



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 81 Number 3

March 2022



Nominations are open

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
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

And some nominations have already been received:

Best Novel: Behold, Humanity! May We Come In? -
by Ralts Bloodthorne
Best Anime: Komi Can't Communicate
Best Editor: Toni Weisskopf

Best non-N3F fanzine
Portable Storage (William M. Breiding)
This Here (Nic Farey)

Opuntio (Dale Spears)

Best N3F fanzine
Eldritch Science (George Phillies)
TNFF (George Phillies & Jon Swartz)
Tightbeam (Phillies & Swartz)

Best Fan Artist Brad Foster

Best Comic Book
Telepaths (from AWA Upshot)
Monstress (from Image Comics)
Lady Mechanika (from Image Comics)

More are welcome: Remember, the limit is three nominations per category from one member.

Presidential Notes

WANTED! Thanks to hardware requirements, I was permanently locked out of Facebook. They changed their minds.

We need members to take over publicity for the N3F on Facebook. Multiple volunteers are needed. What you need to do is to belong to SF&F-related Facebook groups. At appropriate times, mention the N3F and its web pages at N3F.org, and point out why belonging to us is related to the group on which you are posting. I have a partial list of Facebook groups that you could join.

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



We are getting a lot of letters of comment. Keep it up!
However, as TNFF is space limited, long letters or parts thereof will be passed over to The N3F FanActivity Gazette.,
We had to pass over for this issue.



Your Volunteer Team

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Continued Next Column, Middle

Kudos to John Thiel and friends for taking over our two N3F groups and our N3F page.

Specific task: On appropriate groups, post tables of content for our magazines, the latest issue, noting what we do for our members, and why it is advantageous to join us. If no one volunteers, we will get no publicity for the Federation.

I will be doing social media outreach of us on MeWe and in other places. MeWe is much like facebook in look and feel, without the deletions and suspensions. Contact phillies@4liberty.net to volunteer.

Your Volunteer Team

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 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com
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 Outreach Bureau
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
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 Social Media: George Phillies
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

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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Club Activities

Treasurer

As of last month:

PayPal balance \$920.10

In: \$18.00 (less fees) for membership renewals

NSB balance: \$1698.33

2 life members+23 electronic + 21 regular + 1 household members = 47 voting members
7 archive members + 227 public members = 234 non-voting members

In the interest of improving the fiscal condition of our club, I am looking into having various types of swag done up, primarily T-shirts. These would most likely be black T-shirts with a white N3F logo, white T-shirts with a black N3F logo, or possibly black & white T-shirts with a black and white N3F logo, if the membership doesn't regard that as too garish. Coffee cups and mousepads are also being considered, and I am open to other suggestions. The T-shirts would have to be ordered in advance, since neither I nor the club is in a position to maintain an inventory of T-shirts; prices would most likely be in the vicinity of \$15, possibly lower, and the shirts would be of good quality.

...Kevin Trainor

This month: PayPal balance \$990.68

In: \$74.00 (less fees) for membership upgrades

NSB balance: \$1698.33

2 life members+ 27 electronic + 21 regular + 3 household members = 53 voting members
7 archive members + 228 public members = 235 non-voting members

I'm still wondering if there's enough interest in T-shirts to make them worth doing. So far I've gotten almost no response, which makes me think this is something that the membership at large isn't interested in.

Thanks to Jamie Wilson, L. Jagi Lamplighter Wright, Lisa Nybaek, and Lisbet Rasmussen for upgrading to voting memberships. Welcome to

new members John C. Wright, Clark Wilson, Michael Williamson, Ed Stapleton, and Tiffanie Grey!

Expiring/Expired in the first quarter: Angela Myers, J.I. Rogers, Steve Simmons, Jim Reddy, McKay Chandler, Erik Hansen, Dani Zweig, Denise Fisk, and Steve & Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk.

