

ORIGAN #9



Monthly bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's
History and Research Bureau **November 2018**

Origin is edited and published by John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904. Contact Origin by email at kinethiel@mymetronet.net . Origin is distributed along with The National Fantasy Fan and may be found at <http://efanzines.com> as well.

Staff Members of the bureau

John Thiel, head of Bureau, address above

Jon Swartz, historical assistant, 12115 Missel Thrush Ct., Austin, Texas 78750, email jon_swartz@hotmail.com .

Joe Napolitano, general fandom contact, 4066 N. Nora Avenue, Covina, California 91722-3820, email justjoequytwo@aol.com .

Judy Carroll, commentator, 976 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660, email AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com



Editorial



Starting On Our Way

It's easy to say "Let's get things moving", but not so easy to do it; it takes help from behind and I think there has been a hiatus during which such help became very minimal. We are wanting to research our own organization and establish our past and improve things from there, and much of our data seems to be virtually unobtainable. But as head of this new history and research committee, I think I am going to have to start getting on my way myself, and in doing this I have decided to research the NFFF via the Wikipedia and other informational sources and have my research results in a new column commencing in this issue. When I've been through Wiki references I'll go on to another information source and gather whatever relevant information is to be had there. The research column will be a permanent fixture of Origin, and might have other researchers than myself in it from time to time.

It seems like we should accomplish something before any more losses might occur. My view on this is, when time is short or running out, get control of the time involved and have a ball, or a "good time", with it and a different form of time called "time active" will be established and have its own existential effect and place in things, whether things be ongoing or not.

I think our venture into computer fandom is less than successful. Not only is there an impermanence to computer doings, and a lack of any order except computer order, but it appears to me that many people cannot keep up with computer business because it moves along too fast. However what we should do about this is adapt to it and do the best we can, because doing one's best has the lasting quality of being together, or formal, shining and complete, as it's put in some literary works—conjuring up such group usages as "intelligible" and "coherent", both words of complaint but signifying what lack of success is like in working on the net.

Am I coming through pretty clearly to our membership? I think they would rather see activity and progress than otherwise, and hope to show them some here, and I hope that people are reading me. There's not much use in being organized and not getting things done. I'd like both a visible future and a visible past for the N3F. The NFFF has continued going through a lot of hardship and there's no reason to let it down now. Let's all keep with it and see where it goes.

ROSCOE SPEAKS



Onward, ye Neffers.

N3F FACTS (Culled from Wikipedia)

The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F or NFFF) is one of the world's oldest science fiction fandom organizations. The organization was founded in April 1941 when all science fiction, horror, and fantasy literature was lumped into one category called "fantasy". The group actively encourages the development of writers, editors and artists.

The group was founded by a loose cadre of members of Boston, Massachusetts-based Stranger Club, who were inspired by the Damon Knight article "Unite—or Fie!" published in that month's **Fanfare**. Knight said the withering of "New Fandom" should be counteracted by the creation of general-purpose organization to link avid readers of all forms of speculative fiction. The club still exists today and continues to reach many of its members by regular mail, though it now has a growing online presence with its web site and related mailing lists *via* the Internet.

The N3F has a president, treasurer, secretary and directorate which handles the day-to-day operation of the club's business. The president and directorate are elected by the membership.

The club's activities revolve mainly around its bureaus, which are headed by club members who volunteer for the positions and are appointed by the president. Bureaus can consist of one to more than one person, depending on the level of participation by club members. Current bureaus include art, computer gaming, correspondence, Welcommittee, Mangaverse, teaching SF, Future Fandom, writers exchange, and an amateur press alliance.

Perhaps the heart of the N3F's bureau activities are the round robins (RRs), which are conducted by both regular mail and email. RRs are groups of members with interest in a specific topic (a particular writer, or a subject such as dragons, horror, Star Trek, time travel, *etc.*) Each RR has a Robin Master who starts the group with sending a letter or email to one of the other members; that person adds their contribution, and sends both items on to the next person in the group. Each time the packet returns to a member, they remove their previous contribution and insert a new one, often containing responses to what other RR members have written. This is one of the club's oldest and longest-lasting activities, because it allows members to comment on topics of their interest without requiring them to travel or meet others in person.

Accompanying this article in the Wikipedia is a link to the N3F website. As may be seen, the Wikipedia article on the N3F needs updating, which it is possible to do via a process whereby the readers add info.

Vignettes from N3F History by Jon Swartz



1950 Fan Directory, edited by Leonard Moffatt
Lilliputian Press, Garden Grove, California

The *Directory* was sponsored jointly by the Fantasy Foundation and the N3F. In this publication the Fantasy Foundation was represented by Forrest J Ackerman and the N3F by Roy Lavender. The Fantasy Foundation, introduced by Ackerman at Pacificon I in 1946, was a literary project with a goal of having a duplicate library of SF/F/H magazines and books, one for the use of current fan researchers and one preserved for the future. All those involved in the *Directory* were members of the N3F at the time, and Ackerman remains a lifetime member today.

The *Directory* was divided into two main sections. The first section was subdivided into countries and states, with fans listed in alphabetical order. The second section, a cross-index, listed all the fan surnames in alphabetical order with country or state, and the page numbers on which their entries appeared. There was also a two-page listing of abbreviations used in the *Directory*, ranging from AAPA (American Amateur Press Association) to YF (Young Fandom). The entries were in the following order: Name, Address, Phone Number, Sex, Birthday, and Fan Organizations. The *Directory* was forty pages in length, plus stiff paper covers.

