

# FANAC Fan History Project

# Update 10

October 24, 2019



We're excited about this update because we have so much to tell you. Last time, we promised to share our list of the top fanzines on our list to scan. That's here. In addition to our customary work of archiving original materials, making video and audio recordings accessible and providing context for all these things, there have been some other particularly satisfying developments. We hope you will be as pleased and excited as we are. As a reminder, more links will be at the end.

## Fan History Project Spotlight

Our big news is that we have received a request from the Library of Congress to archive our site. From the letter: "The Library of Congress preserves important cultural artifacts and provides enduring access to them...The Library will make this collection available to researchers at Library facilities and by special arrangement." They may later make it publicly available as well. We've all seen the loss of many websites that showcase the hard work and outstanding accomplishments of fans and historians in our field. This archiving request from the Library of Congress will ensure that the work we've been doing with your help will be available, even after the current class of fan historians has bit the dust. Color us ecstatic. We'll let you know when the process has completed.

The news above somehow seems connected to this next announcement. On September 2, we lost FANAC's first webmaster, Jack Weaver. He created the website pretty much singlehandedly from 1995 to 2016, and without him, we would not be writing to you today. He was the designer and programmer of the site for more than 20 years, receiving an award at FanHistoricon 13 in 2016 for this accomplishment. Edie Stern took over from him in 2016, a transition made possible based on the relationship they developed working together at IBM. He has been, and will be, sorely missed. Jack's last contribution to the site was in January of this year. He was 92. <http://file770.com/jack-weaver-1926-2019-fanac-org-webmaster/>

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

We have been on a bit of a roll lately. As of Oct. 23 we have 8,959 fanzines online, with over 117,000 pages. That's 890 fanzines added since Worldcon and 2,000 since our Flash Update in February. Of the total, 3,055 are newszines.

Recently, we completed the runs for *The Outlander* (Los Angeles, 40s), *Lighthouse* (Terry Carr, Pete Graham, 60s) *Tappen* (Malcolm Edwards, 80s), *Wing Window* (John D. Berry, 80s), and the legendary *Hyphen* (Walt Willis, Chuck Harris, 50s) plus over 100 issues each of *Yandro* (Buck & Juanita Coulson, 50s-80s) and *WSFA Journal* in all its variations (Don Miller, 60s-90s). We've also added about 100 Irish fanzines, thanks to the good offices of Philippa Ryder and others who brought publications to our scanning station at the Worldcon in Dublin. For all the updates in excruciating detail, see <http://www.fanac.org/history.html>

We have had contributions from many other quarters as well. You'll be seeing fanzines uploaded that were scanned by Bob Hurter, from the collection of his father, Fred Hurter (editor of the Canadian zine *Censored*). So far, we put up a dozen issues of *Light* (Leslie Croutch) that Bob sent us, and there'll be more to come. In the last few months, we've also received material from James Bacon, Linda Deneroff, Ahrvid Engholm, Kim Gibbs, Susan Graham and UMBC, Rob Hansen, Kim Hewitt, Andy Hooper, Rob Jackson, Jerry Kaufman, Rich Lynch, Frank Olynyk, Andy Porter, David Ritter, Thom Walls, and of course regular contributions from Leybl Botwinik, Mark and Evelyn Leeper, the N3F, and Dale Speirs. Additionally, we've had valuable contributions of knowledge from Sam McDonald and others to help make the site more accurate. Thanks, all! Special thanks to Andy Porter for distributing all our updates to his many contacts.

**CoNZealand and the Retro Hugos for 1944:** [http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Retro\\_Hugos.html](http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Retro_Hugos.html) We are working with the next Worldcon, CoNZealand, to provide as complete a list as possible of 1944 fanzines for the Retro Hugo Awards. We have nearly 300 online already. We are building a list that will include links to other sites with relevant material, as we did in previous years.

As part of the 1944 effort, we have added more Cosmic Circle related material. Independent of the year of publication, if you know of other CC pubs that we don't have, please let us know. And (of course) if you can provide scans of those materials, that would be wonderful. All of our CC material is here: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/Cosmic\\_Circle\\_Pubs/](http://fanac.org/fanzines/Cosmic_Circle_Pubs/)

**Core Fanzines to Scan:** As we mentioned at the end of the August newsletter, we have built a priority target list of Core Fanzines to scan. The intent is to focus on scanning the major fanzines that shaped fandom over time. My guess is that when the list is stable, there will be about 150 titles, altogether representing about 4,000 thousand issues. A few of the titles are already online elsewhere, and for some we don't yet have permission. We have about 60% of the remainder online at FANAC.org now.

What do you think? You can find the list at [http://fanac.org/fanzines/core\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.pdf](http://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf). The Core list does *not* include most newszines. That's a separate priority project. This list doesn't stop us from scanning other good zines but rather helps us to focus on publications that we agree are necessary to the understanding of the field through the decades.

**Searchable Pavlat-Evans Index:** I've created a searchable PDF file of the *Pavlat-Evans Fanzine Index*, now online at [http://www.fanac.org/Fannish\\_Reference\\_Works/Bibliographies/Pavlat\\_Evans.pdf](http://www.fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/Bibliographies/Pavlat_Evans.pdf), It makes it a lot easier to find the details on most zines. The OCR is not perfect, but it is a great improvement. So when you are trying to find out exactly how many issues of *The Brooklyn Reporter* were published, now you can go right to it. Lest you think we've entered a new golden age, remember that Pavlat-Evans was published in December, 1952. Information about later zines can be found in a variety of collection lists we have at [http://www.fanac.org/Fannish\\_Reference\\_Works/Bibliographies/](http://www.fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/Bibliographies/) And, of course, look them up on Fancyclopedia.org.

