

November 29, 2020



I hope this newsletter finds all of you safe!

First, an informational, bureaucratic bit. We are changing the name of this publication to the *Fanac Newsletter*. It will continue to come out every few months with wide-ranging info about our Fan History Projects. You can also sign up for our NEW twice-weekly *FANAC Update* emails that will tell you exactly, and in detail, what we have just put online. It's the same info as in our "What's New" section, listing each new issue and providing links to what might interest, but it comes to you directly in your email. If you would like to receive these *Updates*, send an email (blank is ok) to: FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io.

You would think that the big thing to lead this issue would be a summary of the *FANAC Survey* to which nearly a hundred and fifty of you responded. However, our top priority item is our:

New ZOOM Into Fan History

Get ready for a trip to fannish London! We are planning a series of *Zoom Interactive Fan History Sessions*, and for our first session, Rob Hansen is going to give us an historic tour of fannish Holborn, London. Rob is probably the most accomplished fan historian writing these days. As most of you know, he has written the history of English fandom, *Then* and has put together a number of books covering various aspects of British fandom. Find many of them at <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php>. **Reserve the date:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 11AM EDT.

Despite the pandemic, Rob has done video recordings around London, and with historic photos and live description will give us a tour that covers some household fannish names and places. He has worked with Edie over the past several months to provide an interesting and fairly detailed coverage of London's fan heritage. This one hour session is based on tours which Rob has given to individual fans and also developed as a group tour after the last London Worldcon. Even if you have been on one of these tours, you will find some fresh sights and insights. Of course, Rob will be live on Zoom with additional material and to answer questions. Please send your **RSVP to fanac@fanac.org**, as our Zoom service is limited to 100 participants.

Fan History Projects Survey Results

As I indicated, 147 of you responded to our First Ever Fanhistory Project survey. We thank each and every one of you for providing us with helpful information about how you use the sites and suggestions on how we can improve them. You can see the gory survey details at <http://fanac.org/fanzines/FANAC-Updates/update135.pdf> Here's a summary of what we learned:

--Respondents visit the Fan History sites in nearly equal measures for research, nostalgia and pleasure reading. From other mail, we have been told that our website has been helpful for festschrifts & collections, high school papers, books, academic papers, Master's theses, fiction collections, documentaries, and even a family history. A little more than half are looking for fanzines, a third of you for photos, and less than 20% for con publications. On Fancyclopedia, about half come to browse and half to research.

--The favorite navigation method on FANAC.org is the Classic Fanzine list, but all the other navigation tools come in for wide usage as well. On Fancyclopedia, most people use the search bar.

--Many of you don't access the YouTube channel at all. Since it's getting a lot of traffic, it's clear that it draws from readers and other interested parties as well as from those interested in Fanhistory. Not a surprise there, since there are so many Guest of Honor speeches, and talks by folks like Fritz Leiber and Harlan Ellison.

We also asked an open-ended question on what would make the sites better for you. Most of you were polite and said we were 'doing good.' However, some comments spurred us to action:

1. "You're too US-centric". *That's partly because fandom has been largest here. We do want to provide a broad selection of fanzines (if primarily English language). To make it easier to see which fanzines are available from different countries, we have added a "by country" list:*
http://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html
2. "Perhaps starting an associated forum!" *We have a Facebook page for announcements. However, there are several very active Fanhistory groups already on Facebook, for example*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Fanhistory>

3. "Better photo/graphic storage/display." *We are investigating this. Our photo software is homegrown and 25 years old. If you know good gallery software, please let us know.*
4. "Ability to bulk download fanzine issues maintained as individual page images". *We are in the process of converting many of our old JPG zines into searchable PDFs that still retain the look and readability of the old zines. We have converted hundreds of issues so far, but we still have a long way to go. In the "What's New" section and the e-mail updates, we list the zines that have been newly converted from JPGs. Willing to help? Let's talk.*
5. "The paging forward buttons are badly situated." *We'll be looking at this.*
6. "I would love to see more information about fanzines on the fanzine landing pages. Specifically things like the total number of issues produced, first and last publications, and notable editors and contributors and - Integration with Fancyclopedia – and Better cross linking." *We are currently cross-linking more pages with Fancyclopedia 3. This information will be linked there.*
7. "Table of contents." *Making everything searchable should help.*
8. "More direct links from <http://fanac.org/fanzines/> to subset lists such as Fanthologies or Irish Publications, which are buried in the Classic Fanzines list as though they were individual fanzines." *We'll look into this.*
9. "Making it easier to find interviews/mentions of people in the search" *As we make more fanzines into searchable PDFs, you should be able to find interviews and mentions of individuals using search.*

Navigation

As you know, we have been trying to improve access and navigation around the site as it gets larger. Hopefully some of the items below will help.

