



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 9

September 2017

Swartz Wins Moskowitz Award



N3F Archivist Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D., has been awarded the Sam Moskowitz Archive Award for 2017.

The Archive Award was originally given to SF fans who were great SF collectors. Swartz has been collecting SF for over 70 years. The Awards letter states that the award was for his "lifetime of activity and service as a collector, author, and genuine science fiction enthusiast." A short biography of Moskowitz appears on page 8 of this issue.

News: Elections

Your Immediate Action Is Needed

Once again, the time for elections approaches. Your editor really should have posted this announcement

several months ago, but failed to do so. In any event, nominations are now open for the posts of President and for the five members of the Directorate, our governing board. Under our bylaws, nominations are due immediately, by September 15. If you nominate after that date, you must run a write-in campaign. Send your nominations to me, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net, 508-754-1859.

Also, to be elected, our bylaws provide you must be a member through the end of 2018. Your expiration date is on your mailing label ("Life" and "Founder" members need not worry about this.) To extend your membership, send your payment to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

Club Activities

Birthday Card Bureau

7 birthday cards were sent out.

R-Lauraine Tutihasi

Directorate Report

There was more directorial activity than usual this month, via the Directors Bulletin. The concern was with improvements being made in the N3F and the inactivity in the N3F. The first look was taken at lack of directorial activity. The chairman, myself, pointed out that there could not be visible directorial activity without there being the central focus of the directors



This issue is divided between News, Club Activities, Letters of Comments, Reviews, and New Novels



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net—Chair
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com
 Jon Swartz - jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

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Treasurer: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

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Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau: John Thiel
 kinethiel@comcast.net

Franking Service: George Phillies

Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com

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Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer
 abontides@gmail.com

Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange Bureau: Judy Carroll
 autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

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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bulletin, and comments were asked for and gotten. I am in advance of asking that the directors bulletin be made an established procedure. With this, the directors could function together instead of just being directors. The complaint of the other directors included that they were not given many tasks to perform and didn't know what they should do otherwise. Director Swycaffer complained of not having sufficient information on relevant matters, Director Carroll said she had no idea what new activities should be undertaken and there was no way determined to go about them. This will be getting further study.

The matter of the office of secretary being abolished or incorporated into the office of the treasurer was brought up for study. I am attempting to make the directors report more interesting to the membership. We also noted some lapses in function involving the campaign registration and in a vote passed a measure to suspend the deadline this year only, as none of us had made the deadline of August 15. The new deadline was set at September 15. Expressing these woes to the membership does not make for a very optimistic or positive report, but I don't believe these tribulations should be hidden from the membership. The positive aspect will be solving such problems as we are having. President Phillies hasn't been concealing the existence of these problems in TNFF, as you have been seeing, and has been urging improvements and activity where wanted and needed. We are all, of course, wanting better for the N3F.

—John Thiel, chairman

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@4liber-ty.net your email address for

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Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

I am installing a new person in the Fan-Pro Bureau, whose position will be ground-mail adjutant. He will handle matters pertaining to the schism between the online N3F and the regular mail N3F, thereby effectively coordinating between the two levels. This should solve some of the problems my bureau has been having. Things are coming along well, with three author interviews and one fan interview coming up in the October Ionisphere, demonstrating good communications functioning. The new bureau has now been going for almost a year, and can report success at both maintenance and functioning. We have mail this issue. Remember that we have an open invitation for contributions to our publication.—John Thiel, bureau head

Games Bureau

Wesley Kawato writes: It seems that the Terraforming Mars craze has maxed out and is starting to decline. A year from now I think people will still be playing this game, but it won't be anything special. Terraforming Mars will just be another game.

As I reflect back on the last six months, I've started asking questions I hadn't asked before. Is Terraforming Mars scientifically accurate? The game is supposed to be a realistic portrayal of what the terraforming of Mars would look like. The game was designed by Jacob Frixeklivs, who has a Ph.D. in Chemistry and lives in Sweden. Surely there must be someone in N3F who has the scientific background needed to evaluate the accuracy of this game. I'm not qualified to do so. If you are qualified, please contact George Phillies about making arrangements.

