

July 25, 2023

Greetings, all. Welcome to the summer FANAC newsletter. In this newsletter you'll find what we hope are interesting bits on what FANAC is doing, an opportunity for you to (easily) contribute, and a bonus appendix on ChatGPT.

Armadillocon and Bubonicon - FANAC Scanning stations in the Southwest US. Pat Virzi will be scanning for FANAC at Armadillocon (August 4-6, Austin) and Bubonicon (August 25-27). If you have fanzines that aren't up on FANAC, bring them on! The scanning station will be either in the dealer's room or amongst the fan tables. Even if you don't have fanzines for the scanning, stop by the table and say hello. There will be ribbons.

Fanzines Hit 21,000! In the March newsflash, we announced that the archive had reached 20K zines. Today we're over 21K. This wouldn't be possible without a grassroots effort, so thanks to all of you who made the site better, from providing scans, to telling us about errors to offering hard copy zines.

PDF but can't search? We're putting up new fanzines in what we think is good form – PDF, OCRd, usually with descriptive metadata. However, FANAC.org has been a work in progress for pushing 30 years, and we're constantly working to revise what we've done, to bring it up to modern standards. So, if you read a fanzine in PDF format, and find that you can't search it, please let us know. We'll grab that sucker, run OCR, and get it back online in a much more useful, deeply googleable way. Also, you'll get your name in the [contributors list](#).

Fan History and AI: We've been toying with how to use the new AI tools to improve our FANAC.org world, from extracting info to write this newsletter, to using it to find PDFs with no OCR. So far, we haven't been very successful. Check out the generative AI results in the appendix at the end. So, what would you like to see us try with AI? Drop us a note at fanac@fanac.org.

Delta Group Videos

Thanks to Bill Burns, we have a selection of short, 1960s fan-made videos from the UK that we'll be putting up on YouTube. The first of these, "[Castle of Terrors](#)" (1964), is a slapstick parody of horror movies, replete with well-known British fans of the day. In 20 minutes, you get monsters, angry villagers, damsels in distress and food fights.

Bill tells us the films were made on "8mm silent film to which a magnetic stripe was later added and the sound dubbed on. They were then shown mercilessly at club meetings and Eastercons, and suffered accordingly." For an overview, see the Fancyclopedia Delta Film Group article, and the text of Bill's talk at Manunicon (2016 Eastercon) at <https://efanzines.com/Alien/indexd.htm>. There'll be more short videos to come.



Joe on Fanzines:

Scanning so many fanzines usually means that I read so little of them. This is a self-defeating facet of making as many of these available as possible. I decided to force myself to change that by putting some suggestions for interesting zines in our newsletter. This is NOT an attempt to tell you the best zines or writers available on the site. That would be simply a recommendation to read *Hyphen* or *Energumen* or... simply because they had such good and personable writers. Who could go wrong with Willis and Shaw or Wood and Ulyot? Today's suggestions, though, are for a couple of zines that you could easily overlook.

Regional Fanzines. When I got my first deluge of fanzines from Elaine Wojciechowski back in 1972, I had no sense of how to categorize fanzines beyond genzine and apazine. The vast majority of the zines Elaine gave me were from the United States, many originally addressed to Rosemary Hickey. As I nearly buried myself in the hundreds of zines Elaine sent me, I gradually started seeing distinct regional variations. Midwest – Northwest – LA – East Coast – NYC. Each had distinctive styles. Non-U.S. fanzines had a different focus as well as “oddball” sizes. The Australian zines seemed sercon and a bit old-fashioned to me, sort of like American zines of the ‘40s. UK zines were divided - older ones more fan oriented and friendly, comradely. I wonder now whether that could have been a reaction to having survived WWII. The few more recent UK zines were sercon, and seemed to me a bit churlish if not downright cruel. This could easily turn into an essay on regionalism.

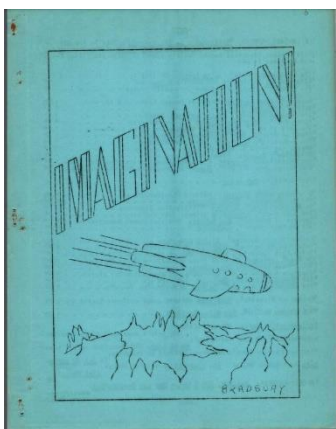


Embelyon 3 is a good example of what I consider a “Midwest” fanzine. The Coulson’s *Yandro* is the iconic midwestern zine, serconly crisp reviews, but with its own personality, curmudgeonly opiniated, with frequent articles by prominent fans on all kinds of subjects. This was similar to Ryan’s *Bane* and Grennell’s *Grue*, and so many other “midwestern” zines going all the way south to the Couch related flurry of zines. *Embelyon* is edited by the Lavells, Lee and Jim, the Lee previously being known as Juanita’s friend Lee Ann Tremper. The editorials in *Embelyon* are their attempt to be Buck-level curmudgeonly. Critical material came from Sandra Miesel on Mythmaking and Ted Pauls who likens Norman Spinrad to Robert Heinlein. Sam Fath and James Suhrer Dorr continue with the attitude problems and Dave Gorman and andy offutt compensate. There’s mostly good writing here. Juanita comes in with her views about television blood opera. All in all, 50 pages of pretty readable material, fifty years on.