First, What's new with the "What's New" section. As we said in the opening, if you don't want to go and look, you can now get this info sent to you by email twice a week. To receive these direct *Updates*, send an email (blank is ok) to: FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io.

Second, as we said above, we have created a list of fanzine titles by country of origin. Thanks to Mark Olson's software, this list will let you sample fanzines from other parts of the world, but don't be surprised if you find a few familiar names. Fans are slans after all, and not adverse to international relations. Current non-US zines: Australia (26 titles), Canada (15), Ireland (14), United Kingdom (99), others have 3 or less. You can reach it directly: http://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html or from the lists of lists: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/>

Third, we have a new con pubs format. Mark Olson has put together a new, easier-to-love format for con pubs. All the Worldcon pubs are searchable PDFs and you'll also find bidding material, convention reports and even ephemera. The new con pubs pages have links to the photo albums (and the photo pages have links back to the pubs), and to relevant FANAC recordings on YouTube. All the pubs that were accessible from the Worldcon photo index are now moved to the new con pubs. Mark has scanned and uploaded many more. Read them all (including a few committee APAs) at <http://fanac.org/conpubs/Worldcon/>. Publications from other cons are going up as well. You can navigate to them by starting at <http://fanac.org/conpubs>. If you have material to contribute, drop a note to fanac@fanac.org. Thanks Mark!

Fourth, the alpha fanzine listing is quite large. To make it easier to find a zine we are doing several things:

1. Fanzines that change title: we are listing all the issues in one directory. You will still be able to search for it by using any of the titles that the editor concocted on the Classic fanzine list. Possibly the most complicated of these was Geis' *Psychotic/Science Fiction Review* medley. However, many other fanzine editors have changed titles. As bibliographers, we are trying to keep them in proper sequence and make it easier for you to follow them.

2. One-shots: we are creating directories for one-shots by decade. We already have some specialized directories for unusual or themed publications. For example: Cosmic Circle Publications lists all the titles produced for Claude Degler's Cosmic Circle. The Fanthologies/Collections/Festschrifts directory puts together all those publications that meet its description. You'll see the decade one shots at the top of the Classic Fanzine list.

Fifth, while it's not about navigation, we have created a page titled *By the Numbers*. It will give you a sense of what's available. This is mostly for ourselves to let us keep track of our progress. However, if you'd like to see a numerical summary of what we have on our fan history project sites, you can check here.

http://www.fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fanacnumbers.html

Over 50 Contributors since our last issue

We have added lots of new material, photos, fanzines and audio/video recordings, from many fans and organizations. These include ASFA, Astrid Bear, Jim Benford, John D. Berry, BSFA, Leybl Botwinik, John Bray, Darrah Chavey, Eli Cohen, John Coker III, Alistair Durie, Sara Felix, First Fandom, Kim Gibbs, Bruce Gillespie, Carol Goodwin, Roelof Goudriaan, Rob Hansen, Irwin Hirsh, Kim Huett, Rob Jackson, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Rick Kovalcik, Dave Langford, Evelyn & Mark Leeper, Guy Lillian III, Rich Lynch, Sam MacDonald, Paul March-Russell, Kenny Martens, NESFA, N3F, Mark Olson, John Owen, Joe Patrizio, George Phillies, John Pomeranz, John Purcell, David Ritter, Science Fiction Foundation, Steven Silver, Kevin R. Smith, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Matthew Strait, and input from Greg Benford, Sandra Bond, Bill Burns, Eli Goldberg, John Hertz, Tamar Lindsay, Dick Lupoff, Bruce Mai, Mark Richards, Mitch Silverman, Mike Ward, Ron Zukowski, the International Costumer's Guild, and of course all of you who answered our survey. Special thanks to Andy Porter, for all his work in helping get our updates out to a wider audience. If anyone's been left off this list, I apologize.

