

FanActivity Gazette

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News of Fen of Interest to All Fen

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Appropriate Contributions welcome.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for two more issues of the FanActivity Gazette, Vol. 2, Nos. 9 and 10, the February and March issues. I am always so far behind these days!

V2#9... One area of catch-up is with our anime convention...we have sold out all of our vendors' hall tables. Also, the interview with me about Amazing Stories with MonSFFA in Montreal was great fun. Every so often, I find more and more local conventions to put on my convention list, so Mindy Hunt should keep her eyes open for more lists from me.

As what has happened to Amazing over the years, perhaps it is time to revive Weird Tales once and for all, and if nothing else, create a website to promote the magazine, and build the audience to make the magazine return, even as an e-file.

V2#10... Twenty thousand fanzines. Digitization means they are all available, and there's probably another 20,000 out there yet to be scanned. FANAC.org is providing such a historical reserve for those in the future who may be interested in what we've all done over the years. Mailchimp continues to change and change more, to the point where it is tougher to use than ever. I will keep Mailierlite in mind.

I have never seen the front of an issue of Modern Electrics, and now, I have. In many ways, it was the predecessor to Amazing Stories. An addition to my fannish and SFnal education.

My work on Amazing continues...I have been able to get many more advance readers on board to have a good look at submissions, and forward to me the best of what they see. I hope everyone has been checking out the fiction we've been publishing on the website, and I think you will agree, there are some very good young authors out there, and they deserve some attention.

I've got to make some dinner, so off I go. Thank you for these two issues, and I will try to do a little better the next time.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Fanzine Reviews

Reviews by George Phillis, who will not be writing fanzine reviews on a regular basis.

Christian New Age Quarterly (PO Box 276, Clifton, NJ 07015) info@christiannewage.com is the quarterly magazine of Catherine Groves, intended primarily to foster can communications, she says between Christians and New Agers. While most of the discussion is religious, there are occasional mentions of, for example, CS Lewis and his interplanetary trilogy, so there is slight touch with science fiction here. There is also considerable discussion as to the extent to which an Orthodox Christian can interact with New Age folks without dabbling in diabolism.

Portable Storage Nine: we have here the final issue of Portable Storage. The zine is 192 pages, bound, plus a glossy cover wraparound with an extended series of serious articles on all sorts of science fictional matters. For example, Darrell Schweitzer gives us an extended article on women in science fiction emphasizing that female writers have been active in science fiction in considerable numbers since the earliest days of the field. For example, the second issue of Astounding magazine, a refuge of engineering fiction, had a female author, Sophie Wenzel Ellis. There were also women serving as editors, assistant editors, and editor-in-Chief of various Pro zines. Neffer Bob Jennings speaks highly of 2022 science fiction and reviews a series of novels, ending with the comment “the ratio of really good stuff to mediocre or bad stuff has been astonishing...” He also gives us a series of reviews of non-spandex-clad to superhero comic books. We are now only 1/3 of the way through the zine, including for example articles on modern westerns, reviews on artificial intelligence artwork (undoubtedly better than anything I can draw), and have yet to reach, for example, an extended description of making an animated science fiction film. The editor is William M. Breiding, who can apparently be reached at portablezine@gmail.com.

Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter from Jean-Paul L. Garnier, 61871 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua tree CA 92252. He has a URL at spacecowboybooks.com. Issues are available on the Internet. What do we find representative issues are two sides of a single piece of paper, with interviews, homes, book reviews small press notes, and more. Here, for example is a directory of science-fiction podcasts. The interview questions are well-thought-out, and given to authors who have intelligent things to say and the ability to say them. For example, issue eleven, March 2021, has an interview with Marie Vibbert, discussing her first novel *Galactic Hell Cats* about a space girl biker gang. Alas, with issue 36, presumably to appear in April 2023, the magazine is coming to an end. However it can all be downloaded and is worth doing so if you have any interest in author interviews, science fiction novels, and the like.

Conventions for May

Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world.

This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations. These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

May 5-7

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Southeast Hallows Haunt Convention – Savannah, GA **May 5-6**

Alchemie de Jeux – Toulouse, France **May 5-7**

Anime Fest – Brno, Czecha **May 5-7**

AtomaCon – North Charleston, SC **May 5-7**

Comic Con Costa Rica – San Jose, Costa Rica **May 5-7**

Contropolis PA – Beckley, Oaks, PA **May 5-7**

D&I Con – Philadelphia, PA **May 5-7**

Indiana Comic Con – Indianapolis, IN **May 5-7**

Shock Stock – London, Ontario, Canada **May 5-7**

The Hero Con – Fort Myers, FL **May 5-7**

The Ultimates: Apokolips – Birmingham, United Kingdom **May 5-7**

Artic Comic Con – Anchorage, AK **May 6-7**

Brick Fest Live Queens – Queens, NY **May 6-7**

Collect-A-Con Dallas – Dallas, TX **May 6-7**

Fort Fan Fest – Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada **May 6-7**

