



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 12

December 2017

News—2017 N3F Election Results

President:

George Phillies 13 votes

Write-In 0

Directorate:

Judy Carroll 12 votes

David Speakman 10 votes

Jefferson Swycaffer 12 votes

John Thiel 10 votes

Laurraine Tutihasi 11 votes

Write-In Richard Speakman 8 votes

Robert Hansen 1 vote

Heath Row 1 vote

Jon D. Swartz

Election Teller

December 22, 2017

For next year, George Phillies is President.

The Directorate will be Judy Carroll, Jefferson Swycaffer, Laurraine Tutihasi, John Thiel, and David Speakman.

Many thanks to everyone who ran, and everyone who voted.

Wanted: Volunteers

We need volunteers familiar with intellectual property issues to fill out our committee on protecting the N3Fs intellectual property.

To volunteer, please contact George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net

Short Story Contests

N3F: The Deadline loometh! If you happen to have a short story, and you have not yet entered it in the N3F short story contest, please do so promptly. Send your tales of 8500 or fewer words to Jefferson Swycaffer, abontides@gmail.com. There is no entry fee. You do not need to be a member to enter. There are cash prizes. Full rules are found on page 11. (Note that folks who have sold a story professionally are not eligible to submit.)

Send Us Your Sci-Fi!

Light Bringer Project & Sci-Fest L.A. invite you to submit your original short science fiction stories to our science fiction competitions! The winners will receive cash prizes and all finalists' stories will be read on stage by celebrity guests at LitFest Pasadena on May 19-20, 2018. It is free to submit stories.

There are two competitions:

The Roswell Award for Short Sci-Fi by an Adult

- Open to adults (18+) worldwide.

- Stories must be original, unpublished, and 1,500 words or less.

- One submission accepted per author.

- Submissions are due on Monday, January 29, 2018

Prizes include: \$500 (1st place); \$250 (2nd place); \$100 (3rd place); & the "Women Hold Up Half the Sky Award" for a feminist sci-fi story (dual publication in Artemis Journal & on the Hollywood NOW site & \$100 from Hollywood NOW)

The Tomorrow Prize for Short Sci-Fi by an L.A. County High School Student

- Open to high school students attending school in Los Angeles County.

- Stories must be original, unpublished, and 1,500 words or less.- Up to two submissions accepted per author.

- Submissions are due on Monday, February 26, 2018

Prizes include: \$250 (1st place); \$150 (2nd place); \$100 (3rd place); & "The Green Feather Award" for a sci-fi story that depicts overcoming today's environmental issues (\$250 from the Los Angeles Audubon Society & Los Angeles Audubon membership)

Complete submission guidelines are at:

www.lightbringerproject.org/science-fiction-contests

Contact:

Rosalind Helfand

The Tomorrow Prize and Roswell Award Contact

310-869-5749

rozhelpand@gmail.com



This issue is divided between News, Club Activities,
Letters of Comments, Sercon, and Fiction



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net—Chair
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

President: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Treasurer: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Editorial Cabal:

Editor and Publisher, TNFF: George Phillies
 phillies@4liberty.net

Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Editor, Tightbeam: Bob Jennings FabFicBks@aol.com

Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau: John Thiel
 kinethiel@comcast.net

Franking Service: George Phillies

Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com

Historian: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Information Technology: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soch

@gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

N³APA: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

N3F Bookwyrms:

Round Robins:

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com;

Patricia Williams-King 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville,
 TN 37206

Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer
 abontides@gmail.com

Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Robert J. Hansen <rhj@sixdemonbag.org>

Writers Exchange Bureau: Judy Carroll
 autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication
 Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising,
 Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics,
 Films. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

The National Fantasy Fan (Bonfire), Vol. LXXVI, Number
 12 December 2017, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by
 The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Publications

At this point in time, The National Fantasy Fan is sent by paper mail to all dues-paying, life, and founding members, and electronically too public and other members for whom we have an email address. Ionisphere, Tightbeam, and Eldritch Science are sent electronically to all members for whom we have an email address. N³APA is sent electronically to all participants, and occasionally to all members. Your publisher is pursuing an option for distributing our zines other than TNFF by paper mail, but participants would need to pay extra for the service.

Eldritch Science

Your Editor is looking at an end-of-winter publication date for Eldritch Science. Stories and Letters of Comment on the last issue will of course be welcome.

Tightbeam

The latest issue of Tightbeam; #281, is out and has been distributed electronically to all our members. If you have not received this issue yet, please contact President Phillies and he will send it to you immediately.

This issue features a generous mixture of new book reviews, as well as articles on the fantastic fiction of Rudyard Kipling by Jon Swartz, an article by Louis Desy Jr. about War Room, the new comprehensive strategy war game completely underwritten by crowd source funding; while Jeffrey Redmond looks at the scientific absurdities in most Hollywood sci-fi movies. The issue finishes with a long review of "The Quatermass Experiment" and the history of the British Quatermass character that was so influential in the development of British TV and cinematic science fiction.