Information Technology

David Speakman

We had a glitch in August that caused the N3F.org website to go dark for a week. The good news is that it is back up and running.

Changes Since Last Report

We have consolidated the Keeper of the URL and the Host of the Website under me. I'd like to thank Ruth Davidson for being there for the club in some of its darker times and the years she personally

financed the expense out of pocket to keep N3F.org alive.

August Website Updates

TNFF now available on the Website up through August 2017: <http://n3f.org/zines/tnff/>
Tightbeam now available on the Website up through issue #279: <http://n3f.org/zines/tightbeam/>

In the Works

Website Expansion and Redesign - Help Wanted
I am currently looking to overhaul the look and feel of N3F.org to be more friendly. We're also wanting to update the site with new content. You are invited to help. If you know or are like Jon Snow and know nothing but are interested in learning how to use Wordpress, please contact me. No experience necessary.

Website Migration

I am in process of moving my hosted websites away from Green Geeks to Bluehost, which should provide faster and more reliable web service. N3F.org is on the list to make this migration in November. Any disruption to the website should be minimal during this transition. There is a very slight possibility that the site may show an "unavailable" or "updating" message for a few hours. Most likely, the switch will happen automatically and no one will notice the difference.

I propose that the N3F set up a Standing Committee to oversee N3F Intellectual property, including the n3f.org URL, based upon the WSFS Mark Protection Committee.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal up for discussion:

- Section 1 = reason for this
- Section 2 = who are the members
- Section 3 = vacancies & terms of office
- Section 4 = limits/checks to power
- Section 5 = Specific call to action: URL
- Section 6 = limit on presidential tyranny

X. Intellectual Property

1. The Intellectual Property Protection Committee (IPPC) is a permanent committee of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). It protects the intellectual property of the N3F, including internet presence (URLs, web sites), any service marks,

trademarks, copyrights, ISSN codes, and digital and physical archives that may exist.

2. The standing membership of the IPPC shall consist of three members, serving staggered three-year terms, ending on December 31. The chair of the committee shall be designated by the current President from among the standing members.

3. Any vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the President within three weeks with approval of the Directorate. A member appointed to a vacancy will serve out the remainder of the vacant term; at no time may an IPCC term exceed 3 years nor may any two member terms expire during the same calendar year.

4. IPCC actions on behalf of N3F must have prior approval of either 1) the President and a majority of the Directorate, or 2) unanimous consent of the directorate, if the President does not approve. The committee shall include the President, Directorate, and Treasurer on all correspondence.

5. Web Address: The IPCC shall act in concert with the President and Treasurer to set up a system to ensure that URL registration and website presence is maintained and does not expire due to lack of payment without consent of the President and Directorate.

6. The President shall not serve on the IPCC except on a temporary basis not to exceed 4 weeks – due to vacancy or emergency. If the president fails to appoint a replacement within three weeks of an office vacancy, the Directorate shall move on its own to appoint a replacement for the vacant committee office.

Recruiting Bureau Report

John Thiel writes: Some of the members I have been recruiting have been experiencing confusion in their membership process. A checking up process is being commenced. One confusion here may involve our recruitment offer of membership extensions for those recruiting voting, dues-paying members. If you have recruited such a member, please contact the Recruiting Bureau with the information that you have done so, and the Treasurer will be notified to extend your membership the

appropriate amount. Also, if you have recruited a public member, let the recruitment bureau know about it and your name will be listed here with appreciation. State who you have recruited and whether he is a public or paying member. My associate in this bureau, whose email is listed, will be happy to take this information and see that you get your recognition.—John Thiel

Kevin Trainor writes: I'm sorry to have been so inactive this year. Not going to make any promises, but I should have more time to devote to recruitment in the coming year. I am going to have to stop driving for Uber in the next few months, partially because of tax season, partially for medical reasons, and partially because I am returning to college at UNLV to finish my accounting degree, because apparently you can't get a job without one, experience be damned.

