Lupoff
- 24 – August Derleth, Richard Powers, Sam J. Lundwall
- 25 – Rex Gordon, Wiktor Bukato
- 26 – Theodore Sturgeon, the Eisensteins
- 28 – John Coleman Burroughs, Walter Tevis

MARCH

- 3 – Arthur Machen, James Doohan
- 4 – Frank Utpatel, Ted “Dr. Seuss” Geisel
- 5 – Howard Pyle, Mike Resnick
- 6 – Marjii Ellers, William F. Nolan
- 7 – Gray Morrow, Stanley Schmidt
- 8 – Peter Nicholls
- 9 – William F. Temple, Robin Johnson
- 11 – Francis T. Laney, F.M. Busby
- 12 – Harry Harrison
- 13 – L. Ron Hubbard
- 14 – Algernon Blackwood
- 15 – Desmond W. Hall
- 17 – Harry Clarke, Charles L. Fontenay
- 19 – Joe L. Hensley, Jim Turner
- 20 – David Lasser
- 22 – Raymond Z. Gallun, William Shatner
- 24 – Andrew I. Porter
- 26 – G. Harry Stine, Leonard Nimoy
- 27 – John Hertz
- 28 – A. Bertram Chandler
- 29 – Stanley Meltzoff
- 30 – Chad Oliver, Dennis Etchison
- 31 – Scott Edelman

FIRST FANDOM IN THE NEWS

FORREST J ACKERMAN AWARD, 2020

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society has voted to present the 2020 Forry Award to **Neil Gaiman** for lifetime achievement in SF.

SPEAKING OF FORREST J ACKERMAN

In March 2021, the Museum of Design in Zurich, Switzerland will open an exhibition featuring the work of Swiss born costume designer René Hubert. The film *Things to Come* (1936) was among his major works.

First Fandom has loaned the museum four photos for the exhibit that depict Forrest J Ackerman and Myrtle R. Douglas at the 1939 Worldcon dressed in costumes (based on this famous SF film) as “visitors from the future.”

FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE No. 18

Mark Hickman has discovered copies of FF Magazine No. 18, (Fall 1980-Spring 1981) ed. by Lynn Hickman but never distributed. Contents: a transcription of the keynote speech delivered by Verna Smith Trestrail from Moscon 1 (Sept. 1979) and a nostalgic look back on First Fandom by Dan McPhail. Mark has kindly donated these to our Archive.

CERTAIN FIRST FANDOM PUBLICATIONS Now Available Online with FANAC

The organization of First Fandom recently reached an agreement with **Joe Siclari** to allow FANAC to produce digital copies of some of our older publications and make them available online. This first group includes copies of our quarterly newsletters from 2011 through 2017. Membership rosters and other proprietary information will not be included. Soon, we will begin providing older back issues of Scientifiiction for them to scan. To see how the material looks online, please visit [http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/First Fandom Publications/](http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/First%20Fandom%20Publications/).

EVANS-FREEHAFER AWARD, 2020

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society has voted to present the 2020 Evans-Freehafer Award to **Susan Fox** for service to their organization.

NEBULA CONFERENCE: JUNE 4-6, 2021

Registration is now open: www.events.sfwa.org

MEMBER'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

FF Treasurer Keith W. Stokes reported that associate member **Bradford Lyau** has paid his annual membership dues in advance for the next ten years. Thanks for your support!

ROTSLER AWARD, 2020 (BY JOHN HERTZ)

The Rotsler Award for 2020 has been given to **Alan White** of Las Vegas. The annual Award, begun in 1998 after the death of Bill Rotsler and in his memory, is for long-time wonderworking with graphic art in amateur publications of the science fiction community. It is decided by a three-judge panel and carries an honorarium of US \$300.

FOURTH QUARTER 1930s MILESTONES

- Nov 23, 1930 – Debut of film *Just Imagine*.
- Nov 21, 1931 – Debut of film *Frankenstein*.
- Nov 07, 1932 – *Buck Rogers* on CBS Radio.
- Oct. 1933 – Tucker debut (*The Fantasy Fan*).
- Oct. 1934 – Los Angeles SF fans establish Chapter Four of the Science Fiction League.
- Dec. 13, 1935 – Stanley G. Weinbaum dies.
- Oct. 22, 1936 – First Eastern SF Convention held in Philadelphia. Bob Madle was there.
- Dec. 21, 1937 – Debut of film *Snow White*.
- Halloween 1938 – Orson Welles broadcasts H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* on the radio.
- Dec. 1939 – The first issue of *Planet Stories*.

A REVIEW BY GEORGE PHILLIES

First Fandom Annual 2020: Celebrating Robert A. Madle

Many decades ago, the first fen walked the earth. They formed clubs, they created the first fanzines, they staged the first conventions. Alas, they also staged the first fan feuds.