Tightbeam is your fanzine. Its pages are always open to members who want to contribute articles, reviews, and artwork. The letter column is there for members to express their opinions not only about current Tightbeam issues, but also to discuss and comment on any subject involving the club or any part of the fan or science fiction spectrum. It's an open forum,

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org or send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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and I urge members to make full use of it. You can contact me, Ye Editor, Bob Jennings, via email at fabfic-bks@aol.com. ---Bob Jennings

Club Activities Birthday Card Bureau

November:

Birthday cards: 5

Renewal notices: 9 (including four with two members at same address)

Directorate Report

There's not been much activity among the directors this month, what with the elections coming up. I suppose individual activities are continuing among the directors. I inquired with Bob Jennings about a delay in Tightbeam, which I think is an activity of a director. He said it would be out soon, and came out with a splendid issue shortly after. Work is being done on establishing the new protective department; I've no word on when it will be completed, but I'll be looking in each new issue of TNFF for it.—John Thiel, chairman

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

President Phillies has said that he might have a way to re-print Ionisphere for those without email addresses. The idea is to ask them whether they would pay to receive it. Contacting them with this proposition can be handled by our adjutant, Mr. Polselli. Hopefully we will find people willing to support the additional copies. I'm not able to handle the additional printing and mailing costs myself. That would have to be about three bucks an issue. If just a few of the people contacted want to receive IO, I'd be able to handle the costs, but it would be preferable if all of the non-net users wanted to receive it. The matter's still in the fire, as the saying puts it. I'm also considering a one-page summary of its contents for people without the net. That would be regular postage per copy and a single page would not cost that much to print for all of them. I'd want the matter okayed before doing that.—John Thiel, Bureau Head

Franking Bureau

We continue to distribute the efanazines that the Bureau receives. The current distribution list is close to 200 people. If you are publishing a fanzine, and would like it redistributed to the entire N3F membership, please send it to George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net.

Note also (not practicable to distribute at the moment): SF Commentary 95, December 2017. 96 pages (print edition); 165 pages (landscape edition).

Portrait edition: <http://efanzines.com/SFC/SFC95P.pdf> .
or Landscape edition: <http://efanzines.com/SFC/SFC95L.pdf> .

Cover by Ditmar (Dick Janssen). Major articles by John Litchen (the second part of 'Fascinating Mars') and Colin Steele (his usual book round up 'The Field'), as well as arti-

cles by Tim Train and Yvonne Rousseau. Major tribute to 2017 Chandler Award-winning Bill Wright by LynC and Dick Janssen, and memories of Brian Aldiss, David J. Lake, Jack Wodhams, Randy Byers, Joyce Katz, among others. Lots of lively conversations featuring such SFC correspondents as Michael Bishop, Leigh Edmonds, Robert Day, Patrick McGuire, Matthew Davis, Doug Barbour, Ray Wood, Larry Bigman, and many others.

Games Bureau

Wesley Kawato writes: The Terraforming Mars craze is starting to ebb in southern California. Not long ago I met with my boardgaming friends, and we didn't play Terraforming Mars. Several months ago such an omission would have been unthinkable.

Recently a rumor surfaced that Venus Next, the second Expansion kit for Terraforming Mars, had been released. An online search reveals that all such stories are untrue.

Recruiting

Our advertisement has now appeared in the Dell Magazines, and should be coming up in the next issue of F&SF. We'll see if it brings about a member increase. Jeffrey Redmond has a standing ad for the N3F on his Facebook site, which has several thousand members; there should be a membership increase from that, especially with Jeffrey endorsing it. I'm having an NFFF ad in the January Surprising Stories on the net. All in all, we're doing good advertising, and if there is not a substantial increase in membership fairly soon, I'd like to know why.

Please remember to report any of your successes in recruiting to the Recruiting Bureau.

-John Thiel

Round Robins

What is a Round Robin?

Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members - which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

The N3F offers two kinds of Round Robins; traditional - where members send letters in the mail, and electronic - where members send letters by email. Both kinds are fun and informative and a good way to meet other members and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

NOTE: If you wish to join a Postal Round Robin contact - Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 3 members

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members - ONLY 1 MORE MEMBER NEEDED

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member

Japanese Anime - 1 member

Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.

The Marvel Universe

DC Superheroes and Villains

Cartoons and Cartooning

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games

Comics and Graphic Novels

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

NOTE: As of this writing the Bookworms ERR is looking for a new Bureau Head. If interested, please contact George Phillis Phillis@4liberty.net In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Head of the Bookworms reading club.

If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Patricia Williams-King writes that she is busy sending out Round Robins being revived. She asks that all Round Robin members who have a Robin on their desks will please write their response and mail it to whomever is next on the circulation list. Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

Welcommittee

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

New club members whose names appeared in the October and November issues of TNFF have been contacted and welcomed to the N3F. Thank you, Robert Hansen, for your help.

