

# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 8

August 2017

## President's Notes

### Neffies

The Neffies (originally the Laureate Award, now the National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards) are the oldest awards (first given 1949\*) in Fandom. As we approach time for nominations for the 2016 Awards, I'd like to start by asking people to nominate categories, e.g., novels. Please send your nominations to George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

\*The very first issue of this magazine (1941) appears to reference us as giving an award, but details are lacking.

## Technical Support

David Speakman [davodd@gmail.com](mailto:davodd@gmail.com) is still looking for Neffies proficient in wordpress to help reconstruct our web pages. He is also transferring ownership of the URLs from Ruth Davidson; N3F.org may go down as a result for a couple of days. Your President [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) is still looking for someone to solve a graphics problem with the Franson and other award certificates.

## Zines

### TNFF

The National Fantasy Fan is published every month by your editor, George Phillies. The current issue is in front of you. We are always searching for more material.

## N'APA

The N3F Amateur Press Association N'APA was founded in 1959. It is still published. This is your chance to publish your own material, as little or much as you want. How does N'APA work? Here is the current official material:

Next deadline: September 15, 2017 The official collator is George Phillies [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

N'APA is the Amateur Press Alliance for members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). As it is distributed in PDF format, there are no dues or postage fees. It is open to all members of the

N3F. If there are members interested in joining who have no computer access, special arrangements may be possible. People who only want to read are welcome to ask to be added to the email list. Check with the official collator, who is George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609; [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net); 508 754 1859; and on facebook.

Please do not submit PDF files of your contributions without prior discussion. I occasionally send a copy of N'APA to the accessible (email address needed) N3F membership, in the hope that some of them will join N'APA.

Currently the frequency is every other month, with the deadline being on the fifteenth day of odd-numbered months. The mailing will normally be collated in due time, as the collator is retired. Publication has always been totally regular, though some readers question my interpretations of "totally" and "regular". N'APA has been in existence since 1959, but has transitioned from being a paper APA to an electronic one.

## Tightbeam

Tightbeam #279 was completed and emailed out to our N3F members several weeks ago. This issue features a lead article on the "Lucifer" television series by Tom McGovern, written from the viewpoint of a born-again Christian. Jon D. Swartz offers a look at the life and literary career of Wilkie Collins, one of the most popular and influential writers of the mid Victorian period, an author who is credited with creating the first popular detective story thriller, and also a writer who turned out plenty of supernatural and fantastic fiction over his long lifetime.

There is an insightful interview with up and coming fan artist Jose Sanchez with plenty of his science fiction art on display as well. In the cinema department there is an in-depth examination of the 1957 film "She Devil", which was based on a classic science fiction story by Stanley G. Weinbaum originally written back in 1935, plus reviews of many other current box office films of the fantastic.

The issue also offers plenty of reviews of new book titles in the



Art Page 3 ... SciFi Maid by Angela K. Scott  
Book covers page 8 are to Christopher Nuttall's novels.  
Page 10 ... Prince Valiant by Angela K. Scott



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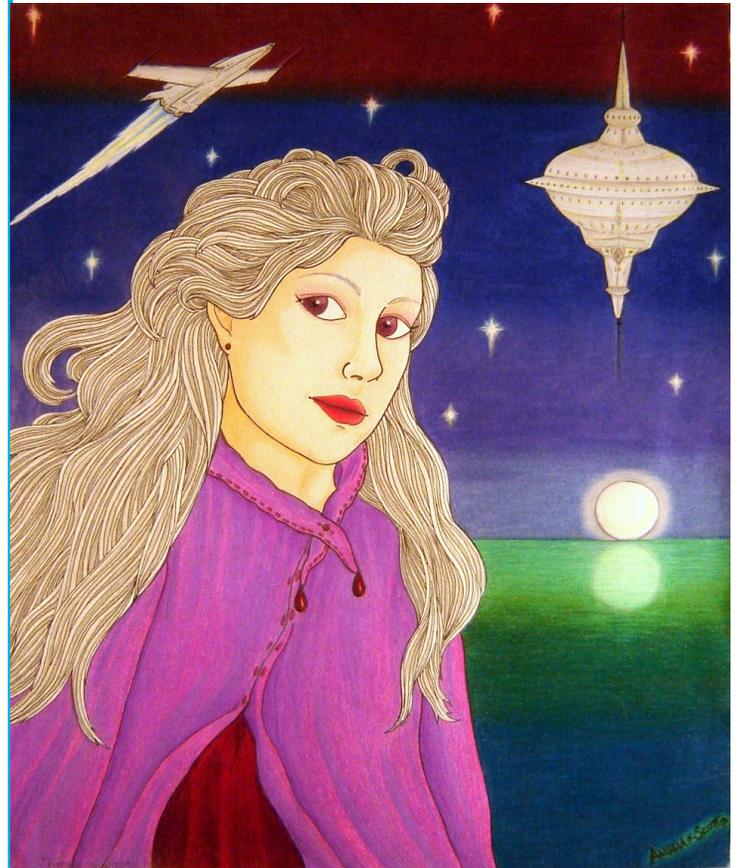
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Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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SciFi Maid by Angela K. Scott  
 field, along with our regular fanzine review column.

