

January 22, 2020



Happy New Year! It's three months since Update 10 and it's been a bit slow – only 868 fanzines added plus a photo collection from Howard DeVore. We've had some great success scanning fanzines at a few selected conventions. Including Loscon where our Webmaster, Edie Stern, was Fan Guest of Honor.

Our big news this time is the migration of Fancyclopedia.org to a new technology base. Kudos, and many thanks to John Bray and Mark Olson for making this painless for the rest of us. It wasn't painless for them. Details below.

We will again have scanning stations at Boskone 57 in Boston, Mass. (Feb 14-16) and at Corflu 37 in College Station, Texas (Mar. 13-15). Bring some of your favorite fanzines and fannish photos for us to scan. If you have video or audio recordings of interest, please let us know as well.

Recent Highlights

One of the striking characteristics of the material we've uploaded in the last few months is the wide range of contributors and contributions. Fanac.org has always had support from history-minded fans all over, but our uploads since October include materials received from: Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Sweden, the UK and all around the US. I've listed those contributors at the bottom of the newsletter. My apologies if I missed anyone. It's a remarkable list. Saving fandom's history is truly an international effort. Hey – this long list doesn't let anyone off the hook! If you have materials to contribute, please contact us.

Thanks especially to Steve Rosenstein for his technical advice on backup procedures, and for his donation of a Blu-Ray writer for archival storage. Should we be felled by fire or earthquake, there is now a backup set of disks stored safely distant. Thanks also to Michael Ward and Karen Schaffer for their donation to help keep us going.

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

As of today, we have 9,827 issues, totaling 134,773 pages (up from about 8,959 issues and 117,000 pages in October). The newszine count is 3,149 (up from 3,130 in October). Thanks to David Ritter for the issues of Dick Wilson's *Science Fiction Newsletter* from the late 1930s. Also since the last report, we've completed the runs of Rob Jackson's *Maya*, Terry Carr's *Innuendo*, Jerry Kaufman and Suzle Tompkin's *Mainstream*, Richard Labonte's *Lowdown*, Bob Studley's *Time Scanner*, Joseph Gilbert's *Sound Off!*, and Lee Eastman's *Last Testament*. If we're close to a complete run of an important fanzine, we will importune you all for scans or copies to scan.

There's a new wealth of material related to British clubzines on the site. We have added 96 issues of *Vector*, the Critical Journal of the British Science Fiction Association and 288 issues of the *Birmingham Science Fiction Group Newsletter*. These are terrific additions, and we thank BSFA and BSFG for both their permission and the scans.

You might also be interested in newly uploaded issues of Ken Cheslin and Dave Hale's *Les Spinge* (1960s), Jim Blish and Walter M. Miller's *Planeteeer* (1930s), Malcolm Willits' *Destiny* (1950s), Bob Silverberg's *Spaceship* (1950s), Geis's *SF Review* (1970s), and Dick and Pat Lupoff's *Xero* (1960s). There are many more, as well as interesting bits of fannish history like the script for the musical version of *The Enchanted Duplicator* (Erwin Strauss, after Walt Willis and Bob Shaw), the *Fan Tarot Deck* (Bruce Pelz) and an explanation of fandom in 10 pages, *Neo-Fans Guide* (Bob Tucker, 1955). Links at the bottom. To stroll through our update history, go to <http://www.fanac.org/history.html>

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

Today's stats: 73,069 views and 509 subscribers (up from 68,000 views and 480 subscribers last newsletter). We've added 3 recordings since *Update 10* for a total of 73 altogether.

Our most recent addition is a two-part interview of our premier fan historian, Harry Warner, Jr., conducted by Moshe Feder, with a little help from Linda Bushyager (who also did videography), Toni Weisskopf and Hank Davis. The interview was taped for Corflu 7 in 1990. From the YouTube writeup: "Harry was Fan Guest of Honor at Noreascon 1, a prolific fanzine editor, and the most prodigious letterhack in fandom. This interview is a rare opportunity to hear from him face-to-face. Harry Warner was somewhat of a recluse, nicknamed the "Hermit of Hagerstown". His fan activity was almost entirely on paper. In this 1990 interview, Harry talks about

his entry into fandom, his thoughts on conventions, *Spaceways* and FAPA, the "Odd Tales Hoax", his experiences as a classical musician and more. He talks about the special appeal that fandom had for him."

