

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 77 Number 1

January 2018

Short Story Contest

...the winners, reported by Jefferson Swycaffer, Judge

The results are in for the 2017 National Fantasy Fan Federation Short Story Contest.

The First Prize goes to Quantum Quietus by Philip A. Kramer, a brilliant exploration of quantum weirdness as applied directly to the human experience. The story is clever and witty, yet perfectly grounded in the common-sense personality of the protagonist.

The Second Prize goes to Qualnoth's Favor by Gustavo Bondoni, a Swords and Sorcery yarn just the way we love 'em best, with magic and roguery and plenty of swashbuckling.

The Third Prize goes to Trash Smashers by Robert W. Jennings, an Urban Fantasy tale where a greedy guy with a brilliant idea takes things just one step too far.

The Honorable Mention is awarded to Immaterial Witness by Graham J. Darling, an eerie little tale which explores the notion of seances and spiritualism, if they had a solid scientific grounding.

The contest had nineteen entries this year, which is the most we've had for a long, long time! (In fact, there actually was a twentieth entry, but the author withdrew it from the contest...because the story had been sold professionally!) I want to thank every entrant.

With nineteen entries, we could actually divide the list and choose Finalists, and so I want to mention these: A Fistful of Brifgars by FR di Brozolo; Nautilus by Philip A. Kramer; Icarus Drowned, also by Philip A. Kramer; Marionettes by Michael Simon; and The Eternity Machine by Graham J. Darling.

In a contest like this, there are never "losers." Some entries win prizes, and others do not, and that's the way of the world. But the stories that were entered into the contest were all thoughtful, inventive, original, clever, and skillfully written. It is an honor to name them: Memory Wipe by John Thiel; Old Soldiers by Gustavo Bondoni; The Darkning Mystery by M. J. Weitendorf; The

Hills of the Silent Cries by viel nast nafpaktou; Off To See The Wizard by J. J. Collins; Aila by Fiona M. Jones; Cru-Free by Fiona M. Jones; The Time Traveller's Life by Fiona M. Jones; Immaterial Witness by Graham J. Darling; Earthly Remains by Graham J. Darling; and Kryptos by Bahiti Takera.

We received stories from five countries, and from a dozen U.S. states. We received hard, technical, "nuts and bolts" Science Fiction; we received Heroic Fantasy; we received Urban Fantasy and Magical Realism; we even received stories which are essentially mainstream, not so much SF or Fantasy at all, but which still had an element of the unusual or the eerie, and thus qualified for the contest.

The stories promise us all that the literary future is assured. New writers are coming into their mastery, producing works that point the way toward future success. Mark my word, no few of these writers will become professionally published in our lifetimes, and earn the reward for their hard work and the sheer brilliance of their creativity.

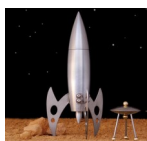
And, yes, the N3F Short Story Contest will return in 2018.

Neffies

For many years, the N3F has given awards for fantasy materials in all media. We now approach the 2018 Awards. Phase One is choosing Award categories. In years past, some categories have had more interest than others. Perhaps there are categories we are missing. Having said that, please send your ideas for categories to our President, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net. Best novel (over 100,000 words) has always done well. Best shorter work (under 100,000 words) has had more limited interest.

New Bureaus

I am pleased to announce the creation of two new Bureaus. Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com will head up the new Anime and Comics Bureau.



This issue is divided between News, Zines, Club Activities, Sercon, and Fiction



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Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Films.. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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George Phillies will head up the new Book Review Bureau, dedicated to generating review for every SF novel. More on these next month.

Zines

Eldritch Science

The next issue of Eldritch Science, our fiction and poetry zine, is approaching. Submissions should be sent electronically to Editor George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net .

Tightbeam

The new issue of Tightbeam, #282, is out and has been distributed electronically to all our members. If you have not received this issue yet, please contact President George Phillies and he will email you a copy immediately.

This issue features a generous mixture of new book and movie reviews, as well as a post holiday article by John Scalzi that seeks to clear up some of the misconceptions about Santa Claus and his flying reindeer. We also offer a time-lost classic reprint of science/fantasy originally presented in Black Cat Magazine in 1901.

The issue also presents a long review of “Doctor X”, the 1932 First Nation science fiction horror thriller and its strange back story written by Nora Fiora. The issue finishes with our regular department offering reviews of newly released fanzines, and a short letter column.

Tightbeam is your fanzine. Its pages are always open to members who want to contribute articles, reviews, and artwork. The letter column is there for members to express their opinions not only about current Tightbeam issues, but also to discuss and comment on any subject involving the club or any part of the fan or science fiction spectrum. It’s an open forum, and I urge members to make full use of it. You can contact me, Ye Editor, Bob Jennings, via email at fabficbks@aol.com.

