



ORIGIN 4

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**Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan
Federation's Fan History and Research
Bureau**

***We intend to be of service
to the science fiction and
fantasy fans***

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Origin is produced monthly and is distributed along with the monthly issue of The National Fantasy Fan. Email Origin at the editorial address above.

The purpose of our bureau is to provide NFFF members with information about science fiction and science fiction fandom. We are interested in researching the development of science fiction, fantasy, and fandom, as well as the history of the NFFF itself. We are also ready to help people newly acquainted with the *genre* and its fandom in establishing themselves as science fiction fans and give them information and advice about such things as the production of fanzines or about clubs, societies and science fiction conventions. We have openings here for further bureau members and are looking for people knowing about current happenings in science fiction and fandom.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Future

We live in an era much predicted in science fiction when I first began reading it, and it is often remarked that science fiction has proved itself prophetic considering how much that was written in science fiction has become the reality of the present time. That's all pretty good, but we must recall that much of science fiction was critical of advancement and foresaw dire things, and it may be that it has been equally prophetic in this. We now have world turbulence including the same in government, population problems, sabotage and espionage on the net, apocalyptic warfare, cultural displacement, indeed nearly all the woes that science fiction has predicted. Especially of interest to us as literary people is that we have news tampering and censorship much like what was described in George Orwell's NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR, and evil as rampant as it was in that book. And with net fandom (who could have predicted that back in the earlier days of fandom?) we have all the woes of technological living.

I have found quite a lot of communications failure on the net, much of it brought about by malware, and it interferes greatly with our progress here in getting order about the N3F and bringing about organizational growth. One instance of this regarding this very committee is that I have been writing to NFFF members whom I thought would be appropriately added to this bureau if they but wished to be, and have received no answer to my emails. There is no way to check on this, one would have to email them about it. I have used this technique in interviewing, that is, keeping at it, and sometimes got back replies after awhile, but it seems to me if something interferes with email here, it's likely to be kept up pretty consistently. I might take to inviting them to join the committee, by name,

here in Origin, if the lack of communication is not overcome. That is, I'd say here in this bulletin who I'd been trying to contact and invite them to reply if they've been reading Origin. What I'm really wanting, though, is improved communications. Will this ever come about?

So what does this have to do with history, research and information? It's about the problems I've got in attempting to work with the same. But I think that every improvement with these same problems that we manage to make is a step toward what we want to have, and I'm always pleased when we seem to have managed a breakthrough toward our progress.

Which is reminding me, my email address might stop being valid sometime this month. You have to go by the latest issue of something. I'm ceasing to use Comcast for that it is too expensive, and switching to another service that seems to be as good and is charging only half the price of Comcast. So if any of you have become inspired to write to Origin by what I've been saying above, you'll know why I don't answer if I don't. If you write to me and I don't answer, write to Jon Swartz instead.

Enough about me (you know a person with a bureau is supposed to be invisible and detached), let's hear about you, in the form of those responsive letters of comment. I don't want "What are you, a solipsist? Yer always writing yer own attitude" when I have little chance to print anything else. Swamp me with responses and you'll see printed up exactly what you desire, a multitudinous yea-saying from the people of the organization. Then and only then will Origin completely suit your fancy. Until you do give us some response, you'll be seeing the same thing, an editor saying "Where are all those good letters of comment, those responses, as it were, what kind of problems have we got here, *etc. etc.*" It takes a full crew to run a ship and a complement of passengers to enjoy the trip, which of course has no relevance to what we have here, but the same is true of a fanzine with its editors and its readers—bulletins included. So, hope to see you real soon.

THE INTERNATIONAL FANTASY AWARD

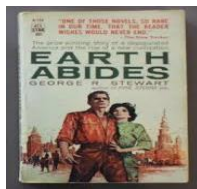
by Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian

Today, science fiction (SF) fans usually think of Hugo and Nebula Awards when they think of awards in the SF field. But these awards were not the first to be given out in the genre.

