



# The National **81** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 81 Number 2

February 2022

## Club News

Welcome to new Comics Bureau Head Stephanie Souders! Welcome to new Birthday Card Bureau Head Denise Fisk! Greetings also to Denise Fisk, in her roles as a new member of the Writers Exchange Bureau and the Welcomittee.

## Fancylopedia 3

Fancylopedia 3, Fancylopedia.com, is a set of wiki pages, covering in vast detail all of SF&F Fandom. There is even a longish section on the N3F. In any event, over the past year or two someone went in and edited the N3F pages, inserting various bits of negative material. I have dutifully re-edited it to present a neutral view of our activities. I also updated it, in that some of the segments referred to the N3F as it existed several decades back.

## Wanted: News and Reviews

Tightbeam could use someone to do CosPlay reviews. We could always use moderately constrained convention reports. The N3F Review of Books needs more reviews of novels and anthologies. Tightbeam could always use two or three short story reviews and reviews of old Radio plays.

## Old Bureaus

Inside is a list of old N3F Bureaus that could return.



We are getting a lot of letters of comment. Keep it up!

However, as TNFF is space limited, some letters may start being passed over to The N3F FanActivity Gazette,.



Since 1941, the N3F has given awards under various names for contributions to science fiction and science fiction fandom. After considerable discussion, for this year the Neffy Categories are

- Best Novel or Anthology (over 100,000 words)
- Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words)
- Best Fan Writer
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fan Editor
- Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)
- Best N3F Fanzine
- Best Live-Action Television Show, Film, or Video
- Best Animation (anime/cartoon)
- Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel
- Best Book Editor
- Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise
- Best Literary-Critical or Historical Work

The novel award includes first publication in electronic, paperback, or hardback book formats. **You may nominate up to three works in each category.** There were proposals to split, e.g., the best film into science fiction, fantasy, comic book,

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



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**Continued Next Column, Middle**

and horror awards, but the number of awards would become unmanageable. If the live-action video award again has little interest, it may be dropped next year.

## The Directors' View ...Jefferson Swycaffer

This reminds me of the old radio feature "Spectrum," where six different commentators put forward their views on issues of public import, from a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

Indeed, the tagline in the introduction was, "And now, today's perspective."

## Your Volunteer Team

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## Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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In my opinion, the N3F is going through a small "Golden Age." Things are pretty darn good! We have a great President, who, let us be fair, is keeping the club going by his sole efforts. George Phillis would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to replace, and we may be very thankful for his extraordinary labors.

We have more fanzines than ever, including links to guest fanzines. We have a wonderful lack of fan-feuds and invective. The nation may be divided, but the N3F is not. The Short Story Contest just hit a high-water-mark of entries, 21 entries in 2021, more than any since the days of Donald Franson of treasured memory.

The two official publications, Tightbeam and The National Fantasy Fan, are published on a dependably regular schedule, and are always worth reading from cover to cover. The APA, named N'APA, thrives, although...

I said the N3F is enjoying a small Golden Age, and, unfortunately, one of the keywords there is "small." The N3F doesn't have a large number of members. We have a small number of members. Some activity bureaus are not being utilized to good effect. There aren't many Round Robins being circulated. There aren't many stories given to the Writers' Exchange Bureau.

There isn't much Correspondence, which is particularly sad, as the club is, in its structure, largely a Correspondence Club, and always has been. There was transition to electronic messaging. The Internet has not been kind to the N3F, and people can get some of the same gratification, with less investment of thought, from Facebook or TikTok. Those fora are good for bulk exchange of memes, but are not places for investment of intellect and for dedicated Fannish Activity. They are far more passive than the N3F.

One final sign of our current Golden Age is that the Directorate has virtually nothing to do! We haven't had a formal Directors' vote on a subject of any weight in a very long time indeed. This can be seen, at least from some perspectives, as a fine thing and an indicator of good times.

## Inactive Bureaus

Recovered from Fancyclopedia, here is a list of Bureaus that we once had in operation, but that have since faded from the scene.

### Collector's Bureau

It once published a fanzine, The Collector's Bulletin, and bibliographies such as the Science Fiction Collections Index.

### Fanclubs Bureau

Generates a list of known SF clubs and how to contact them.

### Fische Bureau

Totally unknown purpose.

### Follow-Up Bureau

The Follow-Up bureau asked former members why they left the N3F.

### Information Bureau

You have a question about SF? Ask us. We know everything. This might have worked 90 years ago.