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@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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Next year is the 60th Anniversary of N'APA. A celebration has been proposed. As I type, issue 232 of N'APA is being mailed. Every member is being sent a copy. All members are invited to contribute.

Ionisphere

Ionisphere continues its regular publication under the guidance of John Thiel.

TNFF

Now in its 77th year of publication.

Club Activities

Information Technology

As President, I have appointed David Speakman, Jon Swartz, and Jefferson Swycaffer to the committee, with David Speakman as Chair.

Writers Exchange Bureau

“A writer is a person who cares what words mean, what they say, how they say it. Writers know words are their way towards truth and freedom, and so they use them with care, with thought, with fear, with delight. By using words well they strengthen their souls. Story-tellers and poets spend their lives learning that skill and art of using words well. And their words make the souls of their readers stronger, brighter, deeper.”

— Ursula K. Le Guin

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.

The Year -2018.

The Place - Your Mind.

The Task - Writing.

The Reason - Because you want to.

The Real Reason - Because you need to.

“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.”

— Louis L'Amour

“The scariest moment is always just before you start.”

— Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

"This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard and you put one word after another until its done. It's that easy, and

that hard.”

— Neil Gaiman

The Writers Exchange is for anyone who has an interest in writing. If you are looking for someone to read your work, or if you would like to read the work of others contact Judy Carroll. Autumnseas@yahoo.com

Outreach

Kevin Trainor writes: I'm still waiting to hear back from Twin Cities Anime regarding my letter suggesting that N3F and ATC join hands and cooperate in matters of mutual interest, and will be posting reminders on various social media - specifically, Facebook, Gab, MeWe, and Twitter - that we're here and looking for members. Perhaps we might want to look into buying ads in the program books of the large regional anime & comic conventions? (Indeed, your President has authorized spending \$100 for a full page ad in the Anime Detour (Minneapolis con) convention book.)

John Thiel writes: *Surprising* is now online, with an N3F ad in the ad section. <http://surprisingstories.thiels.us> --JT

Jeffrey Redmond writes: I have 42,000 members in my Facebook sci fi group now. I should post the plug for N3F again.

Welcommittee

Welcome to the New Year. I hope 2018 will be all you hope and more.

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.

We have nine new members this month. Nine new members have been sent welcome greetings this month

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

Round Robin

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.

NOTE: 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 - 3 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.

NOTE: As of this writing the Bookworms ERR is looking for a new Bureau Head. If interested, please contact George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Head of the Bookworms reading club.

If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Birthday Card Bureau

6 birthday cards were sent out.
...R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Treasury

\$2772.67 (Nov. 15, 2017)

+ 36.00 PayPal Dues
+ 18.00 Cash Dues
+ 18.00 Check Dues
+ 0.00 Money Order Dues
- 2.23 PayPal Fees

- 0.00 Banking Fee

- 0.00 Postage

\$2,842.44 (Dec. 31, 2017)

New and Reinstated Members, Expirations, and Updates

New Members:

#227 Stephen Salgaller - Public
wa3zgt@gmail.com

#228 Lisa Nybaek - Public
lisana.g.nybaek@outlook.com
DOB: Sept 29

Job: art student and model

Interests: Art, Correspondence, Costuming, Fanzines, Online activities, Reading and book clubs, Role-playing games, Television, Writing

Fan since: Age 16

Fanac since: 4 years

Clubs: Starfleet

Cons: Comic-Con

Zines: fan and Tightbeam

Genres: I like romance fantasy sci fi

Faves: I like the star trek movies and shows

N3F Interests: Artwork , Recruiting at conventions , Organizing activities , Corresponding , role playing and costume modeling

Sponsor: George Phillies

#229 Owen Wylde - Public
ferret@iinet.net.au

#230 Tamara Wilding - Public
tammywilding2@gmail.com

#231 Patrick Ijima-Wasburn - Electronic
EXP: Jan. 31, 2019

patokon.com@gmail.com

IRL: Translator/Interpreter, Illustrator

DOB: July 21

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Art, Blogging, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Collecting, Comic books, Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, DVDs and videos, Editing , Fanzines, Online activities, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Round robins (group letters), Teaching science fiction, Television, Writing
Fan since: As long as I can remember

Fanac since: 1984

Clubs: FAPA, Turbo-charged Party Animal APA member

Cons: Last convention was Worldcon in Japan in 2007.

Zines: Chunga, FLAG, others

Genres: character driven, puzzle-driven

Faves: Cherryh, Asimov, Harrison, Niven, Vandermeer

Online interests: Blogging, reviews

N3F Interests: Artwork , Writing for club publications , Corresponding , Publishing

Sponsor: John Thiel

#232 Brett Bydairk - Public
time-ghost@hotmail.com

#233 Mark Harritt - Electronic

EXP: Jan. 31, 2019

mharritt@hotmail.com

IRL: Contractor and writer

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Books, Comic books, Computers and technology, Fanzines, Writing
Fan since: My entire life, it seems. Started with comic books when I was a kid, and reruns in the late sixties of Star Trek.
Fanac Since: I haven't been really, but I'd like to get involved.