Several decades later, they formed an organization, First Fandom, open to all who had been active in fandom...prior to January 1938. First Fandom was formed to keep the history of early fandom in front of modern SF fans. It still exists, with membership eligibility expanded to include fen active in fandom for more than thirty years.

One of its activities is an annual issue honoring a fan of long ago. This year's issue honors First Fan Robert A. Madle, who has been a fan since 1931 and is now the last living co-Founder of First Fandom. This 8.5 x 11 center-stapled, 64-page volume is a tribute to his contributions. Included are 20 pages of his own recollections of fandom as it happened, most of a century ago, a half dozen pages of photographs of ancient and recent fen, and a collection of appreciative anecdotes from friends. The use of high-gloss paper gives the photographs sharp clarity. Christopher M. O'Brien gives us a 20-page bibliography of Madle's stfnal writings, centered on an amazingly detailed list of works from the 1930s and 1950s.

Celebrating Robert A. Madle is a tribute to a great fan, not a critical biography. It hits high notes of his long path through the scientifictional world. *Celebrating Robert A. Madle* was published by John L. Coker III in a limited edition of 10 numbered copies and 26 lettered copies. The volume is available from John at 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL 32808 for \$30, which includes packing and shipping.

[Ed. Note: FF Annual 2020 is sold out. If there is sufficient interest, we may issue another edition.]

A REVIEW BY JOHN L. COKER III

Far Journeys - A Sercon Fanzine Vol. One, No. One. February 29, 2020. (A Forlorn Pages Publication)

Edited / published by Justin E.A. Busch, 308 Prince Street, #422, St. Paul, MN – 55101.

This 28-page scholarly publication focuses on aspects of SF history. It features a 12-page interview, three articles, a quiz and many color photographs and illustrations throughout.

In "Champion of the Golden Amazon," Busch presents his original and revealing interview with Philip Harbottle (writer, editor, agent and publisher). Harbottle (1941-) may be best remembered as author of *Vultures of the Void*, a definitive history of British SF. Busch explores Harbottle's career and his tireless efforts on behalf of John Russell Fearn (1908-1960), which eventually resulted in seeing all of Fearn's SF novels brought back into print.

In "Love and Loss Amidst the Stars," Busch explores romantic relationships of some of the main characters in *Star Trek*, with special attention paid to those of Captain Kirk's.

Busch considers the artistic career of SF cover artist Stanley Meltzoff (1917-2006). He also offers a detailed examination of the early SF fan publication *The Comet*, issued in 1930 by the Science Correspondence Club.

Finally, readers are invited to test their SF knowledge by identifying the opening sentence of a "landmark work of fantastic fiction from each decade from the 1920s on."

There is considerable worthwhile material in this ambitious inaugural issue. I learned a lot from the contents and was delighted to read it several times. I think that you will enjoy it too.

Copies of *Far Journeys* are available from Justin "in exchange for a print fanzine or for a 9x12 SASE (\$1.40 US Domestic First Class)."

Let's hope that the response to this issue is good so that there are more in the near future.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER KEVIN COOK

Please welcome our latest associate member, **Kevin L. Cook**, who was recently nominated for associate membership by Erle M. Korshak. Kevin is a long-time SF fan, reader, author, collector, correspondent and conventioneer. He kindly provided the following information:

"On my weekly trip to my town library in Merrick, New York (a town on the south shore of Long Island) in the summer of 1968, I wandered over to the library's small (some might say tiny) collection of science fiction books. One bookcase with eight shelves as I recall. The book I decided to borrow that day was *Battle for the Stars* by Edmond Hamilton. I continued to read other science fiction books over that summer. In the fall of 1968, I purchased my first science fiction book from the appropriately named Merrick Paperbacks. The book was *The Star Kings* by Edmond Hamilton (you may see a pattern developing here). Of course, I still own that paperback. I could not hope to count the number of science fiction books I have bought and read since, but the number must be in the ten-thousands.

I went to my first Lunacon in 1975 and attended the second World Fantasy Con in New York in 1976. I went to a number of regional cons in the New York area in the years that ensued. Starting in 1991 I began attending Pulpcon. That continued annually until 2007. For the dozen years since I have attended the Windy City Pulp and Paper Convention in Chicago every April. Back in New York from 2017 and earlier I went to the New York Antiquarian Book Fair every year and other smaller book fairs in the area. I also attended Book Fair Week in London in 2015.

