

**Charles Fuller:** As we move from mailing to mailing, are we to learn that at every turn in your younger years you had to face down the evil Mr. Callidney? If so, let me pre-shudder on your behalf.

**R-Laurraine Tutihasi:** Congratulations on being more or less settled in your new house and new neighborhood! It doesn't sound like you and Mike had more than the usual amount of glitches and hassles in the transition.

To John Purcell you write, "What small print! I had to enlarge the image twice before I could read your zine." I've wondered about John's choice of 10-point text myself, although I don't find it a problem to enlarge it for easy reading. Given that presumably there's no print edition (other than perhaps a file copy) to pay for reproducing, I don't quite understand his reasoning. John?

**Chris Garcia:** I hope that by now your problems with the card for your TAFF account and in finding a place to live have all been resolved. Of the two possible rentals you mention, I'd probably go for the studio in your immediate vicinity with its storage and closet space—but that cabin in the mountains *does* sound intriguing.

**Alan White:** Of Loscon you write, "The goodie bag consisted of the program book and a spurious treat called a SoyJoy 'Fruit and Soy Bar.' A treat that bills itself '...the kind of snack you'd bake for yourself...' but tasted more like 'The Fig Newton you rolled in dirt.'" Ordinarily this wouldn't have caught my attention, but last night when I was going through the Sunday *Chronicle's* coupon harvest there was one for a free SoyJoy bar. Now I'm wondering if I'll get it and compare notes with you or reel in horror at the very prospect. Tune in next mailing.

Thanks so much for your deliciously illustrated convention report. Because I go to few conventions other than the occasional Corflu or (when it's in S.F.) Potlatch, I haven't seen some of the people in your photos in ages. You mention Bjo a few times but have no shot of her—was she not there? I've had some off and on contact with her in recent years over her and John first finding and then arranging to have a DVD made (if possible) of the 1960 Unicorn film production, *The Musquite Kid*, based on the late Lee Jacobs's SAPS saga. (If you're unfamiliar with it, Google for "musquite unicorn" for a few locations where it's mentioned/discussed.) The finding of the old 16 mm. film has happened, and last I knew (quite a while ago

now) it was being checked out for conversion to DVD. (I have a special interest in this project because I had a minor role in the film, including being in a shoot-out—see photo—with Burbee. That's me on the right, Ernie Wheatley in the center, and Bruce Pelz on the left. We are facing down Burbee.)