Cons: None yet, hoping to change that.

Zines: Kind of hard for me to do so, I'm a contractor in the Middle East.

Genres: Military Scifi is what I generally write. I've written some urban fantasy, and I'm working on a Cyberpunk book right now. I'm an indie author.

Faves: Ben Bova, Arthur C. Clarke, C.J. Cherryh, Pohl Anderson, Tolkien, and new stuff like Stephenson, Delaney, Weber, Corey.

N3F Interests: Writing for club publications, Corresponding, Publishing

#234 Ron Clayton - Electronic

EXP: Jan. 31, 2019

wyrdwanderer@sbcglobal.net

IRL: Current: Property assessment. magician, former clergy, former homeless shelter staff, former Red Cross Health & Safety Manager

DOB: Oct. 29

Interests: Art, Books, Correspondence, Costuming, DVDs and videos, Reading and book clubs, Round robins (group letters), Writing

Fan since: High School

Fanac since: 2005

Clubs: No sci fi clubs; currently belong to a local magicians club

Cons: Star Wars Celebration 3 in 2005 in Indianapolis

Zines: None currently, but a follower of the Facebook pages of Jen Foehner Wells and G.S.Jensen, Science Fiction, Science Fantasy Writers, plus others.

Genres: magical fantasy, space opera, hard sci fi, but not exclusively

Faves: LeGuin, McKillip, Mercedes Lackey, J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, Orson Scott Card, Neil Gaiman, currently Jen Foehner Wells, G.S.Jensen, Nnedi Okorafor, others

N3F Interests: Writing for club publications, Corresponding

#235 Lawrence Oliver - Electronic

EXP: Jan. 31, 2019

lawrence.oliver@yahoo.com

IRL: Aspiring Sci Fi Novelist/ Wrecker Driver

DOB: Oct. 13

Interests: Art, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Collecting, Conventions and clubs, Editing, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Teaching science fiction, Writing

Fan: Since the cradle, it seems

Genres: Military/ Space Opera

Faves: Tolkien, C J Cherryh, Asimov, King, Clarke

Online Interests: publishing, beta reading

Member Info Update

#160 Brian Toberman

IRL: Controls Engineer

DOB: Jul 7

Interests: Reading and book clubs, Role-playing games

Fan since: 45 years

Fanac since: 45 years

RENEWED

#44 Wesley Kawato

#140 Roy J. Moore

#160 Brian Toberman

EXPIRED/EXPIRING

Renew Now!!

Expired in November

#154 Kathy Powe

#157 Cedar Sanderson

#158 Sanford Bagley

#199 Bill Powe

Expiring in December

#9 William Center

#10 Michele Nowak Center

#12 Ruth Davidson

#27 Chant Lafayette

#28 Rikki Winters

#152 Gary Casey

Expiring in January

#69 Lauren Clough

Gourmet Bureau

Eat This While You Read That

Tom Kratman's Corvina al Ajillo con Tostones

Today's reading and recipe come from Tom Kratman, best known for his military science fiction and alternative history books. I've been reading Kratman since his first book and his skills have grown exponentially since that endeavour. When I asked him for a dish, he told me that the one he was giving to me is mentioned in the first book of his Carrera series, A Desert Called Peace. Astute readers will see that although the story is nominally set on a colony planet, the timeline of events in the book is eerily similar to near-history here on Earth. I can say eerie, since this book was published in 2007, and yet... Well, I'll let you read it. Oh, and did I mention that this is a free book? It's one of the Baen Free Library offerings. Get's you started on a new series for very little commitment.

Kratman has been nominated for a Hugo award for his novel-la Big Boys Don't Cry, a BOLO story with a twist. I highly

recommend it, but I will warn you it made me tear up. Big boys dont cry.

There were several recipes for this dish, and I am hoping I've managed to come close to what it ought to be. Living in Ohio, fresh sea bass wasn't an option, or at least not readily available to me. I used tilapia filets and cooked them very gently. I based my recipe loosely on this one, and others.

I was delighted to discover that the Spanish word for a garlic clove is 'diente' literally tooth. I love teeth of garlic...

- 12-15 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 8 Oz (one stick) butter
- parsley or cilantro
- 1/4 c lemon juice or dry white wine
- optional: finely minced onion

In a small saucepan, melt the butter. Reserve 2 tbsp of the melted butter in a saute pan for the fish. Add the garlic cloves to the butter (and onion if you desire), reduce heat to low, and cover. I swirled them around every few minutes to keep them from burning. While the sauce is beginning, put on a heavy pot or fryer with 1-2 in vegetable oil (I prefer Canola for the high smoke point) at medium-high heat. Keep the temperature low. There will be a lot of browning, but you don't want burned.