The first fanzine I ever bought was *ERB-Dom* # 58 in 1972. I have bought and subscribed to dozens since, plus done the usual activities of writing articles, book reviews and letters of comment. I could no longer tell you my first appearance in print, but

the most recent one is easy to document: an LoC in *Outworlds 7 1/Afterworlds*. Most of my fanzine activity, however, has been involved with an apazine in the Pulp Era Amateur Press Society where I have contributed to 108 consecutive quarterly mailings since 1994.

Back when people still wrote letters and sent them through the mail I regularly corresponded with individuals who qualified for first fandom. Among those were Richard H. Minter, A. Langley Searles, Chester Cuthbert, Thomas G. Cockcroft and Ned Brooks. I even wrote letters to some favorite authors starting with, guess who, Edmond Hamilton.

Primarily I am a hardcover book collector, and I have established excellent book collections of several authors from the first fandom era; among those are Edgar Rice Burroughs, Edmond Hamilton, Otis Adelbert Kline, John Taine and Jack Williamson. I have over a thousand pulp magazines from the pulp era as well. And among the fanzine collections of that era I have compiled complete collections of *Science Fiction Digest/Fantasy Magazine*, *The Acolyte*, *The Fantasy Fan*, *Southern Star* and *The Fanscient* with issues of many, many others. That collecting continues to date as in a recent eBay auction I obtained a copy of *Nepenthe* # 1 from 1940."

Kevin L. Cook

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[Editor's Note: I met Kevin eight years ago at the Windy City Pulp and Paper Convention. I immediately felt that he was a kindred spirit, someone who would easily find common ground with other members of First Fandom. I appreciated his knowledge about many of the writers and artists in early fan publications. I look forward to the time when we can attend conventions again so that we spend more time together. Welcome aboard, dinosaur!]

DINOSAUR TRACKS

Here is the latest title for our “letters to the editor” column. It was suggested by one of our latest associate members, Lloyd Penney. We’ll send him a nice prize for his SF library.

FROM ESTHER D. COLE

Dear John,

Oh, my gosh. Thank you for the latest issue of Scientifiiction. What an interesting and creative piece of literature. I have to say nice things about your newsletter because I enjoy reading it. I'm sure you've exaggerated the ages of most of the people you feature. If they are the age they are, then I must be a lot older than my birth certificate shows me to be.

I am currently at my computer and I still know how to write with this remarkable piece of machinery. I learned to use an electric typewriter. I now love using the computer for all my correspondence. I will now take a short break and figure out what I want to write.

What a wonderful Halloween card. This place where we live is so introverted, I rarely see anyone on the street, and, even more rarely, kids ringing door bells on Halloween. Been here 40 years and I think the total number of kids ringing our door bell might add up to 4 or 5 or 6. I don't know what they do instead of begging for candy. I used to stock up, and wind up with pounds of candy, for Les and me to eat over the rest of the year. Now, no kids, no candy, so I'm complaining about feeling deprived of all the teeth damaging candy I don't eat. So, your card is doubly wonderful. I hope there are still kids running around trying to get candy.

Happy holiday. Have a wonderful time and dress up and be whoever you'd like to be this year. I know Les joins me in sending virus-free smooches across these United States to all of the people who are still kids at heart.

Xxxxx Es and Manny

FROM JON D. SWARTZ

Hello John,

An interesting thing happened to me recently. A friend suggested that I check out one of my old-time radio books, published in 1993, that was being sold on eBay. I did, bid on it, and got it.

This copy belonged to Hugh Hefner, has his bookplate in it, and an enclosed letter which stated that it was part of his private library at the Playboy Mansion. I guess that, when he wasn't busy chasing playmates, he was listening to old-time radio programs. My kids got a kick out of it.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR 2021

February 15: Return completed First Fandom awards nominations to John L. Coker III.

March 15: Deadline for members to submit material for 1Q2021 newsletter (STF #67).

April 15: 1Q2021 newsletter (STF #67) and awards ballots distributed to the members.

May 15: Return completed First Fandom awards ballots to John L. Coker III.

June 15: Deadline for members to submit material for 2Q2021 newsletter (STF #68).

July 1: Members to send their annual dues checks of \$15 (payable to Keith W. Stokes).

July 15: 2Q2021 newsletter (STF #68) distributed to the members.

August 25–29: Worldcon (Washington, D.C.)

Sept 15: Deadline for members to submit material for 3Q2021 newsletter (STF #69).

October 15: 3Q2021 newsletter (STF #69) distributed to the members.

ABOUT DAVID A. KYLE (BY BEN BOVA)

Dave Kyle introduced me to fandom.

It was 1956 and I was working as a technical editor at the Glenn L. Martin Co., in Middle River, Maryland. Mr. Martin's company built airplanes, including flying boats. And was building the launching rocket for the *Vanguard* satellite, which everyone thought would be the first artificial satellite of Earth, humankind's first step into space. (Mr. Martin's company is today Lockheed Martin, a giant of the aerospace industry.)

