



The National Fantasy Fan

80 Years

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 80 Number 1

January 2021

Life Member
David Speakman



Without objection the N3F Directorate has awarded David Speakman a Life Membership in the N3F. He is our third life member.

David writes of himself: It's January 1, 2021. Happy New Year! This year marks the first time in about 2 decades that I have no "official" role other than member of this storied organization. I join the ranks of the many past presidents who also wore multiple N3F hats before moving along in this manner - including Bill Center, Owen K Laurion, Ruth Davidson, Susan VanSchuyver, Christopher Garcia, and Denny Davis.

Official N3F Forum Site

Jim McCoy has a forum site already set up. The Geek Galaxy thegeekgalaxy.free-forums.net. I'd be happy to have the traffic. We can start almost immediately. Jim McCoy thatjim-boguy@gmail.com

2020 N3F Short Story Contest — the Winners

N3F Short Story Contest Judge Jefferson Swycaffer announces the winners of the 2020 N3F Short Story Contest. He reports:

First Prize: The Azazel Tree, by Chris Owens, a tale of morality, of absolute good and absolute evil, and one hero who strives to uphold the good, despite the awful cost.

Second Prize: The Eternal Secret, by John Yarrow, Heroic Fantasy in the classical mold, a tale that might have been told of Odysseus or Jason, fighting monsters and solving riddles.

Third Prize: If Music Be The Fruit of Love, by Jack Mulcahy, a tale of music and love, and how a crisis calls upon us to rise to the level of heroism.

Honorable Mention: The Haunting of the Jabberwocky, by Charles Douglas, a truly Carrollian story of wordplay and madness, and how a hero, unarmed, has the greatest weapon of all. [Short Story Contest Winners] This year's cadre of entrants are mostly from the United States, although four came in from Great Britain, and we are always happy to have an international flavor to our contest.

There were twenty-one entries, science fiction and fantasy, from short-short stories of only three pages to substantial stories of several thousand words. There are stories with happy endings and stories that are tragic. There are stories of solo protagonists, and stories of teamwork and cooperation. There are stories of strong moral faith, and stories of grave betrayal.

What all of these stories have in common is pure, raw, undorned creativity. There is a wealth of true originality here, ideas that have never been seen before. Never let anyone tell you that there aren't any new ideas, because, right at hand, there

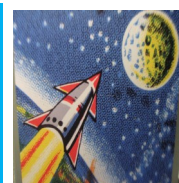
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Art

6 — Unicorn Outlined — Angela K Scott

9 — We Come In Peace — Jose Sanchez



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Continued Next Column, Middle

are twenty one most sterling counter-examples. These stories are clever, witty, insightful, and, in the very best sense of the word, humanist. They explore the human condition: our morals, our emotions, our loves and hatreds, and, in a good number of these wonderful stories, our heroism.

Lest anyone ever have any concern for the future of imaginative fiction, ye need worry no more. The future of our beloved genre, stories of the fantastic, is assured, by writers such as these who have come to compete, but who have, far beyond merely winning prizes, staked out their place in the future of science fiction and fantasy.

Neffies

Steve Marsh suggests giving a Neffy for all RPG-related material. And a role playing game award too?

Kaymar Award

This is your first call for nominations for the N3F Kaymar award. The Kaymar Award is given in April every year, sup-

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WANTED-WordPress & Web Help

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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posedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The award, unlike other awards in fandom, can be awarded only once. It is not given for talent or for popularity, but for work — work for the benefit of the club and its members. The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson [1904-1986], who originated, maintained, and financed it for 25 years. Carlson was a long-time N3F member who held many positions in the club, including club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar. Send your nominations to Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Ideas

Last issue I asked for ideas for things we are not yet doing, but could be doing. I received a bunch of fine suggestions, which I list below. If any of you would like to take one of these on, please speak up:

Stephen R. Marsh: I like the idea of an online convention (especially after conventions that have been online due to the pandemic return to in person cons) and a Discord server.

Tamara Wilhite: Meetups in all forms

Sam Lubell — An online discussion bulletin board with topics similar to what USENET and GENIE used to be. This might seem like a giant step backward but the topic-based systems allowed for idea-based discussions in a way that Facebook does not.

Live Meetup dinners at Worldcons/NASFics once live conventions get going again. A book discussion group using Zoom or similar system (or on the Discord server).

Organizing an online book review database (on the website) using the reviews from people's zines and N3F that would put all the reviews of the same book by different people on one page (if people give permission to use their reviews) or links to the zine that has the review.

Organizing an online list of recommended books by topic: best science fiction mysteries, best fantasies about dragons, best science fiction with robots etc.

John Thiel notes that most of our zines are electronic only, but we have members who do not use email. He proposes printing for them paper copies of some or all of our zines other than TNFF. We would need a volunteer to do this, and they would need to discuss with recipients what the price would be.

