

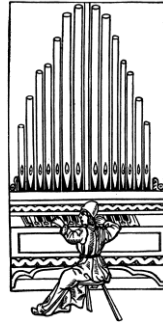
OBDURATE EYE #30

August 2023



Close Encounters, the Jose Sanchez version

THE OBDURATE EYE #30, August 2023, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or hrothgarweems@gmail.com . Garth acknowledges that he does this on the unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm, səlilwətał, and sk^wxwú7mesh peoples.



The organ of no clique or party

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Public Service Announcement about 3-Day Novel Contest

Those of you who like a challenge may be interested in the 46th Annual International 3-Day Novel Contest, which will be held September 2-4, 2023, hosted by Anvil Press, a small publisher in Vancouver. The idea is to start writing on midnight Friday evening of the Labour Day long weekend, and wrap up at midnight on the following Monday. Entries are judged by a panel of writers and editors, who announce the winning selection in the following spring. The winning writer receive money, publication by Anvil Press, and everlasting fame wherever people give a damn.

Registration, rules and more information are available at 3daynovel.com.

The Fribnalist Mangrove

The Leech:

One of the least inspiring things I do is to let myself feel pressured into things. This year, I felt pressured into giving too much money away (again). A former tenant where I live, who passed away, had a friend who is constantly running short of money. His mild retardation and his gambling habit have something to do with it. Alan called upon me so frequently that before I realized it, I had given him several thousands of dollars from my savings.

Now I am saying no. No more charity. He is supposedly going to start paying me back this month as soon as he receives his next disability cheque. (This program was actually supposed to start last month.)

§

Garth's Pemmi-Con trip:

In good fan fund delegate fashion, I am to produce a trip report. Part of the trip report will be personal journalism, of course, about what I saw on my travels; part of it will be about fan fund activities, telling people about the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, about my corner of fandom, and connecting with fans from other corners; and part of it has to do with fundraising.

All of these were modestly successful.

There will be a fair amount of fan criticism leveled at the Pemmi-Con. It would be disingenuous, if not deceitful to avoid commenting on how the con was executed. I should say that the Winnipeg Delta (now Marriott Bonvoy) hotel provided excellent service, and the committee worked very hard and diligently on the convention ... and there were still glitches. Presumably the chairs were at least distracted – one was recently widowed. A number of key communications failed, notably in programming and in registration. I think

personnel experienced from running Keycon were not working on Pemmi-Con, but that's just my guess.

People had fun, anyway, at panels and parties, and the Art Show, Dealers' Room and fan tables had an excellent space ... in the nearby RBC Convention Centre. In hindsight an equivalent space could have been found in the hotel, not fifteen or twenty minutes' walk away. But then, nobody knew that a third of the paid members would not attend.

§

Working with a Crank:

I have another friend, if that's the word, who relies on me for computer services. This is a retired man who relies entirely on his phone, and who cannot, or will not, do the simplest things that require a home computer, or a free terminal at a library, or an Internet café. Even email, word processing and Internet searches are too technical for him.

It has developed that he and some friends are preppers, looking for land in BC where they can form a self-supporting village, against the hard times they believe are coming. (I think their outlook is just a little paranoid, as I am not convinced governments and corporations are conspiring to reduce us to oppressed peons under a new totalitarian regime; but what do I know? I don't follow the news.)

May they have the best of luck. Recently I worked on a rather long letter John had concocted, apparently as a prospectus to invite people to invest in the farm and become resident shareholders. It was a tough slog, partly because English is not his first language, but mainly because he is innocent of proofreading and copy-editing. He actually sat at my side all evening while I was sitting at my desktop and guided me through every typographic change he wanted to make. Consequently the job must have taken three times as long as it should, by the end of which I had to go online and find out when the next bus would arrive, that he could take home. I hope and trust that the rest of John's crew are more prepared for their challenges.

§

My fiction writing has been languishing for at least a month, and not mainly because of my fan fund trip. I am daunted by the challenge of learning enough about plot and story structure to *finish* stories, to *conclude* them. Unless I am basically writing a short anecdote with a conclusion already in mind, it eludes me.

§

Can't say much about AI. As I wrote several years ago, first they need to invent artificial stupidity. Perhaps ChatGPT and similar programs make gestures at that level of imitating humanity, but I doubt they really qualify.

§

Sometimes I wonder if I should somehow advertise eAPA and the discussions we can sometimes carry out. As an example, here is a philosophical tract I wrote in response to Henry Grynnssten, an eAPA member from Sweden:

Your exposition about God corresponding to culture (as defined by anthropology, or by memes) struck me as curious, but arguable.

I have about arrived at a different conclusion, that “God” is whatever we direct worship to, even if some of us invent a god out of personal need. (And a good many of us are frankly playing a game of adult make-believe.) Also, we imagine gods primarily as forces that affect probability – the chances governing events that no human beings control. You might see more piety – and superstition – among farming peoples, or fishermen, or miners, or military staff: all of them people whose livelihoods, indeed whose lives, are at risk from random events.

Living in cities, we may believe our lives are under our rational control. Until an earthquake or tornado or epidemic hits us.

Your exposition about Artistic Siblings Syndrome struck me as a bit sinister, or at least, a product of a seriously different social mindset. I was similarly struck by other signals of a seriously different mindset: the much more ... (I don’t quite know how to put this ...) *tough-minded*, I guess, attitudes of a previous generation.

Consider our assumptions about the possibility of space flight, or even the idea of colonizing other worlds. It was striking to read C.S. Lewis’ notion, in the Perelandra trilogy, that humans belong on planet Earth and our species was made to inhabit the Earth, only to pass away in our appointed time. Or, consider the notion that cropped up there, and in his novel *The Pilgrim’s Regress*: a character faced with a non-human species feeling that, if they killed him, it wasn’t actually murder. Way different attitude than we now have.