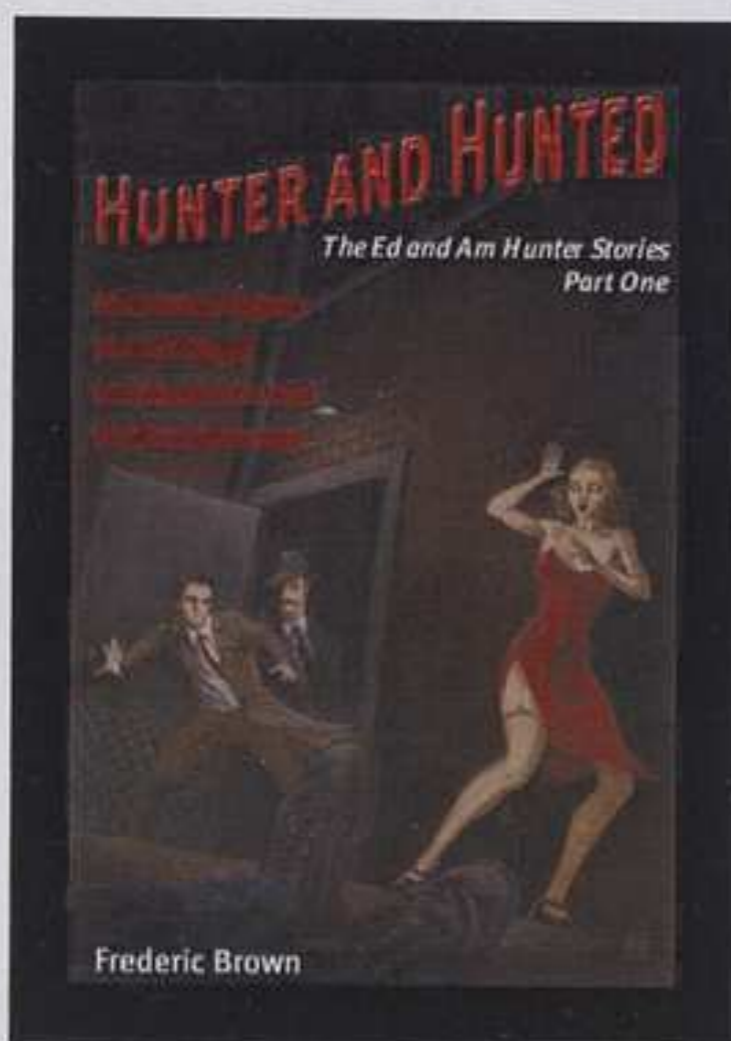


**Shelby Vick:** Welcome aboard! Your story of computer travails was so...um, er...horribly typical that instead of making me cry it made me laugh. Sympathetically, of course, but knowing that you worked it out or else you wouldn't be writing about it.

"Arnie, remember the days of lettering guides, where you had a bunch of sheets of plastic with letters to trace to your stencils?" I also remember those days, and in fact I have a cigar box full of lettering guides, stylii, shading plates and wheels, inherited from the late Terry Carr. In the early days of *Trap Door* I used some of them for doing headings. I found that a Pilot Razor Point would fit in most of them, and it was very cool to have mimeo-style lettered headings in my resolutely photocopied fanzines.

**Teresa Cochran:** Good to see you back again, and thanks for the update on your life. Being involved in an acting group sounds like lots of fun. Married life, too, of course.

Speaking of which, please get James back in the swing of things SNAPSish, too.



**John Purcell:** "Robert, those scans of the Fredric Brown paperbacks were fun. These are books I've never read, but they have got to be ages out-of-print by now." Yes and no. The specific editions whose covers I scanned are unavailable at reasonable prices, but four of them—*The Fabulous Clipjoint*, *The Dead Ringer*, *The Bloody Moonlight* and *Compliments of a Fiend*—are available in a hardcover omnibus edition called *Hunter and Hunted*. (These are the first four of the seven "Ed & Am Hunter" detective series.) The publisher is offering them at \$13.95 (plus \$3.99 shipping) via Half.com. I found this listing using Bookfinder, where others are offering the same book for considerably more. The other books I scanned also