Anyhow, leaving Uber will allow me to get back on a more normal schedule, and being a student at UNLV will allow me to meet more people, the better to get them involved. Here's hoping it all works out.

-Kevin Trainor

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.

If you wish to join a Postal Round Robin contact - Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

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.

If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact

Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

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 lee-andjj@gmail.com

Welcommittee

Hebrew - Shalom. It sounds just like it looks. The second syllable rhymes with the English "foam." (From How to Say Welcome in Different Languages -wikipediawiki.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.

No new members were reported this month.

If you would like to help welcoming new members to this wonderful club please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

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

Continuing where we left off, last month, we are completing excerpts from an article on Writing-World.com

Choosing the Right Name for Your Story, by John Floyd

"Trademark" Titles

A number of famous writers have come up with a way to make their titles do extra work for them. How? They create titles that follow a pattern unique to their particular "series" of stories.

Janet Evanovich uses numbers: One for the Money, Two for the Dough...

Sue Grafton uses letters of the alphabet: A is for Alibi, B is for Burglar...

For James Michener, it was one-word titles: Chesapeake, Space, Hawaii...

John D. MacDonald chose colors: The Lonely Silver Rain, The Dreadful Lemon Sky....

John Sandford's trademark is the word "prey": Silent Prey, Mind Prey...

Martha Grimes used names of English pubs: The Old Silent, The Dirty Duck...

Robert Ludlum's thrillers had three-word titles: The Bourne Identity, The Matarese Circle...

James Patterson chooses nursery rhymes: Roses are Red,

This kind of approach is of course not required to sell or publish your books and stories. But, especially if you've considered writing a series, it never hurts to have a recognizable "signature" of some

kind, a bright flag that your fans can look for in the bookstore. Titles can provide that.

And don't worry too much about giving your stories titles that have already been used. At least on that piece of literary ground, you're on firm footing.

Originality

Titles are not copyrightable. If your title is fairly common, and doesn't deal with the same subject matter as another story with the same name, you shouldn't run into any legal problems. But that should not be done intentionally. It's just as easy to come up with a new title as to re-use an existing one --and a lot more satisfying.

Whatever the source for your inspiration and whatever title you choose, remember that it needs to be a perfect fit for your story. If it isn't (and even, sometimes, if it is), it can get changed.

Alternate Titles

Unless you're a well-known author, the title of your accepted novel is likely to be changed prior to publication, and editors sometimes change the titles of short stories as well. Since changes are known to occur, should you submit several alternate titles along with your novel or story? No. Select the best title you can, and leave it at that..

But does the fact that the editor may change your title mean you shouldn't spend a lot of time creating a good one of your own? Absolutely not. According to Pat Kubis and Bob Howland in *The Complete Guide to Writing Fiction and Nonfiction*, "You need a good title to attract an editor's eye. Remember, it's the first thing he or she sees of your work--and the editor who likes your title will begin reading your manuscript in an optimistic frame of mind."

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

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:
Thank you all for a couple of issues of *The National*

Fantasy Fan. I've got here the July and August issues, Volume 76, numbers 7 and 8. Some comments will, with luck, follow...

Vol. 76, No. 7... the split of the issue works out fine. Given that I have been involved with zines for more than 35 years, I am definitely in favor of more content about zines, and of course, more people getting involved with them.

To be honest, I had never heard of F. Marion Crawford before, but I suspect it's because he wrote a lot of ghost and vampire fiction, not really my own interests. However, I do know more than I did about Jack Speer.

No. 8... Good luck to all on this year's Neffies. Sorry I haven't been a better correspondent, but I hope this loc, as poor as it is, will at least get the next lettercol started.

