

# FANAC Fan History Project January 10, 2025

## Newsletter 24

**New! New! New! Happy New Year!**

**New! New! New! Server! Software! Features!**

As of late August, FANAC.org has migrated to a new, dedicated server, with enough room for growth. There were surprisingly few migration pains, and so we moved on to a more important and more difficult migration.

In early November, the management of the fanzine archive portion of FANAC.org moved off our original hoary REXX code, and onto spanking new code developed by Mark Olson. There are still a few bugs in the system, so be patient with us as Mark and Edie play whack-a-mole with them.

You'll notice that on fanzine index pages that have been updated, for example, [Apparatchik](#), the listed editors are now hotlinked to their Fancyclopedia bios. For complete runs of fanzines, that will now be marked on their index page as well as on the Classic List. Clubzine pages will include the club name in their index page too. The magic only happens when we update the fanzine index page, so if you are looking at an old page, these features won't be there. We'll get to them. But, pretty cool, right?



### Paperback Inferno

Paperback Parlour

Philip Stephensen-Payne  
Joseph Nicholas  
Andy Sawyer

Clubzine - BSFA - British Science Fiction Association  
1977-1992  
UK: London

Homepage | Site Search | Fancyclopedia | Classic Fanzines Index

Scanned by Kevin R. Smith for BSFA and by Joe Slater

Issue	Editor	Whole	Volume Number	Month	Year	Pages	Notes
Paperback Parlour 3	Philip Stephensen-Payne	3		June	1977	8	
Paperback Parlour V176	Philip Stephensen-Payne	6	1 6	December	1977	14	
Paperback Parlour V271	Philip Stephensen-Payne	7	2 1	February	1978	10	

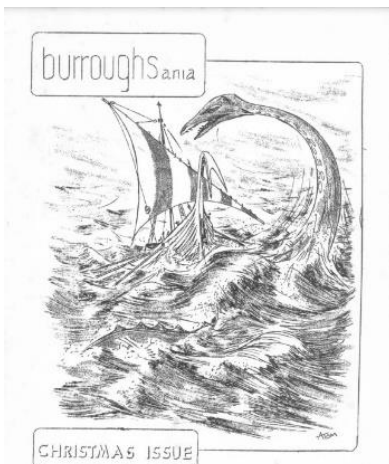
There's a remaining problem with the statistics on the alphabetic and the chronological list. We know about it and are working to resolve it. But, if you spot anything else awry, please send a note to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org). Hooray for Mark!

**Call to Action:** We ask for permission before uploading fanzines, and sometimes it's difficult to find contact information. If you are a faned (including those that have zines in apas) and you are ok with your zines being put on the FANAC.org website, please drop us a line (to: [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org)) and give us permission. We don't mind if your zines are on another site. We want to be as comprehensive as we can, not exclusive!

**FANAC International:** The FANAC archive is the product of many hands, not all of them in the United States. Read on for Rob Hansen's piece on scanning for FANAC.org.

### Rob Hansen – on scanning for FANAC.org

Those of you that follow the updates know that Rob has been providing some truly rare and intriguing fanzines for the archive. How does he do that? Read on...



Having a large collection of old UK fanzines going back to the 1930s, the logical thing to do for [fanac.org](http://fanac.org) - with a few exceptions - was to start by scanning the oldest first, which is what I did. Having exhausted all the earlier fanzines I'm now onto the 1950s, an era when Mike Moorcock produced his first zines, notably *Burroughsania* and *Jazz Fan / The Rambler*. As the titles suggest, the former was devoted to the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs while the latter was about music and in my opinion is the more historically interesting of the two. Give them a look and see if you agree.

I inherited this collection from the late Vince Clarke and I'm still finding things in it that surprise me. Most recently this was a run of the first iteration of Ken Slater's *Operation Fantast*. Dating from the late 1940s, this was filed separately from the later, better known version of that publication. Although always Ken's own zine, *Operation Fantast* volume #1 was affiliated with the

British Fantasy Library (see [https://fancyclopedia.org/British\\_Fantasy\\_Library](https://fancyclopedia.org/British_Fantasy_Library)) and carried some of its departments. It was an odd arrangement, but it made sense in the feeble UK fandom of the immediate post war years, and Ken is credited with helping that fandom get back on its feet again. When things started to pick up, Ken broke *Operation Fantast's* ties with the BFS and relaunched it as the official organ of Operation Fantast, the trading and book selling organisation that eventually morphed into his Fantast (Medway) Ltd business ([https://fancyclopedia.org/Fantast\\_\(Medway\)](https://fancyclopedia.org/Fantast_(Medway))).

## FANAC at the Glasgow Worldcon

FANAC had two tables with power close to a main door at the Glasgow Worldcon. Staffed by Mark Olson, Perry Middlemiss, Edie and Joe, we were well represented. We connected with fans from Europe to China, with a heavy representation of UK fans.