### Ladies' Auxiliary

The auxiliary became inactive in 1950. The auxiliary's activities included running the club's lending library. Most auxiliary members were also club members.

### Membership Activities Bureau

The activities in questions are left to the reader's imagination

### Neo Fan Fund

A scheme to help young fans who found themselves without sufficient money at conventions. It expired many years ago

### New Fanzine Appreciation Society

Writes Letters of Comment on new zines.

### Overseas Bureau

Purpose was unclear

### Photo Bureau

Purpose was unclear.

**Plancom**

The Long-Range Planning Committee of the NFFF. This was an early 1940s effort. Still a good idea in principle.

**Publicity Committee**

Puts our name before the public.

**Social Media Bureau**

The Social Media Bureau supported the N3F's pages and groups on various social media sites.

**Tape Bureau**

The Tape Bureau stockpiled authors' readings from cons. A separate Taping Bureau read and recorded books for the blind.

**Teaching SF Bureau**

For Faculty teaching SF courses.

## Letters of Comment

This month, most of the discussion is over the Neffy awards, in particular whether paper and ebook novels should have the same award.

**Editor:**

It'd make sense to me to have separate categories - or at least to identify -- self-published vs. published by a publisher (regardless of POD). And it might make sense to have a category for e-book only titles. But I have no strong feelings or preference, and it has nothing to do with perceived quality, but the publishing process and role of a publishing imprint as unifying signifier. (DAW books are different than Tor books, for example.) But again, no strong feelings.

Heath Row

**Editor:**

My opinion? For what it's worth, I don't see any corresponding increase or decrease in value when it comes to whether books are published by an independent or commercial publisher. Keep in mind that writers such as the poet Walt Whitman were self-published for years before they were widely acknowledged. So I say keep it all together. It matters not who publishes them. That's my 2 cents anyway for what it's worth.

Will Mayo

**Editor:**

Those story contest winners certainly sound like they have written interesting stories. Any chance we will get to read them? It might be nice and do the NFFF a lot of credit if we were to publish a book of the stories entered in each contest, not only the winners but all the entrants. Such a book might be bought and read by many a fan on the net, and the cost of doing it on the net is not that expensive. A plus on publishing such a book is that we would get to read the stories of those entering our annual contest. And the writeup sounds like they're getting better by the year.—John Thiel

[GP: I have asked appropriate authors to submit a story to Eldritch Science, which should be out within a month. Following letter should have appeared last month.]

**Editor:**

Bob Jennings raises some concerns about possible changes to the Neffy categories and the timing of Neffy voting, seeing such changes as unworkable. Among the changes he opposes is deleting certain categories such as Best Movie; this, he argues, “cuts out people who are genuinely interested in those categories.” There is truth here, but the empirical evidence—the limited voting, or even nominations (only two films, out of dozens released) in those categories points to a very limited interest or involvement on the part of N3F members. Nor have the categories ever been set in stone. In 2005, for example, ‘Best Classic Reprint’ was a category; by 2012 ‘Classic Reprint’ had disappeared and ‘Best Super Hero/Comics Movie’ had appeared. Neither of these categories appeared in the most recent set of Neffys. The awards cannot be all things to all fans, or even to all N3F Members, so deleting those with little support or involvement does not appear likely to cause hardship or resentment among potential voters.

I've already given my reasons for trimming the time allotted to the nomination and voting procedure (TNFF, October issue), and won't repeat them here. Bob prefers a lengthier period; I would argue that the empirical evidence once again suggests the contrary. Perhaps, if next year's voting period is briefer, someone could analyze the actual voting involvement statistics from 2021 and then compare them to 2022.

Bob also sees any expansion of Neffy fan categories as “stepping directly into competition with the annual FAAn awards.” I’m not sure in what this competition would consist. The fact that two separate groups recognize significant achievements in similar categories is not enough in itself to create competition, especially when, as is the case with the Neffy voting bloc and the FAAn voting bloc, there is very little overlap between the memberships of said blocs. Rather than competition, having two well-established awards announced in reasonably close proximity would be likely to increase general fan awareness of both. This increased awareness would do two things which fit the purpose of the N3F quite well: first, place the emphasis on fandom as a whole rather than as a minor part of what are increasingly professional awards for marketing purposes; second, expand fan awareness of the N3F, which is something we’ve been concerned about for some while. I cannot see any downside to either of these outcomes.