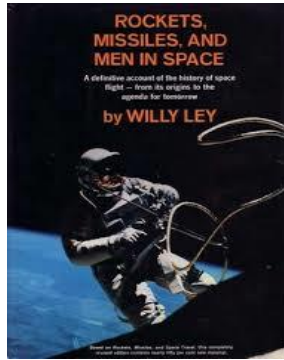
The first award in the SF and fantasy genre was the International Fantasy Award (IFA), created at the 1951 British SF Convention by four British SF personalities, including John Beynon Harris (SF author John Wyndham). The awards were selected by international panel that included the four British creators of the award, and honored both SF/Fantasy novels and works of non-fiction of interest to the field. Among the sometime judges were several prominent SF writers and editors, including Judith Merrill, Anthony Boucher, P. Schuyler Miller, Groff Conklin, Basil Davenport, and Ted Carnell. The physical award was a trophy. The first awards were given at the 1951 United Kingdom SF convention, the last was presented in 1957 at the London Worldcon.

The nonfiction awards lasted only a few years, and all awards were discontinued in 1958. (Some authorities feel that the creation of the Hugo Award was a major reason.) Looking back today, with the perspective of many years, the IFA is recognized as not only the first genre award, but perhaps the most noteworthy.

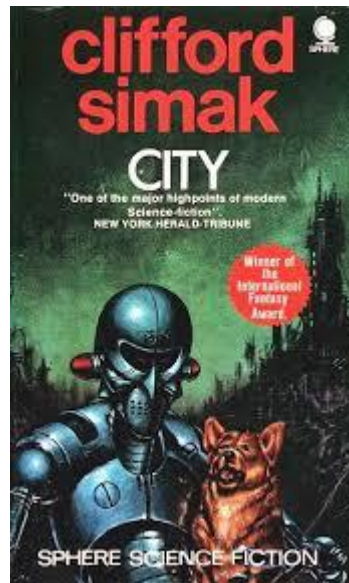
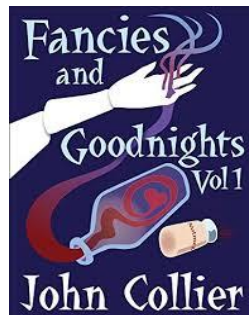
The first fiction award in 1951 went to George R. Stewart for his classic novel, EARTH ABIDES. The complete list of winners of the International Fantasy Award for best novel is given below:



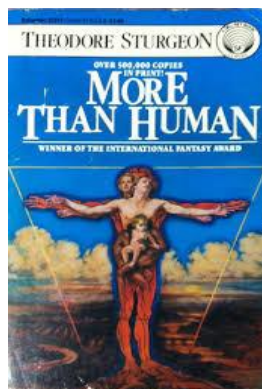
1951: EARTH ABIDES by George R. Stewart (fiction award); THE



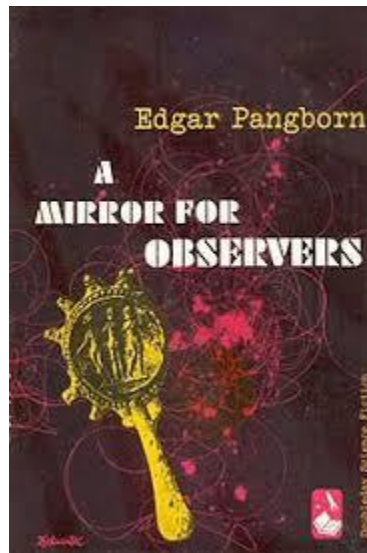
CONQUEST OF SPACE by Willy Ley and Chesley Bonestell; non-fiction award. 1952: FANCIES AND GOODNIGHTS by John Collier. 1953: CITY



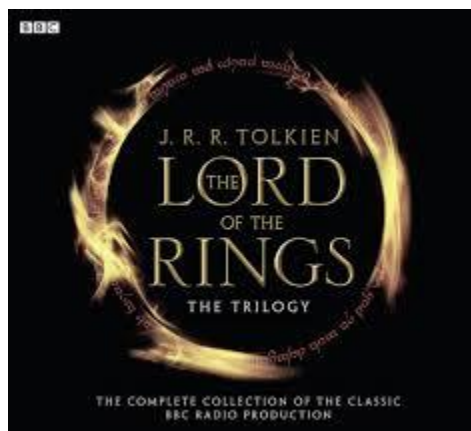
by Clifford D. Simak 1954: MORE THAN HUMAN by Theodore Sturgeon.



1955: A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS by Edgar Pangborn. 1956: No Award.



1957: THE LORD OF THE RINGS by J.R.R. Tolkien. (Awards Discontinued.)



Letters of Comment

This issue we received only one LoC. Here it is:

WILL MAYO: I always enjoy reading about the history of fandom in your Origin zine. Don't let the naysayers get you down. We need that history to keep us oriented.



See you in the future.