Some wonderful fanzines were brought for scanning, as well as some digital scans themselves. Glasgow Fan Guest of Honor Mark Plummer brought 9 issues of J. Michael Rosenblum's *Futurian War Digest* from the early '40s. If you haven't read these, you might want to take a look. They are evocative, and speak of fannish culture surviving under wartime conditions, coping with paper and supply shortages, and persisting despite all challenges. The staples in these copies were half solid, half rust. Later that same convention, Rosenblum's granddaughter, Michelle, gave us a thumb drive of already scanned fanzines from her grandfather's collection, including a number of issues of Olon Wiggins' *The Science Fiction Fan* from the 1930s and early 40s.



A complete surprise came from Susie Haynes, daughter of Ken Slater. She brought 4 handmade wooden "Soggy on Dragonback" toys from the 60s, kitted out for racing. These were based Terry Jeeves' character of Soggy which appeared in his fanzine *Erg*. The Soggys were indeed mounted on dragonback, and each had a long string connected to a pencil via a hole in the middle of the pencil. The idea was that a fan would wind the

string around the pencil, thereby making the toy move along the floor. You know what happened next.

On Monday at 11, we started racing in the Fan Lounge. Thanks to España Sheriff, Fan Lounge manager, a group of eager fans recreated the ritual of the Soggy race. Soon enough, fannish knees being what they are, the fans were replaced by younger kids. It was glorious.

Many thanks to those that made Glasgow so trouble free for the FANAC folks – Caroline Mullan, Spike and España Sheriff.



## Want More Frequent Updates?

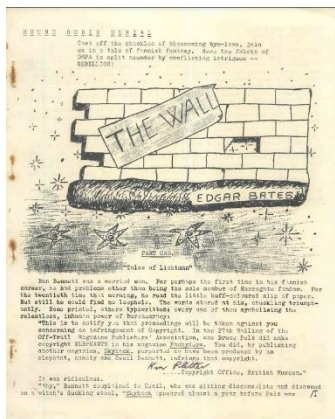
If you want more frequent, and detailed updates, send a note to [FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io). We send twice a week updates with "What's New" on the site.



## Joe Siclari: Cracks and Constructions

The first fanzine title I want to talk about is a bit of an oddity. Archie Mercer published a fanzine usually called *Archive*, except when it wasn't. Sometimes it was *Archive Between Meals* and other times it was a bit difficult to figure out the title. Mark Plummer has been working on this for a while trying to figure out the names and the numbers and the publication dates (or at least the publication order) of the online issues of *Archive*. You can see the results in his [write-up](#) on Fancyclopedia.

The British Fanzine Bibliography, meticulously updated by Rob Hansen (<https://www.fiawol.org.uk/Fanstuff/biblio/index.htm>) includes a listing for *Archive*. It's not completely in agreement with what Mark has discerned from the zines themselves. That's part of the puzzle in deciphering fanzines. You'd think names and dates would be easier. But that's only part of the *Archive* strangeness. Archie Mercer would occasionally go off onto a strange little tangent. For example, look at the 'Great Irish Rift Expedition'. It is a part of several different issues of *Archive*, but it doesn't always go in order. There's also a Rift in the fanzine, a physical Rift, although the paper is not actually torn.



For those of you who feel that a rift is objectionable in a fanzine, you could read [The Wall](#). It's a continuous long wall over several different fanzines with some entertaining corners. It was constructed over months by a multitude of people.

Many of you will know about the Tower to the Moon. That was possibly the most entertaining construction in fannish history, and there is also some entertainment in reading about its origins. The structure was built by the great Berkeley Bhoys - Carr, Graham, Ellik, Rike, Stewart and even the immortal Brandon.

Fanzines are not the only place where you can learn about fannish constructions.

For the 1992 Worldcon in Orlando, quite a few of us were involved in building a miniature golf course in less than 24 hours. It included a reconstruction of the Irish Tower of True Fandom with the actual Enchanted Duplicator installed on top.

Those of you who really would like to know the actual history of Science Fiction fandom should take a stroll through our newszines. We have some newszines going back to 1935, almost before fannish history began. There are over 4,500 newszines on FANAC.org, including complete runs of *Fantasy Fiction Field*, *Focal Point*, and *Skylark*. You can actually meander through FANAC.org's [newszines](#) from 1935 to 2024, and this doesn't include the many clubzines that have also published lots of news.

Remember though, the newszines tell the news, but to see how truly creative fans can be, you have to read the fanzines.



## Upcoming Zoom Series:

**January 11, 2025 - Out of the Ghetto and Into the University: Science Fiction Fandom University Collections**, with Phoenix Alexander (University of California, Riverside), Peter Balestrieri (University of Iowa), Susan Graham (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and Joe Siclari(m)

## February 22, 2025 Margaret Middleton - A Shaper of Modern Filk

If you're not already on our frequent zoomer list, send a note to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org) to receive timely reminders and links.

**YouTube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/Fanacfanhistory>

Two Zoom programs have been added to the YouTube channel since the last letter. They are very, very different.