The following are quotes for the December Holidays:

Christmas

"Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with melody that would last forever." -- Bess Streeter Aldrich (Song of Years)

- Love the giver more than the gift. -- Brigham Young

Hanukkah

- "May the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all humankind." -- Anonymous

- "The darkness of the whole world cannot swallow the glowing of a candle." -- Robert Altinger

Kwanzaa

"Kwanzaa is a special time to remember the ancestors, the bridge builders and the leaders." - Dorothy Winbush Riley

- "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." -- Maya Angelou

New Year - Following are two quotes for the New Year.

- "We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential." -- Ellen Goodman\

- "Each New Year, we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer." — Peggy Toney Horton

If you would like to help welcoming new members to this wonderful club please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com"Sha-loam."

Writers Exchange

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

This month I would like to offer a quote by Neil Gaiman. I found it in a listing of quotes for the new year. I feel it can be applied to writing.

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it.
Make your mistakes, next year and forever.”
— Neil Gaiman

The Writers Exchange is for anyone who has an interest in writing. If you are looking for someone to read your work, or if you would like to read the work of others contact Judy Carroll. Autumnseas@yahoo.com

Letters of Comment

Editor:

I just finished the Three-Body trilogy, and have been discussing it with my brother and his wife. They read it in the original Chinese, I can't read Chinese but still was able to catch a thing or two about the translation (the main thing I came across, the word "inscrutable" appears in vol. 1 and 2, this despite there not being a Chinese word in any of my brother's Chinese dictionaries that directly translates to "inscrutable" ... my brother points out that the title of the third book means the exact opposite in the original Chinese version than the English version).

Gary Casey

Editor:

I now have more than 39,000 people in my Sci Fi Facebook group. There's 3,400 in my USS Valkyrie Star Trek Facebook group, and almost 5,000 on my personal Facebook page. This is as of the beginning of the month of December 2017. There might be all of next year to continue on with recruiting, growing, and developing.

Jeff Redmond

SerCon

N3F Founding Members:

Robert Studley

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

N3F Historian

Robert (Bob) Studley (1923 - 1984) was an early science fiction (SF) fan writer and fan artist from New York who discovered fandom when he attended the First Worldcon in New York in 1939, after which he joined the Queens Science Fiction League (SFL).

According to Damon Knight, Studley associated with -- and was elected to membership in -- the famous New York Futurians in the early 1940s. (Knight also reported that, at the same meeting at which Studley was elected to full membership in the club, he, Knight, was only granted “pro tem” membership).

Studley was associated with several SF fanzines. He published *The Sciential* with Tom Huguet in 1939-1940, and was a co-editor of *Cosmic Tales* in the early 1940s. In addition, in 1941 he served as an editor of *Bonfire*, the official newsletter of The National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF/N3F).

A brief bio of Studley is listed in *The Who's Who in Fandom* (published in 1940/and attributed to Ted Dikty); and in *Walt Daugherty's Directory of Fandom* (published in April, 1942).

He ran for Vice-President of the N3F along with Tom Wright, who was running for President. Their platform, as printed in *Bonfire #1*, stressed the following (paraphrased): 1) The NFFF is the only worthwhile solution to the situation today ; 2) The NFFF should have a certain amount of control over the fan world today ; 3) We have no fan enemies and have never engaged in a fan feud; 4) We are for a democratic organization and shall do all in our power to make it entirely so; and 5) We think we are well qualified for the offices.

For better or worse, the voters did not agree with them, and neither Studley nor Wright was elected. Of course, Studley was also one of the sixty-four charter members of our club in 1941.

Sources: Fancyclopedia 3, The Who's Who in Fandom (1940), Walt Daugherty's Directory of Fandom (April, 1942), Bonfire #1 (June, 1941), and The Futurians (1977).

Neglected Genre Authors:

P. Schuyler Miller

by

Jon D. Swartz

N3F Historian

Peter Schuyler Miller was born on a 100-year-old farm located between the towns of Melrose and Schaghticoke in upper Rensselaer County, New York, on February 21, 1912, and raised in New York's Mohawk Valley -- which led to his life-long interest in the Iroquois Indians. He pursued this interest as an amateur archaeologist and as a member of the New York State Archaeological Association.

Miller had several illustrious ancestors, including Major General Philip John Schuyler, who defeated Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga, and the first governor of the state of New York, Peter Schuyler. Miller's father was a chemist and his mother a teacher. Miller himself received B.S. (1931) and M.S. (1932) degrees in chemistry from Union College in Schenectady, New York. He subsequently worked as a technical writer for General Electric in the 1940s and for the Fisher Scientific Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1952 until his death twenty-two years later on October 13, 1974, at the age of 62.

Miller was an excellent student while growing up, graduating as the valedictorian of his class at the age of 15. As a child he read the science fiction (SF) novels of Jules Verne. He was introduced to magazine science fiction with the August, 1924 issue of Hugo Gernsback's *Science and Invention* that contained an installment of Ray Cumming's story “The Man on the Meteor.” Miller spent his lunch money for this particular magazine, began reading other magazines with SF stories, such as *Argosy* and *Weird Tales* -- and was literally waiting at the newsstand for the first issue of *Amazing* when it was delivered.

