

FANAC Fan History Project

Newsletter 20

December 11, 2022



Worldcon is over, and for Joe and I, our moment of FGoH fame is past. All of us on the Fan History Project are back to working on the archive, and on Fancyclopedia, and to making all the material more accessible. In addition to adding lots of zines and convention pubs to the archive since the last newsletter, we've added some useful navigation and context aids (explained below). We're also replacing old JPG zines with new, searchable PDF versions and that is proving exceptionally helpful.

FANAC at Chicon 8 (Mark Olson)

With assistance from Benjamin Levy and Geri Sullivan, FANAC.org had a very nice area for scanning in the Chicon 8 exhibit hall, next to the Fan Lounge. That placement was perfect, allowing cross conversation and natural perambulation of attendees between the two areas.

Our "special guest" was a life-sized stand-up of Chicon 8 Guest of Honor, Erle Korshak. Erle passed away about a year before the con, and we wanted to have him there in at least this way. A number of fans had their pictures taken with him. The sweet ending to the story is that Erle's family asked if they could take the stand-up image home after the convention. After watching one of the grandkids (great grandkids?) hug the stand-up, it was a done deal.



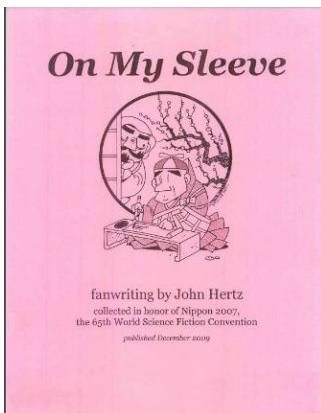
Steven Silver with our "special guest",
Chicon 8 GoH Erle Korshak

Of course, our focus was on scanning and we managed to scan well over a hundred fanzines during the weekend, including many brought to the con and loaned to us by people. There were choice issues brought by Murray Moore particularly to finish off runs (and whittle down our "One and Done" list). Thanks, Murray!

Working the table were Perry Middlemiss, Laurie Mann, Leah Zeldes Smith, Steven Silver, Gregory Meyer and others. Thanks, to everyone that helped.

Our next convention scanning station will be at Boskone 60 in February 2023. We hope you can bring some fanzines and other items we can scan for the archives. Please write to us beforehand (fanac@fanac.org) to be sure we can use what you are bringing.

New Ways to Navigate (aka How to Find What You're Looking For)



As the archive grows, we've added more ways to find fanzines. Originally, we had a list of Classic, Modern and Electronic fanzines. That gave way to one massive list (which we still call Classic). Over time, we've added other interesting ways to find things, like the Newszine, the Chronological, and the Alphabetic lists.

The latest addition is the "By Editor" listing of fanzines - https://fanac.org/fanzines/by_editor.html. It's a great way to find the available materials by a given editor (and a great way to egoscan). Even better, we now include one-shots in the alphabetical and "By Editor" lists. So, if the person you're looking up liked to name things uniquely, or had a penchant for one-shots, you can find them easily. Adding the one-shots came about after a note from John Hertz suggesting it. Thanks, John! We hadn't even realized they were missing. Thanks also to Mark Olson for the software that generates the list.

The “By Editor” list is a work in progress, so if you see spelling variations and duplicate listings, please let us know.

Of course, you can also find zines through Google. Fair warning though – it takes a while for Google to give up links that no longer exist, such as when we replace a set of jpgs with a searchable PDF. We’ve started adding redirects for the important ones like “Sense of FAPA”. If you end up with a “404 Not Found” from a Google search, please let us know and at least we’ll send you the working link. (Let us know = write to: fanac@fanac.org)

Context, Context, and More Context – APA Mailing listings

Having the chronological list lets you see what was published in any given time frame. What it doesn’t let you understand is which fans received the zines and presumably read them. We have a partial solution....

APAs provided fandom with a long standing and very viable approach to having a large correspondence circle without having to maintain an individual mailing list. Traditionally, FAPA especially had a membership of BNFs, and provided internet-like levels of interaction.

With the APA Mailing listings, we are providing a navigation aid to contents of the major APAs which are available on the FANAC digital archive. For each mailing, you can easily see and access the zines that were part of it which we have in the archive. As we add more zines which were distributed in the APAs, those issues will be added to the Mailings list. If we don’t have any zines from a mailing online, we’ll omit it from the Mailings list. Software to generate the Mailing listings courtesy of Mark Olson. Thanks, Mark!