Or consider our changing attitudes to physically compromised children. For one thing, I recall Doris Lessing being quoted to the effect of allowing the unfit to die young. For another, I recall a friend quoting her grandfather commenting on Down’s syndrome children, saying “the simple must die.” The first time I encountered it, though, was hearing my mother (a radiological technician) commenting on her awareness that hospitals would let children quietly die, when it was clear that their lives could not be saved. Way different, again.

Your own comments on “finger blind children” struck me the same way. (Yes, I have already heard about younger generations not being able to write cursive handwriting – and not even being able to read it. Yes, I realize this isn’t quite the same result from increasing digitalization, even though it is a combination of fine motor skills.) From my own encounters with woodworking, metalworking and drafting classes, I learned some unspoken skills that I still use.

My comment is that “sloyd” skills (what a good word, even though it won’t catch on) may become uncommon, but they won’t entirely vanish, any more than swordsmanship, or calligraphy, or paper book publishing have vanished. Older media, and older arts and industries, will continue as artisanal crafts; but they will be marginalized.

Your point that some fundamental, essential technologies can't be maintained without "sloyd"/manual dexterity skills is well taken, though. Now I ask myself, how many people besides you and Göran Lundborg are alive to this issue?

For my part, I could stand to look up the current standard high school curriculum in my region. At the very least, it's worthwhile to know which references I make are still part of common knowledge, and which are not.

I guess it's an acquired taste.



Letters of Comment Received

Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA, 90230, July 26, 2023

I've been thinking of you this past week while you've been at Pemmi-Con in Winnipeg, as the Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate. I've even stepped up my fanac in response, feeling a little jealous of those of you at the North American Science Fiction Convention – as well as at the San Diego Comic-Con, held a little closer to home. Reading *Obdurate Eye* #29 in preparation for this letter of comment was part of that fanac. I even asked a friend from the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society to say hi to you while there on my behalf. I sent Chris Marble a picture of you so he could spot you in the crowd, and he sent me a picture of a flier featuring you and later messaged me indicating that he'd met

you at the CUFF auction – but forgot to send my regards. Mission accomplished, all the same! You might remember him; he’s a very friendly man with longer gray-white mutton chops, mustache, and beard. He might have been wearing a Hawaiian or otherwise brightly colored patterned shirt, as is his wont.

((Chris Marble was admirably generous at the CUFF/TAFF combined fanzine auction!))

I was impressed that you were able to send me my packet of fanzines and fundraising items I’d ordered before the con. Thank you very much. I’ve already read *Fandom Is a Way of Death*, *The Neo-Fan’s Guide to Science Fiction Fandom*, and *The Whole Toronto Fanac Guide*. That final item is a wonderful idea and has inspired my own *Los Angeles County Fanac Guide*, which I’m currently working on to publish later this year, instead of a new edition of *Blue Moon Special*, my apae directory. If you or any other fen want to contribute LA-area cons, fanzines, stores, historical sites, and other items of fannish interest of which you’re aware and fond, you can do so at **<https://tinyurl.com/LA-fanac-form>**.

((How should I know anything about the LA area?? Apart from what I read in Harry Warner’s fanhistories, or in fanzine reviews of LA zines, all I know is that the LA basin produced the Doug Wright model of “conventions,” which is how mediafans now conceive conventions.))

For the last couple of weekends, I’ve spent almost 20 hours helping Nick Smith organize and pack Marty Cantor’s fanzine collection and books, to donate to the University of California, Riverside’s Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy and the LASFS. I’ll have a final box count after we load the van this weekend, but so far it’s something like 30 bankers’ boxes, and perhaps another additional 15-20 boxes of apae mailings and distributions, and fanzines ranging from 1975 to the current day – a fascinating timespan for fanzines, that includes the move online and a decline in print editions. Cantor had several other older items in his collection dating back to the 1940s, but not many. So I also recently read *The Enchanted Duplicator*, which was wonderful.

((I have sometime contemplated writing a faanfction about newby conrunners with vast ambitions and half-vast performances, titled “The Disenchanted Convention,” but I usually think better of the idea.))

Geesh, already more than a page and I’ve yet to comment on *Obdurate Eye*. How obstinate of me. I am curious: What didn’t last long – you not being ready for a relationship, or the relationship? I don’t mean to peel at a scab, but ba-dum-bump and all that. “I learned that I am talked into things too easily,” you wrote. In research, there’s a form of response bias called social desirability bias, which “often occurs when respondents are asked sensitive questions and – rather than answer honestly – provide what they believe is the more socially desirable response. The idea behind social desirability bias is that respondents

overreport ‘good behavior’ and underreport ‘bad behavior.’” (Qualtrics, <https://www.qualtrics.com/experience-management/research/response-bias>). Similarly, there’s acquiescence bias, which “is like an extreme form of social desirability, but instead of responding in a ‘socially acceptable’ way, respondents simply agree with research statements – regardless of their own opinion. To put it simply, acquiescence bias is based on respondents’ perceptions of how they think the researcher wants them to respond, leading to potential demand effects.” You ask, “Maybe I feel obliged to go along with whatever people expect?” That could be. I don’t intend to offer advice, but it might be helpful to concentrate on your honest inclination, and not try to please whoever’s requesting something of you.

((It was actually extremely hard to grasp the simple concept of what I wanted, after living in my family and growing up in my school system. Very strange, when you think about it, considering that I was growing up in late 20th-century North America. I actually had to learn that university education was about me making my choices, and that I was supposed to have my own career goals. I hadn’t learned anything about having my own goals.))

