

FANAC Fan History Project

Newsletter 18

May 15, 2022



We have added about 800 fanzines in the last 3 months, as well as adding material to Fancyclopedia and the YouTube channel. There are some interesting tidbits for you in this newsletter, including two brief articles from fannish researchers on how they've used the archive and a LoC! However, the main reason for this Update issue is to let you know that **we would like to get some input from you!** There's a request related to Chicon 8 in the last section of the newsletter. Also, it's been a while since our last survey, and we hope you'll fill out this one, coming under separate cover. If you're

not on our mailing list but would like to respond to the survey, drop a note to fanac@fanac.org. There will be no more than 10 questions

Highlights:

Have you noticed the new clean look of our home page? You might recall that last time, we asked for some technical help with the site. Greg Meyer answered the call, and one of the results is our home page, now with spiffy dropdown buttons. That look will start to be seen on other pages as well. Thanks, Greg! On the homepage, we plan to feature a new fanzine, photo or video every week. Perhaps you'll see something intriguing....

Our spring series of FANAC History Zooms is over now, and the recordings available on YouTube. These were excellent sessions, covering the history of Los Angeles fandom (from some unexpected perspectives), Fan Funds then and now, and a lovely interview with Joe and Gay Haldeman on their experiences with fandom, both as fans and later as professionals.

There's a playlist for the Zoom Sessions at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8D69oYQFIO8zJ8lbe5LOac66h2P4pmav>

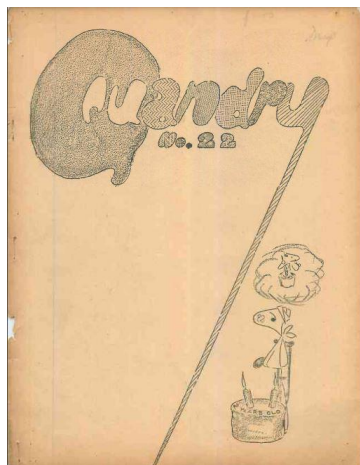
A surprise to us was that more than a few folks said they nominated the Zoom Series for a Fancast Hugo! We didn't make the final ballot, but wow. Thank you all.

True Stories of FanHistory Research

Our first true story is from Bee Ostrowsky. Bee has been a huge help in spotting (and telling us about) errors on FANAC.org, as well as contributing to Fancyclopedia.

Bee Ostrowsky is a librarian who uses their spare time to help the *Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction* (<https://sfdictionary.com/>). The classic fanzines on FANAC.org have helped them find early appearances of fandom-related terms—including SF fandom itself, which first showed up in *Arcturus #8* (November 1936). Researchers in this field are always excited to see

a term much earlier than ever known, so when Bee found “grandfather paradox” on FANAC.org in *Fantasy Scout #12* (March 1939), they were thrilled to antedate the term by 11 years! Other HDSF contributors have used the site; for example, Bill Mullins found fanmag in *The 14 Leaflet #9*, a clubzine from Spring 1937.



Some of the terms appearing first in FANAC.org's collection: positronic (*Planeteer #5*, March 1936—and not Isaac Asimov!), egoboo (*Voice of the Imagi-Nation #39*, February 1945), fanfic (*Beabohema #2*, December 1968), loc and COA (*FANAC #73*, May 1961) and of course fanac itself (*Quandry #22*, July 1952).

Bee also uses FANAC.org's fanzines to improve Fancyclopedia 3 (<https://fancyclopedia.org/>). An illustration from *Science-Fantasy Review #1* now appears in the article about Professor A. M. Low, while a snippet from *Science Fiction News Letter #54* provides helpful examples of fanzine nicknames like “Madge”. FANAC.org also helps them to improve the Internet Speculative Fiction Database (<http://www.isfdb.org/>) which includes fiction published in fanzines. Bee noticed the term “life tube” while reading Leslie F. Stone's “The Space Terror” in

Spaceways #6, and told ISFDB all about that issue.