Eldritch Science

I am waiting for a few writers to finish requested edits, and we will be ready to publish. Like everything else, publication seems to have a case of the slows, but it should be a nice issue when completed. ... George Phillies, Editor

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Three interviews with some writing worthies who showed signs of being interested in fandom were in the latest Ionisphere, and I have been getting those interviewed to comment on what they thought of the issue for the next issue, making for further relations with these writers. There'll be more such interviews in the next issue; some of the interviews I have are with NFFF members. Jeffrey Redmond's article in the issue was okay'd. His columns are now being checked. The article is bringing up some controversy, as it's about politics in science fiction. Due to all the troubles that were happening, the April issue was published early and called the March issue due to its date of release. There won't, therefore, be another issue until June, to get Io back on schedule. It looks like it's going to be an active issue. ... John Thiel

Games Bureau

I'm a gamer and lately I've been playing a game called Ares Mission. This is a version of Terraforming Mars. Once I understand the game better, I may write a review of it. It's time that someone reactivates the Games Bureau.

... Wesley Kawato

History and Research Bureau

We've suffered a setback—one of Jeffrey Redmond's articles had to be omitted from an issue of Origin that was rather dependent on it. The issue (February) was scrapped and the remains of its contents were transferred to the March issue. The next issue will be in April, leaving one issue miss-

ing in this year's run. The matter went through a number of adjustments and it appears that the trouble is mostly over. We'll see if the April issue does better ... John Thiel

Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? Want to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? Want 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. Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

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

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Pro Bureau

Every month, a new issue of the N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono appears. We are still looking for a wider range of reviewers. There is discussion about adding some additional activities on which more anon.

Welcommittee

We welcome the following new members to the N3F: Amy Brodhead, Tiffanie Gray, Lisa Nybaek, Michael Williamson, and the Wrights, Jagi and husband. We hope your stay with us will be a long

and enjoyable experience.

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. When possible, 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 or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Writer's Exchange Bureau

First the column that your Editor lost last month: Definition of a writer. A person engaged in writing books, articles, stories, etc., especially as an author or journalist. A clerk, scribe or the like. A person who commits his or her thoughts, ideas, etc., to writing: an expert: letter writer.. A person who writes or is able to write: a writer in script. (www.dictionary.com)

Have you ever pondered the following questions?

Am I really a writer?

Can I be considered a writer if I've never had anything published?

Can I say I'm a writer if my work has only been read by friends and relatives?

One Writer's Response ... Jefferson Swycaffer
"Am I really a writer? Well, yeah. I acknowledge the term to others very liberally. If your entire output consists of one single solitary dirty limerick...you're a writer!

Can I be considered a writer if I've never had anything published? Yes! A thousand times yes! It is not to be left to someone else to determine who and what you are! Someone once said, "You're a writer only when someone else says you are." Hogwash! You're a writer when *you* believe you are! Same

for an artist, a musician, and a hero!

Can I say I'm a writer if my work has only been read by friends and relatives? Sure! Having a small audience is better than no audience at all -- and I consider someone a writer if they have written, even if no one at all ever sees a single word of it!

I enjoyed the list of 21 Ways to Tell When You're a Writer: that was fun! I agree with some of it, disagree with some of it, and respect all of it!

As an old editor of mine liked to say, "Write on!" "I enjoyed Jefferson's responses to the above questions. I have been making up stories since I was a child. I would tell my sister stories on Friday and Saturday nights. Since there was no school the following days I could take as long as I liked. As I got older I would write some stories down. Then I started making up stories to put myself to sleep. I had two or three stand-by plots. I would repeat my favorite parts or make changes to see which version worked better.

I loved writing stories in elementary school and junior high English classes. When I was in high school I wrote for the school paper. and In the creative writing class. I loved writing stories and poems for the class "magazine."

When I worked at a child care center, I wrote most of the class skits, wrote poems and staff bios for the bulletin board and just about anything that required creative writing. I've taken an adult education class in creative writing. I've written stories off and on for several years and have recently started writing poems. I've written articles and columns for the N3F

Why am I telling you this? Because after reading the article - 21 Ways to Tell When You're a Writer - and Jefferson's comments on the questions asked, I feel I can now say. "I AM A WRITER!"

Now the column for this month: When my mind and body refuse to cooperate I appease them with quotes from famous writers.

8 Critical Writing Advice from Famous Authors by Kotobee on December 18, 2020 in Digital Publish-

ing.

