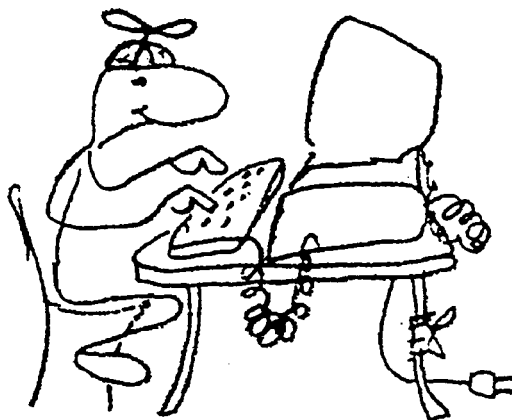


# FanHistoricon 6

*The Convention About Fandom's Past*



**Feb. 14-16, 1997**  
(held as part of Boskone 34)  
**Framingham, Mass.**

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All material in this package was prepared by Joe Siclari,  
FanHistoricon 6 Coordinator. Blame him for any errors.

# Why Is There a FanHistoricon?

by Joe Siclari

Science fiction fandom started nearly 70 years ago and has some antecedents going back to Dr. Dodgson's *The Star*. Various fanhistorians have chronicled some of this in several books (Moskowitz, Warner, Hansen, etc.) and in fanzines (fanthologies, bibliographies, collections and specific fanzines like *FanHistory*, *Entropy*, *FanHistorica*, etc.). However all of this has been rather sporadic and definitely unconnected.

In the late 1980's a few fans started promoting the idea that we needed to collect and preserve our fannish past in an organized manner before those artifacts and activities disappeared. Fandom has always been an artifice created by ephemera — short run fanzines, wire recordings, weekend conventions and short-lived fanclubs. And most of the history is contained in those fanzines, many of which crumble as you read them *if* you can find copies.

Several of us felt that we needed to have a gathering to focus on preserving our fannish past. Peggy Rae Pavlat, Bruce Pelz and I started FanHistoricon in May 1994. It was held in Hagerstown, Maryland. I had the luck and pleasure of naming the convention. The Timebinders organization was formed and an outline of needs and projects was developed. Most importantly, we felt that we needed to encourage those that were doing related projects and develop lines of communication between them.

From the Timebinders web page (<http://fanac.org/timebinders>):

“The Society for the Preservation of the History of Science Fiction Fandom, *aka* the Timebinders, was formed at FanHistoricon I . . . The purpose of FanHistoricon, called by Peggy Rae Pavlat, Bruce Pelz, and Joe Siclari, was to bring fans of different fannish generations together to discuss ways to preserve fannish history. We developed a series of objectives and went on to discuss them over the two days we were together.”

There was an informal get-together at SMOFcon in Los Angeles in December 1994. A more formal meeting was held at Midwestcon in Cincinnati in June 1995. In addition, FanHistoricon 4 was held at Tropicon in January, 1996 and #5 was at Minicon in April 1996. From these conventions have sprung a greater awareness of our fannish past, better communications, support, encouragement and coordination. Some significant projects have started as a result: the Timebinders organization of course; the Timebinders on-line discussion; the FANAC FanHistory Archives (<http://fanac.org>), and the FanHistory Amateur Press Association (FhAPA) to name a few.

FanHistoricon 6 is being held at Boskone 34. In addition to the program discussions and interviews, we have another special item. Thanks to the generous support of NESFA and individual fans, we have brought Rob Hansen over from England as the first recipient of the FanHistoricon Fan Fund. Rob has been the major fanhistorian of British fandom. *Then* is a 4 volume chronological history from the Thirties to the Seventies and is still in progress. He has started an on-line *Who's Who in SF Fandom* (<http://www.fiawol.demon.co.uk/who>) and he is working on a comprehensive bibliography of UK fanzines.

Rob Hansen will be an excellent addition to our program as we explore and record our past. That is what we do at FanHistoricon — discover more about our past, encourage fen to help preserve it, and learn more about what has made SF fandom the unique “culture” that has influenced so many of us and the field that we love.