Some of the 1,100 Google searches mentioned in the last ish were from Bee researching terms not yet in HDSF, like ‘stef’. A search like [site:fanac.org inurl:fanzines "stef"] will find results in fanzines converted to PDF—if the OCR conversion is correct. But reading a hektoed crudzine (a word first seen in *Spacewarp #9*, December 1947) is harder for computers than for humans. And words found in illustrations, like “lox” in *Lokta Plokta #19* (April 2000, first seen in *G2*, January 1965), aren't indexed at all except in crowdsourced projects like the University of Iowa's DIY History. So Bee sometimes grinds through fanzines in chronological order. How's that going? “I'm up to around June 1939”, they said, “—so far.”

Our second true story is from Daniel Ritter of First Fandom Experience

(<https://firstfandomexperience.org/>)

In the course of our work for First Fandom Experience, we sometimes have the opportunity to dig through the archives of fellow fans and collectors. I admit that this is one of my favorite things to do – a dusty box, the smell of old paper, the miscellany of years or (even better) decades, and time enough to sift, looking for material relevant to our study of fandom in the 1930s and 1940s.

Joe Siclari and Edie Stern afforded us such an opportunity in February. Long-time fans, collectors, and archivists, their home in New York is the headquarters of FANAC and a treasure trove of historic fan material. We had heard that there was a stash of photographs there potentially containing precious images of fan events from the 1930s and 1940s, and after connecting with them at the 2022 Boskone we hatched a plan to visit. We'd drive over on a Saturday morning equipped with a couple of scanners, and stay until Sunday afternoon,

organizing and scanning as much as we could. Like many troves of old material, this stash of photographs was substantial but only lightly organized. All told there were about seven photo albums and nine boxes of photographs and related material, such as negatives and contact sheets. Parts of the collection, like the albums, were cogently organized – the boxes, for the most part, were wild aggregations of material covering nearly 80 years of fandom. In the same box one could find a half-dozen packages of color photographs from Magicon, a couple stacks of black-and-white photos from the 1950s, and handfuls of Technicolor photoslides. And tucked among this incredible record of fandom we found what we had hoped for, photos from the 1930s and 1940s.

We found photos from the 1940 Chicon (E. E. Smith standing at the banquet, presumably addressing the room), photos of Arthur Widner and Milton Rothman at a gathering at Bob Tucker’s house in July, 1941, and Jack Speer at the 1943 Michiconference. We found photos of James Avery posed with a typewriter and smoking pipe, of Morojo reading, and of Earl Singleton looking handsome. A goldmine of historical artifacts.

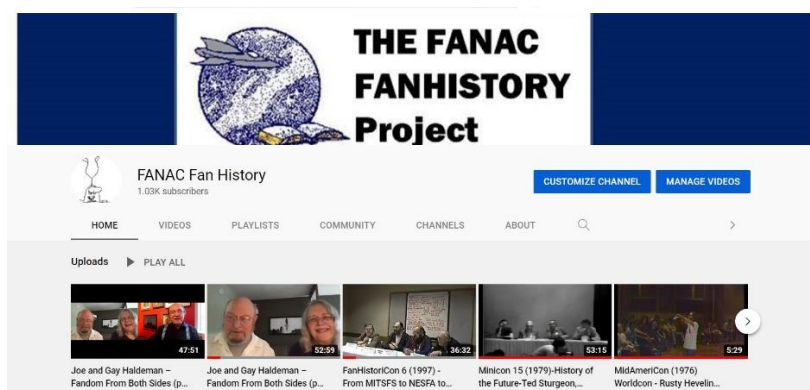
Perhaps most incredibly, a set of photo contact sheets containing thumbnail-sized prints of pictures that appeared to be mounted in a photo album. The photos in the album are from very early fandom, including many iconic, known photos from the 1939 Worldcon in New York. The contact sheets themselves were an incredible find, but it begged the question – what of the photo album? An investigation revealed that the album originally belonged to Julius Schwartz and still existed, held in the safe hands of a collector.

The trip to FANAC headquarters was a success. Joe and Edie are gracious hosts and their home is beautiful, almost a museum for the amount of art and collected material. The photos we found from early fandom have been digitized and add significant depth to our study of early fandom.