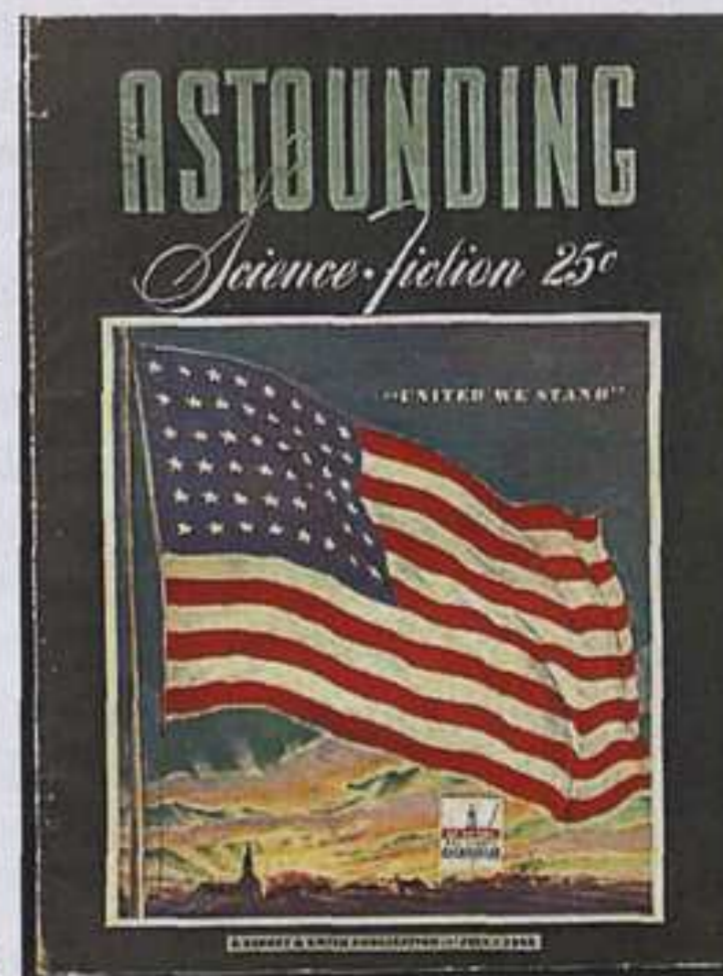


show up on Bookfinder: the 1984 paperback of *Night of the Jabberwock* is \$16.02 including shipping and numerous copies of *Here Comes A Candle* in the 2006 reissue are available for around \$12.50 including shipping. That edition includes a long introduction by Bill Pronzini, a short story from a 1948 *Detective Tales* and a short rant originally published in a Karen Anderson fanzine. (The cover to your left is from the original Dutton hardcover, not this reissue.)

These are all pretty affordable prices, but if you're struggling to get money together to mail out hard copies of *Askance* and to pay FAPA dues, they may not be in your reach at this time. If you were to choose only one, I'd say get the four-novel collection.

**Arnie Katz:** "...This is the 30th SNAPS eMailing. I trust that, in this case, '30' is not the end but just the beginning. The apa is not as healthy as I would wish, but it is still developing, making progress. I hope the more experienced members will continue to be patient with the less experienced ones, because the former provide good examples for the latter." Well, I'll readily admit that the overall content here is often a bit on the thin side, but I agree that the group is slowly moving forward in a positive direction and intend to stick with it for the foreseeable future. Along those lines, I'm glad to see you doing mailing comments on a regular basis, and as you know my primary content here is comments—which I try to make more than just backtalk on previous mailings by wandering far afield when the occasion arises. In my view, members who "skipped months rather than do 'just mailing comments'" are shortchanging not only the apa but themselves as full participants. And I second your call for the local members to join in more regularly.

To summarize what you say about war and memories of the past, I believe the old but unfortunately true saw that those who don't remember the lessons of the past are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. As you write, "I knew that the US was headed for some kind of military quagmire when the campaign to recast the history of the Vietnam War went into full swing. I felt that the corporate mass media cartel was, under prompting from the government, trying to convince an uninformed American Public that the Vietnam War was a wonderful and noble experience that ended in triumph and glory for our country." I remember that





*L-R: ATom, Robert L., Chuck Harris - 1989*

this rewriting of Vietnam war history began with the onset of the Reagan era and was done under the guise of “making Americans feel good again about their country.” I felt it was nothing more than cynical flag waving propaganda and helped lead us towards the misadventures in Honduras and now in Iraq. It was worse than people not remembering—it was the direct implantation of false memories of a tragic time for our country.

“To me, the thing that separates Core Fandom from other species of Fandom is that we try to stay connected to our collective memory of Fandom’s past and, through that knowledge, our link to Fandom’s traditions, ethos and literary legacy.” As you know, we strongly agree on this point.

“You mentioned Amazon as a source of publishing information. I agree that it’s got some value, but it is also riddled with errors. When Bill Kunkel and I looked ourselves up, we found we were credited with several books that did not actual exist and at least one that existed, but was not published due to circumstances beyond our control. (The company got out of computer-related books).” I wasn’t aware of this in your and Bill’s case, but I do know that they list some upcoming books by John D. Berry that are not only not already scheduled for publication (at least not in his publisher’s 2008 catalogue), they haven’t even been written.