Justin E. A. Busch

Editor:

It does seem to me that Heath Row’s proposal for increasing the number of categories is headed in the wrong direction. If the Neffys are to make the mark they should within fandom, we should apply Occam’s razor: “entities should not be multiplied beyond necessity.” The same holds true for voting categories.

Consider a couple of facts. The first is a matter of N3F record: there are, as of the last Treasurer’s Report, only 46 voting members. The second is that awards for professional science fiction, fantasy, and so on abound; one need merely read a month’s worth of Mike Glycer’s *File 770* to see how many such he lists.

Heath Row’s question in his LoC — “What can the Neffys do that the other awards don’t do?” is an important one, but I’m not persuaded by his answer. Adding a considerable number of categories slanted toward professional sf activities would be a simple duplication (and reduplication) of award effort, so to speak. It would also require considerably more interest in such categories than the voters have demonstrated. If, for example, as George Phillis pointed out in the September, 2021 TNFF, “With

respect to the Neffys, interest in ‘Best Movie’ was significantly less than interest in the other categories,” it is unclear how tripling the number of film-related categories will result in greater voter participation.

What can the Neffys do that other awards do not? Strictly speaking, probably nothing, there being so many awards. But few of those awards emphasize the fannish side of sf activity. The FAAn Awards stand out, of course, and there are still fan categories in the Hugos (although the very low number of nominations in those categories indicates the relative lack of interest on the part of Hugo nominators). Yet the fannish categories are exactly those which are most likely to engage the interest of members of something called The National Fantasy *Fan Federation* (my emphasis).

I would urge anyone considering possible Neffy categories to concentrate on those which are more oriented toward individuals rather than groups, and those which are more oriented toward fans and fannish work than professional endeavors (excepting, as always, the ‘Best Novel’ category, which is clearly of interest to N3F members and sanctified by time). I would also suggest reducing, rather than increasing, the number of categories, so as to concentrate upon those of greater interest to voters.

I return to the first fact to which I alluded above. The total number of possible N3F voters is approximately the same as the number of voters for the last FAAn Awards: not large, but representative nonetheless. To multiply categories is to risk becoming ludicrous in the eyes of fandom, for it will be clear that the ‘winners’ in some of the less popular categories probably took two votes out of three. If we want the Neffys to be taken seriously, whether by our membership, potential members within the larger fan community, or even by the winners themselves, we need to make certain that we do not dilute their potential significance by trying to include everything in which someone might be interested. Justin E.A. Busch

Editor:

I am not in favor of separating commercially published books from self-published books - and where would one categorize books published through Am-

azon, where the author does all the typesetting (sic) and layout with perhaps a little assistance from an artist & graphic designer for the cover? I think books e-published by authors on Amazon and Smashwords should be judged by the same standards we apply to books from Baen and Tor: is the story with its plot and characters interesting? Is the text riddled with misspelled and misused words?

Kevin Trainor

Dear George and Jon:

I hope I am in time for No. 2, but that's okay... I am finally getting to Volume 81, No. 1 of The National Fantasy Fan, and the weekend is as good as any time to get caught up with zines and other projects.

I am glad to see the Short Story contest was so successful. I hope the winning stories might be submitted to paying market for potential professional publication in the future, if that's possible. There are so many new names getting published in the SF market, and there is always room for more.

Activities within the N3F are fun, and given the current state of fandom, as far as I can see, YMMV, N3F Fanac may become more a part of your life. Where I am, Fanac has been cut back to a bare minimum. Many of our regular conventions are cancelled, one or two permanently, and we've just discovered our monthly fannish pubnight must find a new home, because the pub we've been in for more than 25 years is closing, and the property will likely be redeveloped. Our first events to go to this year won't happen until June, so we still have some time to kill before then.

The local...in my loc, what appears as Gramforge is actually Dreamforge, and issue 6 is now available. I have edited a few stories for issue 7, and I am hoping the British author I have been working with will submit his next novel to me soon. I said I wanted to kill time in the previous paragraph... a paying job sounds pretty good to me, a perfect way to kill time.

I guess I am done for the moment, but there are still many zines to respond to, so I'd best get to them. Many thanks for this issue, and I am sure V81#2 will be shortly.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## Bureau Activities

### Welcommittee

We have two new members this month, Steve Condrey and Amy Brodhead. We hope their stays are long and happy.