Your recent conrunning experience is disheartening. Sounds like the group wants to hold a relaxacon if folks take umbrage at the suggestion of meetings, agendas, tasks, and responsibilities. Fen, like any volunteers, can be fickle and picky, and the resulting contributions can vary widely. Sounds like you chose to follow the right path, perhaps heeding your honest inclination! (That reminds me that I’ve long flaked on a Loscon report for SF2 Concatenation. Boy, will they be surprised when that finally arrives!)

((There are multiple problems with conventions, some of them environmental, more of them endogenous. Well before the COVID-19 pandemic hit us I was writing up a summary of what I had compiled and gathered about SF conrunning, which became a long-delayed critique. I don’t suppose anyone has a use for it.))

I appreciated seeing Mike Glycer and Jerry Kaufman’s commentary on the SF Canada situation. Among Cantor’s fanzine collection were many issues of *File 770* and *Littlebrook*, which was new to me, though Kaufman’s name isn’t. I cannot help [in] updating the email addresses you seek, but I was pleased to see Claire Brialey’s name – which evokes *Banana Wings*, which was also in Cantor’s collection but new to me.

((Somewhere I have received an email with corrected email addresses for the Banana Wings editors.))

Evelyn Leeper answered a long-standing but unasked question of mine: Does Bell Labs’ – now Nokia Bell Labs’ – SF club still exist? I love that there was an SF club there. Fellow employees of the company at which I work hold a monthly fantasy book discussion group, but I’ve yet to be able to pull them into fandom otherwise, as far as I know. Some I don’t need to. One participant

volunteered at the World Fantasy Convention in 2019 – another opportunity I flaked on because of misfiled emails.

Lloyd Penney's remarks to John Purcell resonated with me. "[W]hen we were in our neo days, we learned that while the show was going on, to get the most out of it, you had to participate. That's why cons sold memberships, and not tickets. Tickets imply that you get to go in and sit, and watch what happens. I prefer participation, and I still get my fun that way. These days, there are few participants, and too many passive consumers." I would agree. Fandom is what we make it.

((The change of conventions from a participatory activity to merely paid entertainment is a basic cultural change, in my not-so-humble opinion, and not one confined to SF. It seems to have started as soon as Star Trek and Star Wars studios adopted the Doug Wright model for their gateshows, called 'mediacons'.))

Thank you for the apazine comments. Your letter of comment in *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #73, for which I owe you a T&T Letterhack card – the third ever awarded! – inspired one APA-L participant to remark, "Goodness, you do seem to get around, if that Letter of Comment from Garth Spencer is any indication. How you have the discretionary time to contribute to so many fan publications is a definite conundrum. Of course, not all of them are weekly, but still..." I guess it all comes down to how you define "discretionary." Or "contribute." For all I know, my apazines and clubzines are crudzines. I am, after all, an apahack. So hack I must.

But the best thing in the issue? The "New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases" list courtesy of White Dwarf Books. As much as I love the book reviews and books received lists in *Locus*, I've been looking for a dedicated monthly list of new sf, fantasy, and horror titles. Thank you for offering this. Do you know how they compile it? Is it comprehensive? So far, it's the best such list I've come across. (Wait... they're based in Australia?)

((Dead Write aka White Dwarf is a bookstore here in Vancouver.))

Mark Nelson, Wollongong, Australia, mnelson@uow.edu.au, July 28, 2023

One of my character flaws is saying YES when someone asks me to do something, even though it would be better for everyone concerned if I said NO. Another flaw is that when I see that a job needs doing, I put my hand up to do it before anyone else has realised that it needs to be done. Or perhaps other people are just wiser and realise that when you're the first person to see that a job needs to be done it's best to keep your hands down until the job is noticed and discussed. At which stage you should keep your hands down a second time. Perhaps these are not that similar to the experiences you recounted in your editorial of not saying NO.

((One of the last lessons I learned in life, which as usual should have been among the first, was that I was not automatically required to say "Yes." As a result I recently lent money repeatedly (however reluctantly) to someone who was always short, and before I knew it, I was poorer by several thousands of dollars.

((I am not obligated to be generous all the time to everybody. I must keep telling myself that.))

I told you that I was writing a loc on *The Obdurate Eye* #28. I started it but failed to finish it. In retrospect, it would have been wiser not to tell you that I was writing it. Perhaps this is a return to my second point? A fanzine arrives. You see that there is a need to write a loc. Is it just better for everyone if you keep your hands down? After all, what's the penalty for not writing that loc? I'll leave it to you to decide if writing a loc on *Obdurate Eye* is an important job that needs to be done.

Do you intend publishing the scheduling of your fannish life? Perhaps I'll learn from it how to find the time to finish that loc?

((“Schedule” is too strong a word for what I do. Just trying to think of all the things I have to do, or remember, and organizing them. There are several categories of things I have to do – to earn money, to clean up around the place, to feed the cat, to meet social or voluntary obligations – which helps me comprehend the whole, and think of what I might have missed.

((Now, I think, I have a rough gauge of how much I can accomplish, in a day or a week; it is about half of what I put on my plate.))

I'm not sure that playing role playing games would give you any insights into "ordinary thought and behaviour"; eliminating your "alienation from all sports" is a better endeavour. I didn't mind sports when they were compulsory at school. I was happy to stop playing them when they ceased to be so. I do watch a little of the Tour de France late in the evening, but other than that I take very little interest in the world of sports. This rules me out of many everyday conversations which seem to be about the varying success, or lack thereof, of local sporting teams. Am I missing something? I don't think so ... but perhaps I am.

If nobody else sends you an email for Claire Brialey, I can ask her to contact you as she is a member of ANZAPA.

((Thank you, I think I got clarification from another correspondent of the Banana Wings editorial contacts.))

I wonder if Lloyd has records on how many locs he wrote each year across his years in fandom? That might make for an interesting figure, particularly if he also knows the number of distinct fanzine titles that he wrote them for on a year-by-year basis. At one time I thought about cataloguing all the locs I'd

written for (postal diplomacy) fanzines. I never got around to that project and I no longer have access to the fanzines. Why did I want to keep track of my locs? I no longer remember, I can't rule out rampant egotism. I wonder why Lloyd keeps a track of his locs? Do you think we should ask him?