When his father died, Miller was in his early twenties and became the sole support of his mother and younger sister. Sam Moskowitz reported that this responsibility, which continued until his sister married and his mother died, is one of the reasons Miller never married.

Miller died at the Blennerhassett Island Site of the West Virginia State Archaeological Society. He was on an archaeological tour of the "Fort Ancient Civilization" site west of Parkersburg at the time. Miller was a member of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and at one time was associate editor of the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. A memorial article on Miller by Moskowitz appeared in the February, 1975 issue of *Analog Science Fiction/Science Fact*. In this article Moskowitz wrote that Miller acknowledged that his rich writing style was one in which he sometimes "shouted on paper" in his stories.

Miller wrote pulp SF stories beginning in the 1930s. His first story, "Visitors from Infinity," written in the late 1920s, never sold [but was eventually published in the fanzine *Cosmology*]. In 1930, however, he won first prize (\$150 in gold) in the *Air Wonder* cover story contest (500+ entries) with his story "The Red Plague" -- that was subsequently published in the July, 1930 issue of *Wonder Stories*, which by that time had absorbed *Air Wonder Stories*. Editor Gernsback said Miller's "The Red Plague" was "one of the best stories we have received since the inception of our magazines." Miller went on to be one of the more popular authors of the period, with his stories appearing in all the major SF magazines of the time. He seldom used a pseudonym, but -- when he collaborated on a story with friends Walter L. Dennis and Paul McDermott -- they used the byline of Dennis McDermott.

An active fan of the work of other authors, Miller corresponded with Conan the Barbarian's creator Robert E. Howard in the 1930s and -- with his friend (and fellow chemist) John D. Clark -- compiled the "probable" outline of Conan's career for fans [published in 1938 in Howard's book, *The Hyborean Age*]. Miller contributed regularly to genre fanzines, and his *Alicia in Blunderland* satire was originally published in the fanzine *Science Fiction Digest* in the early 1930s. *Alicia* poked fun at some of the SF professionals, fans, and famous stories of the time. Miller was also the treasurer of Pittcon, the World Science Fiction Convention held in Pittsburgh in 1960.

Beginning in 1945 Miller gradually shifted from writing fiction to book reviewing, initially for *Astounding Science Fiction* (later *Analog Science Fiction/Science Fact*). After reviewing several books for *Astounding*, he began his regular monthly review column, "The Reference Library," in October, 1951. As a critic he was notable for "his enthusiasm for a wide coverage of the science fiction field." In 1963 Miller was awarded a special Hugo Award for his book reviews.

His extensive collection of papers, maps, books, and periodicals -- accumulated largely as a result of his review work -- was donated to the Carnegie Museum after his death by his sister Mary E. Drake. A catalog of these materials, *The Miller Science Fiction Library*, was published by Dragon Press in 1977. These materials now form the basis of the P. Schuyler

Miller Memorial Library at the Edward O'Neill Research Center in Pittsburgh.

Published Short Fiction

"The Red Plague" (July 1930)
 "Dust of Destruction" (February 1931)
 "Through the Vibrations" (May 1931)
 "Cleon of Yzdral" (July 1931)
 "The Man from Mars" (Summer 1931)
 "The Arhennius Horror" (September 1931)
 "Tetrahedra of Space" (November 1931)
 "Red Spot on Jupiter" (July 1931) (as by Dennis McDermott)
 "Duel on the Asteroid" (January 1932) (as by Dennis McDermott) [with Paul McDermott and Walter Dennis]
 "Forgotten" [aka "The Forgotten Man of Space"] (April 1933)
 "Red Flame of Venus" (September 1932)
 "Jeremiah Jones, Alchemist" (May 1933)
 "The Atom Smasher" (January 1934)
 "The Pool of Life" (October 1934)
 "The Titan" (Winter 1934-35)
 "The People of the Arrow" (July 1935)
 "The Chrysalis" (April 1936)
 "The Sands of Time" (April 1937)
 "Coils of Time" (May 1939)
 "Pleasure Trove" (August 1939)
 "Spawn" (August 1939)
 "In the Good Old Summertime" (March 1940)
 "Living Isotopes" (May 1940)
 "The Flayed Wolf" (July 1940)
 "Old Man Mulligan" (December 1940)
 "Trouble on Tantalus" (February 1941)
 "Bird Walk" (April 1941)
 "Over the River" (April 1941)
 "Counterfeiting a Golden Age" (May 1941 [guest editorial])
 "The Facts of Life" (May 1941)
 "Smugglers of the Moon" (May 1941)
 "The Frog" (October 1942)
 "The Cave" (January 1943)
 "John Cawder's Wife" (May 1943)
 "The Hounds of Kalimar" (June 1943)
 "Gleeps" (July 1943)
 "Fricassee in Four Dimensions" (December 1943)
 "As Never Was" (January 1944)
 "Cuckoo" (May 1944)
 "Plane and Fancy" (July 1944)
 "Ship-in-a-Bottle" (January 1945)
 "Ghost" (July 1946)
 "The Thing on Outer Shoal" (September 1947)
 "Daydream" (1949)
 "Status Quondam" (1951)
 "For Analysis" (November 1958)

Note: Stories are listed by date of publication.