What we don't have this time round is a letter column. Several members have stepped forward to offer reviews and propose articles for upcoming issues, but what we really need right now is input from the N3F members in the form of letters of comment on this latest issue. Really folks, this is your forum to discuss the material in the fanzine, or to launch some new comments about things that interest you in the worlds of SF/fantasy or the club itself. Please make use of it. I'd like to

## Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org or send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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see a good, solid letter column in the next issue, but it will only happen if you, the person reading these words, takes a few minutes to help make that happen. Get involved; it doesn't take much time or effort to shoot off a few comments about the material in the fanzine. Tell us what you think of the issue, or the club, or anything else you care to write about concerning the fanzine, or about fandom, or whatever else is on your mind related to the hobby. Tightbeam can have a great letter column, if you will help make it happen.  
...Bob Jennings

## Ionisphere

The next issue will be out in September.

## Eldritch Science

I am just recovering from having written the first draft of a novel with fellow Neffer and co-author Chris Nuttall. I did 127,000+ words in under three months, writing 3000+ words a day on most days. However, having done this, I expect to focus more extensively on recruiting material for Eldritch Science.

## Directorate Bulletin

There was not much visible activity amongst the board of directors this month; I am hoping that everyone who sees a problem that should be viewed by the Directorate will reply to this bulletin and present the problem and suggestions. It seems to me nicer to have visible activity, which gives us something to report in the monthly TNFF, and I'm sending out these bulletins in the hopes of having such activity out front. I'm thinking of doing a board of directors publication available only to the Directorate, the President and the Secretary, which would go over Directorate activities. I'd be willing to do this publication, and would want it to continue as a constant with the Directorate. How do the other directors feel about establishing such a publication? Hope to hear back.—John Thiel, chairman

## Reports Round Robins

### What is a Round Robin?

Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members - which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

The N3F offers two kinds of Round Robins; traditional - where members send letters in the mail, and electronic - where members send letters by email. Both kinds are fun and informative and a good way to meet other members and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

NOTE: Since Patricia King has been doing such a good job at keeping her postal mail round robins going, I am converting all of my postal mail round robins to electronic round robins.

### Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 4 members  
Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members - ONLY 1 MORE MEMBER NEEDED  
Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member  
Japanese Anime - 1 member  
Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.

The Marvel Universe  
DC Superheroes and Villains  
Cartoons and Cartooning  
Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games  
Comics and Graphic Novels

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

\ NOTE: Bookworms - In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Heads of the Bookworms reading club. Currently they have 3 members. For more information about the Bookworms reading list and their round robin contact ---  
Graham & Wolf leeandjj@gmail.com

If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Birthday Card Bureau

5 birthday cards were sent out in July. No renewal notices were sent out. R-Lauraine Tutihasi

## Writers Exchange Bureau

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

In the TNFF for July, 2017, we were given a few ideas for choosing titles for our stories. This month we are going to continue this subject.

The following is taken from Writing-World.com

Choosing the Right Name for Your Story by John Floyd.

A Few Sources to Jog the Imagination:

1. A title can be a popular expression. *Gone for Good*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *The Horse's Mouth*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Good As Gold*, *The Whole Nine Yards*.
2. A title can be a play on words. (Sometimes a "twist" of an existing expression.) *Burglars Can Be Choosers*, *The Cancelled Czech*, *You Only Live Twice*, *Live and Let Die*, *The War Between the Tates*, *A Hearse of a Different Color*.
3. A title can have a hidden meaning, later revealed in the story. *The Green Mile*, *Rain Man*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Catch-22*, *Hearts in Atlantis*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *The Shipping News*.
4. A title can come from an existing work. (The Bible, Shakespeare, etc.) *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *The Sun Also Rises*, *Absalom, Absalom*, *All That Glitters*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.
5. A title can be a person's name. *Hannibal*, *Goldfinger*, *Carrie*, *Hondo*, *Rebecca*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Shane*, *Forrest Gump*.
6. A title can be a place name. *Cold Mountain*, *Cimarron*, *Peyton Place*, *Jurassic Park*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Mystic River*.
7. A title can be a possessive. *Portnoy's Complaint*, *Angela's Ashes*, *The Optimist's Daughter*, *Charlotte's Web*.
8. A title can be an association of ideas. Often these are words that have a "double meaning," and refer to more than one thing in a story. *The Eye of the Needle*, *The Dead Zone*, *Misery*, *Silver Bullet*, *Lie Down with Lions*.
9. A title can be an "event" or "activity." (Use "ing" in the first word.) *Pleading Guilty*, *Romancing the Stone*, *Waiting to Exhale*, *"Riding the Bullet,"* *Raising Helen*, *Finding Nemo*.
10. A title can be a memorable line from the story itself. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Tell No One*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *The Eagle Has Landed*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*
11. A title (if long) can have a "rhythm." Another kind of "play on words," this makes a longer title more pleasing to the ear--and easier to remember. *The Spy Who Came In from the Cold*, *The Sins of Rachel Cade*, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*.
12. A title (if it fits the story) can be simple. *Jaws*, *Shogun*, *Cathedral*, *The Exorcist*, *Ragtime*, *Lolita*, *Deliverance*, *Airport*, *"The Swimmer,"* *Roots*, *Centennial*, *It*, *The Godfather*. In fact, it has been said that most titles on bestseller lists are no more than three words long. (But they have to be the right words.)

Next month we will learn about "Trademark" Titles, and Originality.

If you are interested in any of the following please contact  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@Yahoo.com

1. If you would like to join the Writers Exchange to be a reader of have your work read by others.
2. If you would like to help start a Writers Sharing Group.
3. If you have passages from novels, short stories, poetry, movies, screenplays, or TV you would like to share please contact me and I will put them in the TNFF for September.

Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## A Touch of Trivia

CBS is bringing a new Star Trek series to TV. Star Trek: Discovery will debut on September 24, 2017, starring Sonequa - Green, Doug Jones, Michelle Yeoh, and Jason Isaacs.