((He does?? I'll have to look at what he wrote last issue. It's the sort of detail work that can become a major time sink, but I think I have been repeating my pet peeves and other subjects in my fanzines, and in my locs. That is worth checking on, it's just the sort of Old Guy behaviour I want to prevent.))

Are you going to publish your findings on fanzine collections in a future issue of *Obdurate Eye*? That would make for interesting reading. I discovered in ANZAPA 333 that there is a collection of SF fanzines at Monash University (in Australia). This collection was mentioned in one of the contributions to that failing. The first hit on a search of the Monash University catalogue for ANZAPA was an academic article about the collection, which I attach. (It may be of zero interest...)

((In this issue, there is a preliminary article on fanzine archives/repositories.))

Did you know that EAPA is the European Asphalt Pavement Association? They have their own magazine. And guess what? They even have a Facebook page!

((I did not know that.))

We also heard from: Perry Middlemiss (Australia), Rob Jackson (Great Britain), Nic Farey (USA), George Phillies (USA), Ahrvid Engholm (Sweden), [FANAC editors], Heath Row, John Bartley



Cheese Louise – the way I feed myself when I get fancy

Why Are Americans Fat?

(Den Valdron, Facebook, April 5, 2023)

Well, it's a little more complicated than that, particularly in the US. American food is packed with corn syrup and sugar and starches, basically, processed food is extremely unhealthy, carbohydrate heavy and designed to turn into fat.

This is economic – corn, which is processed into corn syrups and flour are extremely cheap, much cheaper than just about any other food, produced in bulk, and the basis for a lot of processed food.

And literally trillions of dollars are invested into pushing and marketing this, with literally insane levels of promotion and micro-management.

You want to know how much micro-management - food company reps actually go to grocery stores to make sure that their products are properly placed and prominent on shelves.

There is a huge investment into marketing, advertising, promoting and placing processed foods – not just shelf space on store shelves, not just television advertisements, up and down the production chain. The amount of money spent to push processed garbage on us is insane.

And at the same time, these same forces deliberately work to keep healthy food away. The return on fresh vegetables is just a fraction of the return on sugar and corn syrup, so they push that instead. Soft drinks which are literally water with flavoured sugar syrup is half the cost of bottled water.

There is an entire economy built on feeding, force feeding people toxic junk that is unhealthy and makes people fat.

And on the other side of the coin, there's an economy built on keeping people sitting down. Everyone is encouraged to watch television, listen to music, to sit down all the time. Watch sports instead of playing it. Watch or play on your phone instead of walking or bicycling. Play computer games, sit at your screen with your headphones. Drive everywhere instead of walk.

Most people live far from where they work - a two hour commute, how do you get to and from? Sit down and drive, or sit down on the bus.

America, in particular has built a society that force-feeds people toxic junk, discourages alternatives, and often enforces sedentary behaviour and discourages activity. Result ...

We have an obesity problem.

Someone is sure to say "Well, I'm not fat, I eat right, I get exercise. Fat people are just lazy and slovenly."

I would point out that you probably didn't grow up eating hyper-processed garbage made of sugar, corn syrup and starch. You probably had a healthy diet to start with, and kept on eating a healthy diet because that's what you were used to and what you enjoyed.

A lot of people in the United States grow up eating a lot of processed crap. Maybe it makes them fat as they're kids. Maybe it doesn't.

But as they age, that's what they continue to eat, because that's what they were raised on. Metabolism changes into puberty and then adulthood and later adulthood, obesity catches up.

You have an American society that embraces or pushes sedentary lifestyles. There's more money to be made keeping people looking at their phones or sitting at a computer screen playing a game, or watching a television. So society pushes that. Again, maybe kids get fat, maybe they don't. But these are the activities that continue through life as the body and metabolism change, and produces obesity.

The problem is that we get tricked into talking personal virtue, by the purveyors of garbage and toxicity, because it gets them off the hook.

They don't have to take responsibility, and we don't hold them responsible for the garbage they shove at us if its all about personal virtue.

Personal virtue has the benefit of making us feel good about ourselves, better than other people. It's nice to feel superior. It's nice to feel that we're in control of our lives.

And it's a genuinely good thing – eating healthy, exercising, recycling, all good things.

But you want to know something about recycling? All the blue boxes in the world aren't going to stop Global Climate change or pollution if we don't stop the commercial industrial drives that pump carbon into the world.

All the push ups and vitamins in the world won't keep you from getting cancer if you live in a town where the local plants chug out carcinogens night and day. I know this because I've buried most of my family because of cancer.

Personal virtue is great, and it will make a difference. But its not the universal solution, and if we create a toxic environment, people will still suffer and die from toxicity.

You're exactly right – if people just ate properly and exercised properly, no one would be fat. If someone eats properly and exercises, they'll definitely be healthier and more active and thinner than if they didn't.

So all it takes is for everyone to act like you. Okay. Problem solved.

Why don't they? What's the problem.

Laziness? Sure. Okay.

But if everyone acted like you, then Archer Daniels Midlands would lose trillions of dollars, Nintendo would lose billions, all kinds of companies would lose billions and trillions. They don't want to lose billions, they want to make money.

So they spend huge amounts of money, and time, and creative effort on packaging, and promotion, and marketing, and advertising. There's a massive amount of effort, a massive amount of genius, of brain power, all trying to get you to eat their processed food, doing everything they can legally to make it addictive, to engage you in addictive activities like gaming, and to make those activities as addictive as possible.

You can resist all that – you grew up eating well, you like to eat well, you like to keep active. But there's an incredible amount of pressure, and a lot of people succumb. Statistically, obesity becomes a problem.