John Thiel proposes that authors whose books are reviewed in one of our zines should be sent a copy of the zine in question. We need a volunteer to do this.

George Phillis: News Zine — we do not currently publish a news zine. It's certainly a traditional fannish activity. Peculi-

arly, when this was brought up on the N3F web pages, we had two pre-opposing letters.

STFnal News

Neffers Win Helicon Awards

Best Fantasy — The Unbearable Heaviness of Remembering — L. Jagi Lamplighter <— N3F Member

Best Horror — Coven — Declan Finn <— N3F Member

Best Sci-Fi — To Sleep In A Sea of Stars — Christopher Paolini

Best Military SF/F — Space Force: Building The Legacy Edited by Doug Irvin

Best Alt History — The Oppenheimer Alternative — Robert J. Sawyer

Best Media Tie-In — Star Wars: Thrawn Ascendancy — Timothy Zahn

Best YA — Marymae and the Nightmare Man by A.M. Freeman

Best Anthology (Book or story) — The Three Billion Year Love (Planetary Anthology Series: Mars) by James Pyles

Best SF/F Movie — Outpost (DUST)

Best SF/F TV Series — The Mandalorian (Disney +)

Best SF/F Comic Book or Graphic Novel — BIGFOOT BILL 2: Finger of Poseidon by Doug TenNapel

Best SF/F Game — Cyberpunk 2077 (CD Projekt)

Melvil Dewey Innovation Award — Russell Newquist

Laura Ingalls Wilder Best New Author Award — Lora Beth Johnson

John W. Campbell Diversity in SF/F Award — J.K. Rowling

Frank Herbert Lifetime Achievement Award — David Weber

SciFi4Me Has Plans, and You Can Help! Jason P. Hunt

We made it! Bruised and battered as we all must feel, we can at least say we crossed the finish line on 2020. And now we look ahead to a new year, new goals, new challenges...

Almost everyone does it. We all make resolutions, promises to ourselves, things we want to accomplish. Hopefully, you were able to keep at least some of your resolutions! We managed pretty well here — a second full year of Good Morning Multiverse, re-launching Live From the Bunker, a major milestone

for The H2O Podcast — but as people do with resolutions, we didn't quite make it all the way with a few things.

This newsletter, for example. I got as far as October with semi-regular messages, and then things got very chaotically busy here with staffing changes, production commitments, continuing to adapt as the year stumbled along to the end, etc. It's also still a challenge to figure out just how best to utilize this communication channel to reach its fullest potential. So in the coming weeks, we're going to put together a survey to send to you for your feedback on what you'd like to see in these missives. It will be short and relatively painless, I promise.

A better newsletter is just one of the many goals we have for 2021. We have a couple of shows we'd like to put back in the lineup, and you may see some familiar faces return to SciFi4Me TV this year. And while the first Indiegogo campaign fizzled, we have something we're going to try in March, and we're definitely going to need all the help we can get on that one! More soon...

Speaking of SciFi4Me TV — and you're among the first to know this — I have a goal of seeing our channel reach 10,000 subscribers by the end of the year! Ambitious? Sure, but the New Year is all about optimism, isn't it? You can help along those lines by sharing links to the articles, reviews, and programs you enjoy. We'd greatly appreciate the signal boost.

So...onward to 2021! To mash up a couple of captains we all know and love:

"Let's see what's out there."
"...Thataway."

Understanding Your Options for the Upcoming Dragon Awards Tamara Wilhite and Declan Finn

What Are the Dragon Awards? The Dragon Awards are a set of literary awards voted on by fandom. They're presented at Dragon Con, a convention typically held in Atlanta, Georgia over Labor Day weekend. The Dragon Awards were first awarded in 2016. It has become one of the largest multi-media and pop culture conventions in the United States.

What Categories Do the Dragon Awards Recognize? The Dragon Awards cover science fiction, fantasy, horror and alternate history. They also have awards for comic books, graphic novels, board games, collectibles and digital games.

What 2020 works are worth considering for the 2021 Dragon Awards? Declan Finn and I share our recommendations.

Best Science Fiction Novel

Declan Finn recommends Karl Gallagher's book "Storm Between Stars". While I've interviewed Mr. Gallagher for

my Liberty Island Magazine column, I haven't read it but I recommend other works by Karl.

Best Fantasy Novel (Including Paranormal)

Declan Finn recommends almost anything by Chris Nuttall. I do, as well, though Karina Fabian's latest "Dragon Eye, PI" book "Murder Most Picante" should in my opinion be a contender.

Best Young Adult / Middle Grade Novel

Declan Finn said, "I couldn't even begin to name someone. Largely because the last YA I read was L. Jagi Lamplighter Wright." Personally, I'd recommend the "Schooled in Magic" series by Chris Nuttall. I've read and recommend the "The Zero Enigma" series, the last of which came out in 2020.