Entertainment Weekly Magazine (August 4, 2017) has developed a timeline of the Star Trek series and movies.

- 2151-61 Star Trek: Enterprise (Debuted 2001)
- Mid-2250s Star Trek Discovery (Sept. 2017)
- 2264-69 Star Trek (1966)
- 2273-93 The Original Cast Movies Final Frontier and The Undiscovered Country
- 2364-70 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987)
- 2369-78 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1993) Star Trek: Voyager (1995)
- 2379 Star Trek: Nemesis (2002) The last four Next Generation features is thus far the final Trek film set in the 24th century
- 2387 Star Trek (2009) This is the final Canonical point in the original timeline, before Spock inadvertently creates an alternate reality...

If you would like to see trailers of Star Trek: Discovery, go to [www.cbs.com/shows/star--trek-discovery](http://www.cbs.com/shows/star--trek-discovery)  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Membership Recruitment

We're not sure whether our new recruitment policy has been getting new members, but hope to hear whether any new members have been arriving via this policy. David Speakman handles the listing of new members. --John Thiel

## Fan-Pro Bureau:

We are rounding up the names of sites where fans and pros can mix and listing them in Ionisphere. We have listings of the URLs of authors' sites of the authors who have been interviewed in Ionisphere, as well as their email addresses. I am pleased to have heard back from a couple of people about the most recent issue of Ionisphere, and hope I will hear from more ere the next issue comes out in September. --John Thiel, bureau head

## Games Bureau

### Championship Formula Racing

In Championship Formula Racing each player builds his own

race car from the ground up. You can determine how much the car can accelerate or decelerate each turn. You also determine how much wear and tear of the car can take. After building your car, each player picks the driver card. Each driver has special abilities that modify the performance of the car. The game comes with a double-sided map board. Each side depicts a race track that actually exists. Championship Formula Racing is a revised version of Speed Circuit, a game released by Avalon Hill in 1971.

It seems that everyone wants to play Terraforming Mars in my area. I've been trying to get my own copy, but every game store I've checked is out of stock. Some of my gamer friends have told me they'd seen copies on sale, online, for \$120. One friend told me that many months ago he passed up an opportunity to buy a copy of Terraforming Mars for \$39.99 and now regrets it. This game was originally released in January 2017 and sold for \$29.99 at that time. I have friends who have been playing board games for thirty years and they've told me they've never seen a game catch on like this one. I can only gauge the popularity of games in my own area. I'm wondering how popular Terraforming Mars is in the rest of the country.

On July 19, I checked the website of the Stronghold Games company. That company reported that the third print run of Terraforming Mars would soon arrive at their warehouse, allowing the company to start filling backorders. On July 29, my friend Jonathan F. Went online and discovered that Terraforming Mars was now available. He ordered two copies, one for himself and one for me. The game was selling for sixty-seven dollars. Terraforming Mars continues to be the most popular board game in the Los Angeles area.

On July 19 Stronghold Games announced that they will now take preorders for a game called Venus Next. This game is about terraforming Venus, and uses the same game system as Terraforming Mars. Copies are available for twenty dollars.  
... Wesley Kawato

## Game Conventions

(Yes, your Editor is still looking for someone to do a game convention listing.)

Aug. 25-27, Bellevue, Washington DRAGON-FLIGHT <http://dragonflight.org/>  
 Aug. 25-27, La Crosse, WI COULEE CON <http://couleecon.com/>  
 Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Toronto, ON FAN EXPO CANADA <http://fanexpocanada.com/>  
 Sept. 1-4, South Sioux City, IA TRI-CON FALL <http://tristategamers.org/>  
 Sept. 1-4, Sterling, VA TCEP 24:- CRAIG AND TAD IN THE 24½TH CENTURY <https://barkingmad.org/>  
 Sept. 4-8, Port Canaveral, FL BEER AND BOARD GAMES CRUISE <http://www.goseatravel.com/rw/view/7987>  
 Sept. 8-10, Hattiesburg, MS HUBCON <https://www.facebook.com/HubCon/>  
 Sept. 8-10, Fort Wayne, Indiana ALLIANCE OPEN HOUSE <http://openhouse.alliance-games.com/Home/11/1/83/1200>

Sept. 9-10, Topeka, Kansas TOPCON GEEK EXPO <http://topcon.us/>  
 Sept. 23-24, Oshawa, Ontario FIELD MARSHAL GAMING CONVENTION <http://fmgcon.com/>  
 Sept. 23, London, Ontario FOREST CITY COMICON <http://forestcitycomicon.ca/>  
 Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Tucson, Arizona RINCON17 <http://rincongames.com/>  
 Courtesy Omar DeWitt and the AHIKS Kommandeur magazine, at AHIKS.org.

## Welcommittee

Ahh-lehn wa Sa-lehn

Arabic - أهلا وسهلا (Ahlan'wa sahlab). Tricky for English speakers, you will have an easier time if you think about it as three separate words that you run together. The first and last sections rhyme. •"Ahh-lehn wa Sa-lehn" (From How to Say Welcome in Different Languages -wikihow.com)

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.

At this time the Welcommittee consist of only one member. If you would like to help welcoming new members to this wonderful club please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

I have finally caught up in my Welcommittee duties. All new members have been contacted through July by email or postal mail (surprised I gave up snail mail?) with the exception of Angela K. Scott. I sent her an email and it was returned. (I know she has had that email for years and it was valid a year or so ago when she returned to the club.) I didn't find a home address on the roster. If I am mistaken, please let me know.