Imagine you are a rabbit in a forest. It's a nice forest. You live a happy life. Sure, the local hunter sets a trap now and then, but you can avoid them.

Fast forward ten years, there are dozens of hunters, the forest is full of traps - thousands of traps in the forest now, clever traps, everywhere you go, traps. As a rabbit, you have to spend all your time avoiding traps. And the problem is, you have to avoid each and every one of thousands of traps – but all they need is to catch you once. Odds are against you.

That's what America is like. Did you know, that thirty years ago, you would be exposed in America to maybe 1200 ads a year? Today in America, you're exposed to 28,000 advertisements a year. When I go to the bathroom, there's an ad in the toilet stall. It's literally everywhere.

Americans aren't citizens any more. They're not even consumers any more. They are prey. They live their whole lives as prey to an endless roster of corporate forces striving to monetize and capture every bit of their lives.

We've become rats in an endless maze, where the objective is for all these different parties to find ways to eat us.

Or to look at it another way, don't feel too superior about being skinny or lucky. We're all ducks in a shooting gallery.



Fanzine Archives

Garth Spencer

*Please send updates and corrections to
garth.van.spencer@gmail.com*

Individuals and SF clubs are going to accumulate fanzines, many of which are worth preserving and hauling out for examination well into the future. However, sometimes one has to move into a smaller space, or a club has to free up space and perhaps make some cash, so it is a good idea to know where to put these things, and know they won't end up in the garbage, or in the recycling.

And there we have a challenge. How are you planning for the conservation of your collection, either now or when you shuffle off this mortal coil?

Like many other enterprises, fanzine libraries depend on at least one dedicated fan ... if there is one.

Such collections may be discarded, even if bequeathed to a library, whatever reference value it may have.

Of course, now that we have a World Wide Web, individual fans can erect their own archival websites. A few fans have done so – notably fanac.org, and eFanzines.com – either as part of an organization's online presence, or as an individual project. Once again, this depends on the continuing efforts (and outlay) of dedicated fans.

Below is a list of such current archives as I can collect. This list may be incorrect and incomplete. Keep me posted, please!

Bowling Green State University's Browne Popular Culture Library. BSGU began collecting a wide range of popular culture material in the late 1960s, ranging from posters, to buttons, collectibles, fanzines and more. While their catalog lists 5000 zines, the bulk are general science fiction or other types of fanzines. As of July 2011, the library contains approximately 97 slash zines, with around 300 gen fanzines.

eFanzines.com, of course, is the online archive of digital fanzines maintained by Bill Brown.

FANAC.org, of course, is the encyclopedic fannish website ...

Susan Smith-Clark's Fanzine Collection at the National Library of Australia. In the late 1990s, Susan Smith-Clark donated a portion of her fanzine and convention program guide collection to the National Library of Australia. It currently holds 100 of her calendars, and other fan club-related material.

Temple University's Enterprising Women Collection. Temple University hosts a number of fanzines related to Camille Bacon-Smith's book *Enterprising Women* (the "Enterprising Women Collection"). They may also host a smaller Star Trek collection that focuses on Klingons (the "Sue Frank Klingon/Star Trek" collection). These collections are part of the larger Paskow Science Fiction Fanzine Collection. The finding aid for the collections are not available online so their dates and contents remain unknown. In 2007, a visitor to the Sue Frank Klingon/Star Trek collection describes "six linear feet ... of fanzines and organizational newsletters. These were assembled by Dr. Frank from groups within and outside of the U.S. – fan groups are to be found in Britain, New Zealand, and Italy, among other places. The titles include "Klingon Assault Group Force Recon," "The Pillage Voice," "Engage!," "Disruptor," and "Something Else." The newsletters reflect the range of Klingon-related activities afoot in the Terran world. They contain drawings, photos, recipes, letters, poems, stories, technical information, and analyses of many aspects of Klingon language and culture."

Texas A&M Cushing Library Fanzine Collection located in College Station, Texas: TAMU began collecting general science fiction material in 1970 and added media fandom material in 2011. In addition to general media fanzines, TAMU also houses Susan Frank's Klingon Fanzine collection. As of October 2013, TAMU became the first university to begin a special collection just for filk material.

The Fanzine Archives: A Library for the Preservation & Circulation of Fan-created Material, Ming Wathne's collection, also called "Corellian Archives" or "The SWzine Library"/"The SWzine Lending Library," that found a home at the University of Iowa Fanzine Archives.

University of California Riverside's Fanzine Collection. This large science fiction fanzine collection contains several hundred thousand fanzines. Special Collection 320 houses approximately 1300 Star Trek K/S slash zines and printed stories.

University of Iowa Fanzine Archives. The University began collecting general science fiction fanzines starting in 2004. In 2008, Sandy Herrold selected the University for her Blake's 7 fanzine collection. In 2009, the OTW helped Ming Wathne place her 3,000+ Fanzine Archives which makes up the bulk of the University's collection. Other fans have followed suit and an active donation program is currently underway.

Fanzines Received

If you get the sense that I was running out of steam when I came to finishing up this month's fanzine, finishing with the fanzine column, you're absolutely right.

Perryscope #34, June 2023, is an issue of a personalzine published monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. Email: perry@middlemiss.org. I keep being impressed with the genzine Perry Middlemiss now produces. Maybe I should include his dialogue podcast, "Two Chairs Talking," in a future list of podcasts? His reviews are engrossing – I now want to read the novel *Death in Brunswick*, and see the movie with Sam Neill.

De Profundis #587, July 2023, c/o ed. Heath Row at 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; via email to kalel@well.com. A pretty complete club newsletter, ranging from Cream of Menace (Zoom meeting minutes) to Loscon progress, obituaries to game nights.