1 - "Make people believe in your story first and foremost."—Gabriel Garcia Marquez"

2 - "You have to write every day, and you have to write whether you feel like it or not."—Khaled Hosseini

3 - "Pick the hours that work best for you." —Leo Tolstoy

4 - "Never use a long word where a short one will do." —George Orwell"

5 - "Trust your reader. Not everything needs to be explained. If you really know something, and breathe life into it, they'll know it too." —Esther Freud

6 - "Forget the books you want to write. Think only of the book you are writing." —Henry Miller

7 - "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time — or the tools — to write. Simple as that." —Stephen King

8 - "This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard, and you put one word after another until it's done. It is that easy, and that hard." —Neil Gaiman

If you have written a story you want the Bureau to read for you before you try publishing it, please contact me and I will check with our readers to see who is available. Then I will tell you who you may send it to.

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you. The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll.

BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Round Robins Bureau

Unfortunately, no members involved in the Round Robins Bureau have come forward and told me which Round Robins are active. Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

View from the Directorate

Friends, Romans, countrymen...no, damn it, wrong speech. Fans, authors, and Neffers, your attention please!

First of all, thanks to those of you who supported me in the previous election for the Directorate, and I hope to have your support again this fall. Despite illness, tax season tsuris, and the siren calls of various video games, I have endeavored to give satisfaction while wearing the Treasurer's fez, and if I have been less than diligent in my other duties (i.e. the Anime & Manga Bureau, where Jessi and Patrick are, nonetheless, doing great things, perhaps due to my benign neglect) I refer you to the beginning clause of this sentence.

Secondly, a recent email exchange with an author made me think about what we're doing here at the N3F. Yes, we are publishing zines, the bulk of which seem to consist of reviews; yes, we are sponsoring an APA, despite the opinions of some folks who seem to think that such a thing is obsolete in these days of social media; but on the whole, we are a long way from being all we can be. Too many of us are content to sit back and read what comes into our inboxes and let it pass without comment, and this will not do. I'm sure we are all familiar with the phenomenon of conventions run by a small band of fans, assisted by volunteers, that eventually succumb to burnout if the volunteers aren't encouraged to step up and join the concom. The same thing applies to organizations. This is what I am trying to prevent as one of the co-heads of the Membership Bureau. We need to get new blood into the club, and fortunately we have plenty of reasons for people to join and contribute. Far from excluding fans because they are more interested in anime, comics, games, manga, movies, or TV shows than books & magazines, we invite those folks in, offer them a seat at the bar, and ask them to tell us what's good, or at least what they like. I firmly believe that the best recruiting effort is a personal, one-on-one appeal to people who might be interested in what we have to offer, or who have notions about what we could be doing.

Finally, perhaps most importantly, after going to the convention/overgrown house party that was Con-

finement 3 (see my con report elsewhere) I asked myself: Why can't we in the N3F do something like this here in Nevada? Would it really be that much effort to get a hundred or so Neffers and kindred spirits together in a small hotel (or a big one, for that matter) to hang out, talk about SF and fantasy and all that crazy Buck Rogers stuff? I am working on staging such a convention in Las Vegas, Mesquite, or Reno next fall, half a year off from the next Confinement, and would appreciate a little help. Everything is TBA/TBD at this point, but I sincerely hope to get enough people together to make this happen over the next 18 months.

...Kevin Trainor

Letters of Comment

Dear George and Jon:

Many thanks for The National Fantasy Fan, Volume 81, No. 2, and there's enough time for a fast loc on the issue at hand.

Your story on Fancyclopedia 3 might be an explanation of why I am not on that site very often. Like so many things in this fandom, it's become a little more political than I'd want. Too many opinions and not enough fact, sometimes. It is good that someone cares enough to edit the entries to try to reduce the toxic politics.

The fische bureau...might this be fiche bureau, as in library-style microfiche? I am guessing, but microfiche was a good way to reduce a book down to a handful of sheets of plastic. Of course, that's not needed now, with book format files and .pdfs, but that's my best shot at that.

My loc in the local...we now do have a long list of conventions in the southern Ontario – western New York area. But, they are for related interests like comics, gaming, etc. Right now, there isn't much for us, but that's okay...it gives us the chance to gradually get back to our usual level of Fanac without stressing the finances. British author D.J. Holmes has warned me his next book should arrive in about two weeks now, so I am working ahead with my letters of comment to make sure there's few zines left over.