Best Military Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel

To quote Declan Finn, "At the moment, my best guess is Kai Wai 'Benjamin' Cheah's novel, "Unmasked" (to win). Half of which was a military engagement of one sort or another. And he gives Larry a run for his money in the gun porn." declanfinn.com/2019/04/review-hollow-city-by-kai-wai-cheah.html I've interviewed Mr. Cheah and recommend his "Singularity Sunrise" novels. The first three books were released in 2020. Richard Paolinelli has a MiSF novel coming up in the next few months. That work has a fair chance of winning, since his novel "Escaping Infinity" won in 2017.

Best Alternate History Novel

Declan Finn's choice is "Educated Luck" by Mel Todd. He said, "(It is) heavily magic, heavy on alternate history and the development of the world. It would probably be best in fantasy, but I like it here." If Denton Salle had another alt-history steampunk novel out in 2020, I'd put it here.

Best Media Tie-In Novel

Per Declan Finn, "I'm going to just assume that Timothy Zahn is going to get it. After all, he wrote a Thrawn novel in the past year."

Best Horror Novel

Per Declan Finn: "I got nothing. I don't read horror. Okay, I write horror. You guys want to look up Hussar, by me, knock yourself out. (It's UF, but I've been in horror so much I've stopped fighting.) The only other title I know offhand is "The Mummy of Monte Cristo" by J Trevor Robinson." "Hammer and Sleigh: The Rise of the Crimson North" by D.G. Martin is entertaining, but not worth a Dragon Award.

Best Comic Book

The second book in Mike Baron's "Florida Man" series is worth considering.

Best Graphic Novel

Jon Del Arroz is a prolific science fiction author. I've read several of his novels. He's the creator of the "Flying Sparks" comic. I would nominate his graphic novel "The Ember War" for this category. It was published in April, 2020.

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series

Declan Finn said, "I'm not even on it, but I'm sure that The Mandalorian, is probably going to win. Just because." I would say that is a contender, but "The Expanse" should also be considered. The fifth season was amazing.

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Movie

I'd nominate the Australian post-apocalyptic time travel movie "2067". If the Dragon Awards had a category for best horror movie, I'd recommend "Vivarium". However, it may not quite qualify as science fiction.

Letters of Comment

Hi,

The Canadian conrunners have moved to Discord. A lot of what is suggested by Sam would work on a Discord. The discussions are topic based, so you could have a group discussing best SF, another planning a virtual con, etc.

Cathy Palmer-Lister

I remember Usenet, especially rec.arts.sf.written (I especially recall Patricia Wrede's patience with that Attack of the Rockoids guy). It would be fun to have that discussion resource, but for N3F members.

Jean Lamb

Hi George;

Hope you are having a good holiday season. In response to your email about additional N3F projects we might do, I have been thinking that a science fiction calendar might be something worth doing. A standard pin-up style calendar with a full color picture on one page, and the page below with each month -days.

The calendar days themselves could be noted with serious and humorous notations, such as Martian Invades Earth, the day the H. G. Wells War of the World novel appeared, and somewhere farther along, Earth Expedition forces under command of Thomas Edison defeat Martian empire, the day Service's "Edison's Conquest of Mars" was first published. Real dates, such as birthdays of significant SF/fantasy authors could be mentioned, along with any number of the strange and yet real "Special" days the Congress has designated, things like "National Peanut Butter Day", "National Ice Skating Day", "National Hot Fudge Sundae Day" and the like (all those really exist, by the way, along with hundreds of others).

Other noteworthy days might be noted, such as the Orson Welles War of the Worlds radio broadcast, the first official SF convention held, the first Hugo Awards given out, the date significant media SF events occurred such as the first Flash Gordon comic strip, first Star Trek show, 1st Buck Rogers novel, date of the landing on the moon, date first flying saucer was reported, and so on.

For the art we would need to get material volunteered by active SF fans and artists, and I suggest limiting that to one pic per

person to avoid any problems. If an insufficient number of fan artists respond, the Deviant Art site has thousands upon thousands of excellent pieces of color art offered, mostly by talented amateurs, and I believe we could find ten or even twelve of those who would allow the club to run their pics on the calendar as a goodwill and publicity gesture, especially if each calendar has some info on the artist and an inter-net web link to their site or their artwork slot on the deviant art site.

In past days the cost of printing up this kind of calendar would have killed the project immediately. In this new century laser printers are all over the place and can produce excellent images at a very low cost. It would require somebody with a wide bed printer, but there are fans who already have that and who might be interested in doing the printing for us at cost or a small profit. Professional printers might also be interested.

How many should be printed? I suggest printing up sufficient copies to send one to each dues paying member of the club, which would limit the number right there. Print up maybe another twenty five if the price is right, because I don't think too many other people will actually pay money for the calendar (altho, who knows. Advance solicitation/advertising could produce strong sales for all I know.)