Doc Smith addressing the banquet attendees at Chicon I

Daniel’s comment about the “light organization” of the photos is very generous.



FANAC Fan History Project website: <https://fanac.org>

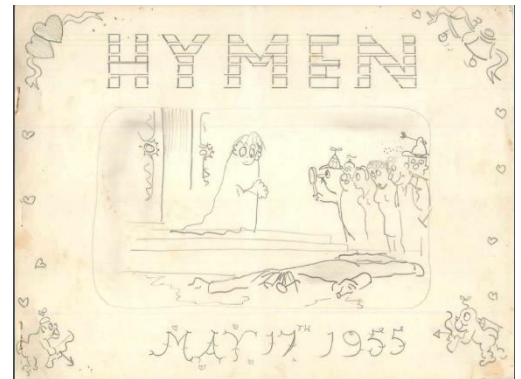


We've added some exceptional items to the online archive. I'm going to highlight just a few here.

First, in March, we added 4 issues of Mark Reinsberg's fanzine *Ad Astra* from 1939-40. Mark Reinsberg was the chair of Chicon 1 (1940), the second Worldcon. Contributors include a stellar list of well-known fans and writers including Charlie Hornig, Forry Ackerman, Ray Palmer, Harry Warner, Jr., Doc Smith, John Campbell, Don Wollheim, Cliff Simak, Jack Williamson, Henry Kuttner and Erle Korshak.

Another unique addition is *Hymen*, a one of a kind wedding present from Chuck Harris and Arthur Thomson for James and Peggy White.

James gave it to us in 1992 as a thank you for MagiCon. He told us that Chuck had come on the honeymoon with them, a story later corroborated by both Walt and Madeline Willis.



You'll find it on the 1950s One Shots index page. Note this is different from the other *Hymen* from Chuck Harris list on the index page for Harris-Other Publications. That one is a parody issue of *Hyphen*.

Finally, we've found a copy of issue #15 (May 52) of the *Bulletin of the Cleveland S.F. Society* (edited by Harlan Ellison). There's a Max Keasler cover of the LaGuardia Spaceport and of course, material by Harlan.

There are also more issues of Tom Reamy's *Trumpet*, a now completed run of Robert Lichtman's *Trap Door*, some of the photos Daniel Ritter writes about, and a whole collection of Bob Pavlat zines, provided to us for scanning by Eric Pavlat.

Fancylopedia.org <https://fancylopedia.org/>

We're adding more to Fancylopedia (check out the "By the Numbers section") as we go. Today, we're highlighting two entries.



Don Fitch, Gretchen Schwenn - Photo by Bruce Pelz, scanned by Andrew Porter

Thanks to Jan Vaněk Jr., we have a good article on Gretchen Schwenn and the story behind the "Battle of Mezzanine" at Pacificon II (1964). This is all Breendoggle related. Did you know there was a physical altercation at the convention between Schwenn and the convention sergeant-at-arms? Read about it at [https://fancylopedia.org/Gretchen Schwenn](https://fancylopedia.org/Gretchen_Schwenn), and read more about the Breendoggle at [https://fancylopedia.org/Walter Breen#Breendoggle](https://fancylopedia.org/Walter_Breen#Breendoggle). You can also find a number of Breendoggle related pubs at [https://fanac.org/fanzines/Breen Boondoggle/](https://fanac.org/fanzines/Breen_Boondoggle/)

Our other highlighted entry is the article on Los Angeles clubs - [https://fancylopedia.org/Los Angeles Clubs](https://fancylopedia.org/Los_Angeles_Clubs). Check out this article and then watch the History Zoom on "Death Will Not Release You". Los Angeles has a rich and colorful fannish past. Hopefully, it will have a rich future as well.

FANAC Fan History YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>

We've topped 1,000 subscribers (1,027, actually) and over 137,000 views. Since the last update, we've added 12 pieces – 6 from History Zooms and 6 from the fannish past.