Verse

"Man's Question" (June 1931)
 "Meteor" (August 1931)
 "Space" (February 1933)

Books

Genus Homo (1941) [novel/with L. Sprague de Camp]

The Titan (1952) [collection of Miller's fiction]
Alicia in Blunderland (1983) [satire/originally published in a fanzine in the early 1930s under the pen name of Nihil]

Stories Reprinted in Genre Anthologies/Periodicals

“As Never Was” in *Adventures in Time and Space* (Healy & McComas, 1946)
 “The Sands of Time” in *Adventures in Time and Space* (Healy & McComas, 1946)
 “Over the River” in *The Sleeping & the Dead* (Derleth, 1947)
 “The Chrysalis” in *A Treasury of Science Fiction* (Conklin, 1948)
 “Forgotten” [aka The Forgotten Man of Space] in *Strange Ports of Call* (Derleth, 1948)
 “The Man from Mars” in *From Off This World* (Margulies & Friend, 1949)
 “The Thing on Outer Shoal” in *The Other Side of the Moon* (Derleth, 1949)
 “Ship-in-a-Bottle” in *Avon Fantasy Reader #15* (Wollheim, 1951)
 “Trouble on Tantalus” in *Travelers of Space* (Greenberg, 1952)
 “The Cave” in *Crossroads in Time* (Conklin, 1953)
 “Daydream” in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* (January, 1956)
 “The Sands of Time” in *Great Science Fiction Stories* (Smith, 1964)
 “Over the River” in *Terror!* (Shaw, 1966)
 “Ship-in-a-Bottle” in *I Can't Sleep at Night* (Singer, 1966)
 “Tetrahedra of Space” in *Before the Golden Age* (Asimov, 1974)
 “Old Man Mulligan” in *Isaac Asimov Presents the Great SF Stories 2* (Asimov & Greenberg, 1979)
 “The Sands of Time” in *Dawn of Time* (Silverberg, et al., 1979)
 “Over the River” in *Vampires* (Ryan, 1987)

Note: Stories are listed by date of publication of the anthology/periodical in which they were reprinted.

Some Concluding Comments

When he was publishing SF stories in the 1930s-1940s, Miller was sometimes mentioned as a worthy successor to A. Merritt -- high praise indeed for a young genre writer of the time. As he wrote less and less fiction, however, and began writing book reviews on a regular basis, Miller came to be known almost exclusively as a critic of the genre.

Donald Tuck called Miller “the most important book reviewer in the science fiction magazines” and SF historian Paul Carter wrote that the “turning point” in SF criticism came at the end of World War II when The Reference Shelf (sic) was created by Miller -- who conducted it with “skill and intelligence.”

In part, because of his work as a critic, Miller became a neglected genre author.

Bibliography

- Carter, Paul A. *The Creation of Tomorrow*. NY: Columbia University Press, 1977.
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Fiction Trial by Fire

Review by Cedar Sanderson

I received a copy of this book in an unusual way: Chuck Gannon gave it to my First Reader and I as a wedding gift. He was apologetic about it, saying that he just didn't have anything else with him to give us. But it is, I want him to know, the perfect symbolic gift for the two of us. We both love science fiction, reading... and we met through Baen. Back when we were both denizens of the Bar, we knew one another's names, but not much more. It was only during the great exile and regathering of Baen's Barflies on facebook where we started talking to one another directly, and even then it was a long time before we were more than friends. So this book made a wonderful wedding gift, thank you.

It helps, of course, that it's a really good book. Trial by Fire is the second book in a series, but it can be read as a stand-alone. Gannon does a good job of filling his reader in on backstory without overdoing it. Our hero, Caine Riordan, is a man with a really good brain, who has been manipulated by friends in high places, and finds himself doing things he'd never dreamed of. But the motivation to succeed is high: he's the one man who can save the human race. Now, my little summary looks melodramatic, but Gannon builds it up slowly, and Caine himself doesn't seem to realize the gravity of his position until he's neck deep and has no choice but to keep walking into the deep end whether he can swim or not.

If you enjoy space opera, this one will grab you. It's more cerebral than most in the genre, but it manages this without losing great action scenes, emotional human and alien characters you will enjoy getting to know, and a nice element of suspense as you see the plot unfurling slowly in front of you like a rose -- or a really big explosion. Gannon builds in his secondary characters to the mesh of the story without losing a beat -- this isn't just a story about Caine Riordan, and we see changes in more than our hero as the story goes on. Just when you think the climax is high, Gannon reveals another

layer. This is a matryoshka doll of a story, one nested into another until you finally see the last solution, seamless.