I would also like to announce that Denise Fisk has joined the Welcommittee and will be helping to greet our new members in the N3F.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact: Judy Carroll at [BlueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:BlueShadows2012@gmail.com) or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

### Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? What to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? What to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

If You wish to join you need to do the following:  
1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address, 2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name. 3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

The following members are interested in corresponding:

Jeffrey Redmond - by email

John Thiel - by email  
Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.  
William Mayo - by email  
Denise Fisk - by email - NEW MEMBER

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

## Birthday Card Bureau

[Report delayed from December:] Here is my final Birthday Bureau Report: Having cleared out a bunch of names no longer relevant to Birthday Card Mailings, I have sent, or will shortly send, the last cards of my tenure as N3F Member Birthday Greeter. Please welcome Denise Fisk, who will be taking over this charming and long-lasting N3F tradition in January.

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We have a real surprise coming up in Ionisphere this month, the beginnings of success in bureau activities. The new people being interviewed are positioned well for interactivity and are already doing something like that. We think they will be more contactable than previous interviewees have been. We are also examining the problems with publication of material.--John Thiel

## Birthday Bureau

1 card in January. 5 in February.  
...Denise Fisk

## History and Research Bureau

This month we are giving consideration to negative reactions to science fiction and discussing how this might come about.--John Thiel

## Information Technology

Our web pages are up and running. As always, we would be most grateful to anyone who identifies bad links in the web pages, and tells us about them. George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

## Pro Bureau

We continue to publish The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono. More reviewers and reviews would always be welcome.

## Eldritch Science

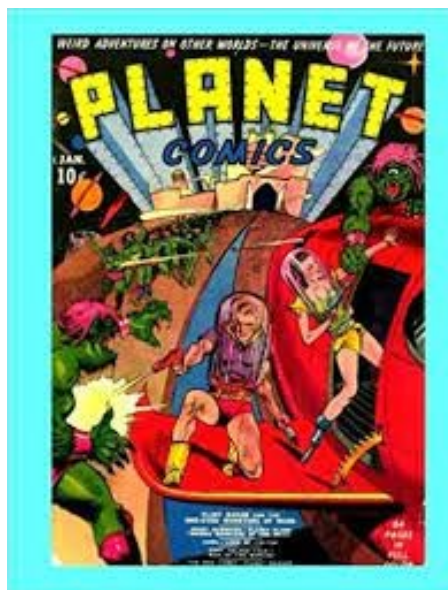
Expect a new issue of Eldritch Science in the near future.

## Franking Service

We have fallen a bit behind in forwarding zines, but hope to catch up soon.

## SerCon

## Planet Comics by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian



Planet Comics was an all-science fiction (SF) comic book published by Fiction House, from the first issue, dated January, 1940 until the last one, dated Winter, 1953. It is considered to be the first continuously published comic book devoted

wholly to original SF strips, although Hugo Gernsback's Superworld Comics debuted only a few months later. Earlier SF comic books had featured reprints of Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon from their newspaper comics.

Like most of Fiction House's early comic book titles, Planet Comics was a spin-off of one of their pulp magazines, in this case Planet Stories

(published from 1939 to 1955, for a total of 71 issues).

Like the magazine before it, Planet Comics featured space operas and mostly told of heroic space adventurers who used their ray guns and space ships as they explored other planets and associated with gorgeous women, who constantly needed rescuing from BEMs (bug-eyed monsters) and assorted interplanetary bad guys -- except when the space adventurers were themselves women, and usually clad in metal bras, shorts, and gun belts.

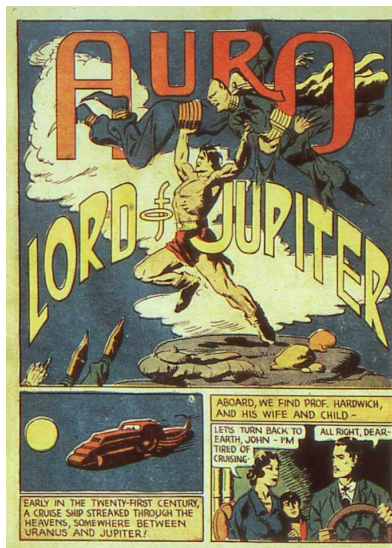
The Fiction House comic books, including Planet Comics, became known for what later was called Good Girl Art (GGA), with scantily clad damsels in distress on almost every cover. A total of 73 issues appeared during its lengthy run.