FANAC by the Numbers. These numbers give us some idea of the progress we are making in documenting our fan history. As of today, we have 12,710 fanzine issues consisting of more than 208,554 pages. This is up from the 11,526 fanzine issues and 179,423 pages reported in our April update. You might wonder at the 29,000 page increase. Well, it's not because all the new issues are giant size. Part of it is because we started counting pages in more of the PDFs. There are still a lot more to count, so you may see another big jump at some point. This is still an undercount because some of the zines, like *MT Void*, are already HTML, and they count as only one page, even if they are many screens long. For the rest of the stats, see http://www.fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fanacnumbers.html.

Featured Fen: We are trying to highlight the FANAC material of a few good fen. We've already done Lee Hoffman, Dave Kyle, Bob Madle, Sam Moskowitz, and Jack Speer. Upcoming are Susan Wood and Walt Willis. These stay on our home page for about a month. If you like the idea, let us know and suggest fen to spotlight.

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

We have substantially increased the number of complete fanzine runs you can read on FANAC.org. Over 30 runs have been completed since the last newsletter, including rich brown's *beardmutterings*, Larry Shaw's *Beulah's Scrapbook*, Bruce Sterling's *Cheap Truth*, Bill Bowers & Bill Mallardi's *Double-Bill*, Ted White's *egoscan*, the *Gannetscrapbook*, Maurice Hanson's *Novae Terrae*, George Willick's *Parsection*, NESFA's *Proper Boskonian*, Bruce Pelz' *Ratatosk*, John Berry & Arthur Thomson's *Retribution*, Ronald Holmes & Leslie Heald's *Science-Fantasy Review's War Digest*, Dale Tarr's *Science Fiction World*, SFSFS' *Solstice*, John Magnus' *Varioso*, the round-robin fan fiction serial *The Wall*, John D. Berry's *Wing Window*, Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden's *Izzard* and *Zed*, plus several collections from John Berry's *Out of the Reitsch?* To Sandra Meisel's *Sweetmeats to Travelin' Jiant - Adv. of Art Widner in Frontierland!* There are about 200 complete runs on the site (ranging from 2 issues to 168).

Check the complete runs by going to the "fanzines" page at <http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/ClassicFanzines.html> and then click on the column titled FLAG.

As suggested by the Contributors list above, we didn't do this alone, but with the help of many others. If you have the ability to help us add more fanzines, please write to fanac@fanac.org. Even one issue helps. We have a few places where we show publications which we are looking for.

One and Done list - http://fanac.org/fanzines/begging_list-need-1.html

Just a Few list - http://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html

Core list - http://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf

This doesn't mean that we don't want other zines, these are just our current priority lists. If you have other titles, we certainly welcome them as well.

Of course, we've added **new titles**. You might be interested in Avedon Carol's *Blatant/WSFAnac Jackie* (Franke) Causgrove' *Dilemma*, *Kenning* and *Resolution*, Redd Bogg's *Discord/Retrograde & Hurkle*, Stopa & Locke's *Gallimaufry*, Misfits' *Harpies*, Kwiat & Kage's *Heckmeck* (DE), Lupoff's *Horib*, Dave McDonald's *Metrofan*, Don Chappell's *Nite Cry*, Bob Shaw's *Perspex Parrot* (IE), Couch's *Quark*, Mal Ashworth's *Rot* (UK), Leigh Edmonds' *Rataplán* (AU), Fred Patten's *Salamander*, Irwin Hirsch's *Sikander* (AU), Russ Chauvenet's *Spinneraker Reach*, Roger Ebert's *Stymie*, and Lee Hoffman's *Tangent*.

FANAC Fan History YouTube Channel (from Edie Stern): <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>

We're up to 696 subscribers, 89 recordings and have had over 98,000 views. Since the last newsletter, we've added five recordings. That's slightly misleading, since there are only 3 1/3 new pieces. When the recording lasts longer than about an hour, we now break them up for easier viewing. Links are at the bottom.

Two of the new pieces are from Boskones held in the late 1960s. These are both audio recordings, with related images timed to the talk. The first is a delightful talk by Larry Niven on the effects of teleportation on a society, recorded about 5 years before his "Flash Crowd" was published. The second is a panel discussion on "The Feminine Viewpoint", with Marion Zimmer Bradley, Anne McCaffrey, and Larry Niven. Hal Clement moderates. I found the panel discussion uncomfortable but illustrative – there are comments like "you can't be a feminist if you like being a woman", and remarks about fanzines that discount female writers solely because of their sex.