If you know someone who would like to help out with the Welcommittee please send them my way.  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Membership Report

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in July  
None! Thank for renewing early.

Expiring in August  
None! Thank you for renewing early!

Expiring in September  
#145 Kevin Trainor, Jr.  
#146 David Rubin  
#192 Michael Broussard

Member Status Changes

Cedar Sanderson - New email address

## Gourmet Bureau

Sour Cream Biscuits

Ingredients

- 2 C all-purpose flour
- 4 tbsp lard
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 c sour cream
- 2-3 tbsp half and half

Instructions

Preheat oven to 500 deg F

In a large bowl, cut the lard into the flour until it is smaller than pea-sized and well incorporated. I use a pastry blender to do this, but you can do it with fingers. Stir in the baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir in the sour cream, then drizzle the cream in a tablespoon at a time until the dough forms a stiff ball. You may want to knead with your hands for the last little bit. Turn the dough ball out onto a floured surface and pat or roll to 1/2 inch thick. Cut the biscuits into 2" rounds, and put on a cookie sheet. You can put them fairly close together - they will rise up, not out. Place in the oven and bake for 8-10 minutes, until golden brown on top and edges. Serve with honey, jam, and butter. Or gravy. But not both.

## SerCon

### Letters of Comment

Editor:

An Explanation of RocketStackRank:

If you look at one of our reviews, there's actually a great deal of info packed into it. Take a look at this one for "All Systems Red," by Martha Wells. [rocketstackrank.com/2017/05/All-Systems-Red-Martha-Wells.html](http://rocketstackrank.com/2017/05/All-Systems-Red-Martha-Wells.html)

The subgenre is SF Thriller, and it's part of the "Murderbot" series. (The link takes you to a page to help you find others in the series.) Then there's a spoiler-free "blurb" which gives some idea of what the story is about. The blurbs are also useful at the end of the year when you're looking for things to nominate and trying to remember what the stories you already read were actually about.

The word count lets people know which category to nominate this work in, and the time estimate is just computed from the word count.

The rating is obvious, and the pitch "Thrilling, Thoughtful, Touching" is a little cheesy, but it's important for Twitter.

The "info line" (in this case, a link to articles on Tor about the story, the artist, the author, etc.) is extra stuff that doesn't spoil the story. This is where I'll tell people if the story can't be enjoyed without reading something else first, for example.

Even the basic publication line has useful links. Click on the title and it'll take you to a free online excerpt from the story. Click the author's name, and it'll show you all of her stories that RSR has ever reviewed. Click on "bio" and you'll get the author's web page.

If you click on the thumbnail image of the cover, you get a larger image plus a link to the artist's home page. And the link "find this story" under the thumbnail of the cover picture will take you to the Goodreads page, from which people can find options to buy.

Click the "mini-review" link to flip over the review text and go to the bottom, where there are links to help find other reviews of the story, interview with the author, etc. Compare that with the info for an Analog story, "Nexus," by Michael Flynn. [rocketstackrank.com/2017/02/Nexus-Michael-F-Flynn.html](http://rocketstackrank.com/2017/02/Nexus-Michael-F-Flynn.html)

Click on "find this issue" under the thumbnail of the Analog cover. This takes you to a page with information about ways to buy or borrow that issue of the magazine.

So it really comes down to how much you want to include. I'd be surprised if you want to print anything upside down, though. I'm thinking the best bet might be something that looks like the search page <http://www.rocketstackrank.com/search/label/Rating%3A%205> with links back to RSR for anyone who wants more info.

It's possible that that's not enough info, though. Neil Clarke wrote a piece in October 2015 called "The Sad Truth about Short Fiction Reviews" to explain why Clarkesworld doesn't run any. I wrote a response to it at [rocketstackrank.com/2015/10/getting-more-from-short-fiction-reviews.html](http://rocketstackrank.com/2015/10/getting-more-from-short-fiction-reviews.html). The essence of it is that I think people want to see reviews for two reasons: 1) they want advice on which stories to read and 2) they've already read the piece, and they want to see what other people thought about it. (I hadn't thought of the third use: to remember a story you know you read.) RSR is designed to implement the ideas in that article, which is rather different from the reviews that most people write (which, I agree with Neil, are largely useless). The important question to answer is whether our approach really fits with what you want in your own publications.

As far as the novels go, we appreciate the offer, but we're strictly focused on SFF that's under 50,000 words. We figure there are plenty of people out there doing novels.

--Greg Hullender

Editor:

I would like to thank R-Laurraine Tutihasi for the beautiful card she sent me for my birthday. The picture is in keeping with the spirit of the N3F. A young medieval maiden is standing by the window with a small dragon perched on her gloved hand. The title - Ready To Solo. The back of the card tells a bit about the author, Real Musgrave and his creations called "Pocket Dragons."

—Judy Carroll

## N3F Founding Members:

### Donn P. Brazier

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

St. Louis fan Donn Paul Brazier (1917 – 2002) published the well-known fanzines *Title* – from 1972 to 1977 -- and *Farrago* – from 1975 to 1978. His other zines included *Frontier*, *Googol*, *Reverb Howl*, and *Natterings*.

He was active in fandom in the 1940s, gaffiated, and then degaffiated in the late 1960s to join the Ozark Science Fiction Association (OSFA) of Greater St. Louis.

Brazier was among the earliest fans to use a photocopier for publishing his fanzine instead of the then-usual mimeograph. He was director of the Museum of Science and Natural History in St. Louis. The museum contracted for photocopying service with a specific number of copies each month, and Brazier used the surplus left after museum business to produce his zine, which made a tight limit to the number of copies of each issue he could publish.