What I have called the **Great Seattle Fanzine Publishing Empire** was an inevitable result of the Nameless Ones. This group produced thousands of pages a year of fannish writings *Cry of the Nameless* is the most well know and longest lasting but *Sinisterra*, a multitude of apazines and “special” publications came from the Seattle area for decades. The most notorious member of the Nameless Ones was G.M Carr, opinionated and feudable. However, the conglomerate that made rich brown adamant about *Cry of the Nameless* had some indefatigable editor/publishers – Wally Weber, Burnett Toskey, the Busbys, both Elinor and Buz. They all dabbled in fiction, professional fiction. But Burnett Toskey took the writing of fannish fiction far *beyond* the others. Sometimes it was pseudo-autobiographical.

The piece I’d like to point out here is [Master of the Monsters](#). For those of you who have endured readings or maybe have enjoyed the *Eye of Argon* at conventions, sick as you are, you now have a chance to read an example of its fannish antecedents. From the opening, as protagonist Lawly Bewer descends from his flivver he is assured that he is at the PLACE OF THE MONSTERS. And you are too!

Outstanding Additions since the last newsletter



We’ve added more than 1,000 publications since the last newsflash in March, and about 2,000 since the last full newsletter in December 2022. We’ve added some great zines by Arnie Katz, and many APazines from Jeanne Gomoll. Here are some highlights.

We completed our run of LASFS’s first important fanzine, [Imagination](#) including the Rejected issue. *Imagination* is filled with contributions from notables in the field, fan and pro, among them Yerke and Bok, Kuttner and Bloch, Bradbury and Lowndes, Hornig and Wollheim, and of course 4sj. For those who are also Sherlockians, we added all of Ruth Berman’s [SH-SF Fanthologies](#).

Last year, in our survey we asked what zines we should try to find and put online, we got requests for Robert Lichtman’s *Frap*, Alan Dodd’s *Camber*, Bob Vardeman’s *Sandworm* and more of

Arnie Katz's fanzines. We added the complete run of *Frap*, nearly completed *Camber* (still need 1 and 8), added 18 of *Sandworm / Zymrworm*, and over 125 of Arnie's zines. What else would you like to see? Write to Joe at jsiclari@fanac.org.

Eastercon and Corflu scans: Scanning at Eastercon and Corflu brought us some welcome additions for the archive, in English and in French.

Joseph Nicholas brought the complete run of his 80s/90s zine *FTT* aka *Fuck the Tories*. Originally a three-continent production by Valma Brown and Leigh Edmonds, Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas, and Terry Hughes, by the 4th issue, the zine was done by Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas. Christina Lake contributed runs of *Balloons over Bristol*, *Dragonburst*, *Head* and *Never Quite Arriving*, while Alisdair Hepburn brought *Beer Cat Scratching*.

As a result of Corflu, Pascal Thomas has been sending us scans of *KWS* aka *Keep Watching the Skies* as well as a good reference on French fanzines. That last one is machine translated to English and is available on our Reference page.

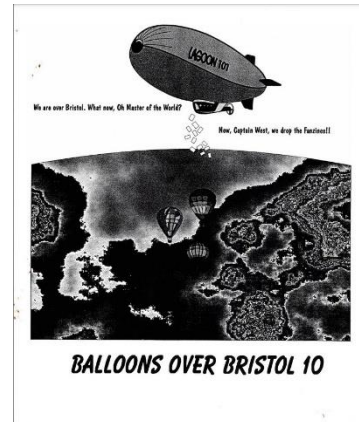
Rob Hansen and his prolific scanner: Rob Hansen has continued to provide scans

for us, especially of older UK fanzines. See for instance the *YSFRG Newsletter* published by the Young Science Fiction Readers Group in early 60s (and read the Fancyclopedia article). Rob has been instrumental in helping us fill out the runs of two of our core fanzines to scan *Les Spinge* and *Scottishe* (Ethel Lindsay). For *Scottishe*, we're getting close to a full run.



recent is from 2000.