We’re focusing on FAPA first. Unsurprisingly, the mailings of FAPA where we have the most content are the ones that were in Retro Hugo years, since we had a push on digitizing zines from those years.

For many mailings, we only have 1 or 2 zines so far, but our ambitions are to do this for FAPA, VAPA, SAPS, OMPA, ANZAPA, N’APA and some of SFPA. We’re also using this format to provide a table of contents for mailings of the Futurian War Digest. I am unreasonably excited about this enhancement.

Rich Lynch has led a SFPA project to provide a rich view of several years of SFPA mailings. He’s scanned hundreds of zines of early 2000s issues of SFPA, almost all online now, providing a very full look at the mailings of the time. It was a huge effort. Thanks, Rich!

The APA mailing listings are a work in progress so both be kind, and send us info and corrections for any gaps or errors that you see. If you can help identify APA mailings for fanzine titles, please send them to us. OR if you have Inventory sheets for APA mailings and can scan or copy them, please send them to us.



File 770, #61, September 1986

Putting it All Together

As we hoped, the Fan History project is making it easier to do research.

Recently, a request came in from a scholar looking for information on the Manly Wade Wellman auction held at the 1986 Worldcon, ConFederation. The Newszine project has archived thousands of fannish newszines, and the more recent PDF and OCR efforts have made them more accessible. We were able to provide him with an account of the auction, including the name of the buyer for the item he asked about. It took just a single search. The mind boggles.

If you are using newszines for research which have not been OCR’d yet, please let us know and we’ll move them up the priority list.

Outstanding Additions since the last newsletter

We've added more than 1,000 publications since the last newsletter, so here are a few highlights.

Operation Armageddon: Recently, thanks to Rob Hansen, we added the run of *Operation Armageddon*, Vinç Clarke's limited distribution publication from 1954, full of ideas for causing excitement at the 1954 Eastercon, SuperMancon, without the cooperation of the Manchester fans. The ideas being bandied about included fake programs, insulting visiting cards, reserved notices for seats, disruptive timing, and explosive paste. "Nothing fatal tho." But, as Rob Hansen writes in **Then**, "As it turned out, it wasn't necessary to put Operation Armageddon into action at SUPERMANCON. The official programme began on time but soon disintegrated almost completely, without needing help from London fandom". (You can read more about it at https://fanac.org/Fan_Histories/Then/Then_22.html , or better yet, [buy](#) the book.)

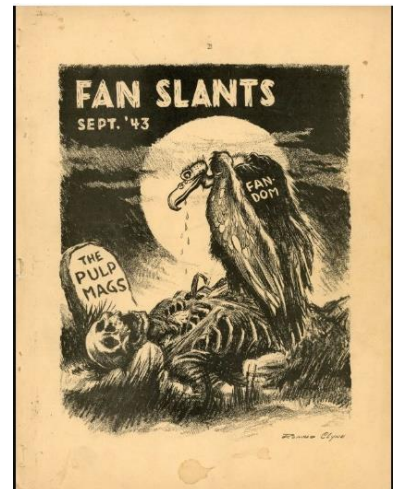
FAPA Constitutions: Another unusual couple of items are two FAPA constitutions. The first, the original May 1937 Constitution, provided to us by Bob Silverberg, states that FAPA's "... purpose shall be to unite in fraternity the amateur writers, publishers, editors and printers of fantastic and highly imaginative literature and publications; to promote the spread of amateur fantasy writing and publishing; to better the abilities of the members in their fields; to provide an appreciative audience for the amateur fantasy enthusiast." The 1940 revision moves the "amateur" from the writers to the "publications" (and also adds artists, dropping publishers and printers). Both versions are online and listed on the *Fantasy Amateur* page - <https://fanac.org/fanzines/FantasyAmateur/>

Completed Fanzine Runs: Here are 3 of the runs that were completed at Chicon 8, thanks to Murray Moore.

Fan Slants (Mel Brown, US) was an Outsider Publication from the mid-1940s, with well-known contributors such as Phil Bronson, Walt Daugherty, Francis T. Laney, Gus Wilmoth, Forry Ackerman, Bob Tucker and many more. The first two issues have delightful Ronald Clyne covers.