Tostones

These are the potato chip of Central American food, it seems. Green plantains, sliced, and twice cooked to crispy doneness. The First Reader's comment when he tasted the first one with salt was 'needs ketchup' and indeed, they do taste like a french fry. 1-2 green plantains (one fed the two of us with sufficient chips for a meal) salt to taste

Slice the plantain into 1/4" thick discs. Fry these for a minute or two, until barely golden on the outside, and soft on the inside. Remove from oil and smash. I used the bottom of a coffee cup. Fry again, until golden-brown and crispy. Remove to a plate with paper towels to absorb excess oil and salt while still warm.

Poached Fish Filets

Check to see if your buttered garlic cloves are soft, and smash them with a potato masher or puree in food processor. Return to the saucepan with the cilantro or parsley (I combined them, and was using dried, the First Reader finds cilantro to taste like soap if there is a lot of it). Add the lemon juice or wine and allow to simmer. Heat the saute pan for the fish to medium, and gently poach the filets in the butter for about 3 minutes to a side (I had very thin filets).

Serve on a bed of greens with the sauce spooned over the fish and tostones. Very lemony, garlicky, and the fish didn't taste fishy. I also had a parmesan rice on the side.

Kate Paulk's Grilled Lamb with Medjara Rice

If there's one thing I am sure Kate Paulk is tired of hearing, it is: 'When is the next con book coming out?' So I won't say it. I'll just look hard in her direction and think it. For this series where I recommend a book to read with a meal, I've had a lot of fun and different foods, and books. This one, I'm warning you now, should not be read while indulging in a beverage. I'm not responsible for damage done to screens. Sharp wit, fine humor, and a snarky exposé of the underbelly of the publishing industry, you don't have to be either a congoer or a writer (or even, shudder, an editor) to enjoy the con series. So go ahead and pick up ConVent before we fire up the grill. Yes, I am going with an Australian cliché, and cooking this meal on the 'barbie.' When Kate and I talked about something Australian to make, because although she lives here in the US now, that is her background and very much a part of her, we decided it had to be lamb. Australian lamb, she told me. What is that? I asked. Just put lots of garlic on, she responded. For a woman who wrote Impaler, and Jim the vampire in the Con books, she sure likes garlic... I wonder...

Australian Grilled Lamb

Ingredients

- 4-6 lamb chops
- 6-7 cloves of garlic, chopped finely
- 1/2 c red wine (I used a merlot)
- salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

Put the lamb, garlic, and wine into a ziploc to marinade at least 30 minutes before cooking. Push all the air out of the ziploc and seal.

Start the fire in the chimney for the grill with 15-20 charcoal briquettes. When briquettes are fully engaged, pour them into the grill tray.

Place the lamb chops on the grill and cook with lid closed, 2-3 minutes on a side, until medium rare. Use a meat thermometer to be sure of doneness.

Allow lamb to rest, covered, for 3 minutes before serving. Salt and pepper to taste.

I served the lamb with medjara rice and caramelized onions, with a bit of chiffonaded herbs on top.

Medjara Rice

- 2 c basmati rice (or Jasmine)
- 3 c water
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp coriander seed, grind if you don't like the whole seed in your food (it's edible, but can be crunchy)
- 1 tsp turmeric or 2 tbsp saffron flowers (note: not saffron. They are a kind of marigold)
- 1 tsp whole allspice, grind before putting in rice.
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tbsp oil

Optional: a handful of raisins or chopped dates
Place all ingredients in rice cooker, stir, and set to cook as 'white rice,' you can start this when you put the lamb to marinade, it will keep warm until needed. You may want to check and stir again during and after cooking.

Various spices on the basmati rice, cooking them with the rice gives it so much flavor. The rice when cooked is just perfumed with spice and tastes wonderful

We finished off the meal with the cherry mead our friends had brought to share. Sweet, but not overly so, it was a perfect finish to this spicy wonderful meal.
Mead

Games Bureau

I am looking at distributing my old game zine **Game!** To members. There are complications.

SerCon

Neglected Genre Authors:

Don Wilcox

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

N3F Historian

Cleo Eldon Wilcox was born August 29, 1905, in Lucas, Kansas, and died on March 9, 2000, also in Lucas. In addition to Don Wilcox, his best known pen name, he used the pseudonyms of Buzz-Bolt Atomcracker (one story), Cleo Eldon, Max Overton, Miles Shelton, and Alexander Blade (a house name). His wife's maiden name was Helen Miles Shelton, so the source of two of his pseudonyms is obvious. He and Helen had a daughter, whom Wilcox described in an Amazing interview as "furnishing diversion" when he was trying to write.