AugustaCon – Augusta, GA **May 6**

Concord Micro-Con – Concord, NC **May 6**

Kogaracon – Beckley, WV **May 6**

Midwest Comic Book Con Peru – Peru, IL **May 6**

White Plains ComicFest – White Plains, NY **May 6**

Annandale Comic Con – Annandale, VA **May 7**

Capital Trade Shows – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada **May 7**

Lodi Comic Con Spring – Lodi, CA **May 7**

London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom **May 7**

Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ **May 7**

May 10-14

VIRTUAL

Glasgow International Fantasy Con – Glasgow, United Kingdom **May 10-12**

ON-SITE

Furry Weekend – Atlanta, GA **May 11-14**

Furry Down Under – Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia **May 12-14**

Hazard Con – Erie, PA **May 12-14**

Kameha Con – Dallas, TX **May 12-14**

Lake Como Comic Art Festival – Cernobbio, Italy **May 12-14**

Metrothram – East Ridge, TN **May 12-14**

SageFen Maker Fest – Pasco, WA **May 12-24**
Starcon – Bellaria, Italy **May 12-14**
Bricks Cascade – Portland, OR **May 13-14**
Renton City Retro – Renton, WA **May 13-14**
Sunshine City Scare – St Petersburg, FL **May 13-14**
Brick Fest Live Novi – Novi, MI **May 13-14**
BrickUniverse – Augusta County, VA **May 13-14**
Swansea Comic and Gaming Convention – Swansea, United Kingdom **May 13-14**
Wales Comic Con – Telford, United Kingdom **May 13-14**
Birmingham Brick Festival – Birmingham, United Kingdom **May 13**
Cobourg Comicon – Cobourg, Ontario, Canada **May 13**
Kids Con New England – Concord, NH **May 13**
LexPopCon – Lexington, KY **May 13**
Midwest Comic Book Con South Bend – South Bend, IN **May 13**
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – St Louis, MO **May 13**
Orangeville Comicon – Orangeville, Ontario, Canada **May 13**
Vancouver Comicon – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada **May 43**
Weston Brick Festival – Weston, United Kingdom **May 14**

May 18-22

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Acon – Mariehamn, Aland Islands **May 18-21**
Geekway to the West – St Louis, MO **May 18-21**
Fantasy Basel – Basil, Switzerland **May 18-20**
Furry Weekend Holland – Sleen, Netherlands **May 19-22**
Spooky Empire – Orlando, FL **May 19-21**
The Vampire Diaries/THThe Originals Official Reunion Convention – Nashville, TN **May 19-21**
Anime Central –Rosemont, IL **May 19-21**
BorderWars – Overland Park, KS **May 19-21**
CanGames – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada **May 19-21**
Crypticon Seattle – Seattle, WA **May 19-20**
Huzzah! – Portland, ME **May 19-21**
KeyCon – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada **May 19-21**
Motor City Comic Con – Novi, MI **May 19-21**
Otafest – Calgary, Alberta, Canada **May 19-21**
Quantum-Con – Plymouth MN **May 19-21**
Horror Con – Sheffield, United Kingdom **May 20-21**
Bak-Anime – Bakersfield, CA **May 20-21**
Comic Con Brussels – Brussels, Belgium **May 20-21**

Comic Con Revolution – Ontario, CA **May 21-22**
Cradle-Con – Garden City, NY **May 20-21**
Retromania Aurora – Aurora, CO **May 20-21**
Tidewater Comicon – Virginia Beach, VA **May 20-21**
Bowling Greencon – Bowling Green, KY **May 20**
Eckman’s Card, Comic & Toy Show – San Antonio, TX **May 20**
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Minneapolis, MN **May 20**
WNC Comic Con – Fletcher, NC **May 20**
Cheshunt Brick Festival – Cheshunt, United Kingdom **May 21**
Comicverse – New Berlin, WI **May 21**
Midwest Comic Book Con Springfield – Springfield, IL **May 21**