Menace of the LASFS, June 2023, "the Complete and Purgated Minutes of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, published by LASFS scribe Heath "Scribbles" Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com." Yep, that's precisely what this is.

Emulators & Engines #5, Heath "Scribbles" Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com. Heath's apazine for Alarums & Excursions. In this contribution: "The Big Business of Roleplaying Games"; a discourse on mooks, meaning movie books (not lowlifes from New Jersey), especially a bookazine following the release of *Dungeons & Dragons*; a bit of game-based fiction, and mailing comments.

Telegraphs & Tar Pits #69 – 71, Heath "Scribbles" Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com. Heath's apazine for APA-L. In #69: "Eight Days in Portugal" (I didn't know Heath knew Portuguese); book and short story reviews; and horror-TV reviews. In #70: remembrance of Marty Cantor; more of "Eight Days in Portugal"; book and *Travelers* reviews, and mailing comments. In #71: Short story reviews! 1950s fanzine reviews! *Travelers* reviews! And mailing comments. Do I perceive a trend here?

Explosion Containment Umbrella #10, Heath "Scribbles" Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com. Heath's apazine for eAPA (July 2023) and select others. Heath does *Explosion Containment Umbrella* as one long letter to all of us in eAPA, with comments on the mailing from beginning to end. It's flattering that we all hold his attention, and provide comment hooks.

The National Fantasy Fan 82:7, July 2023, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net. Newsletter of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. What can I say about newsletters?

MT Void #2283-2285. What more can I say?

FANAC Fan History Project Newsletter #21, July 25, 2023, supported by Edie Stern and Joe Siclari, fanac@fanac.org via mlsend.com – the continuing saga of FANAC’s efforts at conventions to scan all fanzines, to collect all SFnal videos, and otherwise immanentize the Eschaton. See fanac.org for more information!

Origin #65, July 2023, Editor and (History) Bureau Head John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, U.S.A., email kinethiel@mymetronet.net. I was a little confused by John’s editorial this issue – was he talking about depression, as in what afflicts increasing numbers of people, or The Depression (he kept using the definite article), as in the extreme economic depression of the 1930s? Unclear. Accompanied by several articles, some of them SFnal in nature (e.g. the biography of Kate Wilhelm in this issue).

Eldritch Science, June 2023, editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill, Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, phillies@4liberty.net. A (semi)annual fictionzine. Most of these entries are fantasy-related; where is the offbeat science?

Fan Activity Gazette #3:2, July 2023, new Editor Mindy Hunt, mindyhunt@scifi4me.com. An overview of everything going on, at least in the N3F, and within Mindy’s convention list.

Ionisphere #34, newsletter of the N3F Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, edited and produced by John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, U.S.A.. Email kinethiel@mymetronet.net. The most substantial part of this fanzine is an article on politics in science fiction; an issue that should involve all of us, if we can only agree on the definitions of terms.

The N3F Review of Books, August 2023, ed. George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net. A whole zine of book reviews.

More Buchs

AUGUST 2023 NEW MYSTERY AND CRIME FICTION RELEASES

Alexander, Ellie. CATCH ME IF YOU CANDY. [BAKESHOP #17]. Minotaur, 12.99 pb.

Andrews, Donna. BIRDER, SHE WROTE:. [MEG LANGSLOW #33]. Minotaur, 37.00 hc.

Archer, Jeffrey. NEXT IN LINE. [WILLIAM WARWICK #5]. HarperCollins, 12.99 pb.

Baldacci, David. LONG SHADOWS. [MEMORY MAN]. Grand Central, 23.99 tp.

Benn, James R. FROM THE SHADOWS. [BILLY BOYLE WWII #17]. Soho Crime, 22.95 tp.

Bishop, D. V. RITUAL OF FIRE. [CESARE ALDO #3]. Macmillan, 37.99 hc.

Brennan, Allison. NORTH OF NOWHERE. Minotaur, 37.00 hc.

Burr, Shelley. WAKE. Morrow, 23.99 tp.

Cass, Laurie. A TROUBLING TAIL. [A BOOKMOBILE CAT #11]. Berkley, 11.99 pb.

Christie, Agatha. A HAUNTING IN VENICE: A HERCULE POIROT MYSTERY. Morrow, 12.99 pb.

Conte, Cate. NINE LIVES AND ALIBIS. [CAT CAFE #7]. Minotaur, 12.99 pb.

Cosimano, Elle. FINLAY DONOVAN KNOCKS 'EM DEAD. [FINLAY DONOVAN #2]. Minotaur, 12.99 pb.

Cox, Helen. MURDER IN A MILL TOWN. [KITT HARTLEY #7]. Quercus, 17.99 tp.

Day, Maddie. MURDER AT A CAPE BOOKSTORE. [COZY CAPERS BOOK GROUP #5]. Kensington, 11.99 pb.

Evanovich, Janet. THE RECOVERY AGENT. [GABRIELA ROSE #1]. Pocket, 14.99 pb.

Finch, Charles. THE HIDDEN CITY. [CHARLES LENOX #15]. Minotaur, 37.00 hc.

Gervais, Simon. ROBERT LUDLUM'S THE BLACKBRIAR GENESIS. Putnam, 12.99 pb.

Gilstrap, John. HARM'S WAY. Pinnacle, 12.99 pb.

Gischler, Victor. FAST CHARLIE. Hard Case Crime, 21.95 (retitled reissue of GUN MONKEYS).

Greaney, Mark. BURNER. [GRAY MAN #12]. Berkley, 24.95 tp.

Grisham, John. THE BOYS FROM BILOXI. Vintage, 14.99 pb.

Hansjorg, Schneider. THE MURDER OF ANTON LIVIUS. Bitter Lemon, 23.95 tp.

High, Kate. THE MISSING WIFE AND THE STONE FEN SIAMESE. Constable, 19.99 tp.