Clubzines: What would fandom have been without local clubs? We continue to fill in this part of our history with the addition of clubzines like *Atarantes* (Atlanta), *De Profundis* (Los Angeles), *From Out of the Ashes*, *A Voice* (also Atlanta), *Future Times* (also Atlanta, but later), *The Insider* (St. Louis), *Jelerang* (Philadelphia), *LASFS Newsletter* (Los Angeles, but earlier), *Memphan* (Memphis), *Menace of the LASFS* (also Los Angeles), *MSA Bulletin* (Maine), *Pulsar* (Portland), and *Timebound* (Kansas City). *MSA Bulletin* is the earliest, from 1940. The most



YouTube channel:

Some days it seems that we're adding nothing but Zoom History programs to the YouTube channel. Well, we've already mentioned the fannish film from the UK, and we've also added a recent panel from this year's Eastercon. It's the "[The Third Row](#)", and features John Coxon, Niall Harrison, Emily January & Abigail Nussbaum. It's the story of Third Row Fandom, named and brought into being accidentally by Greg Pickersgill during a "Future of Fandom" panel at the 2004 Eastercon. Themselves dubbed "the future of fandom" by Greg, the fans seated in the third row at that panel have made good on the title, pulling others into their orbit and having an outsized influence on science fiction and science fiction fandom over the last 20 years. Thanks to Alison Scott for her help in getting this.

If you missed attending any of the FanHistory Zoom sessions, you can see them on YouTube. Since the last newsletter, we've added "[Researching Science Fiction FanHistory](#)", with Joe Siclari, Mark Olson, Andy Hooper and Rob Hansen, "[Feminism in 1970s/89s Fandom](#)", with Janice Bogstad, Jeanne Gomoll and Lucy Huntzinger and "[New York Fandom in the 70s](#)" with Moshe Feder, Jerry Kaufman, Andy Hooper and Steve Rosenstein. All good stuff. If you're not on our Frequent Zoomer list, drop a note to fanac@fanac.org and I'll add you in.

Who are these guys?



The left photo came from Dean Grennell (50s? 60s?) and the right one is from the April 1961 Lexicon (scan by David Ritter). Do you recognize any of these people? If you do, please let us know. We haven't put up too many photos lately, but help us get back to it by identifying these long-lost fen.

FANAC by the Numbers

Fanzines: 21,208 issues (covering 2,211 titles) with more than 380,923 pages. This is up from the 19,086 fanzine issues and 342,002 pages reported in our December update.

Conpubs: 4,025 publications, with 70,295 pages, representing 911 conventions. This is up from the 3,447 publications, with 63,816 pages, representing 822 conventions reported in our December update.

Fancylopedia: 29,301 pages which include 6,404 for people, 4,666 for fans (a subset of people), 8,540 for fanzines, another 1,529 for clubs and apas, and 6,277 for conventions. This is down from the 29,538 pages but up from the 6,341 people pages, 4,593 fan pages, 8,338 fanzines pages, 1,518 for clubs and apas, and 6,191 convention pages reported in our December update.

YouTube: 162,147 views, 1,286 subscribers and 147 recordings. This is up from 149,402 views, 1,189 subscribers and 137 recordings in our December update.

Coming Attractions

More PDFing – We're going through our core list and making sure that the zines we consider important to preserve are in searchable PDFs.

More Bootstrapping – Some of our pages use technology that makes them more readable on a variety of form factors (example: Conpubs). We're hoping to take advantage of that for ALL our pages.

More History Zooms – The Fall zoom schedule is coming together. The dates aren't locked in yet, but here are the sessions so far:

Boston Fandom in the 60s – Tony Lewis, Leslie Turek and Mike Ward

Evolution of Art(ists) – Grant Canfield, Tim Kirk and Dan Steffan

Wrong Turns on the Wallaby Track Part -- Leigh Edmonds and Perry Middlemiss

More Fanzines, Fancylopedia articles, YouTube uploads and maybe even more photos – As you would expect...

Please pass this update on to any fan or online 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. Edie Stern, and Joe Siclari

Selected links:

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

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

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

Fanzines: https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html

References: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/References/>

APA Mailings https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA_Mailings/

Alphabetical Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical_listing_of_fanzines.html