He made extensive use of the medium by cutting and pasting in his correspondents' letters of comment instead of retyping them, literally slicing them into ribbons to divide up his letters by topic, so parts of the same letter might appear in several sections of the zine. This unique way of creating a conversation among his regular letterhacks was sometimes bewildering to new readers.

Brazier was rigorous about requiring active response from recipients or eliminating them from his limited mailing list. That and the style of his letter columns created a tight circle of regulars who came to be called *Titlers*.

In 1976, Brazier attended *AutoClave 1* as the Guest of Honor. He was a founder of the *Frontier Society* (a Fortean group), and an early member of the *Vanguard Amateur Press Association* (VAPA).

Brazier served as a major in the U. S. Army Air Forces during World War II, and is buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis County, Missouri.

In addition, of course, he was a charter member of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), in 1941.

Sources: All Our Yesterdays, Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, Wikipedia, and other Internet sites.

## Neglected Genre Authors:

### William Clark Russell

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

“The Nautical Works of W. Clark Russell”

William Clark Russell (February 24, 1844 – November 8,

1911) was born in New York City, but moved at an early age to England. He is usually described as an English writer known for his nautical novels. In addition, of course, he also wrote several genre works.

Russell was born in New York in the Carlton House Hotel, one of four sons of the English composer Henry Russell and his first wife, Isabella Lloyd. He was the half-brother of the conductor Sir Landon Ronald, and was educated at private schools in Britain and France. At one of the latter -- together with a school friend, a son of Charles Dickens -- he planned to quit school and travel in Africa. A letter from Dickens dissuaded the boys, but Russell continued to crave a life of adventure.

At the age of thirteen, Russell joined the United Kingdom's Merchant Navy, serving for eight years. The hardships of life at sea damaged his health permanently, but provided him with material for a career as a writer.

He wrote short stories, press articles, historical essays, biographies, and a book of verse; but he was known best for his novels. He maintained a simultaneous career as a journalist, principally as a columnist on nautical subjects for *The Daily Telegraph*. He wrote several books about Britain's famous fighting admiral, Lord Horatio Nelson, although his most famous book is considered by most critics to be *The Wreck of the Grosvenor*.

Russell used several pen names on his stories, including Sydney Mostyn and Eliza Rhys Davies.

Herman Melville admired Russell's work, and dedicated one of his books, *John Marr and Other Stories* (1888), to him. Russell's books were also described as a favorite of Dr. John Watson, the fictional chronicler of Sherlock Holmes' cases, as mentioned in the short story “The Five Orange Pips” by Holmes' creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Algernon Swinburne was also an admirer of Russell's stories.

Following is a list of Russell's genre work.

#### Genre Novels

*The Frozen Pirate* (1887, 2 volumes) [a French pirate, frozen for years in cold climes, is resuscitated briefly from his suspended animation and tells the narrator where there is buried treasure]

*The Flying Dutchman, or The Death Ship: A Strange Story* (1888, 3 volumes) [scientific explanations are added to the legend of *The Flying Dutchman*]

#### Collection

*The Phantom Death and Other Stories* (2005) [collection of 11 fantasy and horror stories]

#### Chapbook

*A Tale of Two Tunnels* (2014)

## Short Fiction

- “A Bewitched Ship” (1884)
- “A Terrible Night” (1890)
- “The Phantom Death” (1894)
- “A Tale of Two Tunnels” (1897)
- “An Encounter with a Ghost” (1985)

## Some Conclusions

Two of Russell’s books, *The Flying Dutchman* and *The Frozen Pirate*, were in the private library of H. P. Lovecraft, as reported by S. T. Joshi (2002).

During his last two decades Russell became progressively more disabled by arthritis, thought to be caused by his years at sea as a youth (an illness known at the time as “the sailor’s enemy”). He did not allow this to stop him from writing, however. The *Times* commented: “He worked harder than many haler men.” Russell went to several health resorts, including Bath -- and after living in Ramsgate and Deal on the south coast of England -- finally settled in Bath. He was bed-ridden for the last six months of his life. Russell died at his home in Bath at the age of 67. His remains are buried in Smallcombe Cemetery there.

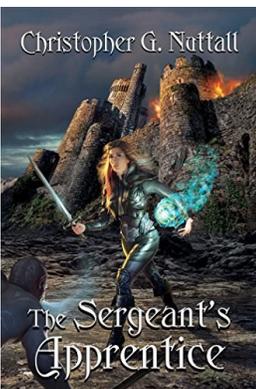
## Bibliography

- Barron, Neil (ed.). *Horror Literature*. NY: Garland, 1990.
  - Bleiler, E. F. *The Checklist of Fantastic Literature*. Chicago, IL: Shasta, 1948.
  - Clute, John and Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. London: Orbit, 1993.
  - Joshi, S. T. *Lovecraft’s Library*. NY: Hippocampus Press, 2002.
  - Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume Two*. Chicago, IL: Advent, 1974.
- Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.

## Fiction

### Novels by Neffers

We haven’t done these in a while. If you are an N3F member with published novels, and we haven’t listed you yet,



please speak up.  
**The Sergeant’s Apprentice**  
 by Christopher Nuttall

**The Nameless World Goes to War!**

The necromancers have finally resumed their assault on the Allied Lands, sending a mighty army across the Desert of Death and into the Kingdom of Tarsier. Countless farms, villages and towns have already been destroyed as the host makes its way northwards, striking

deep into the kingdom’s most vulnerable lands. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, thousands more will be killed when they are sacrificed for power. If the necromancers win the coming battle, it may be the beginning of the end...