Remember, most of the great names of science fiction came from science fiction fandom. This literature is very recursive. The writers influenced the fandom that influenced the writers that continued to influence the activities of the fandom.

That is only the start of the story. Join with us as we discover the rest!

## FANHISTORICON 6 PROGRAM

Friday: 7:00 PM

**Fan History 101: *From the Sublime to the Ridiculous***

A distillation of the legends and silliness that have made fandom what it is today. Who created the SPWSSFM? What is the *Fancyclopedia*? Why did Swedish fans try to live the trufannish life according to the teachings of *The Enchanted Duplicator*? Where is the real Tower of Trufandom? When was the first fan? How can you tell if you are a real fan?

*Program participants:* Edie Stern (mod.), Gay Haldeman, Laurie Mann, Gary Farber, Melanie Herz.

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Friday: 8:00 PM

**Forgotten Fen**

Forry Ackerman, Claude Degler, Bob Tucker and Walt Willis are virtually household names to most fen. But who are John V. Baltadonis, Walt Leibscher, Jeffrey Smith, Francis Towner Laney, Sandy Sanderson, J. Michael Rosenblum, Maurice Hanson and Joan Carr? Each of these fen had a major influence on the fandom of their time — find out why? And tell us who you think should be remembered. People suggested at this panel will be noted for future research for *Fancyclopedia III* and maybe for the *Who's Who in SF Fandom*.

*Program participants:* Joe Siclari (mod.), Rob Hansen, Rusty Hevelin, Peggy Rae Pavlat

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Saturday: 10:00 AM

**Fan Funds — *What They Are? Who They Were? What's Wrong With Them Now?***

How did the fannish funds start? Who are some of those people and what did they do to deserve a free trip across the ocean? There are ongoing controversies as well as past disputes. How did we/do we get over them? Are fan funds still a viable form of fanhistorical egoboo?

*Program participants:* Fan Fund winners: Teresa Neilsen Hayden, Rob Hansen, Jerry Kaufman (mod.), Joyce Scrivner. Interested party: Ben Yalow.

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Saturday: 11:00 AM  
**Fancyclopedia III**

*Fancyclopedia III* is a massive task that fen have been trying to kickstart since 1980. A new generation is going to try again. This time we hope to use the

networks to really network people together to cover the many varied aspects of fandom. Find out what *Fancy III* hopes to be. Tell us what it should be. Help us brainstorm ideas as we get started again.

*Discussion leaders:* Mark Olson, Joe Siclari

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Saturday: 12:00 Noon

**The Mid Sixties: *the Black Hole of Fandom***

There is a big gap in fanhistorical knowledge in the mid-sixties. Dick Lynch is working on that but there is quite a bit known and written about up to about 1962 and from about 1967 on. Fandom was in a big break-up and reconfiguration of itself in the mid-sixties.

*Program participants:* Fred Lerner, Ed Meskys, Suford Lewis (mod.), Richard Harter, Peggy Rae Pavlat

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Saturday: 10:00 PM

**Scurrilous Fandom**

Were you banned from Boston? Now is the time to come and confess! Tell all and hear all! No lawyers allowed! From the 1939 Expulsion Act to the New England Sex Scandals — From Coventry to Convention bankruptcy! We sweep the dirt out from under the carpet.

*Program participants:* Edie Stern, Joe Siclari (mod.), Tony Lewis, Gary Farber, Laurie Mann and YOU. This will be an interactive program!

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Sunday: 10:00 AM

**From MITSFS to NESFA to MCFI to ??? — *the letterscape of Boston Fandom***

A progressive history through Boston area fandom. Maybe we will even deign to acknowledge some of the rest New England fandom. New England fandom has had very little exposure. Outside of the early 40's of Widner and Chauvenet and Don D'Amassa in the '70s, the area has not been known as a fannish publishing mecca (despite 400 odd issues of *Instant Message*). But there has actually been a lot of activity. Let's talk about it.