Wilcox published most of his science fiction (SF) in Amazing Stories and Fantastic Adventures, when both were Ziff-Davis publications under the editorship of Ray Palmer. (Wilcox wrote once that he began writing science fiction after a chance meeting with the editor of Amazing Stories). At one time he was Palmer's most prolific and popular contributor, averaging over 40,000 words a month of published stories. Wilcox also had stories published in Mammoth Western and Mammoth Detective, two other Ziff-Davis magazines.

Wilcox graduated from The University of Kansas, and then earned an M.A. in sociology (not journalism or drama, as has been reported by others). He taught English, creative writing, history, and sociology in several junior and senior high schools, at the Chicago campus of Northwestern University, and at The University of Kansas -- and later he edited newspapers. In 1932 he and his wife began writing plays for high

school classes, and he began writing feature articles for the Kansas City Star. He was also a painter, but early in his career gave up painting in order to have more time to write. Late in his writing career, he wrote a series of young adult novels about an Indian boy attending Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Nations University) in Lawrence, Kansas (e. g., Joe Sunpool, Basketball Star, 1956).

Wilcox also wrote scripts for television programs, including Captain Video. In explaining his SF writing, he told genre historian Mike Ashley that he seldom read other SF authors, but got his ideas for stories from museums, planetariums, ancient histories, and sociology textbooks.

Genre Novel

The Whispering Gorilla (World Distributors, 1950) [as by David V. Reed/reprinted with Return of the Whispering Gorilla by Gryphon Books in 1999]

The story behind The Whispering Gorilla and its sequel, Return of the Whispering Gorilla, is an interesting one. Wilcox wrote the original story, and it was published in the May 1940 issue of Fantastic Adventures. It was a very popular story, and over the years readers kept requesting a sequel. Ray Palmer, editor of Fantastic Adventures, had another of his writers, David Vern (aka David V. Reed), write the sequel "with the kind permission of Don Wilcox." The story appeared in the February 1943 issue and was also popular with readers. Palmer wrote that "Reed" had worked with Wilcox on the original story and "rewrote the final draft," so he was a logical choice to write a sequel after consulting with Wilcox. Wilcox later disputed Palmer's account in several important ways: he hadn't worked with anyone on the original story, and there was no rewrite by someone else. In addition, he hadn't been consulted about writing a sequel, and any consultations that took place "must have been between Palmer and Reed"! When The Whispering Gorilla was published as a novel in 1950, it was credited solely to David V. Reed, Vern's pseudonym. Gary Lovisi's Gryphon Books corrected these errors in 1999 with the publication of both stories as The Whispering Gorilla -- and crediting both Wilcox and Reed.

Short Genre Fiction

"The Pit of Death" (1939)

"Dictator of Peace" (1939)

"The Gift of Magic" (1940) [as by Miles Shelton]

"The Robot Peril" (1940)

"Let War Gods Clash!" (1940)

"Mirrors of Madness" (1940)

"Mystery of the Mind Machine" (1940)

"Champlin Fights the Purple God" (1940)

"The Voyage That Lasted 600 Years" (1940) [aka "The Voyage That Lasted Six Hundred Years"]

"Three Eyes in the Dark" (1941)

"The Invisible Wheel of Death" (1941)

"Secret of the Stone Doll" (1941)

"Invisible Raiders of Venus" (1941)

"The Lost Race Comes Back" (1941)

"Taxi to Jupiter" (1941)

"Secret League of Six" (1941)
 "Queen of the Living Puppets" (1941)
 "The Stevedore of Jupiter" (1941)
 "The Man from the Future" (1941)
 "Mr. Eee Conducts a Tour" (1941)
 "The Deadly Yappers" (1942) [as by Max Overton]
 "Rainbow of Death" (1942)
 "The Perfect Trap" (1942) [as by Miles Shelton]
 "Dwellers of the Deep" (1942)
 "Bull Moose of Babylon" (1942)
 "Mademoiselle Butterfly" (1942)
 "The Man Who Turned to Smoke" (1942)
 "The Eagle Man" (1942)
 "Robotcycle for Two" (1942) [as by Max Overton]
 "An Angel with Four Faces" (1942)
 "The Leopard Girl" (1942)
 "The Hollow Planet" (1942)
 "Chariot of Death" (1943)
 "The Great Brain Panic" (1943)
 "World of the Paper Dolls" (1943)
 "Fair Exchange" (1944) [as by Miles Shelton]
 "Magnetic Miss Meteor" (1944)
 "Man from the Magic River" (1944)
 "Cats of Kadenza" (1944)
 "Invasion Dust" (1944)
 "Woman's Island" (1945) [as by Miles Shelton]
 "The Sapphire Enchantress" (1945) [as by Cleo Eldon]
 "The Devil's Pigs" (1945)
 "Taggart's Terrible Turban" (1945)
 "The Singing Skulls" (1945)
 "The Scarlet Swordsmen" (1945)
 "The Voice from Venus" (1945)
 "The Serpent Has Five Fangs" (1945)
 "The Land of Big Blue Apples" (1946)
 "March of the Mercury Men" (1946)
 "The Red Door" (1946)
 "Great Gods and Little Termites" (1946)
 "Confessions of a Mechanical Man" (1947) [as by Buzz-Bolt Atomcracker]
 "The Secret of Sutter's Lake" (1947)
 "The Kettle in the Pit" (1947)
 "The Ocean Den of Mercury" (1948) [as by Miles Shelton]
 "Secret of the Serpent" (1948)
 "The Rikits of Mars" (1948)
 "The Iron Men of Venus" (1952)
 "Queen of the Floating Island" (1952)
 "The Battle of the Howling Hatchet" (1952)
 "The Man Nobody Knew" (1952)
 "Fifty Thousand Nuggets" (1952)
 "Too Old to Die" (1952)
 "Mars Invites You" (1952)
 "The Slave Maker" (1952)
 "Orphan of Space" (1952)
 "Tombot!" (1954)
 "The Fires of Kessa" (1956)
 "Graygortch" (1957)
 "The Serpent River" (1957)
 "The Smallest Moon" (1964)
 "Visit the Yo-Yo Falls" (1989)
 "Blueflow" (1992)