The alien invasion in the story is very cleverly done, and very believable. As is the action taken against it. That it wasn't the primary climax of the book succeeded in surprising me, which was delightful. As much as I read, finding surprises in plotting – not tricks, mind you, but a genuine 'oh, that's clever!' moment – is a rare pleasure.

Even then, there are tantalizing clues to more mysteries left unexplained, and enough threads to keep this story going further into a series. It's a satisfying read, and I'm delighted with the gift of it.

Two Reviews from RocketStackRank

Greg Hullender of <http://rocketstackrank.com/2015/09/welcome-to-rocket-stack-rank.html> opens his introduction to these review pages:

After witnessing the problems with this year's Hugo Awards, we decided to create a website to encourage readers of science fiction and fantasy to read and nominate more short fiction. Lots of other people are doing this too, but we specifically wanted to tackle the problem of helping people get copies of short stories, novelettes, and novellas once they decided they wanted to read them.

The three big professional magazines, *Analog*, *Asimov's*, and *F&SF* are all available online by subscription, but they don't make it easy to get back-issues online. Our [2015 Magazines](#) page covers just about every possible way to do this, and there are good strategies for people with tablets and smartphones, people with eReaders like Kindles and Kobos, people who want to read everything on their desktop or laptop, and even people who want to stick with print.

Our rating system, on a scale from one to five stars, aims to produce a small "bucket" of five-star stories by the end of the year. These are the stories we think are award-worthy, and there should be few enough of them that a person with limited time could read just that subset and find things worth nominating. Since we're trying to apply fixed standards rather than hit a particular target, we're not sure how many there will be in each category, but it won't be more than a dozen or so.

So welcome! We hope you find our site useful for finding the stories you want to read.

The Greatest One-Star Restaurant in the Whole Quadrant, by Rachael K. Jones

(SF Horror) A group of runaway cyborgs has to prepare meals for unknowing human ships or else blow their cover. But they're short on one critical ingredient. (4,287 words; Time: 14m)

Rating: five star Both Rare and Well-Done

"The Greatest One-Star Restaurant in the Whole Quadrant," by Rachael K. Jones [bio] (edited by John Joseph Adams), appeared in *Lightspeed Magazine* issue 91, published on December 1, 2017. Pro: The plot chronicles Engineer's descent into madness and how that ruined their escape plans and destroyed everyone except Friendly.

The author does a great job of making each of the cyborgs seem real and sympathetic, so we're steadily more horrified as they succumb, one after another, to Engineer's mad desire to get a five-star rating for food.

The point at the end when Friendly tells Engineer that it's all over is extremely poignant, even though we're relieved to see Engineer taken down. The marine's casual explanation that it was a glitch in her wiring and that they were discontinuing those models both makes sense and horrifies us in a different way; we've come to see these cyborgs as people, not things.

The different ratings submitted by customers provide much needed comic relief.

Con: The more you think about it, the more it grosses you out.

The Garden of Eating, by R. Boyczuk

Rating: Five Stars Amusing, Chilling, and Mysterious

"The Garden of Eating," by R. Boyczuk [bio] (edited by Andy Cox), appeared in *Interzone* issue 273, published on November 15, 2017 by TTA Press.

Pro: The use of simple words, like "Boy," "Spear," "Backpack," etc. gives us a strong impression of Boy's simplicity, but, as the story shows, he's quite capable of learning, and the story essentially tells how he learned that Tutor hadn't told him the truth and how he escaped.

The turning point is when he hears the Amerigun wail in anguish when she sees he's burned her boat and her supplies and he feels sorry he did it.

Tutor's distorted stories are amusing to listen to, but also a bit scary when you realize how severe the malfunction must be—particularly since the machine clearly wants to do some sort of surgery on Boy.

The ending is hopeful. Amerigun has apparently managed to get away despite the fire, and she's even left him something. Perhaps he'll engage with the next visitor and find a life somewhere in the real world.

Con: It never makes a whole lot of sense that a machine like Tutor would be training orphan boys and castrating them when they get older.

Gourmet Bureau

Ryk Spoor and Inner Beauty Deviled Eggs
from Cedar Sanderson's <http://www.cedarwrites.com/eat-this-while-you-read-that/>

When I asked Ryk for a dish, he sent me not just one, but two recipes. You make one to make the other. It took me quite some time to get 'round to making it, and part of the reason was the ingredient pictured in the original article: Habanero peppers...

But before I get into the recipes, let's talk about the books I'd recommend with this recipe. I first became aware of Spoor's writing in a collection, *Mountain Magic*, where his story of the gnomes that had been part of the Oz story leapt off the page in an enchanted retelling of a childhood favorite. His later book *Grand Central Arena* showed that he could equally master Space Opera. And Ryk just came out with *Princess Holy Aura*, a serious use of the Japanese magical girl trope.

Now that you have your reading material, let's get started! I'm hoping that the lovely papaya I selected is the right kind, as I learned while shopping for them that there are two sorts, one very large, and the other as you see, about the size of two apples together. It's got such pretty colors.