PDF files of the calendar could be provided free to any N3F member who requests it. I do not think it should be sent out automatically; get the members to actually request it. In addition, one pic and one month of dates could be displayed each month on the club website and perhaps in TNFF.

Obviously this would be a project for next year, and would require some time and effort on the part of a group/committee of interested club members to get the pieces to fall into place in time for the calendar to be offered for next year.

Please do not suggest that I spear-head this project. I am still running my wheels off trying to keep up with the year long surge of orders for my mail-order book biz. I would be delighted to contribute some dates, ideas, suggestions, but I don't have the time to get really involved in the project. As it stands I haven't even been able to make enuf time to get the new issue of my fanzine Fadeaway out, despite having most of the issue all set up and ready to go.

But, an N3F sponsored SF calendar seems like a doable idea to me. Worth considering anyway. I just did some fast checking on printing prices, and it has become bluntly obvious that printing calendars is very expensive. If we were sending out several thousands of the things it might be feasible, but a printed full color N3F calendar is clearly too expensive for the club. I would also hesitate to revert back to a b&w effort, or send out a cheaper edition. I recall some mimeoed SF calendars from the club and other people in the 1960s and 70s and none of them looked good.

Instead it might be better to make any kind of N3F SF calendar a PDF project that members could receive, and either print out at their pleasure, or view on their computers. I still think having a page of the calendar with the dates and info, real and

humorous, could be displayed in TNFF and on the club website with no special effort.

The big expense of printing actual calendars probably means my other suggestion for an N3F project, an Ether-Vacuum airship to map the canals of Mars would probably also be too expensive. The futures market in anti-gravity Cavorite has gone thru the roof this year (no pun intended). I'll keep cogitating on other ideas the club might be interested in anyway.

I had some more thots on the possible N3F SF calendar (yes, yes, I know, thinking is a dangerous waste of time, time that could be more profitably spent binge-watching those unwatched episodes of Russian Dolls or organizing my VHS film collection, but, these ideas just seem to stumble along into the conscious mind anyway, so...)

I suggest making this a club-wide effort, not just assigning the task to one person or a committee. Throw open the floor for suggestions from the entire membership as to important dates, both serious and humorous, that ought to be included in the calendar. I envision every single day of every single month resplendent with genuine and trivial information of no interest to anybody except fellow stf addicts. Ask the membership for artwork too. The more people who get involved the more interesting the final result will be.

Someone has to be in charge of the final design, and that person, or some other individual (again, not me, no time) needs to maintain a file with 365 pages on his computer where every new suggestion for a significant date can be entered. Near the end of the coming year then the Supreme Editor or committee will look at everything and make final decisions.

It still might be possible to do printouts of the calendar to distribute to members, but my first exploration of printers who specialize in turning out calendars was frightening. They made it easy to assemble a calendar, but their printing costs were very steep (at least in my opinion). Laser printers from members or fellow fans might be an option, but I am not holding out too much hope that the club can afford to do a genuine print calendar.

I will try to banish addition thots by binge listening to a bunch of Jack Benny radio episodes from 1946. 1946 was a good year for that program, and Dennis Day returned from the Navy to resume his regular role on the show mid-year too.

Anyway, them's my latest barrage of suggestions.
... Bob Jennings

Editor:

I have an ancient NFFF calendar with art by Finley and Cartier. I think. I cannot get to it right now. Of course the art today would probably be prohibitive. Perhaps feature old covers.

... Eric Jamborsky

When the plague has run its course and conventions are back have small scale room parties. These were always good for promoting cons and other events. Usually providing non-



Unicorn Outlined — Angela K Scott

alcoholic drinks and simple snacks. Have freebie N3F zines available.

Eric Jamborsky

I like the online convention one, like Concellation 2020. Also, it would be neat to have a section devoted to those members who publish traditionally (like Lichtenburg and Swycaffer) and those who publish independently.

... Jean Lamb

George,

Hope your Christmas was a good one, as well! We've been discussing the idea of an online convention, and we're kicking around a few of our own with regard to a collaborative effort. Hoping to pin down a few details on what we have in mind and will be sending something your way early next week.

...Jason P Hunt

Editor:

It's funny that Bob Jennings mentions the Deviant Art website because I'm actually an artist there. Maybe you can see what I already have and see if any of the pics match your needs. At any rate, I will carefully read your outline and get back to you on it. Right now, I'm illustrating a children's book, so I would have to see if I would be able to squeeze you an image or two down the line. Thanks again for keeping me in mind and for plugging me in the other day on your newest Nat'l. Fantasy Fan. Hopefully by now, more people will have visited the Thirdphaseofmoon.com website and saw the TR-3B Special Report (among other things). They're really super nice chaps and deserve all the traffic they can handle.