In addition to the United States, fans from several other countries were represented: Australia, Canada, Canal Zone, England, France, Ireland, and Scotland. There were four hundred and four fans listed in the *Directory*, of which only fifty-one were female.

In a "Publisher's Preface" by Stan Woolston, who printed the *Directory* with a hand-fed letterpress in his back yard, it was stated that Janie Lamb of Ezekiel, Tennessee, would receive information slips from which the *Directory* was formed and keep them as a nucleus for a future larger list. The slips were mimeographed forms distributed to fanzine editors to send out with their zines

and club publications. Lamb was also to form a bureau that would serve as a center for fan addresses and other data, and answer queries, *etc.* Woolston explained that twenty-four slips received too late for inclusion under the proper geographical heading were included as an Addendum.

All information printed in the Directory came from returned forms, with nothing deleted or added. It is assumed that some well-known fans had little or no interest in the project and therefore did not complete the slips.

The Directory sold for twenty-five cents a copy. Despite the modest cost, many N3F members did not buy it. Today, when available, copies sell in the fifty dollar to seventy-five dollar range.



What I Long For by Will Mayo

I long for spaces,
spaces between words,
between sounds,
between light and darkness.
A space between the music, too,
so that one song may linger
in my consciousness
long after the rhythm is gone.
A space between heaven and hell
so that the earth may at last know its balance.
But, no, all is cacophony
and a togetherness that is only unsound.
And I am broken by words
to give you my song.

LETTERS

DAVID SPEAKMAN: The first N3F sites were individual bureau sites hosted by members on their AOL or GeoCities accounts. The first N3F "portal" type website was hosted by Jacqueline Lichtenberg's Simegen.com until about 2010.

I wonder if any of those early sites could still be located by an Internet search.

GARY LABOWITZ garylantz51@gmail.com : Well, be careful what you wish for...you might just get more from me than you want. Ah, but that's what editors do—like Human Resource departments, they get rid of people they just don't like or need. I expect the same even-handed treatment.

The other person that did such a good job of retrieving N3F from the loss of its treasury and all the in-fighting it produced was...[sound of horns]...Ralph Holland. Funny, I always thought he was a newspaperman, but now I think he was a doctor or dentist, or something like that. Who knows, and will they read Origin, and will they respond to tell us, and will my letter be published? By the way, what do you call it when it's an ezine? Is it still publishing? How's that for a question that has no relevance to our lives?

I was digging through some of the zines being emailed to me, and I really enjoyed the BCSFAzine. While reading it I noticed it was dated 2017. Man! Am I falling behind the times. Their Passages section was a revelation, and only covered August of 2017. Well, some of the people listed I had definitely heard about (Jerry Lewis, Barbara Cook) but I had missed learning about others. Fascinating!

I am currently working on some essays on Science vs. Religion, and other related topics on Liturgy, Rituals, and Miracles. Bah! As usual, every time I come up with a brilliant idea on a topic, I discover it discussed by others years ago. It's really hard to be novel and famous for what others already knew. But I'm having a good time pushing my brain to try and explain what I have in a vague idea.

Anyone REALLY interested in my thoughts can find it at <https://garythecommonman.blogpost.com> [I think].

I found two listings in the San Diego State University comics and science fiction collection which shows me as a publisher for the June and July 1955 issues of **Kay-Mar Trader**. So there. It doesn't nail it down precisely. But close enough. That sort of wraps it up. It's been fun doing this research.

Kaymar Trader

Publication Place: Moorhead, MN

Date/Volume: v. 6, no. 9 (November 1954)

Author/Publisher: K. Martin Carlson (ed.)

Box 12, Folder 24

Kaymar Trader

Publication Place: Kansas City, MO.

Date/Volume: v. 7, no. 3 (June 1955)

Author/Publisher: Gary Labowitz (ed.)

Box 12, Folder 25

Kaymar Trader

Publication Place: Kansas City, MO.

Date/Volume: v. 7, no. 4 (July 1955)

Author/Publisher: Gary Labowitz (ed.)

I remember KayMar also as living in Moorhead, Minnesota. Once we drove past it on our way to Seattle and I thought of stopping there for a visit, but it was too much out of our way, about twenty-five miles, as I recall. I wrote him about it later.

I remember Ralph Holland also; I received a few letters of correspondence from him.

Don't let an old discussion get you down about your thoughts. If it's from way back, it's been forgotten by everyone. A renewal is in order. I'd like to see some of your essays. Where will they be made available? Will they be on your blogspot?



SWEET SUSAN by John Polselli

The rose is late again this spring, I fear,
And grievance raps not lightly at the door.
Sweet Susan died, and yet she lingers here.

Some whisper that no one had shed a tear,
Yet wolves were baying madly on the moor;
They howled beneath a full moon bright and clear.

Our neighbors without faces find it queer
That shadows congregate upon the floor.
Sweet Susan died, and yet she lingers here

Bereaved, for not a soul has been sincere
In being truthful as to what they saw.
They howled beneath a full moon bright and clear.

Her beauty we remember—without peer
As was her laughter which shall ring no more,
For Susan died. And yet she tarries here
Beneath a blood moon bright and clear.