The new *Star Trek* series continues to be shot in studios in Toronto. News leaks out at a slow pace, but most of the cast were at the San Diego Comic Con. The trailers for the show do look good, though. There is discussion online about the new *Trek*, and the ST-ish comedy *The Orville*, and which one might look the best.

Thanks for the information on the gaming convention in Oshawa, Ontario... I do send out a big list of local conventions to people in the greater Toronto area, and I have just added that.

More biographies to keep me educated. I knew of Donn Brazier through the fannish reference books I have, but again, did not know the author William Clark Russell.

As for me... we have had a great summer of steampunk events, and we have either attended or vended at all of them. Great fun, and we have made a nice buck or two here and there. More to come, too, so the rest of this summer could be a lot of fun.

I wish I had more for you, but... I guess I am done for now.

Take care, and keep the issues coming.
Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Editor George:

Thanks for the copy of the constitution and by-laws; I feel better situated in the N3F with these in my files. I recall when I first joined the N3F I was sent an outline of the constitution to help explain to me what the organization was about, before I actually joined. But there was trouble thereafter finding the actual constitution until I asked to see it. As I say, I'm more settled if I have the full facts about the organization.

I find a lot of organizational problems in the August TNFF, which includes such solutions as have been found, and calls to greater activity. I am thinking these lacks in activity may be due to the many problems that exist in today's world, especially after the recent election, where the campaigning seemed to include many a fiasco. With these overwhelming national and international crises occurring, everything's affected—for example, we see a lot of bankruptcies now of things we thought would survive, and also I saw talk in the news of postal bankruptcies. Well, I think the N3F motto ought to be, "The world's in an uproar, but the N3F goes on." We should have more concern with an organization we like.

I would like to see more in TNFF about how the paper memberships are coming along. Apparently the power is with the electronic memberships, which handle all the publications and all the official duties. Is there anything going on groundside that we should hear about in TNFF? Are we receiving any communications from these members who have no computer access? Should they be represented in any way?

I hope Robert Jennings gets the letters he is wanting for Tightbeam. No letters there presents a dim view of the organization. All we need is more visible activity for the N3F to become active. I'll be getting a letter off to Tightbeam shortly.

Here's hoping for a resurgence of activity in the N3F. —John Thiel

Your Editor answers some questions above: As you asked several questions, I will supply some answers. First of all, most dues-paying members are papermail members. The number of electronic

members is gradually increasing, but they are still outnumbered by members who receive this zine in the mail. Indeed, we have several bureau heads who only use paper mail. The places where electronic magazines are more important are the pages of Ionisphere, Tightbeam, N'APA, and Eldritch Science, which are only distributed electronically, and the vast ranks of the public (non-dues-paying) members, who are only sent our zines via email. I have occasionally asked if anyone would be willing to print and distribute our zines other than TNFF, with the recipients paying costs, and have had no volunteers.

SerCon
N3F Founding Members:
H. C. Koenig
 by
Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.
N3F Historian

H. C. Koenig, nicknamed "Heck," was an early New York science fiction (SF) fan in the 1930s and 1940s and was old enough to have read the pulps All-Story and Argosy before they combined in 1920; in addition, he was referenced in Moskowitz's early history of fandom, *The Immortal Storm*, and he was one of the thinly-disguised participants in the earliest known piece of fan fiction, "The Battle That Ended the Century," attributed to H. P. Lovecraft.

Koenig was a member of the Lovecraft Circle, but remained a SF fan and collected genre fanzines. When fans visited New York in the earlier days, Koenig and John W. Campbell, Jr. often tossed a coin: the loser had to play host to the visitors.