Inner Beauty Sauce

Ryk Spoor sent me this recipe, telling me: This sauce used to be commercially available, but the company went out of business many years ago. It took me a decade to reproduce it, partly because the online recipes for it got one crucial part completely wrong. Inner Beauty Sauce is a papaya and mustard-based hot sauce based on a number of Caribbean sauces. This is the recipe I use:

Ingredients:

- 6+ fresh habaneros
- 2 ripe papayas
- Pineapple Juice
- Orange juice
- Canola Oil
- Molasses
- Honey
- 1 cup cheap yellow mustard
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon curry powder
- 1 Tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- salt and pepper to taste

The number of habaneros is of course the determinant of the hotness of the sauce. Some of the original recipes call for 12 habaneros, but for general consumption I've found 6 sufficient. If you like more heat, by all means add more.

Get a food processor ready — this is not something you make by hand. Remove the stems from the habaneros and put them in the processor (don't run it yet). Cut the papayas and remove most (but not all) of the black seeds inside (the seeds are edible and spicy, rather like black pepper). Scrape out the pinkish flesh and remaining seeds into the processor. Add the brown sugar, mustard, and white vinegar, then run the food processor for the first time.

You will note that the other ingredients aside from spices do not have specific amounts; this is because the recipe has always been one "to taste". Roughly half a cup of pineapple and of orange

juice, with a few tablespoons — maybe a quarter cup at most — of canola oil, with a few swirls of both molasses and honey (maybe two or three tablespoons each). Process again until well mixed.

For the spices, the measurements are for HEAPING tablespoons; don't go cautious. I use Madras-style curry powder and a custom chili powder blend but any of them will probably do reasonably well. Add the spices in and run until the spices are well-blended in.

This produces a quart or two of a sauce that should have a consistency roughly like a very slightly thinner ketchup, a rich yellow color, and a sweet-hot-sharp taste that goes well with a lot of different foods. Enjoy!

Cedar's note: I cut the recipe in half, and omitted one ingredient which no doubt made a huge change in the flavor, but it couldn't be helped. The First Reader cannot eat curry. And the flavor of the sauce was very nice, sweet, spicy, and we didn't miss the curry (well, I didn't.)

I did use gloves while handling the habaneros, and carefully seeded and pithed them, knowing that's where most of the heat is at in most peppers. I was interested to note that they really didn't have much in the way of seeds. I think the reason my sauce is browner than Ryk describes is that I used blackstrap molasses. But the consistency was right.

And then you take the sauce and use it to make deviled eggs. The spice level of the Inner Beauty Sauce puts the Devil in the deviled eggs but they were surprisingly sweet as well.

Boil a dozen eggs, cool, and peel. I usually boil my eggs for 3-4 minutes and quench them under cold running tap water immediately to avoid having the green, sulfuric coating on the yolks.

Cut the eggs in half lengthwise, remove the yolks to a bowl, and mash them well with a big dollop (2-3 tbsp. and add more if desired) of mayonnaise. Inner Beauty Eggs-4

Add about 2-3 tablespoons of the Inner Beauty Sauce, and blend well — I could have done this in the food processor, but some vigorous working over with a pastry blender achieved the same effect. Mine were a little wet. That was ok. I then put my yolk mixture in a pastry bag with a large star tip and piped it into the half egg whites. You could just spoon it, but when I'm shooting for the blog I try to be a little fancy.

They came out very nicely, a bit sweeter than other deviled eggs, although not as sweet as the First Reader's Angeled Eggs. Even though I was nervous about the habaneros (we usually top out at jalapenos or my favorite Anaheims) they are warmly spicy, not biting hot. I suppose if you wanted more heat you could add more sauce and less mayo to making this up.

They are a fun side dish, to take to a party, or potluck. I think I'd pair up a batch of these with the Angeled Eggs, paprika on these and edible flowers in the sweet ones. That would be fun as long as you warned people what they were getting!