*Program participants:* Harry Stubbs, Ed Meskys, Tony Lewis, Mark Olson (mod.).

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Sunday: 11:00 AM

**Fan Stuff: *Where Is it? How can we use it?***

What really happened in fandom in 1942 or some other time in the past? How do you research and explore fannish topics? Where are the different collections and accumulations of fannish material?. Which ones are accessible? How can you get to them? We will create a list of resources.

*Program participants:* Fred Lerner, Rob Hansen, Joe Siclari (mod.), Billie Aul

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Sunday: 1:00 PM  
**FanHistorical Projects Update**

Show & tell on what fanhistorians are doing. Look at copies of the materials generated by fanhistorians. See what might interest you. Get involved.

Talk to the hosts in the FanHistoricon Suite.

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Sunday: 3:00 PM  
**FanHistory on the Internet**

What's there? Is it rec.arts.sf.fandom.gibberish? Who writes material worth saving on the nets? Where is it saved? Is there old stuff on the net?

*Program participants:* Patrick Neilsen Hayden, Evelyn Leeper, Ben Yalow, Rob Hansen (mod.)

*Open House on the Web:* see below

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### Activities in the FanHistoricon Suite

We also have some fun and interesting things planned for the FanHistoricon Suite which will be kept open and hosted for much of the con.

If you are willing to help out during FanHistoricon, please let me know. More help is still needed.

If you have any questions about the program, talk to Joe Siclari or Edie Stern.

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Don't miss the *Fantiquities Exhibit!*

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### Open House on the Web

There will also be some ongoing demonstrations in the FanHistoricon Suite, on FanHistorical locations on the World Wide Web.

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**Timebinders** organizational meeting.

TBA at-con. Will be in the FanHistoricon Suite.

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Handouts will be provided for some FanHistoricon 6 programs.

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In addition to the FanHistoricon activities, the Boskone Program includes several other programs of related interest:

The Age of Apas -- Fri.: 6:00 PM

GoH Interview of Jerry Kaufman & Suzle Tompkins by Ginjer Buchanan -- Saturday: 1:00 PM

Where Have All the Fanzines Gone -- Sat.: 2:00 PM  
The Future of SF Fandom & Conventions -- Sat. 3:00 PM

TAFF Auction -- Sat.: 5:00 PM in the FanHistoricon suite.

and

Live Online connection to Attitude: the Convention being held in England. Sat., 5:30 PM  
Right after the TAFF Auction in the FanHistoricon suite.

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## FanHistoricon History

FanHistoricon	Date	Location	Coordinators
1	May, 1994	Hagerstown, MD	Peggy Rae Pavlat, Bruce Pelz, Joe Siclari
2 (SMOFcon)	December, 1994	Los Angeles, CA	
3 (Midwestcon)	June, 1995	Cincinnati, OH	
4 (Tropicon 14)	January, 1996	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Joe Siclari, Edie Stern
5 (Minicon)	April, 1996	Minneapolis, MN	Joyce Scrivner
6 (Boskone 34)	February, 1997	Boston, MA	Joe Siclari
7 (Westercon)	July, 1997	Seattle, WA	

We started something special for this year's FanHistoricon. Thanks to the generosity of Boskone, we not only have a suite to hold programs and discussions but we instituted the:

## ***FIRST FANHISTORICON FAN FUND***

Boskone and NESFA have agreed to provide airfare to the convention for our special FanHistoricon Fan Fund recipient.

Rob Hansen will be the first recipient. He came over from the UK for the FanHistoricon 6. Rob is an excellent addition to our program and the convention. I know I don't have to give too many details on why he was selected to attendees of FanHistoricon. His British fanhistory *Then* is a major ongoing project, now over 300 pages. If you don't have a copy, it is available online at <http://fanac.org>; then follow the links to the Fanish References section. You can read it online or download it to read later. His new project, the *Who's Who in SF Fandom* web site can be reached at <http://www.fiawol.demon.co.uk/who>. It will provide excellent biographical information on fans. The bibliographies and fanzines and all his work will provide us with an expanded international scope at FanHistoricon 6.