Stay safe,
Jose Sanchez

Dear George,

Congratulations on your re-election; the Directorate looks solid as well. The vote count, I note, was an increase of forty per cent over last year's (ah, statistics!).

Regarding Neffy categories, I would like to suggest an additional one: Best Related Fan Print Publication. There could, of course, be a similar category for e-publications, but I have an ulterior motive here. It seems to me an injustice that, so far as I can tell, the *First Fandom Annual* has never been recognized in these awards. Since the most recent one is devoted to a Founding Member of N3F, it would be especially appropriate to at least give the publication a chance to be honored. Since e-fan-publications are much more widely seen than print ones, and since the *First Fandom Annual* is published in an extremely limited edition, I've suggested the category as one way of increasing its chances of actually winning the award. Certainly it is an excellent issue, well deserving of commendation.

As far as existing categories go, I would suggest dropping the TV and Film categories. All of the other awards are centered on individuals who not only can, but may well, be pleased to have won and may even respond. No one in the film industry gives a hoot about the N3F Laureate Award, so the decision of the voters just drops into the ether and disappears.

Bob Jennings objected to my plea on behalf of Uncle Hugo's with a version of the slippery slope argument. "Making a contribution in this case," he wrote, "will invariably open the flood gates to other appeals from other business, who feel they can tap the club treasury for whatever difficulties they may currently find themselves in." I'm not convinced by this; there are very few businesses which are closely focussed on the sf/fnal community, and an even smaller number of these will be wholly destroyed by outside action. Nor can I see where the obligation which concerns Bob comes from; the Directorate always has the option of saying no (or, if you prefer, NO).

Bob also mentions, though not by name, *Geep!: The Book of the National Fantasy Fan Federation*, which Rose Secrest edited in 1987. I agree with Bob that this is the sort of project which might help expand membership. Rose created the entire thing, except for the funding; she chose the works published, but each had to be by an N3F member. Given the number of would-be published authors out there, I'd bet that at least a few new dues-paying members would appear almost as soon as the opportunity was announced; nor would the production of such a thing be excessively expensive. "Perhaps one day," Rose said in her Introduction, "there will be a *Geep!* 2 in your midst." Maybe that time has now come.

Speaking of production—I would strongly suggest that, if *TNFF* is going to be stapled at the top, that the verso pages be printed upside down relative to the obverse; otherwise it ends up being something of a hassle to read the thing without confusion or, worse yet, changing its original published state.

Justin E. A. Busch

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Dear Neffers:

I am cleaning up a lot of zines I have in my IN box, so here's some fast comments on *The National Fantasy Fan*, Vol. 79, No. 12. Next year starts Volume 80!

The Neffies...perhaps as an additional category, Best Website of some kind? There are a lot of them to deal with, and depending on response to that category, it may be divided up to give out more awards. There are many different kinds of websites, and there may be some decision on awards in each of those categories. The FAAn Awards...I support them; I've won a few of them. I will be looking forward to seeing how they are run this year, and such information should be found in this zine in the future.

Bob Jennings is right. Most fans today don't participate in club activities, but it always has been so. The 10% who participate have a fine time, and the club continues on with the dues from all, but especially the 90% who do not participate. I remember they were called *The Happy Deadwood* many decades ago. But all are important in keeping the club operating. The more activities you can produce for the club would be a great help, but sometimes, not even members know what they want from their club. I have been in the local for close to 40 years now, and it is a niche I was encouraged to try to get into many years ago, and absolutely no regrets.

My letter...here, the lockdown continues, and probably will until late January. I remember the Mark Trail cartoon strips in the Saturday Toronto Star comics section, but I haven't seen it in some time.

I hope everyone had a wonderful December holiday (there are so many of them), and with a little luck, 2021 will be a far better year than 2020 was. That won't be tough... Take care, everyone, and see you in Volume 80.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

SerCon

The Green Lama
by
Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

The Green Lama was a character in pulp magazines, in comic books, and on a radio program, all in the 1940s. In many respects a typical costumed crime-fighter of the period, the Lama's unique feature was that he was a practicing Buddhist. Somewhat different versions of the same character appeared in the different media, as detailed below.

The Lama character first appeared in a short novel entitled *The Green Lama* in the April, 1940, issue of the pulp magazine *Double Detective*. The novel was written by Kendell Foster Crossen under his pseudonym of Richard Foster. Writing in 1976, Crossen recalled that the character was created because the publishers of *Double Detective*, the Munsey Company, wanted a competitor to Street & Smith's crime-fighting character, *The Shadow*.