Note: Stories are listed by year of publication, from earliest

to most recent.

Stories Reprinted in Genre Anthologies/Periodicals

"The Voyage That Lasted Six Hundred Years" in Looking Forward (Lesser, 1953)
 "Tombot" in Two Complete Science-Adventure Books No. 11 (Spring, 1954)
 "Graygortch" in Fantastic (April, 1957)
 "The Smallest Moon" in The Boy's Life Book of Outer Space Stories (Editors of Boy's Life, 1964)
 "The Voyage That Lasted 600 Years" in Amazing Stories (April, 1966)
 "Secret of the Serpent" in Fantastic (October, 1969)
 "Secret of the Stone Doll" in Fantastic (February, 1970)
 "Mademoiselle Butterfly" in Fantastic (December, 1971)
 "The Voyage That Lasted 600 Years" in Amazing Science Fiction Anthology: The War Years, 1936-1945 (Greenberg, 1987)
 "The Voyage That Lasted 600 Years" in Skylife: Space Habitats in Story and Science (Bedford & Zebrowski, 2000)
 Note: Stories are listed by date of the anthology/periodical in which they were reprinted, from earliest to most recent.

Concluding Comments

Almost forgotten today, at one time Don Wilcox was a mainstay of the Ziff-Davis SF magazines and very popular with readers of both Amazing and Fantastic Adventures. He was said to write science fantasy rather than science fiction, but he had many readers who thought of themselves as SF fans. One of these fans was future SF author and editor Terry Carr. "Give Us More Wilcox, Please!" begged Carr in a letter to Fantastic Adventures in the early 1950s.

When his writing career was nearly over in 1975, Wilcox retired to Florida and resumed painting. At the time of an interview with Mike Ashley in the late 1980s, he had created 300+ paintings, most of them portraits.

Several authorities (e. g., Clute & Nicholls; Hawk) claim that his real name was Cleo Eldon Knox and that Wilcox was a pen name. This is disputed both by his daughter and the U. S. government (who sent him social security checks under the name of Wilcox). I'll leave his "real" name to others more knowledgeable than I, but I find it hard to believe the government would send social security checks to a writer's pseudonym – unless the writer had legally changed his birth name to a pen name.

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N3F Founding Members:

Thomas Wright

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Thomas (Tom) Wright, born 1924, was an Oakland, California fan artist in the late 1930s and early 1940s who contributed art to most of the day's science fiction (SF) fanzines. He became a SF fan in his teens.

Wright was one of the charter members (and an early failed candidate for President) of our National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) in 1941. His candidate's statement appeared in Bonfire #1, along with that of Robert Studley, who ran for vice-president.

The Wright/Studley platform emphasized the following (paraphrased): 1) The NFFF is the only worthwhile solution to the situation today; 2) The NFFF should have a certain amount of control over the fan world today; 3) We have no fan enemies and have never engaged in a fan feud; 4) We are for a democratic organization and shall do all in our power to make it entirely so; and 5) We think we are well qualified for the offices.

Wright's photo appears on page 172 of Harry Warner's All Our Yesterdays (Advent, 1969). In the photo, he is shown with fellow fan Joe Fortier. Wright and Fortier were editors of the SF fanzine Mercury in the 1940s. Wright also edited The Comet, another SF fanzine published in the 1940s.

For an early short biography of Wright, see Who's Who in Fandom 1940, page 15.

Sources: Fancyclopedia 3, All Our Yesterdays (1969), Who's Who in Fandom 1940, Walt Daugherty's Directory of Fandom (April, 1942), Bonfire #1 (June, 1941).