Also new since last time is "The Best of Confederation". We've put it up in two parts. Part 1 has long sections from the Guest of Honor speeches by Terry Carr and Ray Bradbury. From the YouTube writeup: "Ray touches on fandom, Ray Harryhausen, John Houston, Epcot Center and more, ending with a stirring affirmation. This is an outstanding talk by Ray Bradbury." Part 2 has Bob Shaw, Harlan Ellison, and Lester Del Rey's memorable non-acceptance of Judy-Lynn del Rey's Hugo award as well.

Most recently, we've added Part 1 of a filk session held at the 1989 Tropicon, with songs performed by Julia Ecklar, C.J. Cherryh and others. Eli Goldberg was a huge help with the sound editing, creating the song list and teaching me how to provide links to the start of each song. Going forward, I'll try to do that for other recordings. Hmm, maybe I should start with that Ray Bradbury GoH speech.

It's a broad spectrum of items with many more to come. I hope you enjoy them. For navigation, we've added playlists by decade so you can pick your time period. There's also a playlist for Fan Interviews, and one for Filk as well as for the Worldcons with more than one recording.

Fancylopedia.org (From Mark Olson): Lately, we've been working hard to improve the linkages between [Fancylopedia.org](http://fancylopedia.org) and fanac.org, putting in links to fanzines and conventions for which fanac.org has scans. (We're also moving many scans once hosted on Fancy to fanac.org.) Finally, we've started adding photos of fans to their bio pages. Also, Fancylopedia now has links on its fanzine pages to the appropriate FANAC.org index pages. (It's not complete today, but will be in another week or so.)

We want to particularly point out the contributions to Fancylopedia made by Leah Zeldes Smith, a long-time Midwestern fanhistorian, fan editor, and con-runner. She has been making substantial contributions to Fancy 3 this year. She's added a huge amount of new information, with a particular focus on researching and updating the biographies of fans -- and especially female fans -- from the 50s and 60s.

On top of that, Leah's created some great new pages pulling together information already in Fancy and making it useful, such as http://fancylopedia.org/Fan_Memoirs, a list of fannish convention reports and Fanhistory Resources (http://fancylopedia.org/Fanhistory_Resources). And, in the spirit of 2020, Fannish Ailments (http://fancylopedia.org/Fannish_Ailments).

One last thing: Edie and I are proud to announce that we have been asked to be the Fan Guests of Honor for Chicon 8, the 2022 World Science Fiction Convention.

Coming Attractions: Looking ahead, we'll have more recordings on our YouTube channel with Harlan Ellison, filk concerts, Samuel R. Delany and others. We'll have more classic fanzines from the 1930s and 40s as well as more of *Mimosa*, *Trap Door* and zines from Australia, Europe, and the United Kingdom. We'll also post a schedule for additional Fan History Zoom sessions.

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 home page.

We don't normally announce non-FANAC projects, but *Outworlds 71* has been a massive effort to produce the final Bill Bowers publication and tribute. You can get it on Amazon – just search in Books for "Outworlds 71". Congratulations to Pat Virzi, Jeanne Bowman, Rich Coad, and Alan Rosenthal.

We're still hunkered down, but with hopes growing for available vaccines and an end to the pandemic. Once again, remember to **RSVP** for the Zoom. Stay safe and we'll see you next time.

Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari

Selected links:

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

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

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

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

Tropicon 8 (1989) Filk (pt1): <https://youtu.be/n2QUsbK0hbk>

Boskone 6 (1969) The Feminine Viewpoint - <https://youtu.be/YmCugozN9PU>

The Best of Confederation (1986) pt 2: <https://youtu.be/NSfyivaJb7U>

The Best of Confederation (1986) pt 1 (GoH speeches): <https://youtu.be/GkDtPgWr8w8>

Boskone 5 (1968) The Theory and Practice of Teleportation (Larry Niven): <https://youtu.be/GDRvhBU3oKE>

Numbers:

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

Fanac by the numbers: http://www.fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fanacnumbers.html

Lists to navigate Fanzines by: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/>

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

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

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