When Sergeant Miles invites her to join the coalition force, Emily reluctantly accepts. The necromancers have to be stopped, even if it means taking time off from school to serve as the sergeant’s apprentice. But with arguing aristocrats, reluctant soldiers, fearful civilians, shadows from her past, a dangerously-sane necromancer and treachery in the ranks, stopping the invasion may cost Emily her life...

**Fists of Justice** by Christopher Nuttall

The war is over. But the scars remain.

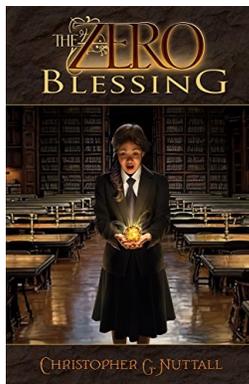
Emily’s New Learning has been good for Beneficence. In the years since she arrived on the Nameless World, the city has been at the forefront of technological advancement and social development. Thousands of newcomers are moving to the city, railways span the gorge and drive into Zangaria, the first steamboats are plowing the ocean wave and a whole new banking system is reshaping national and international trade. A true golden age appears to be on hand.



But all is not well. The city’s largest businessman may be on the verge of collapse, the city guilds are weakening, religious fanatics stalk the streets, and there are rumors that one of the Great Gods has returned to judge everyone. The streets are on edge. No one knows which way to turn.

Emily returns to Beneficence for Casper’s funeral before she goes back to school. But, as she is drawn into a political, social and religious meltdown, she finds herself dealing with the darker consequences of her innovations, people who blame her for the problems facing the city, religious fanatics, her boyfriend’s family ...

... And a deadly plot from the dark past that may lead the Nameless World to utter ruin.



**The Zero Blessing**  
 by Christopher Nuttall

Caitlyn Aguirre should have been a magician. Her family certainly expected her to be a magician. But by the time she reached her twelfth birthday, Caitlyn hadn’t even managed to cast a single spell! In desperation, her parents send her - and her magical sisters - to Jude’s Sorcerous Academy, her last best chance to discover her powers.

But as she struggles to survive her classes without a single spell to her name, Caitlyn starts to uncover an ancient mystery that may prove the key to her true powers ...

... If she lives long enough to find it.

## Book Reviews

Elizabeth of Starland

Book Review by Cedar Sanderson

So in one of life's gentle ironies, Alma Boykin reviewed one of my books this week, when I was planning to review hers. We hadn't talked about it beforehand, nor did I realize that today is the launch day for her new book in the Colplatschki series. You can't write coincidences like this in fiction, you will leave your readers shaking their heads and muttering about *deus ex machina*.

I'd been planning on reading and reviewing this book, or one from her other series, *Cat among Dragons*, for quite some time. I enjoy Alma's pithy commentary on our mutual favorite blogs as TXRed, and figured that it would carry over into her fiction. I was not disappointed. Actually, when I had finished reading *Elizabeth of Starland*, I paid it that rarest of compliments for me. You see, when I am reading, I'm using either my phone or tablet, and my Kindle reading app. I don't, as a rule of thumb, shop on either of them. It would be appallingly easy to blow through my whole month's book budget with one-click and not counting up the dollars, even buying indie. However, it was late, I didn't feel like getting up and breaking my concentration, so I clicked the button and bought the second book, because I wanted to read it right now.

*Elizabeth of Starland* reminds me in many ways of George Phillips' excellent *Mistress of the Waves*, or Friedman's *Harald*. It is a science fiction book, yes, set on a planet that has lost all technology. But there is no magic. This is a pragmatic tale of a woman in a medieval feudal society, on a planet where lost remnants of technology are either worshiped or feared.

Elizabeth herself begins as a postulant, an almost-nun (I'm not catholic, so I'm not fully clear, but I think that's it). She has been condemned to be sent to an order housed in the malaria swamps, where she will surely die. The gently-bred but well read young woman flees with very little but a precious copy of von Clauswitz's history of war, and her white mule. She still might die before attaining freedom, but it will be on her own terms.

This is a fun book to read. The practical eyes of the author see all the flaws it's so easy to gloss over in a historical book, and takes them on. Elizabeth must deal with menses, horse hair, feminine weakness of arms compared to the men she fights alongside.. but she wins respect for her strength of mind and stubbornness. I liked her a lot. I am looking forward to the third book, and beyond. I believe Alma has four planned right now.

I'm going to pick up *Elizabeth of Vindobona* today, as I did with *Elizabeth of Donotello Bend*. That sequel followed Elizabeth's adventures as a colonel and landowner, and it's an interesting take on Earth history, and the trials of running a manor house while leaving it all behind periodically when riding off to war in service to your king. It felt shorter than the first book, but I'm not sure if that's because I read it all in one sitting, or not.

