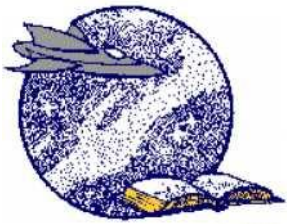


FANAC Fan History Project

Newsletter 16

August 23, 2021



It's been five months since our last newsletter and a lot has happened. Today, we're going to tell you some tales from behind the scenes, update you on the (now) four main parts of The Fan History Project – the FANAC digitized archive, Fancyclopedia 3, our YouTube Channel and the Zoom series, and yes, some actual news for the newsletter.

The News: FANAC is the new home for the archives of the Science Fiction Oral History Society (SFOHA). The SFOHA has been recording professionals and fans since 1975. Many thanks to SFOHA's Anne Gray for masterminding the move. Watch this space for more to come as we go through the SFOHA archive and start digitizing.

More news: We are in the midst of migrating our web server to a newer, larger and faster server. It will take us a few more days, but hopefully, this will make it easier for you and give you quicker access to the files you want to read. Please let us know how it works for you. As with any upgrade, there may be some glitches to start. If you find any, please write to fanac@fanac.org so we can fix them.

Sad news: You all have probably heard the sad news already, but recently we have lost two fans who were stalwarts among our FANAC contributors, Alistair Durie and Ed Meskys. Alistair provided scans of many 1930s-40s fanzines, including *Arcturus*, *The Planeteer*, *The Rocket*, *Science-Fantasy Review* and *Science-Fantasy Review War Digest*. Ed was one of the founders of Tolkien fandom, provided source fanzines for scanning, as well as a verbal history. Ed was a long-time personal friend, and a fixture with his dogs at conventions for many years. Rest in Peace.

Fan History Zoom Series: Our second series of History Zooms starts in September, with Juanita Coulson. Juanita has been a marathon faned, publishing *Yandro* to #259 and an early Trekzine among many others, a mainstay of the filk community, and a professional writer. She's been honored as a DUFF winner, Hugo winner and nominee 10 years in a row for *Yandro*, Worldcon Fan GoH, and more.

Date and Time: September 25, 2PM EDT, 11AM PDT, 1PM CDT, 7PM London

Our October Zoom will be a panel on British Fan History moderated by Rob Hansen, date and time TBD.

See <https://fanac.org/zoom.html> for details on this and other Fan History Zooms.

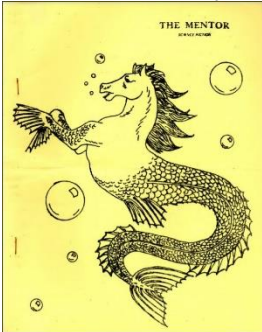
RSVP to fanac@fanac.org if you're not on our Frequent Zoomer list (or if you're not sure).

Behind the Scenes or How the Sausage is Made:

Finding Anne Steul: Anne Steul is not a familiar name to most of us. In June, Rob Hansen sent us a scan of *Fantum 1*, edited by Anne Steul, who he remarked had also organized the first German SF con with some help from Jim and Greg Benford. That led to an expansion of Anne Steul's Fancyclopedia article, followed by more biographical data on her from Rob Hansen. We asked Thomas Recktenwald if he could tell us more. Thomas provided insight into why she left fandom, and a link to Rainer Eisfield's book, **Zwischen Barsoom und Peenemunde** (*Between Barsoom and Peenemunde*) that had 10 pages on Anne Steul, and German fandom of the time, including bibliographic data and a photo. Next, Joe asked Jim and Greg Benford for additional info and Greg forwarded a few 2013 issues of *CounterClock*, a fanzine from Wolf von Witting published in Italy, that had articles on early German fandom. So now we have expanded our knowledge, added her *Fantum*, and added to the Fancyclopedia entry. And that's how the Fan History sausage is made. As a result, Thomas Recktenwald is helping us add information about German fandom to Fancyclopedia. Thomas is a long-time contributor to The Fan History Project having provided many photos, fanzines and recordings.