November SF/F/Horror/Fairy Tale Novels

From Smashwords.com

- Book VI, Gamadin: The Wild Strain by Tom Kirkbride
 The Misborn V: Priscilla by L. V. MacLean
 Book V, Gamadin: CORE by Tom Kirkbride
 The Man From Earth by Ted Stetson
 Book IV, Gamadin: Gazz by Tom Kirkbride
 Polo Shawcross: Dragon Soldier by Lee Abrey
 Salem's Revenge Complete Boxed Set by David Estes
 The Demmies: A Novel by Ann Parsons
 Think-o-mat by Troim Kryzl
 Lower World by Eloise Hamann
 Mercury's Son by Luke E.T. Hindmarsh
 Salvage-5 - Anthology (Vol. 1-4) (First Contact) by Brian K. Larson
 Eye of the Timegate by Russell Forden
 Dragon King by Devon E. E. Sala
 Orphan Surfacing by Nathan Day
 The Space Lore Boxed Set: Volumes 1-3 by Chris Dietzel
 Demon Fallout: The Return by Mark Tufo
 The Dwellers Saga Boxed Set by David Estes
 Risk Analysis by David Collins-Rivera
 Dreams of the Technarion by Sean McMullen
 The Distant Kingdoms Volume Seven: Bourke's Raiders by David A Petersen
 UbiquiCity by Tod Foley
 Reintegration by Eden S. French
 Assimilation Protocol by Brian F.H. Clement
 The Slip Trilogy Complete Boxed Set by David Estes
 Slip by David Estes
 Book III, Gamadin: Distant Suns by Tom Kirkbride
 A Love That Destroyed Time by Melanie Ray
 Grendel Unit by Bernard Schaffer
 Book II, Gamadin: Mons by Tom Kirkbride
 The Chaos Chronicles Trilogy Collection by Steven M. Moore
 Ecopunk!: Speculative Tales Of Radical Futures by Liz Grzyb & Cat Sparks
 Shine (Season One) by William Bernhardt
 Ghostwalker by Kristan Cannon
 The Last Iron Horse by Kristan Cannon
 After Oil by Kristan Cannon
 Tactics of Delay by Louis Shalako
 Salvation Day by RD Meyer
 In the Time It Takes to Blink (Bruno & Salvanian #1) by David Six
 Horror Has a New Home: the Angel Hill box set by C. Dennis Moore
 Demon Fallout: The Return by Mark Tufo
 Shadows in the Dust by Will Molinar
 The Spirits of Christmas: The Dark Side of the Holidays by Sylvia Shults
 Home and Back Again - The Undead Chronicles by Patrick J O'Brian
 Morning Star by Razor Blade
 The Misborn V: Priscilla by L. V. MacLean
 Death Mask by Aya DeAniege
 Witch Hunt - Black Sorcery Trilogy (Book 1) by Lisa E. Parry
 Mist's Edge by T.A. White
 Polo Shawcross: Dragon Soldier by Lee Abrey
 Salem's Revenge Complete Boxed Set by David Estes
 Henrietta YA Fantasy Box Set (Books 1-3) by Beth Barany
 Lower World by Eloise Hamann
 The Bow of Hart Saga: Complete Series Books 1-3 by P. H. Solomon
 The Blood Prince by Marie Blanchet
 Wham! Bam! Pow! Slam! by Doug Lewars
 Dragon King by Devon E. E. Sala
 Road Ghost: Omnibus Edition by E. Chris Garrison
 The Space Lore Boxed Set: Volumes 1-3 by Chris Dietzel
 Gray Widow's Walk by Dan Jolley
 The Recruits - Mage Riders - Book 1 by Pj Belanger
 Sicilian Defense (Fayroll book 5) by Andrey Vasilyev
 Under the Black Flag (Fayroll book 6) by Andrey Vasilyev
 Servant of the Crown by Paul J Bennett
 Children of the Colony: Book One The Spirit Wars by C. F. Turner
 The Chronicles of Hawthorn: A Magical Adventure: (Box Set, Books 1 - 4) by Rue
 The Distant Kingdoms Volume Seven: Bourke's Raiders by David A Petersen
 The Alistar's Hearts by Danielle Kozinski
 Gong and Chalice (Fayroll book 4) by Andrey Vasilyev
 Liberty Shrugged by G. F. Kaye
 Guardian of the Crown by Melissa McShane
 The Unconquered Mage by Melissa McShane
 The Wandering Mage by Melissa McShane
 The Summoned Mage by Melissa McShane
 Grimm's Circle Books 1 - 3 by J.C. Daniels
 Les Gardiens de l'Ordre Sacré - Tome 2 : L'Archange by D. Lygg
 The Medallion Chronicles: Bloodlines by C.A. Jarest
 The Slaves of the Horned God by Aidan Hennessy
 Touch of Rain by Teyla Branton
 Rienspel by Ryan P Freeman
 Q's Key by Ursula Katherine Spiller
 What Is Best? by Thorin Tatge
 Winds of Fate (Fayroll book 3) by Andrey Vasilyev
 The Cassadine Covenant by Dasia Zanders
 Delver Magic Book XII: Essence of the Chase by Jeff Inlo
 The Arbitrator by M. M. Perry
 Tayler Blake y los guardianes del equilibrio. by Carlos Fontes
 The War Of Histories Box Set by Tim Mathias
 Oz Will Fall: The Grimoire by John Malone
 Paragons: Age of the Unseen by J. M. Macchiavelli
 Price: \$2.99 USD. Words: 137,690. Language: English.
 Do Not Disturb Sleeping Gods by Doug Lewars
 The Tally Master by J.M. Ney-Grimm
 Sorenson's Gift by Robin Roberts
 Morning Star by Razor Blade
 Charybda: Worldstrait Book I by A.L.S Vossler
 Rebirth by Gabriel Perez
 Insurrection by Gabriel Perez
 The Thorn Witch by Matthew S. Hart
 Το φυλακτό των τεσσάρων στοιχείων by Πέτρος Γιακουμής
 Apocalyptic Fairytales by Melanie Ray
 The Summer Princess by Wanda Harkins

2017 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2017.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly among all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made, March 2018. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2017. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2017 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

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Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609