I'd love to see more about the Landers, and possibly a reconnection with the colonists and Earth, but that may not happen, I will have to wait and see! If you enjoy historical novels, with a side of future mystery (the origins of this planet's civilization), you will

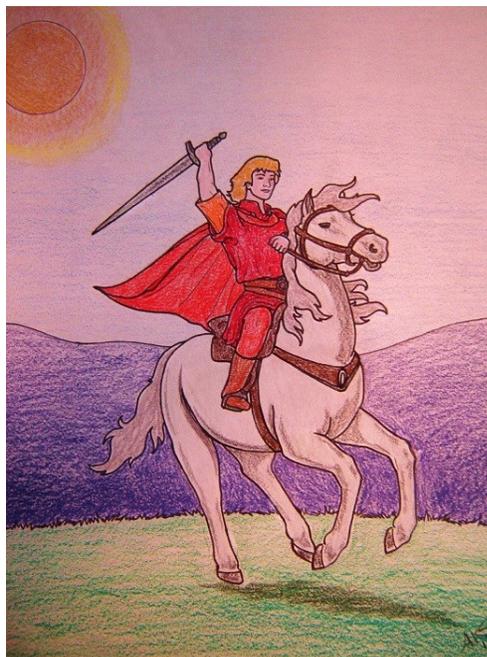
likely enjoy this. It's a bit like Dave Freer's *Forlorn* (now re-named *Morningstar*, see below), as well. Well-written and an easy world to sink into.

## July 2017 SF Novels from Smashwords

And here, limiting ourselves to Smashwords.com., are new SF novels (>100,000 words) published in July. Of course, there are also other publishers, so this list is doubtless incomplete.

Teddyhunter: *New Genes*, Kevin Williams \$1.99. Words: 104,240.  
 The Jupiter Game, Todd McCaffrey \$5.99. Words: 146,020.  
 Maximum Velocity, David Lee Summers \$5.99. Words: 124,800.  
 Death Sense, Brett Fitzpatrick \$4.99. Words: 104,040.  
 El Coleccionista. Parte 1. La muerte de la Tierra, Pedro Luis Chávez Aguado \$4.50. Words: 148,100.  
 Vortex of Crimson, Lise MacTague \$9.99. Words: 135,350.  
 An Age Without A Name, Randall Allen Farmer \$2.99. Words: 127,740.  
 Walking on the Sea of Clouds, Gray Rinehart \$5.99. Words: 134,450.  
 The Swarm Awakens, Jodie Rye \$4.00. Words: 123,560.  
 Hard Plastic Candy, BP Gregory \$2.99. Words: 171,690.  
 Pride and Post Apocalypse: A Regency Dystopian, Lauren M. Flauding \$0.99. Words: 116,320.  
 The Rising Swarm, Jodie Rye \$4.00. Words: 213,640.  
 Hubbub in Outer Space, Dan Davies \$5.95. Words: 162,780.  
 The Laws, Michael John Grist \$4.99. Words: 107,730.  
 Post Oh!pocalypto Poppycok, Truant D. Memphis \$1.99. Words: 131,620.  
 Bloodstorm, Donna Maree Hanson \$3.99. Words: 104,930.  
 The Hunt, Oscar Hinklevitch You set the price! Words: 158,630.  
 Fourth Birth, Oscar Hinklevitch You set the price! Words: 207,580.  
 Dragon Moon, Scott E. Tarbet \$7.99. Words: 133,280.  
 The Private Life of Jane Maxwell, Jenn Gott \$3.99. Words: 113,910.  
 Universal Direction, Andrew Trappes \$0.99. Words: 120,530.  
 Dark Galaxy Box Set, Brett Fitzpatrick \$9.99. Words: 301,770.  
 Wild Space Box Set, Jason M. Brooks \$3.99. Words: 159,260.  
 Monastery, Dylan, Ford \$2.99. Words: 121,170.  
 Fyre, Sean Schubert \$5.99. Words: 102,310.  
 Se me va & El Misterio de los Creadores de Sombras. De 2 en 2, Elena Larreal & J. K. Vélez \$2.99. Words: 121,690.  
 The Lost Star's Sea, C. Litka, Free! Words: 352,980  
 Win, Vera Nazarian \$4.99. Words: 320,150.  
 Purgatorium, J.H. Carnathan \$0.99. Words: 167,370.  
 The Galactic Center, Thomas Stone \$2.99. Words: 103,620.  
 Xylanthia, Thomas Stone \$2.99. Words: 145,690.  
 Star Legions Complete Series Box Set by Michael G. Thomas \$12.99. Words: 539,150  
 The Zombie Plagues Box Set, Geo Dell \$4.99. Words: 279,410.  
 The Klindoran War, Eric B. Thomasma  
 Radioactive World, Jennifer L McCullough \$12.99. Words: 115,400.  
 Nuclear Compound, Jennifer L McCullough \$12.99. Words: 119,960.  
 The Xylanthian Chronicles, Thomas Stone \$6.99. Words: 344,650.