**Music, Musicals, and their related ephemera:** We've had several recent additions to our collection of musicals including *1986*, a Lunacon 23 production (provided by Linda Deneroff), *The Purple Pastures* script, a Pittcon (1960) production, provided by Andy Hooper and *Songs from Space* by Eric Bentcliffe (provided by Rob Hansen). Check them out – they range from 1957 to 1989, and are a charming corner of our subculture. In 2019, the genre is very much alive. Dublin2019 presented the world premiere of the stage musical adaptation of *The Enchanted Duplicator*, that enduring classic of Irish fanwriting. We'll try to get that one too.

**Website Changes:** We've switched over to scanning fanzines exclusively as PDFs. The technology has improved to the point that we now can provide searchable PDFs even for fanzines from the 30s. Check this out - <http://fanac.org/fanzines/Tesseract/Tesseract0101.pdf> will take you to *Tesseract Annual 1* from 1939. David Ritter provided it to us (thanks David!), and we OCR'd the scan. Search for "Editorial" and you'll find that you can navigate this almost 80 year old zine with ease. Our goal is to put fanzines up in easily readable format, retaining the original look of the publication. With searchable PDFs, not only you, but eventually Google will be able to find almost anything or anyone mentioned. With our new equipment and software, we are literally adding over a hundred zines per month and providing better access to those searching for the thousands of people and publications mentioned.

Since the new scans are now PDF files, it does mean that larger fanzines will take a few seconds to download. We will keep each file as small as we can without reducing visual quality. As time permits, we will replace existing fanzine JPG scans with PDFs but this will be a slow process as we are focused on archiving the fanzines not yet scanned.

Thanks also to Mark Olson for providing software to make it easier to modify the fanzine index pages. We are now adding columns to the pages for who scanned an issue, and to indicate whether an issue is a PDF or not.

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

Today's stats: over 68,000 views and 480 subscribers. We've added 2 recordings since our August update for a total of 72 altogether. Our latest video has gone "viral" (in fan history terms). In the three weeks since we posted it, our video of Julia Ecklar's filk concert at Tropicon 8 (1989) has had 1,137 views. Julia Ecklar is a fabulous songwriter and performer, and if you like filk, you should watch this. Thanks to Eli Goldberg and Prometheus Music, we have complete musical credits for the concert. Eli included an announcement of the video in the Prometheus newsletter and signal boosted for us on Facebook. Thanks Eli!

Our other video is not as melodic but it is filled with fascinating history. From the YouTube description: "In this video, Rusty Hevelin interviews author Jack Williamson. Jack talks candidly about his life and career, from his experiences with psychoanalysis to his apprenticeship with (early SF writer) Miles J. Breuer to how he changed with the market over 50 years". Jack speaks quietly so you do have to listen. It's a bit slow to start but picks up midway.

**Fancyclopedia.org:** There are too many entries in Fancyclopedia.org to read them all but try this: type in the name of your favorite well-known fan. There's a good chance there will be info in their Fancyclopedia bio that you never knew about them. If you spot something missing that's important, please let us know. If they're not listed, then send us a note with what you know about them and we will try to find more.

When Mark Olson took over this project 10 years ago, it was a formidable challenge. It still is, but now there's so much information on the site that it's the first place to go in order to get questions answered about fannish topics. There's still more to do, so take the "look up your favorite fan" challenge and help us add to the Fancyclopedia.

**Last but not least department:** We are very happy to tell you that we now have an Australian agent. Perry Middlemiss, chair of the 1999 and 2010 Worldcons, Aussiecon 3 and 4, is joining the Fan History project. We are excited to have him helping to archive our fannish history, and looking forward to what we can do together. You can reach him at [perry@middlemiss.org](mailto:perry@middlemiss.org).

Notice some familiar names in this and other newsletters? With Perry, we are back to having three past Worldcon chairs working on The Fan History Project, many others have contributed. Perhaps we are an answer to that age-old question about where old and tired Worldcon chairs go. Or maybe we just made that up!

As always, thanks for the contributions (both of material and financial donations).

*Remember.* Those that don't know fannish history may be condemned to repeat it, but those that do also know that fannish love camps in the Ozarks were a hot topic decades before the Summer of Love <http://fancyclopedia.org/ozarks>

Fanhistorically your, Joe Siclari

**Selected links:** FANAC.org: <http://www.fanac.org/>

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

Fancyclopedia 3: <http://fancyclopedia.org/fancyclopedia-3>

Fanzines: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html)

Fannish Musicals: <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Musicals/>

Newszine Project: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological\\_listing\\_of\\_newszines.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_newszines.html)

Core fanzines to scan: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/core\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.pdf](http://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf)

FANAC Fanhistory YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>

Tropicon 8 (1989) – Julia Ecklar in Concert: <https://youtu.be/f37i168aL2Y>

MagiCon (1992) Worldcon - Rusty Hevelin interviews Jack Williamson

<https://youtu.be/HEjK5phFv1o>

Library of Congress Web Archiving Program - <https://www.loc.gov/programs/web-archiving/>