"The Secret Origins of *Plokta*, with Steve Davies, Sue Mason, Alison Scott and Mike Scott". This fannish group burst on the scene in May 1996 with the fanzine *Plokta*, which went on to receive two Best Fanzine Hugos, two Nova Awards for Best Fanzine, and Hugo nominations each year from 1999 to 2008. They are energetic, quirky and very, very funny. They are writers, artists, con runners, Worldcon bidders and fan fund winners. In these recordings, their group dynamics and the interactions that created *Plokta* are on full display. It's great fun to watch, and it is clear it was great fun to live.

"Robin Johnson, Traveling Fan from Oz, with Robin Johnson, Perry Middlemiss and Leigh Edmonds". Beginning with his birth in Hobart to his chairmanship of Australia's first World Science Fiction Convention, this interview explores the fannish history of Robin Johnson, not only one of the best known Australian fans, but also one of the best loved.

## FANAC by the Numbers

Here's where we are on January 7.

Convention pubs haven't changed much since Mark has been focused on the software, so they're still around 5,150 pubs across 1,130 conventions.

Fanzines: 25,886 issues (2,929 titles) consisting of 445,233 pages.

Fanzines By decade:

<b>Decade</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Issues</b>
undated	18	18
<b>1930s</b>	97	488
<b>1940s</b>	558	2,770
<b>1950s</b>	637	2,993
<b>1960s</b>	883	5,199
<b>1970s</b>	607	3,917
<b>1980s</b>	398	2,871
<b>1990s</b>	338	3,106
<b>2000s</b>	187	1,630
<b>2010s</b>	81	1,723
<b>2020s</b>	66	1,171



Fancylopedia: 30,869 pages, covering 7,276 people including 5,509 fans. There are pages for 8,847 fanzines, 266 APAs, 1,336 clubs and 6,454 conventions.

From Fancylopedia's editor, Mark Olson: Kudosissimo to Mark Plummer. Kudos to Steven Johnson, Thomas Bull, Jan Vaněk jr, Dave Langford, Sandra Bond, Steven Silver, and to the other prolific Fancylopedia contributors.

## Coming Attractions

**FANAC** plans to be at **Boskone 62** in Boston, February 14-16, 2025, with a scanning station (in the fan table area). If you are attending, stop by, pick up your FanHistory ribbon and say hello. We may also have F\*R\*E\*E F\*A\*N\*Z\*I\*N\*E\*S to give you!

A scanning station is kind of useless without fanzines to scan, so please bring fanzines from your collection that are not already on the site, especially those on our [core](#) list. We'll scan them and give them back to you at the convention. See you there!

In April, we will be at **Corflu 42** in Newbury, UK. We hope to have a scanning station there too. Please help us add to the collection of British zines, many of which are not available to us to scan in the U.S.

Please pass this update on to any fan or online list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](#) home page.

Fanhistorically yours, Edie Stern and Joe Siclari

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### Selected links:

**FANAC.org:** <https://www.fanac.org>

**Fancylopedia 3:** <https://fancylopedia.org>

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

**Fanzines:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html)

**References:** <https://fanac.org/fanzines/References/>

**APA Mailings** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA\\_Mailings/](https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA_Mailings/)

**Alphabetical Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical_listing_of_fanzines.html)

**Chronological Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html)

**Country Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/country\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html)

**Editor Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/by\\_editor.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/by_editor.html)

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

**Core List: to Scan:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html)

**Contributors since the last newsletter:** We've received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Gloria Albasi, Lenny Bailes, Mike Benveniste, Ruth Berman, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, John Bray, Claire Brialey, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Eva Whitley Chalker, Chatgpt, Eli Cohen, Eric Coleman, John Davey, Steve Davies, Vincent Docherty, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Janice Gelb, Bruce Gillespie, Eli Goldberg, Jeanne Gomoll, David Grigg, Rob Hansen, Susie Haynes, Terry Hill, Irwin Hirsh, Andy Hooper, Dave Hulan, Sumner Hunnewell (aka Hildifons Took), Mindy Hunt, Aron Insinga, Valentin Ivanov, Rob Jackson, Robin Johnson, Steve Johnson, Marcin Klak, A.C. Kyle, Dave Langford, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Fred Lerner, David Levine, Guy Lillian III, Nathan Lily, Rich Lynch, Laurie Mann, Paul March-Russell, Bruce

Mai, Manny Maris, Sue Mason, Sam McDonald, Gary McGath, Greg Meyer, Perry Middlemiss, Margaret Middleton, Chip Newcastle, Caroline Mullan, Mark Olson, George Phillies, Greg Pickersgill, Mark Plummer, Andrew Porter, David Ritter, Michelle Rosenblum (aka Eowyn), Heath Row, Nigel Rowe, Alison Scott, Mike Scott, Flash Sheridan, Andrew Sigel, Steven Silver, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Garth Spencer, Alan Stewart, Matt Strait, Geri Sullivan, John Swartz, Jan Vaněk Jr, Pat Virzi, Bill Wallace, Alan White, and two different Kevin Williams.

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