The Green Lama was originally conceived of as "The Gray Lama" thinking that he could hide in the shadows and sneak around like *The Shadow*. Tests of the cover art for the magazine proved to be less than satisfactory, however, so the color was changed to green. (There were many comic book and pulp characters with "green" in their names in the 1940s: *Green Lantern*, *Green Hornet*, *Green Arrow*, *Green Falcon*, *Green Knight*, *Green Giant*, *Green Turtle*, *Green Mask*, *Green Ghost*, *Green Man*, etc.).

The first Green Lama story, titled "The Case of the Crimson Hand," was published in the April, 1940, issue of *Double Detective*. That first installment raised the magazine's circulation several notches. The Lama dressed in a green cowl and robe, and carried a dark red kata (silk scarf) around his neck which he used as a weapon. He never carried a gun, believing that using a gun "would make me no better than those I fight." Dumont was endowed with other superhuman powers acquired through his scientific knowledge of radioactive salts which he ingested. In addition, he had a mysterious female companion, Magga, who was an expert hypnotist and who was also knowledgeable in Tibetan Buddhism.

The Lama proved to be successful – though not as successful as *The Shadow* -- and Crossen continued to produce Green Lama stories for *Double Detective* regularly up until March, 1943, for a total of fourteen stories.

Although appearing in a so-called detective fiction magazine, the Lama tales can be considered science fiction or fantasy because the Lama and other characters in the stories had superhuman powers and weapons of super science.

In the pulp stories, the Lama was an alias of Jethro Dumont, a rich resident of New York City, born July 25, 1903, to millionaire John Pierre Dumont and socialite Janet Lansing. He received an A.B. from Harvard University, an M.A. from Oxford, and a Ph. D. from the Sorbonne; he also attended Drepung College in Tibet. He inherited his father's fortune, estimated at ten million dollars, when his father and mother were both killed in an accident while he was still at Harvard; he then spent ten years in Tibet, studying to be a lama (a Buddhist Spiritual Teacher) and learning many mystical secrets in the process. He returned to America intending to spread the basic doctrines of Tibetan Buddhism (remove ignorance and relieve suffering), but realized that he could accomplish more by fighting crime.

Dumont had three alter egos: the crime-fighting Green Lama, the Buddhist priest Doctor Pali, and the adventurer Hugh Gilmore.

The first six Green Lama stories have been reprinted in the contemporary magazine *High Adventure*, and all the Lama pulp stories are now available in three volumes of *The Green Lama: The Complete Pulp Adventures*.

Golden Age Comics

The Green Lama's first regular comic book appearance was in issue #7 of *Prize Comics* (December, 1940), where he continued to appear for twenty-seven issues (through 1943). All his stories were written by Ken Crossen, with art by Jack Binder, Dick Briefer, and others. He appeared on the covers of *Prize Comics* #6 and #20, and in #24 he teamed up with crime fighters *The Black Owl*, *Dr. Frost*, and *Yank & Doodle* to take down the *Frankenstein Monster*.

This version of the character bears considerable similarities to his pulp counterpart, most notably his costume design. However, in this version he was more of a sorcerer with the ability to travel through time, resurrect the dead, and possess other mystic powers in order to battle Lucifer's minions. There were also minor changes to his supporting cast such as Jean Parker and the inclusion of a character known as Tashi Shog (a Tibetan liturgic wish meaning "May prosperity be").

The Lama character then moved to his own comic book title from Spark Publications, *The Green Lama*, which lasted for eight issues published from December, 1944, to March, 1946. This iteration of the Lama, the "man of strength," was somewhat different from his previous incarnations (for example, having the power of flight and wearing a skin-tight costume), although the scripts were still written by Crossen, the character's creator. Mac Raboy did the art on the *Man Of Strength*, and was listed as Art Director for the book.



The Lama was also in *Comic Books*, Series 1 (1950), a reprint of a Ken Crossen/Mac Raboy story; and a 1964 *Daring Adventures Super Reprint* #17 that reprinted *The Green Lama* #3 from 1945. The Lama comic book stories from his eight-issue 1944-1946 series are currently available in two hardcover archive volumes produced by Dark Horse Comics (2008) – which also produced an action figure of the character.

Green Lama Club

When he was a comic book superhero, there was a Green Lama Club which, of course, I joined. Members received a membership card, a letter with the Lama's secret code chart, and a fold-

ing “Escapo” trick whose solution shows VICTORY over the World War II Axis leaders (caricatures of Tojo, Hitler, and Mussolini). These club items sell for hundreds of dollars each today; and, of course, I no longer have mine.

Radio

More than three years after the demise of his comic book, the Green Lama was resurrected for a short-lived, 30-minute CBS radio series that ran for eleven episodes from June 5 to August 20, 1949, with the character's voice provided by the versatile radio actor Paul Frees. The Lama's servant Tulkus was played by Ben Wright. In the radio version of the character, he chose the color green for his garb because it was one of the sacred colors of Tibet and because it symbolized justice. This version of the Lama was also written by creator Kendell Foster Crossen, along with some co-writers.