If you haven't already made your donation, checks should be payable to:

Joe Siclari  
4599 NW 5 Ave.  
Boca Raton, FL 33431-4601

Your help made this a very successful effort!

### ***Final Progress Report***

The first FanHistoricon Fan Fund is over. We raised the money to cover the main expenses to bring Rob Hansen over from England to FanHistoricon 6.

We raised over \$600.00!

*Donations/Pledges:* \$610.00 — plus the airfare is being covered by NESFA.

*Received:* \$495.00 — some fen sent e-mail to say they are sending money.

The contributors who made this happen are (in the order of received pledge or contribution):

Peggy Rae Pavlat, Judy Bemis, Tony Parker, George Flynn, Ed Meskys, Jerry Kaufman, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, Melanie Herz, Erwin "Filthy Pierre" Strauss, Joyce Scrivner, Joyce & Arnie Katz, Marilee Layman, Cathy Doyle, Doug Faunt, FANAC, Inc., Tom Veal, Allan Baum, Eric Lindsay, Nigel Rowe, Don Fitch, Richard Brandt, Fred Lerner and NESFA.

Since this was so successful, after Boskone, I will be mailing all the contributors a set of the *Pictur Posctsarcds*.

Thanks for helping us to make FanHistoricon a better tool for preserving our fanhistory.

— Joe Siclari

Here is Rob's entry from the *Who's Who in SF Fandom*:

**HANSEN, Rob(ert Clive) (1954- )**

UK fanwriter/artist/editor active since 1975, first in Cardiff (1975-78), then Newport (1978-80), and London (1980- ). Member of Newport SF Group (1977-80), Friends In Space (1980-87, London), the Fanhattonites (1987- , London).

Winner of Nova Award (UK) for Best Fanzine (*Epsilon*) and Best Fanartist (both 1982), 1984 European Science Fiction Award for best Fanzine (*Epsilon*).

TAFF winner 1984, FGoH w/Avedon Carol at *Contrivance* (1989 Eastercon).

Wrote/updated fannish entries for *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (ed. Clute/Nichols, Orbit 1993).

Married to US fan Avedon Carol (now UK based) since 1985.

*First Contact*: See first con.

*First Con*: SEACON '75 (1975 Eastercon)

*Concoms*: MEXICON I (1984),  
CONSPIRACY '87 (1987 Worldcon - as part of Fan Room Sub-  
Committee),  
PRECURSOR (1995)

*Fanzines*: EPSILON (18 issues, 1976-85) pers/gen  
SKWELSH (2 issues, 1977) pers/group  
ETA (5 issues, 1983-90) pers  
TAFFETA (4 issues, 1985-86) TAFF news  
CRANK (5 issues, 1985-86) joint pers w/Ted White  
THE FANHATTONITE (5 issues, 1988-89) group  
THEN (1989- ) Fanhistory  
PULP (19 issues, 1986-91) gen. Occasional co-editor. (Others: Vince  
Clarke, Pam Wells, John Harvey, Avedon Carol)

*One-offs*: LICKS (1979, musiczine)  
STARFAN (1980, comicbook)  
CHUCH (1986, gen. ed.w/Avedon Carol)  
THE STORY SO FAR (1987, short UK fanhistory)  
OUTTAKES (1994, letter-sub)  
ON THE TAFF TRAIL (1994, TAFF report).

*Apazines*: TWO OTHERWISE BLANK PAGES (1981, one-off), APA SF & F (UK)  
FISH HELMET (8 issues, 1983-84), FRANK'S APA (UK)  
BORN IN THE UK (16 issues, 1989-93), APA OF THE DAMNED (US)  
gdo (6 issues, 1993-94), MEN'S APA (US)  
LICKS (14 issues, 1990-95), FAPA (US)  
MOJO BAG (1993- ), SECRET GARDEN (US)  
RETRO (1996- ), FHAPA (US)

*Online*: Various newsgroups (comics and SF fandom), from 1995.