The non-Zoom additions defy easy pigeonholing. There are three Convention panels - a 1987 Tropicon panel on Evolution, a Minicon 15 (1979) panel on the History of the Future (which is half about education), and a FanHistoriCon 6 panel on the history of Boston area fandom. They are all engaging for different reasons. The Evolution panel talks about the security issues in controlled genetic engineering, the Minicon panel allows a look into personal attitudes about government and education and the FanHistoriCon panel provides context and anecdotes around an important segment of the fannish world. There's also a brief 5 minute video of Rusty Hevelin auctioning money for DUFF, a 30 minute interview of Sam Moskowitz before his surgery took away his original voice, and a live fanzine – *Mimosa 3.5* (Chattacon 13, 1988). It's an eclectic combination.



Theodore Sturgeon, Clifford D. Simak,
Lester del Rey, Gordon Dickson at
Minicon 15

Zoom Sessions: We held three Fanhistory Zooms this year, each of which went for about 2 hours. “Death Does Not Release You” went over Los Angeles fan history from the 60s-70s-...., including the attitude of the older fans to the barbarians that came in during the hippie years. “Traveling Ghiants” (sic) focused on Fan Funds, past and present. “Fandom From Both Sides” was a lovely interview with Joe and Gay Haldeman about their lives in fandom and science fiction. Each of the zooms had stellar participants, with perhaps the biggest surprise being Ken Rudolph who had gafiated years ago, but who was convince to participate in the Los Angeles history Zoom. He came across as having fallen in love with fandom all over again by the end of the session.

“Death Does Not Release You” – Craig Miller, Tim Kirk, Ken Rudolph and Bobbi Armbruster.

“Traveling Ghiants, Fan Funds from the Days of Mimeo to the Days of Zoom” – Geri Sullivan (TAFF 2019), Justin Ackroyd (GUFF 1984), Lesleigh Luttrell (DUFF 1972), and Suzanne Tompkins (TAFF 2005)

“Fandom From Both Sides” – Joe and Gay Haldeman

Find them all by clicking on <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory> and looking at the most recent additions.

FANAC by the Numbers.

Fanzines: 17,431 issues (covering 1,051 titles) with more than 305,024 pages. This is up from the 16,634 fanzine issues and 286,845 pages reported in our January update.

Conpubs: 3,216 publications, with 60,617 pages, representing 770 conventions. This is up from the 2,943 publications, with 57,673 pages, representing 692 conventions reported in our January update.

Fancylopedia: 29,019 pages which include 6,271 for people, 4,526 for fans (a subset of people), 8,113 for fanzines, another 1,511 for clubs and apas, and 6,140 for conventions. This is up from the 28,776 pages including 6,262 people pages, 4,518 fan pages, 8,008 fanzines pages, 1,505 for clubs and apas, and 6,070 convention pages reported in our January update.

YouTube: 137,557 views, 1,027 subscribers and 132 recordings. This is up from 130,157 views, 966 subscribers and 120 recordings in our August update.

LoC – Our archive format doesn't have a place for letters of comment at this point, but we do receive some heartening notes from contributors and users of the site. Here's a lovely LoC that just came in from Steve Johnson.

Hi Edie, Joe, and Mark

While reading Twilight Zine 19 (1968), downloaded from FANAC.org, I was brought to a stop by this paragraph from a Harry Warner letter of comment (p. 21). (Typos intact per copy and paste.)

Ah, micorfilming. In my wild youth, I once tried to promote such a deal too. However, I tried to do it the hard way, by correspondence-incited methods, and the object of my attention was not the deathless literature in Astounding but the illegible pages of contemporary fanzines. My thought was that some of these fanzines might disappear completely from the universe before many years went by, because of limited press runs, wartime paper drives, and the danger of fading hecto inks. The NFFF got interested in the idea and the project might have gotten underway if it hadn't been for those pesky little details -- we didn't have a camera or a reader or money enough for film or the knowhow to do the microfilming

--Harry Warner, Twilight Zine 19 (1968), p. 21.