Television

CBS Television considered producing a television version of the Green Lama for the 1950 season, but the proposal never got the green light (pun intended).

Aerial Performance

On January 6, 2012, for the first time ever, the Green Lama came to life in an epic aerial performance at the Rubin Museum of Art as part of their “Hero, Villain, Yeti” exhibit. This performance was written by Adam Lance Garcia, based on his short story “Case of the Final Column” and performed by the New York based Cirquetacular.

Web Comics and Other Fiction

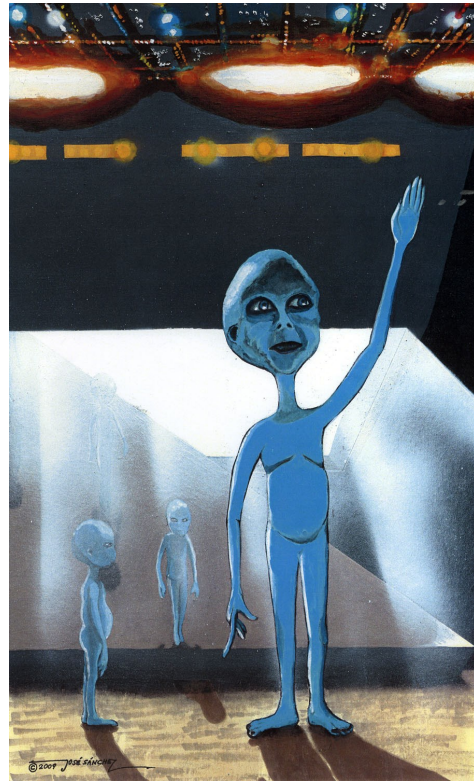
Green Lama is one of several Golden Age comic characters to make an appearance in Tales of the Living Legends, a web comic featuring Golden Age art and rewritten stories.

The Lama also plays a key role as a supporting character in the fiction blog, Flyover City.

Other Recent Publications

Currently available are several books about the Lama, both collecting his original pulp stories and presenting new adventures in comic book form. As mentioned above, Dark Horse has reprinted some of his comic book stories in two hardcover editions. In addition, AC Comics reprinted some of his early comic book stories, and new stories have been produced for current Green Lama comic books by both Dynamite Comics and Moonstone Entertainment. Dark Horse Comics has also produced and sold a limited edition Green Lama action figure.

There was a mystery published in the 1980s. The Green Lama Mystery by Josephine Kains (a pseudonym of Ron Goulart), but I don't know how the story related to the Lama character – if, indeed, it did.



We Come In Peace — Jose Sanchez

The Green Lama's first full-length novel in nearly 70 years, *Green Lama: Unbound*, was originally released July 28, 2010. Written by Adam L. Garcia, it displayed interior and cover art by Mike Fyles. The novel takes place roughly six months after Garcia's *Unbound* pitted the Green Lama against H. P. Lovecraft's Great Old Ones and Cthulhu, as well as featured, for the first time, details of Dumont's years in Tibet.

A Lama audio book, *The Green Lama & Croesus of Murder*, produced by noted pulp fan Will Murray, is also currently available.

Buddhist Element

The Green Lama stories display a sympathetic and relatively knowledgeable portrayal of Buddhism, both in the text of the stories and in numerous footnotes. From Crossen's own comments, in his Foreword to Robert Weinberg's 1976 reprint of the first Green Lama story, it's clear that this was not proselytism on his part, but simply because he wanted to create a Tibetan Buddhist character and then read everything he could find on the subject.

The most frequent reference to Buddhism in the stories is the use of the Sanskrit mantra “Om ma-ni pad-me um!” (roughly “Hail, the jewel in the lotus flower,” though the actual phrase defies exact translation), which would indeed be used by Tibetan monks.

However, the majority of other references to Buddhism in the stories, while accurate, relate to the Theravada form of Buddhism rather than the Tibetan form.

Some Conclusions

What is it about the Green Lama that has helped him to survive for so long without extensive exposure? I think it was the care and attention the original creators gave it, plus word of mouth of fans discovering the character in so many different media, that enabled its survival to the present. Plus, of course, the Lama had his own club that fans could join! To regular readers of comic books, only important characters had their own clubs.

I encourage Neffers to check out any one of the projects featuring The Green Lama. Be it the AC comic book series, the Dynamite Comics Entertainment Series, the Dark Horse reprints, or even just downloading an episode or two of the radio show -- I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Sources

Duin, Steve & Mike Richardson. Comics Between the Panels. Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Comics, 1998.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). The Encyclopedia of American Comics. NY: Facts On File, 1990.

Hake, Ted. Hake's Price Guide to Character Toys, 5th Edition. NY: Gemstone Publishing, 2004.

Overstreet, Robert M. The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide #27. NY: Gemstone Publishing, 1997.