Hirahara, Naomi. **EVERGREEN**. [JAPANTOWN #2]. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.

Howell, Dorothy. **SEAMS LIKE MURDER**. [SEWING STUDIO MYSTERY #1]. Kensington, 11.99 pb.

Hunter, Cara. **MURDER IN THE FAMILY**. Morrow, 23.99 tp.

Iglesias, Gabino. **THE DEVIL TAKES YOU HOME**. Mulholland, 22.99 tp.

Jensen, Louise. **FALL**. HQ, 24.99 tp.

Loudon, Margaret. **A DEADLY DEDICATION**. [THE OPEN BOOK #4]. Berkley, 11.99 pb.

Manning, Kirsty. **THE PARIS MYSTERY**. Vintage, 23.00 tp.

McAllister, Gillian. **JUST ANOTHER MISSING PERSON**. Morrow, 24.99 tp.

Mina, Denise. **THE SECOND MURDERER**. [PHILIP MARLOWE]. Mulholland, 35.00 hc.

Mosberg, Jason. **MY DIRTY CALIFORNIA**. Simon & Schuster, 26.99 tp.

Preston, Douglas. **DEAD MOUNTAIN**. [NORA KELLY #4]. Grand Central, 24.99 tp.

Priest, Cherie. **FLIGHT RISK**. [BOOKING AGENTS #2]. Atria, 24.99 tp.

Pryor, Mark. **DIE AROUND SUNDOWN**. Minotaur, 24.00 tp.

Raybourn, Deanna. **KILLERS OF A CERTAIN AGE**. Berkley, 23.00

Reichs, Kathy. **THE BONE HACKER**. [TEMPERANCE BRENNAN #22]. S&S, 24.99 tp.

Rovin, Jeff. **CALL OF DUTY**. [TOM CLANCY'S OP-CENTER #21]. St. Martin, 12.99 pb.

Russell, Michael. **THE CITY UNDERGROUND**. [STEFAN GILLESPIE]. Constable, 19.99 tp.

Shearer, L. T. **THE CAT WHO CAUGHT A KILLER**. Pan, 19.99 tp.

Slaughter, Karin. **AFTER THAT NIGHT**. [TRENT AND LINTON #11]. Morrow, 24.99 tp.

Smith, Alexander McCall. **THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BIG BAD WOLF**. [DETECTIVE VARG #4]. Knopf Canada, 34.00 hc.

Spillane, Mickey & Max Allan Collins. [MIKE HAMMER]. **DIG TWO GRAVES**. Titan, 34.95 hc.

Sutton, Halley. **THE HURRICANE BLONDE**. Putnam, 24.95 tp.

Takamura, Kaoru. **LADY JOKER, VOLUME 2**. Soho Crime, 24.95 tp.

Taylor, Brad. **THE DEVIL'S RANSOM**. [PIKE LOGAN #17]. Morrow, 12.99 pb.

Thomas, Joe. **PARADISE CITY**. [SAO PAULO QUARTET #1]. Arcadia, 19.99 tp.

Thomas, Joe. **PLAYBOY**. [SAO PAULO QUARTET #2]. Arcadia, 19.99 tp.

Thomas, Joe. **GRINGA**. [SAO PAULO QUARTET #3]. Arcadia, 19.99tp.

Thomas, Joe. **BRAZILIAN PSYCHO**. [SAO PAULO QUARTET #4]. Arcadia, 19.99 tp.

Trinchieri, Camilla. **MURDER ON THE VINE**. [TUSCAN #3]. Soho Crime, 22.95 tp.

Turow, Scott. **SUSPECT**. Grand Central, 23.99 tp.

Wagner, David. **BEST SERVED COLD**. [RICK MONTOYA #8]. Poisoned Pen, 24.99 tp.

Wilton, Traci. **MRS. MORRIS AND THE WOLFMAN**. [SALEM B&B #7]. Kensington, 11.99 pb.

AUGUST 2023 NEW FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION RELEASES

Anderson, Taylor. **HELL'S MARCH**. [ARTILLERYMEN #2]. Ace, 12.99 pb.

Bear, Lauren J. A. **MEDUSA'S SISTERS**. Ace, 37.00 hc.

Beauman, Ned. **VENOMOUS LUMPSUCKER**. Sceptre, 17.99 tp.

Beukes, Lauren. **BRIDGE**. Mulholland, 37.00 hc.

Black, Holly. **BOOK OF NIGHT**. Tor, 26.99 tp.

Blackburry, Sabrina. **DIRTY LYING DRAGONS**. [ENCHANTED FATES #2]. W by Wattpad, 32.99 hc.

Blake, Olivie. **MASTERS OF DEATH**. Tor, 35.99 hc.

Bruce, Camilla. **THE WITCH IN THE WELL**. Tor, 23.99 tp.

Cadigan, Pat. **ULTRAMAN: THE OFFICIAL NOVELIZATION**. Titan, 21.95 tp.

Carey, Jacqueline. **CASSIEL'S SERVANT**. [KUSHIEL'S LEGACY #4]. Tor, 40.99 hc.

Carrick, M. A. **LABYRINTH'S HEART**. [ROOK & ROSE #3]. Orbit, 24.99 tp.

Chu, Wesley. **THE ART OF DESTINY**. [THE WAR ARTS SAGA #2]. Del Rey, 39.99 hc.

Collins, Bridget (ed). **THE HAUNTING SEASON**. Sphere, 19.99 tp.

Collins, Suzanne. THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES. [HUNGER GAMES PREQUEL]. Scholastic, 22.99 tp.

Coney, S. L. WILD SPACES. Tor.com, 22.99 tp.

Crace, Jim. EDEN. Hamish Hamilton, 24.95 tp.

Cutter, Nick. THE HANDYMAN METHOD. Saga, 24.99 tp.