Our coming activities for the coming future... the Fort Town Steampunk Festival is in the town of Prescott on the north shore of Lake Ontario, at Fort Wellington, and that's on June 11. On June 25, the one-day Forest City Comicon takes place in London, Ontario, and we have a dealer's table there. July 2 sees us north of here in the town of Elmvale, at their annual Sci-Fantasy Festival, and we have a table there, too. The annual big anime convention here, Anime North, moved to July 15-17, will take place, and we have a table there, too. It's always our best show of the year. In August, the village of Coldwater, Ontario has their annual Transfigured Friday and Coldwater Steampunk Festival. We're not sure yet if we have a table there, or will forgo it to assist with guest liaisons. The summer is filling fast.

Off this goes to keep up...see you all with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Editors:

Unrelated: having returned from Confinement in a somewhat exalted state (damn, it's good to see fellow fans & authors and talk about SF again!) I am intending to try and throw a small convention/ large house party in Las Vegas, Mesquite, or Reno as a sort of Neffercon in the flesh. I am tentatively shooting for August/September 2023, six months after Mike Williamson's next Confinement. You may have seen my post about this in the MeWe Neffercon group; I plan to mention it in my next monthly report. I think we can make this happen with just 100 people; let's see if we can make it happen.

...Kevin Trainor

Editors:

A hearty Neffer welcome to Stephanie Souders, new head of the Comics Bureau. At the end of last year, I submitted some comic book reviews to Patrick Ijima-Washburn; how does the bureau relate to our clubzine Mangaverse? Similarly, calloo and callay—and hallo!—to new head of the Birthday Card Bureau—and member of the Welcomittee—Denise Fisk. I recently received such a card from the club—my birthday is at the end of February—and I always enjoy and appreciate the thoughtfulness of the N3F's gesture. If her bureau

report is any indication, I was one of five Neffers getting older in February. Though, come to think of it, every single one of us gets older every... single... second.

Our list of categories for this year's Neffys is a solid set. Though, admittedly, I shrink from the notion of being able to nominate only up to three works per category as an individual member. In fact, as George will be able to attest, I did no such thing. At the end of last year, I nominated up to 10 options in 12 different categories, real and imagined. Why? I don't think our primary problem with the Neffys is the number of voters—though that could be higher. I think our primary problem is the number and quality of nominees.

I think award programs serve multiple purposes. One, nominees (which are slightly different than nominations; nominations are suggested nominees, and we vote on the resulting nominees) are or could be a document of work produced or released within the last year, serving as a historic record of not just individual works, but trends within science fiction, fantasy, and horror year over year. (All of my nominations for 2022 were items produced or released in 2021, toward that end. For example, I deprioritized TV shows in their fifth season over shows in their first, unless a program was exceptionally solid that specific, subsequent season.) Two, our specific nominees—and categories—publicly reflect the current tastes and preferences—the fannish behavior—of Neffers; the result is a historic record of what we as Neffers thought was worth consuming and appreciating—as a club. (Even if there's categorical overlap with Dragon Con, the FAAn Awards, the Hugos, and the Nebulas, our nominees and winners will reflect what we as Neffers think are notable. It'd be silly to double down on all the categories reflected in the FAAn Awards, for example, but some categories—books, movies, fanzines, etc.—make sense to duplicate across awards programs; again, the nominees and winners will differ based on our tastes and preferences.) Three (or perhaps 2.5), regardless of the outcome of the awards, the nominees themselves become an annual list of what members think other members—and people outside the club—should pay attention to, check out, and explore. Consider the nominees our annual list of recommended reading and viewing. And four, any winners—ostensibly the best or most liked (sometimes merely most familiar) of a given year's output—will only be as good as the

nominees, which are only as good as the nominations. So if we don't focus on the categories and nominees—and by extension, the nominations—the winners almost don't matter. We need to give Neffers quality options to choose from. If we do, voting will be more fun and interesting, and my hypothesis is that improving the nominees will improve voting... and therefore the winners.

I could be wrong. So I applaud all others giving this thought and attention.

Mr. Swycaffer's "Directors' View" highlighted the correspondence aspect of being a Neffer. His remarks are well taken. The N3F is only what we make it. Our clubzines are only what we make them. And our social media presence is only what we make it. So I challenge you: write a letter of comment; submit an article, review, or piece of creative writing; post to the Facebook groups; or write to a fellow member individually. Whatever you choose to do, every time you receive an issue of The Fan or another clubzine via email, do something. Similar to my thinking about nominations driving nominees driving voting, the more active we are among ourselves in terms of correspondence and sharing what we discover, explore, and think... the more appealing and interesting we'll be to prospective members and other fans.