John Bangsund's Digital Memorial: John Bangsund, one of Australia's most active fans, died of Covid-19 in August 2020. In October, we started a project to get John's fanzines online. Our Australian FANAC team member, Perry Middlemiss, enlisted the help of several Australian fans - Irwin Hirsh, Bruce Gillespie, Kim Huett, Marc Ortleib, and Alan Stewart. Great photos of John came in from Bruce Gillespie and Sally Yeoland (John's ex-wife). Pretty soon, scans in volume came in from Irwin, Perry, Alan and Kim. Mark Plummer helped with a consolidated spreadsheet. Today, a massive number of fanzines have been scanned and uploaded – there are more than 40 in the “Bangsund Miscellaneous” index alone. If I've counted correctly, there are 214 fanzines by John Bangsund on the site. Among the complete runs of Bangsund fanzines are *Australian Science Fiction Review*, *Philosophical Gas* and *Scythrop*. In April, 2021, Edie put up a Splash page for John on FANAC.org. What a productive way to honor John Bangsund! It's long lasting too, as these digital records will be in the next sweep of the website done by the Library of Congress. Thank you all!



The team has also added many other titles from Down Under including Crozier's *Etherline* (85), Clarke's *The Mentor* (94), Gillespie's *The Metaphysical Review* (18), Edmonds Rataplan (23), completed our runs of Hirsh's *Sikander* (16) and the newszine *Thyme* (145). New Zealand zines have not been forgotten – we have added Thurogood's *Noumenon* (scanned by Perry), and Horrocks' *KiwiFan*. Next project: the fanzines of John Foyster. Thanks again to our Australian contributors for significantly improving the FANAC archive of Australian fanzines, now numbering more than 1,400 issues.

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

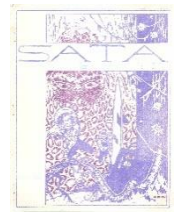
While the Australian additions are big news for us, it's not all about Australia. We have also added many other titles, particularly those from the “nostalgia” era. Our earliest focus was on well-known fanzine titles, and the oldest fanzines from the 30s and 40s simply because there was demand on the one hand, and the effects of entropy on the other. While we still eagerly scan the 30s zines, more and more are from later periods. This week alone we added issues of *Ettle* (80s, Jackie Causgrove), *Glass Houses* (80s, Taral Wayne), *Bete Noire* (60s-70s, Redd Boggs), *Outworlds* (1983, Bill Bowers), *Rude Bitch* (80s, Avedon Carol and Lucy Huntzinger), and *Supersonic Snail* (1977, Bruce Gillespie). Notable runs since the last newsletter include *DNQ* (70s-80s, Taral Wayne and Victoria Vayne, all scanned by Sparky), and *Small Friendly Dog* (70s-80s, Paul and Cas Skelton). There are some rare items too – *Shaver Mystery Magazine* (full run of Richard Shaver's 1940s semi-pro), and *Proceedings of the Institute for Twenty-First Century Studies* aka *PITFCS* (60s, Theodore Cogswell).

One-shots: We have been putting up some exceptional One-Shot fanzines. Of course, we have famous zines, like Laney's *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!*, Carr's *BNF of Iz*, Willis & Shaw's *The Enchanted Duplicator* (12 different editions) and trip reports like Willis' *Harp Stateside* and *The Enchantment*. But you should also dig into our index page on “Fanthologies, Collections and Festschrifts”. There are some great collections of material by Charles Burbee, Bob Tucker, Lucy Huntzinger, Ted White, Susan Wood, Bob Shaw, Rick Sneary, Bruce Gillespie, Sandra Miesel, Terry Carr, Walt Willis and others. We have nearly all of the “Best of the Year” collections of fannish writing that have been compiled as well as many regional Fanthologies.

Other Fandoms and Related Zines:

Science fiction fans have often written about other hobbies, and often SF fandom has spawned other fanzines and fandoms. These include fandoms around comics, mystery, SCA and Star Trek, and even early folk music. FANAC has identified and scanned zines by well-known fans that are part of such early crossovers. These are zines that started as pretty regular fanzines and became a beginning or mainstay of a related fandom. You'll see them in the Classic List under “Related”.

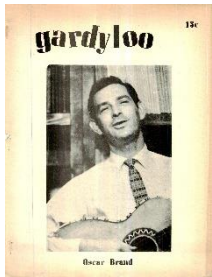
Notable comics items include Lupoff's *Xero* and Thompson's *Newfangles* but there were also Kyle's *Fantasy World* (1936), May's *EC Fan Journal* (1953), Taurasi's *Fantasy Comics* (1952), Pearson's *SATA*, and Bronson's *Scienti-Comics* (1940). All of these, and others, came before the major blossoming of comic fandom and all are on FANAC.org.