Davis, Hank (ed). THEY'RE HERE!. Baen, 23.00 tp.

Dean, Sunyi. THE BOOK EATERS. Tor, 23.99 tp.

Denning, Troy. HALO: OUTCASTS. Gallery, 24.99 tp.

Eldritch, Olivia Luna. RECIPES FROM THE WORLD OF H. P. LOVECRAFT: INSPIRED BY COSMIC HORROR. Thunder Bay, 26.99 hc.

Ennes, Hiron. LEECH. Tor.com, 25.99 tp.

Gannon, Charles E. ENDANGERED SPECIES. [CAINE RIORDAN #6]. Baen, 34.00 hc.

Gilmore, Olesya Salnikova. THE WITCH AND THE TSAR. Ace, 23.00 tp.

Googins, Nick Fuller. THE GREAT TRANSITION. Atria, 36.99 hc.

Graham, Heather. CURSED AT DAWN. [THE BLACKBIRD TRILOGY #3]. MIRA, 12.99 pb.

Green, Simon R. VERY IMPORTANT CORPSES. [ISHMAEL JONES #3]. Baen, 23.00 tp.

Hairston, Andrea. WILL DO MAGIC FOR SMALL CHANGE. Tor.com, 24.99 tp.

Harrison, Rachel. SUCH SHARP TEETH. Berkley, 23.00 tp.

Heathcock, Alan. 40. Picador, 24.00 tp.

Huchu, T. L. THE MYSTERY AT DUNVEGAN CASTLE. [EDINBURGH NIGHTS #3]. Tor, 39.99 hc.

Huff, Tanya. INTO THE BROKEN LANDS. DAW, 27.99 tp.

James, Alice. GRAVE SUSPICIONS. [LAVINGTON WINDSOR #3]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.

Jones, Howard Andrew. LORD OF A SHATTERED LAND. [CHRONICLES OF HANUVAR #1]. Baen, 34.00 hc.

Karila, Juhani. FISHING FOR THE LITTLE PIKE. Restless, 28.50 tp.

Kingfisher, T. THORNHEDGE. Tor, 26.99 hc.

Klune, T.J. RAVENSONG. [GREEN CREEK #2]. Tor, 39.99 hc.

Kosik, Rafal. NO COINCIDENCE. [CYBERPUNK 2077]. Orbit UK, 23.99 tp.

Kraus, Daniel. WHALEFALL: A NOVEL. MTV, 29.99 hc.

Maberry, Jonathan. LONG PAST MIDNIGHT. Kensington, 24.95 tp.

Macdonald, Helen. PROPHECT. Viking, 38.00 hc.

Malerman, Josh. SPIN A BLACK YARN: NOVELLAS. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.

McGuire, Seanan. BE THE SERPENT. [OCTOBER DAYE #16]. DAW, 12.99 pb.

Modesitt, L. E. Jr. CONTRARIAN. [GRAND ILLUSION #3]. Tor, 40.99 hc.

Moore, James A. THE WAR BORN. [SEVEN FORGES #6]. Angry Robot, 26.99 tp.

Nix, Garth. SIR HEReward AND MISTER FITZ: STORIES OF THE WITCH KNIGHT AND THE PUPPET SORCERER. Voyager, 37.00 hc.

North, Claire. HOUSE OF ODYSSEUS. [SONGS OF PENELOPE #2]. Redhook, 37.00 hc.

Northington, Jenn (ed). FIT FOR THE GODS: GREEK MYTHOLOGY REIMAGINED. Vintage, 24.95 tp.

Oh, Temi. MORE PERFECT. Saga, 26.99 tp.

Okosun, Ehigbor. FORGED BY BLOOD. [THE TAINTED BLOOD DUOLOGY #1]. Voyager, 39.50 hc.

Parker-Chan, Shelley. HE WHO DROWNED THE WORLD. [RADIANT EMPEROR DUOLOGY #2]. Tor, 24.99 tp.

Saintcrow, Lilith. THE SALT-BLACK TREE. [DEAD GOD'S HEART #2]. Tor, 23.99 tp.

Salvatore, R. A. LOLTH'S WARRIOR. [DRIZZT THE WAY OF THE DROW #3]. Voyager, 39.50 hc.

Scarrow, Simon. DEATH TO THE EMPEROR. [MACRO AND CATO #21]. Headline, 19.99 tp.

Shepherd, Megan. MALICE HOUSE. [THE MALICE COMPENDIUM #1]. Hyperion Avenue, 23.99 tp.

Sim, Tara. THE MIDNIGHT KINGDOM. [THE DARK GODS]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.

Strahan, Jonathan (ed). THE BOOK OF WITCHES: AN ANTHOLOGY. Voyager, 50.00 hc.

Swan, Richard. THE TYRANNY OF FAITH. [EMPIRE OF THE WOLF #2]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.

Talabi, Wole. SHIGIDI AND THE BRASS HEAD OF OBALUFON. DAW, 37.00 hc.

Tolkien, J. R. R. TOLKIEN CALENDAR 2024. Morrow, 21.00 cal.
Watson, Honey. LESSONS IN BIRDWATCHING. Angry Robot, 23.99 tp.
**Weis, Margaret. DRAGONS OF FATE. [DRAGONLANCE DESTINIES #2].
Random House Worlds, 38.99 hc.**
Wendig, Chuck. WAYWARD. [WANDERERS #2]. Del Rey, 27.99 tp.
White, Kiersten. MISTER MAGIC. Del Rey, 37.99 hc.
Wilson, Emily H. INANNA. [THE SUMERIANS #1]. Titan, 22.99 tp.
Wright, Suzanne. THE WICKED IN ME. Piatkus, 32.99 hc.
Young, Adrienne. SPELLS FOR FORGETTING. Dell, 23.00 tp.