Speaking of which, welcome to new members Amy Brodhead and Steve Condrey! I'm glad you're here with us. What are you reading, watching, writing, listening to, thinking, and doing? [Letter continued in the next issue of FanActivity Gazette]

Neffers: What are you reading, watching, writing, listening to, thinking, and doing?

Sincerely,
Heath Row

Hi George;

Got the February TNFF a few days ago and thot I would shoot off a quick LOC. All the discussions of the Neffy Awards categories were interesting, but again, we need to get more members actually involved in the voting process. I haven't heard many suggestions about how that can be accomplished.

2021 was not a good year for me for reading much stf literature, or watching movies, or TV. I did read fanzines, and comics/graphic novels, so I can at least make a few nominations in those cate-

gories anyway [as seen on page 1).

I really think the Best Novel and Best Anthology should have been two separate categories, not united as one. You are trying to combined apples and coconuts. They are completely different literary animals and each format deserves a separate award.

Every single issue of Planet Comics had been reprinted by PS Artbooks in both hardback format, and also as Trade Paperbacks, so anyone can now afford to read the entire series without having to mortgage their house in order to buy the back issues. Many comic book shops carry some of the books, but all fourteen volumes can be ordered direct from PS Artbooks. I have the entire set. Newcomers should start with volume eight, where the Lost World feature begins.

In addition to the 1988 Blackthorn Comics relaunch of the series (3 issues), attempted revivals were also done by Pacific Comics in 1984 (a reprint of the first issue), A-List Comics (1997--six issues), Avalon Comics (2001---one issue, b&w reprints from issue #1), and most recently Antarctic Comics in 2020 has started a new Planet Comics that comes out more or less bi-monthly and is now up to issue #8 and features all new original material.

... Bob Jennings

SerCon

Mystery In Space by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Mystery In Space was a science fiction (SF) comic book published by DC Comics. The series ran for 110 issues, from an April - May, 1951, first issue, until the final one dated September, 1966. An additional seven issues continued the original numbering during a revival of the title, using reprints, in the early 1980s. In addition, an eight-issue limited series appeared in 2006, starring Captain Comet, a strip that had originally appeared in Strange Adventures.

Mystery In Space and Strange Adventures were the two major SF anthology series published by DC Comics in the early 1950s. Mystery In Space won a number of awards, including the 1962 Alley Award

for “Best Book-Length Story” and the 1963 Alley Award for “Comic Displaying Best Interior Color Work.”

The title featured short SF stories, plus a number of continuing series, most of which were written by the best-known comic book and SF writers of the day. These prolific genre writers included Gardner Fox, Otto Binder, and Edmond Hamilton.

Writers

Gardner Francis Cooper Fox (May 20, 1911 – December 24, 1986) was a writer known best for creating numerous comic book characters for DC Comics. He is estimated to have written more than 4,000 comic book stories, with 1,500 for DC Comics, including the Golden Age Justice Society of America and the Silver Age Justice League of America.

Otto Oscar Binder (August 26, 1911 – October 13, 1974) was an author of SF, non-fiction books and stories, and comic books. He is best known for his many scripts for Captain Marvel Adventures. He was prolific in the comic book field and is credited with writing over 4,400 stories across a variety of publishers under his own name, as well as more than 160 stories under his pen-name of Eando Binder.

Edmond Moore Hamilton (October 21, 1904 – February 1, 1977) was a writer of SF during the mid-twentieth century. He was known for his Captain Future stories in the pulps and his Superman and Batman stories in comic books. He was married to fellow genre author Leigh Brackett.

Artists

The Mystery in Space artwork featured a considerable number of the finest comic book artists of the 1950s and 1960s, including Murphy Anderson, Virgil Finlay, Frank Frazetta, and Carmine Infantino. Joe Giella was an inker on several DC characters, including Adam Strange and Captain Comet.

Murphy Anderson (July 9, 1926 – October 26, 2005) was born in North Carolina. After graduating high school in 1943, he briefly attended the

University of North Carolina before moving to New York and looked for work in the comics industry. He was hired in 1944 as a staff artist at Fiction House. Later he was an award-winning artist on several DC comic books, including Mystery in Space. He and editor Julius Schwartz are credited with creating the Adam Strange character.