Fiction

Book Review Bureau

Credit for the Book Review Bureau goes to Bob Jennings. The idea is very simple. Vast numbers of novels are now being published. Some of them are excellent. Others leave things to be desired, in some cases including plot, characterization, description, grammar, and spelling. The Book Review Bureau tries to get in at least one review of each novel, thus alerting Neffers to the really good material that is being independently published, and at the same time warning people about novels that could be placed a bit farther down on the reading stack. Novels being reviewed need not be current. Please review a few for us. If there is enough interest we'll add a review zine.

Book Review: Kraken Mare Review by Cedar Sanderson

I read yesterday (sort of) even though I didn't really have the time to read. I'd actually started it the night before, when I was having trouble sleeping, which was a mistake and I had to force myself to put it down after about 3 chapters.

Really. I was looking for a book to put me to sleep. Kraken Mare is not that book. Jason Cordova and Chris Smith have woven an action-packed book with pacing that won't let you put it down, which is why I wound up using it as a carrot to the stick of exam studies yesterday. Make it through class, get 30 min of reading. Make it through exam prep with 20 min to class start? Read another couple chapters. I know this is just me, but if you enjoy improbable science fiction suspense with action heroes, this book may suck you in, too. Just remember your self-discipline and don't let it keep you up all night.

Kraken Mare is, finally, the book I have been expecting from Cordova. I'm not discounting Chris Smith, but I know that he's a relatively new writer, and Cordova has finally come into his maturity with this book. It's rare I can get this sort of perspective, but I know both the authors, and I have read enough of Cordova's books to see behind the lines, as it were. Some of his earlier work with a co-writer was not the best, and I'd been avoiding picking up Kraken Mare because I was under the impression it was co-written with that earlier co-author (so many co's...). It wasn't, and it's like seeing a view through the camera lens as it snaps into focus. This is the book I'd been waiting for from Cordova, and I hope to see many more like it. I'm looking forward to seeing what he and Chris can do with the sequel to this one, too!

Kraken Mare is the story of a veteran marine who is hired on for security at a top-secret station – on Titan, the moon of Saturn. There, he finds that not all is as it seems on the surface. I'm not going to spoil it for you, but I will say that I wasn't expecting the story to unfold in the direction it went, the villain I expected turned out to be the opposite, and the character was well-formed and fun to read. That being said, this is one of the goriest books I've read in a while. It is very much an action-suspense book, and that might not be right for all my readers. Still... it's like a roller coaster to the end. The ending is a little more facile than I would have liked, but I'm not sure it could have been deepened without losing the tension of the climax.

Oh, and this book? This book is Human Wave. Kaiju Apocalypse was not, and disappointing, but this book is pro-humanity and reaching for the stars, and honor and duty... It's the good stuff.

Smashwords SF Novels for December 2017

These are novels independently published at Smashwords.com, and available in a wide range of electronic formats. For almost all of them, prices range from Free! to a few dollars. \.

First Fleet: The Complete Saga by Stephen Case
When Hope Came - A Time-Travel Story by Eve Human
Ascent of the Nebula by DJ Edwardson