I was an avid reader of science fiction and had for years been trying to sell science fiction stories to magazines such as *Astounding* and *Galaxy*. I did not know that science fiction fandom existed; I knew nothing of the subculture, nor of the conventions that fans put on.

Through a mutual friend I was contacted by a Mr. David Kyle. He was well-mannered, soft-spoken, and very tolerant of my ignorance. He asked me if I could arrange to bring one or two *Vanguard* engineers to speak at the World Science Fiction Convention, which was going to be held in New York City.

"World Science Fiction Convention?" I asked.
"What's that?"

Patiently, Dave Kyle explained about fandom and science fiction conventions. He left out a few details, but mainly he told me enough to arouse my enthusiasm. He told me that he thought the fans would be entranced to hear about the first actual step the human race was taking into space.

(Of course, the Russians launched *Sputnik* into orbit before we were ready with *Vanguard*, earning them the glory of the first step into space. *Vanguard* blew up spectacularly in its first launch attempt, but eventually put three satellites into orbit.)

I talked our project's two top engineers into driving to New York over the Labor Day weekend to speak at the World Con. "You'll have an audience that will hang on your every word," I enthused. "You'll be speaking to people who have been dreaming about going into space!"

We got to the Biltmore Hotel and took the elevator up to the level where Nycon 2 was taking place. The elevator doors slid open and we stepped out. What did we see? Lots of fans in weird costumes running around and an eight-foot-high poster of some Hollywood monster, courtesy of Forrest J Ackerman.

You have to understand, this was the 1950s. And they were engineers. Crew cuts and charcoal gray suits. Narrow ties. They read *Aviation Week*, not *Astounding*. The two of them did an abrupt about-face and went back into the elevator. I had to grab them by the tails of their charcoal gray jackets and literally drag them out of the elevator.

Very reluctantly, with plenty of dirty looks in my direction, they allowed me to steer them to the auditorium where their panel was to take place. The auditorium was packed. Among the panelists were Arthur C. Clarke, Willy Ley, and a few other persons that the engineers had heard of and respected. My career with Mr. Martin's company was saved.

Of course, the engineers were such dull speakers that half the audience walked out on them. But Arthur Clarke and Willy Ley buddied up with them and all turned out well.

More important, to me, was that I got to know David Kyle, who is one of the grand gentlemen of our age. We've been friends for nearly half a century now, and although we don't see each other as much as we'd like, it's a friendship that has never wavered.

[Ed. Note: This article was written by Ben Bova for a book that I published in 2006, "David A. Kyle: A Life of Science Fiction Ideas and Dreams."]

FUN FIRST FANDOM PHOTO FORENSICS



Here is one of the most reprinted photographs in fandom. It was made during the weekend of the first Worldcon (July 2-4, 1939) when these 7 young men visited Coney Island, NY.

Front, L-R: Mark Reinsberg, Jack Agnew, Ross Rocklynne. Rear, L-R: V. Kidwell, Bob Madle, Erle M. Korshak and Ray Bradbury.

Most of these names should be very familiar to old-time SF fans. But who was **V. Kidwell**?

In a recent conversation with John L. Coker III, **Robert A. Madle** finally cleared up the mystery behind the identity of the person sitting to his right in this famous photograph.

"Vincent Kidwell was my uncle, even though he was three months younger than me. He was not an sf fan. Jack Agnew and I stayed at my grandmother's house (Vincent lived there, too) in New York. Vincent played in the softball game and then went to Coney Island with us and was included in the photograph."

Erle M. Korshak recalls the photograph: "I still have so many wonderful memories of that first Worldcon. But most of all, being photographed with Robert A. Madle and with Ray Bradbury, my life-long friends. There were a baker's half dozen of us in an imaginary convertible automobile. What a wonderful, motley crew ----- all of whom now, except for Robert A. Madle and I, are like Housman's rose-lipped maidens, and are sleeping in fields where roses fade."

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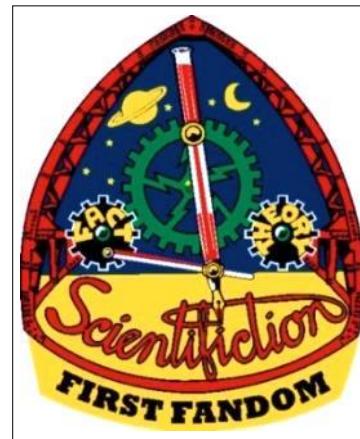
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(We appreciate the award-winning SF journalism being done every day by Big-Hearted **Mike Glyer** at www.file770.com.)



(Adapted from artwork by Frank R. Paul)

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