The other recording we added was the audio (enhanced with photos!) of the Harlan Ellison Memorial panel at Worldcon 76. From the YouTube note: "...features memories and anecdotes from Tom Whitmore, Robert Silverberg (who was a friend of Harlan's for 65 years), Chris Barkley, David Gerrold, Christine Valada and Nat Segaloff (Harlan's biographer). Each of the panelists had a close relationship with Harlan, and these loving but clear-eyed reminiscences are a comfort to those that miss him, and hopefully to those readers who never had a chance to meet him. Harlan was an enormous presence in science fiction. His stories, his scripts, his kindnesses and his sometimes unbelievable missteps will be long remembered."

FancyCyclopedia.org: Mark Olson, chief editor for FancyCyclopedia explains what just happened.

Beginning about two years ago, the company that supplied FancyCyclopedia's wiki started showing signs that it was in trouble: non-existent customer service, unexplained outages. The time to leave is **before** it collapses on us, so we looked for a new host. With enormous help from John Bray, we settled on Mediawiki (the software developed for Wikipedia) and set up a server and then spent most of a year working out how to transfer the wiki with minimal pain.

The job was tricky for a bunch of reasons: There are many differences between Mediawiki's markup and the old markup language. Mediawiki is **different** from our old wiki software, and a straight-forward transfer would break nearly every external link in Fancy and many of the internal links. And Fancy is large.

We built many test versions of Fancy on the new server and slowly refined the process. In December 2019, we made one last copy of the old site, ported it to Mediawiki, and pointed the url FancyCyclopedia.org to the new site. About six hours later everyone was seeing the new site and the old one was history.

Speaking of history, we were unable to port the edit history of the existing pages, though we did capture a complete copy of every edit ever made. Users IDs could not be transferred either, so we're adding editors back in one by one.

Moving forward, we're still trying to smooth out rough edges (including internal links which broke and are now being repaired). We think the new wiki is as good as the old and in some ways much better.

Do you have something to add? If you'd like to edit or just want to supply a single correction, email us at fancyCyclopedia@fanac.org.

Coming Attractions:

Thanks to NESFA, we have a box of Boskone recordings that go back to Boskone 5. This year's Boskone will be #57. We haven't inventoried the box yet, but there are sure to be some gems we can digitize and make accessible. Thanks to NESFA and thanks to Rick Kovalchik!

Remember: Those that don't know fannish history may be condemned to repeat it, but those that do also know that Roscoe's Mighty Two Front Teeth and Slapping Tail are terrible weapons against the evildoer.

<http://fancyCyclopedia.org/Roscoe>

Recent Contributors (since the last newsletter):

Australia: Kim Huett, Irwin Hirsh

Canada: Bob Hurter, George Phillies, Dale Speirs,

Europe: Ahrvid Engholm, Tomas Recktenwald

Ireland: Philippa Ryder,

Israel: Leybl Botwinik

UK: BSFA (Allen Stroud and others), BSFG (John Bray), Alistair Durie, Rob Hansen, Rob Jackson

US: Jim Harris

Northeast: Chris Barkley, Moshe Feder, Rick Kovalcik, Filthy Pierre, Mark and Evelyn Leeper, Richard Lynch, Sam McDonald, NESFA, Andy Porter, David Ritter, Steve Rosenstein

Midwest: Karol DeVore Sissom, Mark Hickman

South: Hank Davis, Toni Weisskopf

West: Karen G. Anderson, Linda Bushyager, David Gerrold, Lee Gold, Barry Gold, John Hertz, Jerry Kaufman, Bruce Mai, Chris Marble, Nat Segaloff, Elaine Pelz, Christine Valada, Tom Whitmore

Selected links:

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

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

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

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

Core List: to Scan:

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

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

Birmingham Science Fiction Group Newsletter: http://fanac.org/fanzines/Birmingham_Science_Fiction_Group_Newsletter/

Destiny: <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Destiny/>

Enchanted Duplicator musical: www.fanac.org/fanzines/Musicals/

Fan Tarot Deck: <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Artzines/Artzine04.pdf>

Innuendo, Les Spinge, Maya, Mainstream, Neo-Fans Guide, Planeteer. SF Review, Spaceship, Vector, Xero are all accessible at http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html”

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

Interview with Harry Warner Jr. https://youtu.be/s-Rs7S_S4dw

Harlan Ellison Memorial Panel: <https://youtu.be/na3dLxm0AYE>

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.