### Most Popular Strips

Featured strips throughout the run of the comic book included Auro, Lord of Jupiter; Mysta of the Moon; The Star Pirate, The Space Patrol (Flint Baker and Reef Ryan); The Red Comet; Gale Allen and the Girl Squadron; and The Lost World. The Lost World is the strip most often remembered and written about today. Other strips were similar in content and included Buzz Crandall, Captain Nelson Cole, Spurt Hammond, Quorak, Amazona, Kenny Carr, Planet Payson, Jim Giant, Fero, Futura, and Cosmo Corrigan.

### Auro, Lord of Jupiter

A sort of combination of Tarzan and John Carter, Auro had an origin story in #1, and was able to survive in the book for a long time, going through several changes in character and story lines during its run. He was also featured on covers several times. Malcolm Kildale, Sid Greene, and R. L. Golden were early artists.



### Mysta of the Moon

Mysta was a spin-off from the Mars, God of War strip, taking over the Mars strip and its cover appearances. Almost all issues with Mysta featured her in provocative poses. Matt Baker and Joe Doolin were early artists.

### The Star Pirate

Introduced in issue #12, The Star Pirate -- although engaged in some sort of piracy on occasion -- was in reality a colorfully-dressed space hero, who had adventures accompanied by various sidekicks, including Gura, his Martian friend. Murphy Anderson was an early artist.

### Flint Baker/Reef Ryan (The Space Patrol)

When the comic book reduced pages, the Flint Baker and Reef Ryan strips were combined into one strip, The Space Patrol. Fletcher "Flint" Baker, a space explorer, had been the intended star of the book, and was featured on covers for the first dozen or so issues. Dick Briefer and Arthur Peddy were early artists on Flint Baker.



### The Red Comet

A galactic superhero, The Red Comet had the power to change his size, by using an "adjuster" on a dial he wore. He never had an origin, and was known throughout his run as "The Mystery Man of Space."

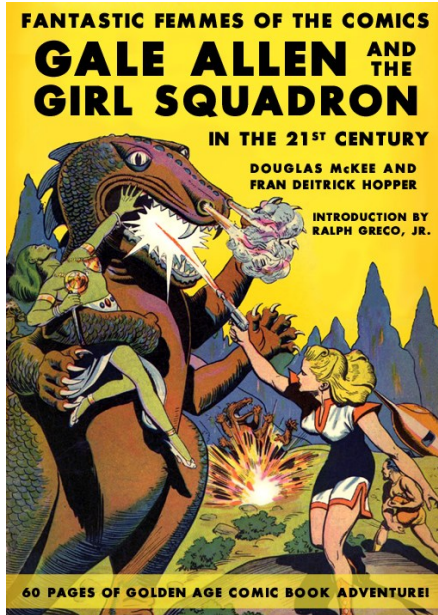
Ken Jackson and Alex Blum were early artists, with Arthur King supplying scripts.

### Gale Allen and the Girl Squadron

With the help of reprints during the later years, Gale



lasted almost the entire run of the book, usually accompanied by her female helpers. These helpers were variously known as the Women's Space Battalion, the Girl Patrol, and the Girl Squadron. Her helpers, like their leader, often wore scanty clothing. R. A. Burley was an early artist, with Fred Nelson doing scripts.



The Lost World

The Lost World, with bow and arrow wielding Hunt Bowman and his lovely girlfriend, Lyssa, roamed a future, ruined Earth, fighting the Voltamen. It was probably the most popular strip in Planet Comics during its run of nearly 50 issues, with Hunt and Lyssa featured on several covers. The ugly Voltamen had real character as alien menaces; they were quite distinctive, with lined green faces, pointy teeth, and pug noses; and they wore spike-topped helmets. Their most outstanding characteristic, however, was that they spoke with unusual phrasings -- with verbs at the end of their sentences ("Revenge, my right, is"). Some comic book historians have written that they were based on World War II Nazis. Lily Renée [Phillips], Nick Cardy, George Evans, and Rudy Palais were among the artists who worked on the strip.

Other Artists/Writers

The number of artists and writers who worked on strips in Planet Comics is vast, and pen names were common; but I was able to uncover the following.

Originating writers of Planet Comics included Thorncliffe Herrick, apparently a house name un-

der which several comic book writers worked, including popular SF author Jerome Bixby (who, for a time, was also editor of the Planet Stories pulp magazine). Fletcher Hanks was another writer (and artist) on early issues. Pen names used on strips included Alex Boom, Ned Small, Nick Charles, Star Gayza, and even Leonardo Vinci!