Virgil Finlay (July 23, 1914 – January 18, 1971) was a genre illustrator. He has been called “part of the pulp magazine history. . . one of the foremost contributors of original and imaginative art work for the most memorable science fiction and fantasy publications of our time.” Finlay specialized in, and became famous for, detailed pen-and-ink drawings done with different drawing techniques. He created more than 2600 works of graphic art in his 35-year career.

Frank Frazetta (February 9, 1928 – May 10, 2010) was a genre artist, noted for comic books, paperback book covers, paintings, posters, and other media. He is sometimes referred to as the Godfather of Fantasy Art, and was one of the most renowned illustrators of the 20th Century.

Carmine Michael Infantino (May 24, 1925 – April 4, 2013) was an artist and editor, primarily for DC Comics during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Among his creations were the Black Canary, the Elongated Man, and Deadman. He was one of the several artists who worked on Adam Strange.

Early Series Featured

Series featured over the years included Space Cabby (beginning in issue #26) and one dealing with Interplanetary Insurance (issues #'s 16 - 25); but in the August, 1959, issue began the strip that would eventually take over the comic book, Adam Strange.

Adam Strange

Beginning in issue #53, the interplanetary exploits of Adam Strange were featured after his appearances in DC’s Showcase (issues #'s 17 - 19). In his origin story, archaeologist Adam Strange suddenly found his entire life changed when he was miraculously transported to the alien planet Rann.

Stranded on “a foreign world of unimaginable won-



ders and inconceivable dangers,” Strange used his intellectual and physical abilities to become Rann’s champion (and the boyfriend of Allana of Ranagar). The Justice League of America co-starred with Strange, “the thinking man’s superhero,” in issue #75.

Julius Schwartz

Mystery in Space was edited by Julius Schwartz, a longtime SF fan and agent. In 1932, Schwartz and his boyhood friend Mort Weisinger were two of the editors/publishers of one of the first SF fanzines, *The Time Traveler*. They also founded the Solar Sales Service Literary Agency (1934 - 1944). Their clients included SF and fantasy greats, including Alfred Bester, Stanley Weinbaum, Robert Bloch,

Ray Bradbury, and H. P. Lovecraft -- and included some of Bradbury's first published work and some of Lovecraft's last.

Later Series

Star Rovers, Hawkman, and Space Ranger were later series featured. There was even an Adam Strange/Space Ranger



team-up in the comic book’s final days.

Adam Strange appeared briefly in the 2008 DC animated film, *Justice League: The New Frontier*. He was glimpsed in one of *The Martian Manhunter* (aka J'onn J'onzz) news clippings early on in the film. During the film’s climax, he was one of the heroes who answered the call to fight, but he had no speaking role.

Reprints

From *Beyond the Unknown* was published by DC as a bi-monthly anthology series for 25 issues, from October - November, 1969 to November - December, 1973. There was an extra month's gap in mid-1973, between issues #22 and #23, and the series was canceled at the end of that year. This series reprinted stories from earlier DC Comics, including *Mystery in Space*.

Adam Strange and others also were reprinted in the 1970s in DC’s *Super-Stars*.

The DC Archives reprinted the Adam Strange strips in two hardcover volumes in 2004 and 2006.

Foreign Reprints

Two UK companies reprinted DC's SF stories from *Mystery In Space* during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1968, a hardback *Mystery In Space Annual* was also issued in the UK. Although it used the cover of *Mystery In Space* #95, the contents of the annual were random issues of remaindered comics. The contents of these comic books were from a number of different companies, including their covers -- but not *Mystery In Space* stories.

Sources

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 Goulart, Ron. *The Comic Book Reader’s Companion*, 1993.
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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. 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. 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



Neffys — Nominations are open
Presidential Notes

Club Activities
Treasurer — Eldritch Science — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
Games Bureau — Correspondence Bureau — Pro Bureau
Welcommittee — Writer's Exchange Bureau — Round Robins Bureau

View from the Directorate

Letters of Comment
Lloyd Penney — Kevin Trainor — Heath Row — Bob Jennings

SerCon
Mystery In Space

2022 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest
Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609