Robinson, Frank M. & Lawrence Davidson. Pulp Culture. Portland, OR: Collectors Press, 1998.

Swartz, Jon D. & Robert C. Reinehr. Handbook of Old-Time Radio. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993.

Note: In addition to these sources, several Internet sites were consulted.

Bureaus

Book Review Bureau

We are pushing towards 20 books a month reviewed in The N3F Review of Books. There had been some concern that we could use a wider range of artistic inclinations, left or right, in the reviews, but as will be seen in the next issue this concern has been dissipated. Perhaps we have now gone overboard in the other direction.

Correspondence Bureau

Because there have been few responses I have decided to change the setup of the Correspondence Bureau.

If You wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed

with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.

3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corresponding. .

Jeffrey Redmond - by email

John Thiel - by email

Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

I am wondering whether to establish staff discussions of Ionisphere's contents in Ionisphere. I have not as yet sent the staff an inter-bureau communication about this, but will do so in the coming month.—John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

More historical and research possibilities are being discovered. I am thinking about listing such discoveries in an interdepartmental communication and perhaps making it open business in Origin. —John Thiel

Pro Bureau

We continue to look for writers who will talk about becoming a better writer.

Recruitment Bureau

We are maintaining our departmental intercommunications and advertising. —John Thiel

Welcommittee

We would like to offer greetings to the newest members of the N3F, William Cruz Carroll and Jim Reddy. We hope you both have a wonderful time and stay with us for many years.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the club or are interested in helping, please contact Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Writers Exchange Bureau

It's been a long time since we have received any stories from our N3F writers. Part of our service is to read short stories and critique them for any of our members who would like a second opinion. Actually, your work would be critiqued twice, once by me and once by Jefferson Swycaffer. Each of us sees the same story in a different light.

If interested, please contact me.

We have two related questions for January

Question #1: Do you have any writing regrets for this past year? Question #2: Do you have any writing goals for 2021?

Jefferson Swycaffer: The only regrets I have for 2020 is that I didn't write enough, and, of course, my goals for 2021 are to write more! Painfully obvious and prosaic, but mere truth and reality. Wordcount is our metric of success: may we all succeed!

George Phillis: Same as Jefferson. Didn't write enough, will write more!

Question for February, 2021 When did you first realize you like to write?

The first time I realized I like to write was in the 5th grade. My teacher, Mr. Sicular, gave the class a writing assignment. Two or three of the students would be picked to read their stories to the class. I wrote mine about a brother and sister being separated from their father, while in the jungle. While they were trying to find their father, they were attacked by a panther leaping from the tree they were passing under. Before the panther could make contact with the children a shot was fired, and the cat died before it could hit the ground. The children were saved by a passing hunter.

I don't remember anything else about the story, but I do remember my mother's reaction when she finished reading it. She had the story in her right hand, and as she slowly lowered it to her lap, she looked at me with an expression of surprise, "Judy, that's really good!" I was proud and excited and quite happy.

When it came time for the stories to be read, I was not one of those chosen. I only remember one of those stories. Bob's true story was about him playing a baseball game. I think he hit a homer un. I was not happy about this. I didn't figure writing a true story about oneself was being creative at all. Where was the imagination? His story was praised by the teacher, and with a big smile Bob went to his desk. I consoled myself with the explanation that Mr. Sicular chose Bob because he needed a boost to his self-esteem. The only good thing that came out of my not being chosen to read my story was - I hate getting up in front of people.

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact:

Judy Carroll. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail,
Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 8466

Treasury

Renewals

Wesley Kawato renewed (print) - new expiration 12/31/21
Tom Feller renewed (print) - New expiration 5/31/22
Matthew Weitendorf renewed (print) 3/31/22

New Members:

Jim Reddy (electronic) - expires 1/1/22
Steve Simmons
Wm Cruz Carroll Sr.
John T. Sapienza, Jr
Nancy Bohemian

Memberships that just expired:

Patricia Williams-King
Rikki Winters
Angela Myers
Gary Casey
Cedar Sanderson
Daniel Rego

Money

PayPal balance: \$824.07
NSB balance: \$1785.63

Membership Count

17 electronic, 30 regular, 2 life and 2 household members =
51 voting members
201 public members

Thanks to everyone who renewed/bought memberships through PayPal and clicked the Friends/Family box. This saves us about \$1 on an electronic membership and more on a regular membership, and it adds up.



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Letters of Comment
Cathy Palmer-Lister — Jean Lamb — Bob Jennings — Eric Jamborsky
Jean Lamb — Jose Sanchez — Justin E. A. Busch — Lloyd Penney

SerCon
The Green Lama

Bureaus
Book Review Bureau — Correspondence Bureau — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
History and Research Bureau — Recruitment Bureau — WelCommittee — Writers Exchange Bureau

Treasury

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