Smoke (George Locke, UK), an OMPAazine that ended in 1963, had contributors including Ken Bulmer, John Berry, Vinç Clarke, Atom, Harry Warner Jr, Archie Mercer, Ella Parker and Bob Lichtman.

Vanations (Norman Browne, CA), was available under the "Pay After Reading" system. From *Fancylopedia 2*: "Pay After Reading: A system instituted in Norm Browne's *Vanations #1*, under which you pay what you think the issue is worth, taking into consideration reading pleasure, appreciation for the contribution of the editorial staff, possibility of improvement in future issues, and like that. "Anything under 10¢ I consider an insult and anything over 25¢ hurts my conscience", said Browne".



Delightful Zoom Interview: We were fortunate to have an interview with the irrepressible Maggie Thompson, a second-generation science fiction fan, one of the architects of comics fandom in the early 60s, and a much revered professional in the comics field. Interviewed by Chris Couch, Maggie told stories of growing up in fandom, the evolution of comics fandom and her career in both. From costuming to the Comic Buyers Guide, from Harlan Ellison to Carl Barks, I found this interview entertaining and enlightening. It's up in two parts on our YouTube channel (link to our YouTube channel at the bottom).

Yesterday, we had another FanHistory Zoom, this one on Pittsburgh fandom in the 1970s. Look for it soon on our YouTube channel.

FANAC by the Numbers

Fanzines: 19,086 issues (covering 1,702 titles) with more than 342,002 pages. This is up from the 18,005 fanzine issues and 321,385 pages reported in our August update.

Conpubs: 3,447 publications, with 63,816 pages, representing 822 conventions. This is up from the 3,311 publications, with 61,302 pages, representing 788 conventions reported in our August update.

Fancylopedia: 29,538 pages which include 6,341 for people, 4,593 for fans (a subset of people), 8,338 for fanzines, another 1,518 for clubs and apas, and 6,191 for conventions. This is up from the 29,199 pages including 6,292 people pages, 4,545 fan pages, 8,219 fanzines pages, 1,515 for clubs and apas, and 6,163 convention pages reported in our August update.

YouTube: 149,402 views, 1,189 subscribers and 137 recordings. This is up from 142,436 views, 1,063 subscribers and 133 recordings in our August update.

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 home page.

Fanhistorically yours. Edie Stern, Joe Siclari and Mark Olson

Contributors since the last newsletter: We have received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Eve Ackerman, Lenny Bailes, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, Mike Bracken, John Bray, Claire Brialey, BSFA, Ginjer Buchanan, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Linda Bushyager, Darrah Chavey, Randy Cleary, Eli Cohen, Jeff Copeland, Liz Copeland, Chris Couch, Todd Dashoff, Richard Dengrove, Vincent Docherty, Ahrvid Engholm, Tom Feller, Bruce Gillespie, Mike Glycer, Barry Gold, Eli Goldberg, Rob Hansen, John Hertz, Bill Higgins, Mike Hillen, Irwin Hirsh, Arthur Hlavaty, Andy Hooper, Steve Hughes, Bob Jennings, Steve Johnson, Dave Langford, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Guy Lillian III, Mark Loney, Lesleigh Luttrell, LynC, Rich Lynch, Bruce Mai, Joseph Major, Laurie Mann, Paul March-Russell, Sam McDonald, Greg Meyer, Perry Middlemiss, Murray Moore, Fred Moulton, Karl-Johan Norén, Paul Novitsky, Bee Ostrowsky, Joe Patrizio, Meredith Peruzzi, George Phillies, Greg Pickersgill, Andrew Porter, Thomas Recktenwald, David Ritter, Gary Robe, David Schlosser, Steven Silver, Bob Silverberg, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Elaine Stiles, Matthew Strait, Sheila Strickland, Geri Sullivan, John Thiel, Suzanne Tompkins, Maggie Thompson, Jan Vaněk Jr, Jo Van Ekeren, Pat Virzi, Ben Yalow, Julian Warner, Mike Weber, Toni Weisskopf, George Wells, Tom Whitmore and Rolf Wilson.

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

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

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.

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