Koenig published *The Reader and Collector* for FAPA in the late 1930s - 1940s. His secretary was said to have done most of the work. Koenig worked as an electrical engineer for Electrical Testing Laboratories in New York. He would write "scathing comments on inane professional writing and stupid fannish opinions," and then turn the manuscript over to his secretary and let her do the rest. Harry Warner reported that "Koenig was celebrated for his diligent campaign against pro-zine stories in which characters hissed statements that contained no sibilants." A photo of Koenig

appears on page 20 of Warner's *All Our Yesterdays* (Advent, 1969).

Koenig collected first editions and used space in his office to store his fanzine collection. He also liked to restore neglected authors to favor. William Hope Hodgson was his biggest project, and he asked Lovecraft to include the genre author in his *Supernatural Horror in Literature*, persuaded *Famous Fantastic Mysteries* to reprint Hodgson stories, and helped convince August Derleth at Arkham House to publish books by Hodgson. Koenig also wrote articles on Hodgson for *The Fantasy Fan* and *The Phantagraph*; and, in 1944, he devoted an entire issue of *The Reader and Collector* to Hodgson.

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

Sources: *All Our Yesterdays*, *Fancylopedia 3*, ISFDB, SFE, and other Internet sites.

Sam Moskowitz
Biographical Note
by Jon Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Science fiction author, editor, historian, and fan Sam Moskowitz (1920 - 1997), was one of the founders of SF fandom. He helped found the World Science Fiction Convention. He was one of the first to lecture on science fiction to a University class. He wrote the first comprehensive history of fandom, *The Immortal Storm*, and over the years edited dozens of genre anthologies. He was a member of First Fandom, and was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1974, along with another famous SF collector, Forrest J Ackerman. The First Fandom Archive Award for SF collectors is named for Moskowitz, with winners announced beginning in 1998. Moskowitz himself put together one of the great SF research collections. At one time, both he and his wife, Dr. Christine Haycock Moskowitz, were members of the N3F.

Texas A&M librarian Hal Hall just published the 2nd edition of his bibliography of Moskowitz's complete library. Jon Swartz wrote the work's introduction.

Missing Member Bios

Jon Swartz's magnificent biographic study of our founders has run into an obstacle: For the remaining founders there simply is not much available information that he has found. I supply here a list of the remaining founders; if anyone has information on them, please contact Jon Swartz as soon as possible. That's jon_swartz@hotmail.com The missing are: Henry A. Ackermann, Charles A. Belling, Lynn Bridges, James Bush, Edwin F. Counts, Jack Fields, Joseph Fortier, Lou Goldstone, Charles Hansen, Earle Barr Hanson, Fred Hurter, Robert Jones, Robert Jordan, Eugene Jorgensen, Nicholas E. Kenealy, John L. Millard, Chris E. Mulrain, Francis Paro, George Robson, Phil Schumann, Ray J. Sienkiewicz, Robert Studley, Donald B. Thompson, Hyman Tiger, Thomas Wright

Reviews

An Unproved Concept

James L. Young came to my attention relatively recently, and I had picked up his short story *The Ride of the Late Rain*, hadn't started it, when he released his novel *An Unproven Concept*.

Space Opera fans, my Harrington series peeps (heh), this is another one you'll love. Those of you who glaze over at overly detailed space battles? Bear with the first chapter, then, and dig into the dovetailed plot and interesting characters he gives you from there on out.

The two plots intertwine, one the tale of the Space Fleet and the men and women who struggle to keep humanity from imploding into an interstellar war that threatens between the core worlds and the Spartans. The other is the story of the fatally-named *Titanic*, a gargantuan space liner for the rich and powerful to soar through the spectacle of the stars, dancing in micro-gravity.

The collision of these two story arcs is unexpected, and yet well-foreshadowed. I really enjoyed the gritty realism that Young, himself a veteran, put into the battles and something I rarely see detailed; the aftermath of battles.

He made me cry. I almost never cry at science fiction anymore, and I won't spoil it, but the character who... well, there's a holographic farewell de-

livered that made me laugh while crying. It was masterfully done.