Awakening the Sentients by DJ Edwardson
 366 Days of Flash Fiction by C.M. Simpson
 The Frequency of Aliens by Gene Doucette
 The Country Saga Boxed Set by David Estes
 The Rewind Files: A Novel by Claire Willett
 Andromeda Gate #4 Calm Before The Storm by Genie Driscoll
 Galactic Fist of Legend: Volume 3 by Scottie Futch
 The Last Enemy - A history of the present future - 1934-2084 by Luca Luchesini
 The Repeaters, Book One: The Awakening by W.H. Abdelgawad
 Return of the Earthers: Seers of Verde, Book 2 by M.L. Williams
 Beyond the Sentinel Stars by Sherry D. Ramsey
 The Mythical Penardun by Anthony Ronald Davis
 One Too by Sherrie Cronin
 Soul Mirrors by Wiley A Haydon III
 Children of the Enaisi by L. S. King
 Chaos Fountain by D.C. Ballard
 The Valiant Chronicles by Val Tobin
 The Divine Space Pirates by C. S. Johnson
 The Ephemeral Passage by Thorn Osgood
 Sixers by John Patrick Kavanagh
 The Dead Man's Feast by I G Hulme
 The Archimage's Fourth Daughter by Lyndon Hardy
 The Heavenfield by I G Hulme
 Africa: an International Technothriller by Saul Tanpepper
 Polo Shawcross: Dragon Outlaw by Lee Abrey
 Turner: Deep Change by Bea Cannon
 Echoes (Whispers of White, Book 1) by Miranda Marie
 Star City by Edwin Peng
 The Vanquished of Eden by Marlin Desault
 Into the Vast by DJ Edwardson
 Breaking Interstellar: by Michael Tobin
 LAMP: Link Access Manipulation Program by John D. Sperry
 Everyone: Worlds Without Walls by Tony Smith
 The Book of Em: A Dragon's Tears by Richard Brant
 Whispers of Spring: Book III of the Outcasts Series by Chuck Abdella
 Nemesis of Nightmares by Clair McIntyre
 366 Days of Flash Fiction by C.M. Simpson
 The Dragon's Choice by Wesley Allison
 Lygon Island - The Series by Arlo Mercia
 Lygon Island - The Rift by Arlo Mercia
 Battle for Three Realms: by Gordon Brewer
 Chronicles of a PC Gamer Stuck Inside an RPG Book One: Duelist by Antony W.F. Chow
 Shield of Skool: Clovel Sword Chronicles Epic Fantasy Book 1 by Gordon Brewer
 Beneath A Separate Sky by Kaiya Hart
 When Absalom Falls: Southern Magic 3 by Steven F. Warnock
 The Time Seller by Abel Keogh
 A Kingdom Fallen: An Epic Fantasy by Timothy Bond
 Galactic Fist of Legend: Volume 3 by Scottie Futch
 Resonance of Heroes: The 2016 & 2017 Resonance Saga Collection by Brett P. S.
 Of Land and Sky by Morgan Sheppard
 Journey - Becoming the Dream Walker by T.N. Bui
 The Repeaters, Book One: W.H. Abdelgawad
 The Land of Eternal Winter by T. E. Waters
 Mindful Things by Mya Duong
 I Rule the Night by J. A. Ironside
 The Dead Man's Feast by I G Hulme
 The Human Ape by T.O. Norseman
 Za progiem starego dworu. III Kraina z innej bajki by Ariana Bogajczyk
 The Judas Codex by Mark Everett Stone
 The Archimage's Fourth Daughter by Lyndon Hardy
 Shadow of the Knight by Matt Hepp
 Fernik by Alexis Saints
 The Mirror of Worlds by Nicholas Sweeney
 Servants of the Sands by Leona Wisoker
 Agrathias by Conor Nicholl
 The Heavenfield by I G Hulme
 Maeven : Dragon Thief by Margaret Gregory.
 Beyond the After: Princess Olivia by C.M. Healy
 Littlebridge by Robert D. Thomson
 Arianna's Tale & Perri's Story Boxset by D. J. Humphries
 Wolf Queen - Perri's Story by D. J. Humphries
 The Golden City by Sharon J. Gochenour.
 The Stone Mirror by T.O. Norseman
 Malevolence by John M Duhig
 Amid the Winter Snow by Jeffe Kennedy, Grace Draven, Thea Harrison, & Elizabeth Hunter
 The Rising Series Boxed Set by Holly Kelly
 Storytime (Once 2) by Alyson Serena Stone
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 The Far Cry: Legend of the Scepter by David W. Hepp
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 Spirit of Fire by Stephen Zimmer
 Dream of Legends by Stephen Zimmer
 Crown of Vengeance by Stephen Zimmer
 The Ancient Ursia Collection - Six Epic Fantasy Novels (The Sword of Bayne Trilogy, and The Walking Gods Trilogy) by Ty Johnston
 Polo Shawcross: Dragon Outlaw by Lee Abrey
 Polo Shawcross: Dragon Skin by Lee Abrey
 Turner: Deep Change by Bea Cannon
 Maefair by IA Mullin
 Return by Aiki Flinthart
 Dragongift by Becca Lusher
 The Society of Misfit Stories Presents...by Julie Ann Dawson
 Fox Hunter by Tuomas Vainio
 The Reflection Series Boxed Set (Books 1-3) by Tamara Rose Blodgett
 Feylin Lore: Reflections by PA Wikoff
 Goddess of Destiny by Ashley Abbiss
 Dragon Mage Chronicles by Aimee Easterling
 On the Hunt for the Wizard King by Michelle Miles
 The Book of Em: A Dragon's Tears by Richard Brant
 The Rising Series Boxed Set by Holly Kelly
 The Halloween Game by Brett Rutherford & John Bensink
 Tales from the Twisted Eden Sector - Box Set by Tanya Lisle
 The Lost Children by Brett Rutherford
 The Hyde Effect by Steve Vance
 Darkverse: The Shadow Hours by Lori R. Lopez
 El Arte del Terror - Volumen 4 by Vários Autores
 Nocturne Infernum by Elizabeth Donald

2018 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, 2018.
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, 2018. 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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Short Story Contest

Neffies

New Bureaus

Zines

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Bureaus and Committees

Information Technology—Writers' Exchange—Outreach—Welcommittee
Round Robin—Birthday Card—Treasury—Membership—Gourmet Bureau

Sercon

Don Wilcox—Thomas Wright

Fiction

Review Bureau—Kraken Mare—Smashwords Listing

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N3F TNFF