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

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

Editor Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/by_editor.html

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

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

Contributors since the last newsletter: We've received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Gloria Albasi, Lenny Bailes, Astrid Bear, Cliff Biggers, Janice Bogstad, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, John Bray, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Linda Bushyager, Sam Butler, Darrah Chavey, John Coker III, Michele Combs, Jeff Copeland, John Coxon, Vincent Docherty, David Dyer-Bennet, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Moshe Feder, Gary Feldbaum, Bruce Gillespie, Mike Glycer, Barry Gold, Jeanne Gomoll, Roelf Goudrian, Rob Hansen, Nall Harrison, Katherine Heffner, Alisdair Hepburn, Lisa Hertel, John Hertz, Irwin Hirsh, Arthur Hlavaty, John-Henri Holmberg, Andy Hooper, Lucy Huntzinger, Emily January, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Christina Lake, Dave Langford, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Guy Lillian III, Michael Lowry, Nicki Lynch, Rich Lynch, Joseph Major, Laurie Mann, Gideon Marcus, Gary Mattingly, Rich McAllister, Sam McDonald, Gary McGath, Ben McKenzie, Gregory Meyer, Perry Middlemiss, Joseph Nicholas, Abigail Nussbaum, Mark Olson, Roman Orszanski, Bee Ostrowsky, George Phillies, Mark Plummer, Andrew Porter, John Purcell, Thomas Recktenwald, Dave L. Renfro, David Ritter, Carol Root, Steve Rosenstein, Heath Row, Nigel Rowe, Robert Sawyer, Alison Scott, Steven Silver, Pat Sims, Jon Singer, Bill Slankard, Kirby Sloan, Kevin R. Smith, Leah Zeldes Smith, Ian Sorensen, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Pascal Thomas, Harry Turtledove, Jan Vaněk Jr, Bob Vardeman, Pat Virzi, Taral Wayne, Ted White and Lew Wolkoff.

The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS. FANAC.org is archived by the US Library of Congress for long-time preservation and future availability

ChatGPT appendix

From Edie: I've been fairly obsessed with generative AI, so here are a set of bonus introductions to the newsletter, all written by OpenAI's ChatGPT. For the record, there's nothing in the newsletter except this appendix that is ChatGPT generated.

Prompt 1: Writing in the role of a 70 year old woman, provide a one paragraph introduction to a long running newsletter about archiving the history of science fiction fandom.

Response 1: *Dear fellow time travelers and starry-eyed dreamers, welcome to "Chronicles of Wonder: A Journey Through Fandom's Tapestry." As I sit here with the dust of decades settled on my cherished science fiction collection, I can't help but marvel at the extraordinary odyssey we've undertaken together. Over the years, we've woven a tapestry of memories, friendships, and shared passions, preserving the very essence of science fiction fandom's vibrant history. Through this humble newsletter, we embark on a timeless voyage, unearthing forgotten tales, reliving cherished moments, and celebrating the pioneers who dared to dream beyond the stars. Join me, dear adventurers, as we traverse the pages of our past, stitching together a constellation of stories that define who we are and inspire generations to come.*

Prompt 2: Provide another version of the introduction that is shorter and less flowery.

Response 2: *Welcome to "Fandom's Tapestry: A Journey Through Science Fiction History." This newsletter is our time capsule, preserving the legacy of our shared passion for science fiction. Together, we'll revisit forgotten tales, honor pioneers, and celebrate the heart of fandom. Let's embark on this timeless adventure, weaving a constellation of stories that shape our past and inspire the future.*

Prompt 3: Now write it as a 70 year old woman with 40 years of IT experience

Response 3: *Welcome, fellow sci-fi enthusiasts, to "Fandom's Digital Archive: A Tech Journey Through Science Fiction History." After four decades immersed in the world of IT and fueled by my love for science fiction, I've embarked on this newsletter to safeguard our shared passion. Let's embark on a time-traveling adventure, rediscovering lost gems, paying homage to trailblazers, and celebrating the very essence of fandom. Together, we'll weave an interconnected web of stories, a digital constellation that preserves our past and inspires the next generation of techno-geeks and starry-eyed dreamers alike. Let the data migration begin!*

Prompt 4: Ok, but this newsletter has been going for years so it's not new

Response 4: *Greetings, fellow time-traveling sci-fi enthusiasts, and welcome back to "Fandom's Digital Archive: A Tech Journey Through Science Fiction History." As a seasoned IT veteran with 40 years of experience, I'm thrilled to continue our shared odyssey of preserving science fiction's legacy. For years now, we've ventured through the digital cosmos, rediscovering forgotten gems, honoring pioneers, and nurturing the heart of fandom. Together, we've woven a tapestry of stories, an interconnected web that spans generations and preserves the essence of our passion. So, let's embark on yet another chapter of this timeless adventure, keeping our data secure, and inspiring future techno-geeks and starry-eyed dreamers alike. Let the exploration continue!*

Prompt 5: The newsletter is not about science fiction but about those that enjoy it

Response 5: *Dear fellow enthusiasts of the fantastic and the extraordinary, welcome to "Chronicles of Fandom: Preserving the Spirit of Science Fiction." As a seasoned IT professional with 40 years of experience, I'm thrilled to continue this enduring journey. For years, we've celebrated the vibrant community of science fiction enthusiasts, documenting their passion and contributions. Let's press forward, preserving the spirit of fandom for generations to come. Onward we go, one byte at a time.*