May 25-29

VIRTUAL

Paizo Con – ONLINE **May 26-28**

ON-SITE

MomoCon – Atlanta, GA **May 25-28**
Kubla-Con – Burlingame, CA **May 26-29**
Texas Frightmare Weekend – Dallas, TX **May 26-28**
Animazement – Raleigh, NC **May 26-28**
Anime North – Toronto, Ontario, Canada **May 26-28**
AniMinneapolis – Minneapolis, MN **May 26-28**
Comicipalooza – Houston, TX **May 26-28**
Enfilade! – Olympia, WA **May 26-28**
FedCon – Dusseldorf, Germany **May 26-28**
Furlandia – Portland, OR **May 26-28**
ICCC – Nashville, TN **May 26-28**
Marcon – Columbus, OH **May 26-28**
MCM London Comic Con – London, United Kingdom **May 26-28**
MisCon – Missoula, MT **May 26-29**
Mizucon – Miami, FL **May 26-28**
Satellite – Glasgow, United Kingdom **May 26-28**
Thy Geekdom Con – Oaks, PA **May 26-28**
WisCon – Madison, WI **May 26-29**
BrickUniverse – Madison, WI **May 20-22**
Surrey Steampunk Convivials – New Malden, United Kingdom **May 27-28**
Comic World Taiwan Flower Fair – Taipei City, Taiwan **May 27**
Newport Brick Festival – Newport, United Kingdom **May 27**
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Milwaukee, WI **May 27**
Carlisle Brick Festival – Carlisle, United Kingdom **May 20-22**
Collector Con Penrith – Penrith, New South Wales, Australia **May 28**

Mississauga Video Game Show – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada **May 28**

Star Wars Collectors Expo – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada **May 28**

May 2023 SF Calendar

Science Fiction Calendar — Bob Jennings

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mother Goose Day	2 Brothers and Sisters Day	3 Lumpy Rug Day	4 Star Wars Day	5 Cartoonist Day	6 Free Comic Book Day
7 National Tourism Day	8 No Socks Day	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day	10 Clean Up Your Room Day	11 Twilight Zone Day	12 Limerick Day	13 National Windmill Day
14 Dance Like A Chicken Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 National Sea Monkey Day	17 Pack Rat Day	18 No Dirty Dishes Day	19 National Bike To Work Day	20 Be A Millionaire Day (no practice required)
21 National Memo Day	22 World Goth Day	23 Lucky Penny Day	24 International Tiara Day	25 National Brown Bag It Day	26 Don't Fry Friday	27 Sun Screen Day
28 National Hamburger Day	29 Memorial Day	30 Mint Julep Day	31 World Otter Day			

DRACULA

By
Bram Stoker

Arguably the most significant and influential work of supernatural fiction written in the past two hundred years, *Dracula* first appeared in May, 1897 and was an immediate critical and popular success despite a rather plain cover and being issued without a dust wrapper. Even with its continued steady sale, and the expectation of his mother and family that the novel would make his fortune, Bram Stoker did not become fabulously rich from the novel. He continued to write adventure and sensational fiction until his death in 1912 at the age of 65.

The novel was serialized in the United States by several newspapers, with the Doubleday hardback edition appearing in 1899. Some slight changes were made in the American edition making sexual implications somewhat more explicit in the narratives.

Most of the literary critics considered the book terrifying and too horrific for sensitive readers. This was considered a serious fault of the novel. Reading the book today it is difficult to understand what the commotion was all about.

There had been vampire stories written in the English language before *Dracula*, some popular, but most ignored and forgotten. *Varney the Vampire*, a penny dreadful weekly serial novel appeared in 1845 and ran 876 parts, over 667,000 words long.

More significant was *Carmilla* by Sheridan La Fanu, which was serialized over the course of 1871 and early 1872 in "The Dark Blue Magazine", eventually published in book form in 1872. Stoker himself stated that he was impressed by *Carmilla* and took some ideas from its story background, but later abandoned most of them when he finally finished *Dracula*. Before *Dracula* vampires had been considered gruesome peasant folklore. After the publication of *Dracula* the Vampire became a central figure of supernatural literature.

Hundreds, perhaps even thousands of scholarly papers and books have tried to decipher the historical and sensual motivations behind the creation of this novel. Luckily Stoker's extensive notes used for his research and his trial writings survived, showing that while *Carmilla* was an obvious influence, there is no evidence that he relied on any historical personalities, real or otherwise, in his creation. He used the word "Dracula" because in the Romanian language "Dracula" means "Devil".

Much of the modern popular folklore about vampires was not part of the book. They were added by the motion picture industry, which adapted the story over thirty times to film, beginning in 1922. Bram Stoker's widow successfully sued the German producers of "Nosferatu", that 1922 adaptation, for copyright violation. Universal Studios paid \$40,000 for the rights to the novel and the stage play when they filmed their big budget adaptation starring Bela Lugosi. "Dracula" the movie was released in 1931 and became a huge box-office hit.

The idea that vampires only travel at night, that sunlight can kill them, that anybody they suck blood from automatically becomes a vampire themselves, and many other elements of modern vampire folklore were invented by the movies and were never part of the original novel.

Dracula, the undead monster executed in the last chapters of the story, continues to live forever in the pages of his novel. Since *Dracula* was published in 1897 the book has never been out of print. The novel is in the permanent collections of most public libraries, and the full text is available for free reading at Project Gutenberg and many other on-line sites, its extraordinary legacy and influence still echoing more than 125 years after it was first published. And that legacy will undoubtedly continue far into the future as well.