It took a few years, but FANAC has done what Harry Warner and the N3F pondered but did not begin, much less accomplish.

For two decades of my previous life, I did microfilming projects for institutional records. Well, I didn't do the filming, just all the stuff involved in organizing the papers and identifying the vendors and inspecting the product and sending it back, publicizing its availability to scholars, etc. I was enormously skeptical about "optical archiving" but I have certainly changed my opinion in the past twenty years. FANAC must be one of the best examples of crowdsourced digital collection building in the world known to me.

Meanwhile, I still have two bottles of correction fluid.

Steve
Steve Johnson
Anchorage, Alaska

FANAC at Chicon 8 (Mark Olson)

Fanac will be at Chicon 8 and we'd like your thoughts on what we should do there. We expect to have several tables in the exhibit hall and we will definitely be scanning fanzines. Help us make this a memorable FANAC presence – send your responses to the questions below to mlo@fanac.org

* We're thinking about having some informal fan history meetups at Chicon. Are there any topics you'd like to see?

* We'll be asking people to bring fanzines to for us to scan. Is there something you'd like to bring? Are these fanzines we should be scanning that we have not scanned so far? We always ask for permission before we put zines online, so some of the omissions are because we haven't received the ok. (Take a look at fanac.org/fanzines for the current list.)

- * We'd like to feature Chicago and Chicago-area fanhistory particularly. Suggestions?
- * We may be able to put together one or more small exhibits. Suggestions?
- * Do you have suggestions for what else we should plan?

We hope to see you at Chicon -- plan on coming by and visiting!

A little more regarding Chicon from Edie and Joe: We will be in the FANAC area at Chicon 8 as much as we can, when we're not doing GoH-type things. We understand that Chicon is planning to keep the fan social areas, exhibits (including FANAC.org) and Fan Tables relatively close. It should be a great place to mix with fellow fans. We hope to see you there!

Please pass this update on to any fan or list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](https://www.fanac.org) home page.

Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari and Edie Stern

Contributors since the last newsletter: We have received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Justin Ackroyd, Gerry Adair, Bobbi Armbruster, Jim Benford, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, Marcello Branco, John Bray, Luke Bretscher, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Avedon Carol, Eva Whitley Chalker, Darrah Chavey, Michele Combs, David Dyer-Bennet, Eva Whitley Chalker, Ahrvid Engholm, Gary Feldbaum, Eric J Fleischer, MD (Dr. Gandalf), Paul Fraser, Paul Gadzikowski, Bruce Gillespie, Mike Glycer, Jeanne Gomoll, David Grigg, Gay Haldeman, Joe Haldeman, Rob Hansen, John Hertz, Bill Higgins, Irwin Hirsh, Johan Horzel, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Tim Kirk, Missy Koslosky, Dave Langford, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Fred Lerner, Robert Lichtman, Guy Lillian III, Michael Lowrey, Lesleigh Luttrell, Rich Lynch, Bruce Mai, Joseph Major, Rich McAllister, Sam McDonald, Gary McGath, Greg Meyer, Linda Michaels, Perry Middlemiss, MITSFS, Mark Olson, Jim O'Meara, Bee Ostrowsky, Eric Pavlat, Deirdre Boardman Perez, George Phillies, Andrew Porter, John Purcell, Daniel Ritter, David Ritter, Ken Rudolph, Allison Scott, Steven Silver, Kevin Smith, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Phil Stephensen-Payne, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Leslie Kay Swigart, Suzanne Thompkins, Jan Vaněk Jr, Taral Wayne, and Ben Yalow.

Selected links:

FANAC.org: <https://www.fanac.org>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/fanacproject/>

Fancylopedia 3: <https://fancylopedia.org>

Fanac YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

Fanac Zoom Listing: <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

Chronological Convention list: <https://fancylopedia.org/Convention timeline>

Convention Publications: <https://fanac.org/conpubs/>

Fanzines: https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html (FIND ALL FANZINES HERE)

Core List: to Scan: https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html

Chronological Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html

Country Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html

Newszine Project: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

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