And the ending, well, he keeps delivering right through the end, continuing after the climax to give the reader enough to satisfy them about the emotional growth of the major characters. It's good. Really. It just needs a new cover to properly cue the awesomeness within. On the other hand, my blog readers can now be ahead of the curve, and sneak in before it takes off like Andy Weir's *Martian* (which initially had a crappy cover, and I was surprised at the quality of the writing inside) and gets all popular.

Follow-through. Yeah, that's what James Young has...

...Cedar Sanderson

The Grey Man and Future Tech

I just recently found two books by JL Curtis, both called *The Grey Man*, but one is *Vignettes* introducing the characters, and the other is a whole novel of adventures. I was trying to explain the style to my First Reader, and he pointed out that the author, being ex-military, strongly flavors the stories. There is a good reason they 'feel' like after-action reports. You can find his fascinating blog as the Old NFO here.

These are less about the characters than they are about narration of the events that happen. Detailed, although less so than the Tom Clancy books I would compare them to (this is a good thing), they slowly unfold a chain of events that cascade into serious life-disruption for an already seasoned veteran, and his grown granddaughter who lost her parents early and lives with him on a ranch. It's... complex. Deceptively so. I really enjoyed *The Grey Man: Payback*, and would stack it up next to Clancy's *Without Remorse* as a book about a man going after those who hurt his loved ones, who has no recourse in the law. By the end of the book, despite the dry narrative style, I found myself tearing up. While less character-driven than, say, WEB Griffin's tales, they are still reminiscent of those, and I think if you enjoyed either of those authors, you'll like Curtis's tough Old Man.

These stories are straightforward cop and military tales, no magic, no science fiction. I used to read a lot of this, and I miss it, I've found. Being sick these last couple of weeks had me hitting the Kindle Unlimited

program hard, looking for good reads. I have been rewarded with several that were good enough I told the First Reader he really needed to try, and that I'd share them with you all.

The other series, an alternate history, is Jerry Lawson's story sparked by time-travel gone wrong. When a cell phone is inadvertently sent back in time, what happens? Well, if it was a to a medieval world, nothing. But to 1955, into a nascent technological boom, and into the hands of a bureaucracy under Eisenhower that does the mind-boggling and releases it into private hands? Well, world-changing is about it... Jerry has done three books, and more coming, as the single cheap burner phone loaded with tech books almost as a prank by grad students is the spark to spin off an alternate, and very different, historical path.

Short, enjoyable reads, although laden with historical facts and trivia, Lawson's stories are as much sociological commentary as they are fiction tales. Again, the character building is light, and drier than my usual fare, but the way he tells it, I don't mind at all. If he could keep me interested while I was sick, and disappointed once I'd sucked up the first three to have to wait for number four... he's doing something right.

...Cedar Sanderson

New Novels

The following new novels were released on Smashwords.com in August. These novels were variously listed as being science fiction, fantasy, horror, or fairy tales.

Fall of the Cities: Planting the Orchard by Vance Huxley
 Ultras Wars From a Different Dimension Volume One by Richard Arthur Drewer
 Phoenix In Chaos by Robert Stadnik
 The Ambassador by Paul Hansen
 Ure Infectus: The Chimera Adjustment: Book One (Imperium Cicerus 1) by Caleb Wachter.
 Domino Mysteries by A. Nation
 The Ballad of Mercy: New Washington Crisis by Jason Mather
 The Distant Kingdoms Volume Six: A Kingdom Falls by David A Petersen
 A Stranger in Eden by Charles Rocha
 Beyond the Twisted Ring by Charles Rocha
 C.M. Simpson: Short Work from 2015 & 2016 by C.M. Simpson
 Ten Directions by Samuel Winburn
 Se me va + Colección Completa Cuentos + Un Comienzo para un Final. De 3 en 3 by Elena Larreal & J. K. Vélez.
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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. 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, 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 among 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

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Fiction

New August Novels

Short Story Contest

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c/o George Phillies
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