We're still looking for copies of Siegel & Shuster's *Science Fiction*.

Mystery fandom really became popular in the 1960's, although specialized groups for Sherlock Holmes and the Saint and a few others existed beforehand. Marvin Lachman in his history of mystery fandom, *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher*, credits the real start of mystery fandom with the creation of Bouchercon, largely due to SF fans like Len & June Moffatt and Bruce Pelz. Early pubs on FANAC.org include the Moffatts' *JDM Bibliophile*, Sneary's aborted *John Dickson Carr Bibliophile*, Lynn Hickman's *The Pulp Era* and its oddly named predecessor's *Argassy*, *JD*, and *JD-Argassy*. *DAST* (which stands for Detectives-Agents-Science Fiction-Thrillers) by Swedish fan Iwan Hedman is sitting on our desk waiting to be scanned.

Today's folk music fans know virtually nothing of the early connection to SF Fandom. Early fans like Lee Jacob wrote about the connection. His 1952 *Influence of Science Fiction on Modern American Folk Music*, reprinted in 1961, has mostly gone unnoticed. More important, and noted by such as Pete Seeger and Dave Van Ronk, were Lee Hoffman Shaw's publications. LeeH started with a few issues of *CHOOOG* devoted to folk music in early 1957. She soon came out with the first issue of *Caravan* in August. It was published during the birth of the Washington Square folk music movement. Lee gave it out free as a fanzine at Izzy Young's Folklore Center and at sings in Washington Square. Contributors



include folk legends Dave Van Ronk, Pete Seeger, Barry Kornfeld, Sandy Paton, and Billy Faier. She parlayed her SF connections with material from music oriented fans and professionals like Dick Ellington, Michael Moorcock, including a regular column by John Brunner. It has been called the paper of record for the New York folk music revival. *Caravan* went from mimeo to offset and became a burgeoning business which Lee sold to Faier. She gave it up when it interfered with her own writing but didn't lose her interest in the music. So, she started another folk oriented fanzine, *Gardyloo*, in 1959. All the pubs mentioned above are on FANAC.org.

Remember - all the fanzines can be found at http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html

Fancylopedia.org: FANAC.org is a great place to browse, when you and your phone have a few minutes to spend. Fancylopedia is too. Check out the Featured Pages - https://fancylopedia.org/Featured_Pages . An assortment of unrelated topics and links, there's likely something you'll find of interest. The topics on this occasionally updated page include Fanspeak, the Tucker Hotel, the List of Hugo Categories, and Which Was the First SF Convention? There's also an article on Quadrumvirs, a very intimidating piece of fanspeak. You can also search for a decade ("1960"), a fanzine name, or look at recent changes. If that's not enough, check out WSFS or Midwestcon 5 or the article on Bob Tucker. If you look for a topic, and it's not there, you know what you should do. Write something up!

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

Woohoo, we're up to 868 subscribers. Since the last update we've added seven programs (in 11 pieces). Four are recordings of our Zoom programs and account for 7 pieces. Since we're not constrained to a one hour format, some of the Zoom sessions go a little long and when they're much more than an hour we break them up.

Most recently, we added "**The Decomposers**", a production at Boskone 16 in 1979. A very funny musical depiction of a poorly run Worldcon, this fannish musical was written by Mark M. Keller and Sue Anderson, and produced with musical direction by Chip Hitchcock. The problems are played for laughs, with specialized fandoms clamoring for space, a very inexperienced head of program room allocation, and a Worldcon Chair who does nothing at all. Recording by Bill Desmond, provided by Rick Katze and digitized (from Betamax yet) by Eric Fleischer, MD. "The Decomposers" is in two parts.

ConFiction (1990 Worldcon) Hugo Awards, with Toastmaster Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. This video, captured with a hand held camera, covers the Hugo Awards, as well as the Campbell Award for New

Writers, and the fannish Big Heart and First Fandom awards. Many awards were accepted by designees for the recipients, and we see Anne McCaffrey and Jack Chalker among those accepting for others. There's a bit of humor from Dave Langford, and appearances by the American Ambassador to the Netherlands, C. Howard Wilkins.