The Dream Thief, Kari Kilgore \$4.99. Words: 125,820.  
 Fixer, Gene Doucette \$5.99. Words: 101,280.  
 Death and Taxes, SP Durnin \$5.99. Words: 106,410.  
 Chawlgirl Rising, TK Young  
 Crimson Son 2: Motherland, Russ Linton \$3.99. Words: 101,650.  
 The Andrew Manson Steampunk Mysteries, Robert Collins \$4.99. Words: 101,020.  
 How Winter Came to Eden, Karen Nilsen, \$3.99. Words: 247,490.  
 May the Fang Be With You, Jeffrey M. Poole \$3.99. Words: 105,350.  
 Sekhmet - The Making of a New Breed, Lana Anderson \$4.99. Words: 102,670.  
 The Sixth Gate, K.T. Munson \$2.99. Words: 100,320  
 Hopscotch and the Rising Sons, Martin Vine \$3.99. Words: 173,180.  
 A God Among Thieves Jackson Lear \$4.99. Words: 155,570.  
 Grazing the Sky, Meaghan Kalena Faulkenberry You set the price! Words: 156,750.  
 Bitter Awakenings, Kester James Finley \$1.99. Words: 162,050. Language: English.  
 Летопись Нурлинь, Алексей Декань \$4.70. Words: 170,760. Language: Russian  
 Bloodstorm, Dragon Wine Part Four, Donna Maree Hanson \$3.99. Words: 104,930.  
 Two Sides, Rhiannon Dixon You set the price! Words: 102,430.  
 Into the Darkness, A.M. Rycroft \$2.99. Words: 108,500.  
 Deities and Dragons: Campaign, C. A. Poindexter \$2.99. Words: 120,560.  
 Black Forest: Stories End, Riley LaShea \$4.99. Words: 153,300.\n  
 The Ironborn Claim, Dawn BrumbleyFree! Words: 116,920. \n  
 The Empire Chronicles, Alyssa Rose Ivy \n \$4.99. Words: 181,420.  
 Fragile Nights, Chris Weston \$4.99. Words: 133,770.  
 The Gray Ranger: Unforgiven, Adam Bolander \$2.99. Words: 185,180  
 Shadow of Stone, Ruth Nestvold \$4.99. Words: 179,140.  
 Five Magic Spindles, Rachel Kovaciny \$4.99. Words: 126,950.  
 The Forged Prince, Michael Laird \$2.99. Words: 106,370.  
 The Complete Mythology Series, Jody Lynn Nye \$15.99. Words: 430,810.  
 The Fallen King Chronicles, Richard Fierce \$5.99. Words: 229,670.  
 No Boundaries, PG Cartwright, \$6.99. Words: 143,100.  
 A Dire Onus, Ronald Taylor Smith, \$2.99. Words: 211,210.  
 El Heredero, Carolina Garzón Rubiano,\$5.99. Words: 186,460.  
 Rise of the Jinn, William Turnage \$3.99. Words: 142,750.  
 Dreamscape, Kerry Reed \$0.99. Words: 114,910.  
 Other, Bloodborn, Foxfire, Karen Kincy \$4.99. Words: 197,140.  
 The Hand of Tyr, David Sherman \$2.99. Words: 168,360.  
 dark gods series, Julius Schenk \$9.99. Words: 248,450.  
 In His Name, Chris LoParco \$0.99. Words: 103,620.  
 Phantammeron Mitchell Stokely Free! Words: 158,380.  
 Identity, Samuel Alexander \$2.99. Words: 130,550.  
 Elephant Thief, Lia Patterson Words: 103,050.



Prince Valiant by Angela K Scott

The Blue Eyes Trilogy, B. Kristin McMichael \$5.98. Words: 235,790.  
 Erdemen Honor, CJ Brightley \$9.99. Words: 244,170.  
 Dragons' Might, Melody Jackson Words: 124,940.  
 Revealing Hannah The Myth of Cassandra  
 The Dagger Of Dresnia, Satima Flavell \$4.68. Words: 129,020.

The Dream Thief, Kari Kilgore \$4.99. Words: 125,820.  
 King's Heart, Porter Davis \$2.99. Words: 108,060.  
 Immortal and the Island of Impossible Things, Gene Doucette  
 Immortal at the Edge of the World, Gene Doucette \$5.99. Words: 103,910.  
 Избавиться от дара, Татьяна Кузнецова \$3.60. Words: 109,570.  
 Death and Taxes, SP Durnin \$5.99. Words: 106,410.  
 The Knight's Trial, Gordon Elliot \$4.99. Words: 138,630.  
 Dan Shamble, Zombie P.I. ZOMNIBUS, Kevin J Anderson \$7.99. Words: 139,180.  
 For the Gray, Tom Liberman \$2.99. Words: 100,770.  
 Lamentation of the Marked, March McCarron \$4.99. Words: 132,130.  
 Sterling, Emily June Street \$0.99. Words: 103,660.  
 The Trilogy of Tinna, Miranda Mayer \$8.99. Words 279,110.  
 At Death's Door, Aya DeAniege \$2.99. Words: 104,290.  
 The Hobgoblin's Herald, A R Aston \$5.00. Words: 101,420.  
 The Palâdnith Chronicles, Sam J. Charlton \$4.99. Words: 258,960.  
 Hunger Moon, Melissa Snark \$2.99. Words: 108,710.  
 Sidetracked, John H. Carroll \$4.99. Words: 106,320.  
 Black Forest: Stories End, Riley LaShea \$4.99. Words: 153,300.  
 Phantammeron, Mitchell Stokely Free! Words: 158,380.  
 Wolfskin, W.R. Gingell \$4.99. Words: 104,210.  
 Death Sense, Brett Fitzpatrick \$4.99. Words: 104,040.  
 Nekropolis: Dead Streets, Tim Waggoner Words: 197,340.  
 Apocalypse Hal's 'Whatcha Gonna' Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse, Douglas Thwaites \$3.99. Words: 147,010.  
 The Laws, Michael John Grist \$4.99. Words: 107,730.  
 Last Words, Jackson Lear \$4.99. Words: 108,110.  
 The Second Wish and Other Exhalations, Brian Lumley \$3.99. Words: 102,150.  
 The Zombie Plagues Box Set, Geo Dell \$4.99. 279,410.

## 2017 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, 2017.
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. 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. Royalties will be divided evenly between all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made, March 2018. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2017. 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 2017 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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A Touch of Trivia—Membership Recruitment—Fan-Pro Bureau

Games Bureau—Game Conventions—Welcommittee

Membership Bureau—Gourmet Bureau

### SerCon

Letters of Comment—N3F Founding Members: Donn P. Brazier

Neglected Genre Authors: William Clark Russell

### Fiction

Novels by Neffers—Elizabeth of Starland—July Novels

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

N3F TNFF