The Flint Baker/Space Ranger stories, according to comic book fan and indexer Raymond Miller, "featured such writers as Al Schmidt and Huxley Haldane." Jerry Bails, in his reference works on the subject, mentioned Herman Bolstein and Dick Briefner (as writer and artist). Ken Jackson is credited with creating The Red Comet.

Bails and Ware also listed well-known writers such as Walter B. Gibson and Frank Belknap Long, popular genre authors, as working on "various features" for Planet Comics throughout the 1940s. Maurice Whitman did covers and strip art for almost all the Fiction House comics, including Planet Comics.

Comic book historian Ron Goulart has written that principal writers and artists were from the Eisner-Iger shop, and included such men as Nick Cardy, John Celardo, Lee Elias, Artie Saaf, Leonard Starr, and Bob Lubbers. Lubbers became known for his GGA. Comic book editor, artist, and author Charles M. Quinlan also contributed to an early strip, Crash Barker (i. e., Crash Parker).



Planet Covers

Although the first cover was drawn by the "artist's artist," Lou Fine, most of the early covers were drawn by industry legend and entrepreneur Will Eisner, creator of the popular comic strip/comic book character, The Spirit.

Later covers were predominantly the

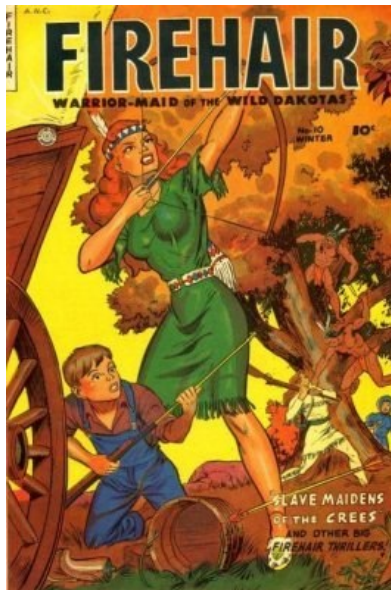
work of two men: Dan Zolnerowich (later known as Dan Zolne) and Joe Doolin. Zolne is believed to have produced covers for issues #10 - #25 (January, 1941 – July, 1943), and Doolin is said to have illustrated all-but-three of the covers for issues #26 - #65 (September, 1943 – Spring, 1951).

## New Planet Comics

Another comic book titled Planet Comics was published by Blackthorne for three issues in the 1980s. The first issue had cover art by Dave Stevens, known for his GGA, and featured a Lost World story.

## Other Fiction House Comic Books

In addition to Planet Comics, the other Fiction House “Big Six” comics were Wings, Jumbo, Jungle, Rangers, and Fight Comics. In addition, over the years, Fiction House published other comic books such as Wambi, Firehair, Kaanga, Sheena, Toyland, Ghost, and Movie Comics.



## Some Conclusions

Fiction House was a publisher of magazines and comic books from the 1920s to the 1950s. It was founded by John B. “Jack” Kelly, who began his career as a copy boy, and John W. Glenister, known to his friends as Bearcat.

Glenister was an adventurer and champion swimmer who started his publishing career selling newspapers, and who died before Fiction House’s comic book era. By the late 1930s, the Fiction House publisher was Thurman T. Scott, who had married Glenister’s daughter.

Fiction House’s comic book division became

known for its GGA, as shown on the covers of Planet Comics. This accounts, in part, for the comic book historians who write that Planet Comics (and other Fiction House titles) were intended for older teens and young adults, and not for younger boys and girls.

## Sources

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- Keltner, Howard. Howard Keltner’s Index to Golden Age Comic Books, 1976.
- Lupoff, Dick & Don Thompson (eds.). All in Color for a Dime, 1970.
- Maglio, Mitch. Fiction House, 2017.
- Thomas, Roy. Roy Thomas Presents Planet Comics, Volume One, 2013.

## Inactive Bureaus

### Round Robins Bureau

Unfortunately, no members involved in the Round Robins Bureau have come forward and told me which Round Robins are active. Due to this lack of interest the Round Robins Bureau is now considered inactive.

However, if people are interested in a Round Robin on some topic I will be happy to recruit more members.

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

## 2022 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

### Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

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

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2022.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2022. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2022. Good luck!

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

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

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2022 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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



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Bureau Activities

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Information Technology — Pro Bureau — Eldritch Science — Franking Service

SerCon

Planet Comics

Inactive Bureau

Round Robins

2022 Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF  
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