Boskone 6 (1969) GoH talk by artist Jack Gaughan. is both entertaining and thoughtful, interspersed with sharply witty comments. He quotes from Leonardo Da Vinci, and teases his friends, some in the room, including Isaac Asimov, Ed Emsh and Donald Wollheim. Gaughan starts with a recounting of the problems faced by female artists like his wife, Phoebe. He tells anecdotes about his experiences as an illustrator, teases Lester del Rey, and compares the lives of artists today to the lives of artists 500 years ago. Jack is frank about his own feelings on science fiction and science fiction illustration. It's chatty, low key, entertaining and comfortable and a marvelous window into an important figure in the field, lost far too soon.

Zoom Sessions: The four Zoom sessions we held since the last newsletter were great fun, and the recordings are now on our YouTube channel. We did an interview with John and Bjo Trimble, covering their fannish history with clubs, fanzines, the birth of the modern convention artshow, and oh yes, the "Save Star Trek" campaign. Erle Korshak, a GoH at next year's Worldcon Chicon 8, told us the first hand story of Chicon 1 (1940), along with starting one of the early small press publishers (Shasta), and how it ended, his passion for collecting art and more from a very full life. Ruth Berman and Dera Langsam provided fascinating stories of early *Star Trek* fandom, and how it came to diverge from general fandom of the time. Jim and Greg Benford gave us a window into what it was like to be young fen in the 60s (and somewhat older fans in the 2020s) and build lives in science and science fiction. From pubbing their ish, to Texas fandom, to the writers of the Bay Area and Buzz Aldrin, they've had rich fannish and personal careers.



We start back up again in September, with Juanita Coulson, so if you're not on the Frequent Zoomer list, please send an RSVP to fanac@fanac.org. More to come!

FANAC by the Numbers. As of August 20, we have

Fanzines: 15,478 issues (covering 905 titles) with more than 263,386 pages. This is up from the 14,068 fanzine issues and 236,015 pages reported in our March update.

Conpubs: 2,491 publications, with 50418 pages, representing 605 conventions

Fancylopedia: 28,240 pages which include 6,092 for people, 4,368 for fans (a subset of people), 7,819 for fanzines, another 1,433 for clubs and apas, and 5,993 for conventions.

YouTube: 118,930 views, 868 subscribers and 111 recordings.

A Prescient View of History (from Edie): Joe Siclari has been interested in old fanzines for a very long time. We thought you'd enjoy this quote from an article Joe did for Taral and Victoria Vayne in [DNQ 19](#) (June, 1979) "Every Trufan can have all the fanzines ever pubbed in a little box on his desk." And now, after more than 25 years, he almost does. BTW, thanks to Sparky and Taral we have an almost complete set of *DNQ* online.

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.

Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari

Photo of Anne Steul from Rob Hansen's website - <http://www.fiawol.org.uk/>

Contributors since the last newsletter: We have received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Greg Benford, Jim Benford, Mike Benveniste, Deirdre Boardman, John Boardman, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, Marcello Branco, John Bray, BSFA, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Tom Cardy, Avedon Carol, Darrah Chavney, Eli Cohen, John Coker III, Bill Desmond, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Eric J Fleischer, MD (Dr. Gandalf), Bruce Gillespie, Anne Gray, Jim Halperin, Rob Hansen, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Irwin Hirsh, Kim Huett, Steve Johnson, Savannah Johnston, Rick Katze, Jerry Kaufman, Erle Korshak, Stephen Korshak, Rick Kovalchik, Chris Krolczyk, Dave Langford, Mark Leeper, Evelyn Leeper, Tony Lewis, Guy Lillian III, Andrew Lippert, Rich Lynch, Laurie Mann, Paul March-Russell, Gary McGath, Mike Meara, Pat Meara, Perry Middlemiss, Mark Olson, Marc Ortlieb, Ben Ostrowsky, Joe Patrizio, George Phillies, Mark Plummer, Andrew Porter, John Purcell, Thomas Recktenwald, Mark Richards, David Ritter, Jeff Schalles, Cas Skelton, Paul Skelton, Steven Silver, Kirby Sloan, Leah Zeldes Smith, Kevin Smith, Sparky, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Kees van Thorn, Bjo Trimble, John Trimble, Taral Wayne, Jesse Weinstein, Sally Yeoland, Ben Zuhl.

Selected links:

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

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

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

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

Fanac Zoom Listing: <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

Chronological Convention list: [http://fancyclopedia.org/Convention timeline](http://fancyclopedia.org/Convention%20timeline)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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