About my comments on Jeff Redmond you write, “Where I think you and I differ on this topic is that I see Jeff as more of an enthusiastic, know-it-all neofan who might have some potential under all that self-aggrandizing pushiness.” Yes, our views are opposite—I see Jeff as a small-time pro writer of fantasy and SF who’s seized upon fandom as a possible means of advancing his career, much as John Scalzi has done in his self-promotion for a best fanwriter Hugo. The biographical notes on him at <http://www.erdabooks.net/> end with this: “His chief love is to help others to improve their lives, and to offer them all the encouragement he can.” If that’s what he was trying to do when he trashed me and set up bogus e-mail addresses to impersonate me, he has an odd way of helping.

In response to my comments about all institutions, including fannish ones, have a natural life cycle that could include their eventual demise, you write: “Yes, fannish institutions have withered and died in the past and will continue to do so in the future, should

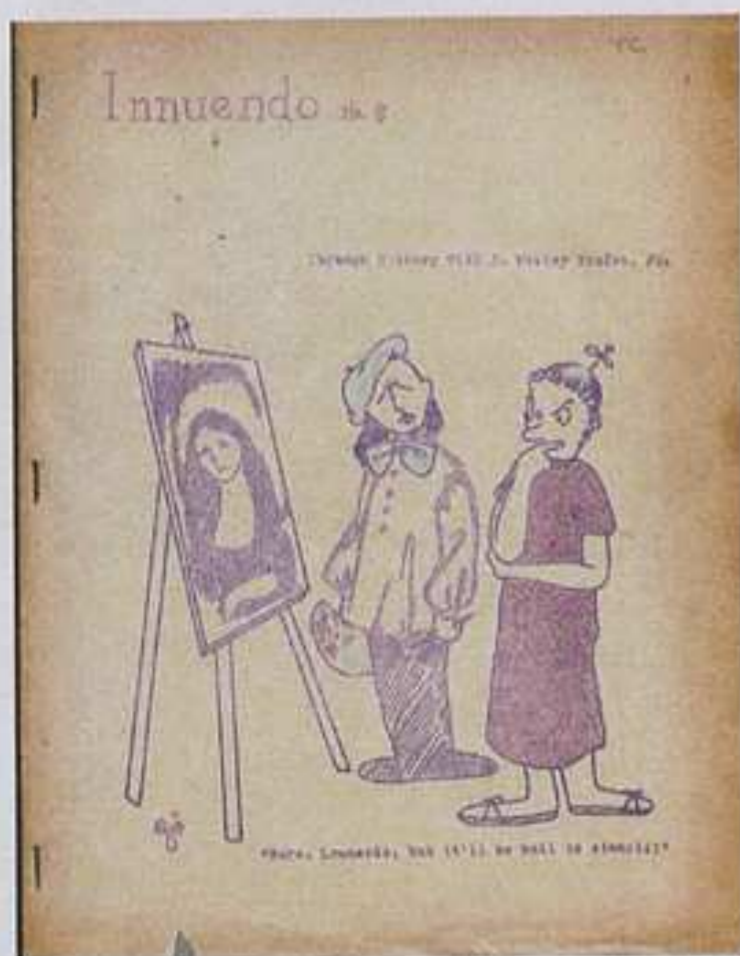


they become irrelevant. But it doesn't automatically follow that because a fannish institution *can* die that it *should* die." And speaking specifically of FAPA you further write: "Fannish institutions also grow, evolve and mutate. FAPA itself changed from a group predicated on the hektograph (and thus limited to 50 members) into one that welcomed all forms of hard copy reproduction. It doesn't seem like such an amazing step for FAPA to expand its media acceptance again, this time to include electronic fanzines." And also, "The idea of carrying the great traditions of FAPA or SAPS forward into the new era is something I find very inviting." Personally speaking, I agree with the majority in both FAPA and SAPS that prefers to maintain them *at this time* as paper-only institutions (and if I didn't agree, I would still honor and abide by that agreement). This may change, of

course—and bearing in mind the idea of Core Fandom as I quoted you above, I believe that those "great traditions" of communication and organization will very likely carry forward with whatever succeeds them as paper-only organizations. By the time you and I take the elevator up to that great convention in the sky, I suspect these changes will have taken place.

"It also came to me that someone ought to do *A Sense of FAPA II* to anthologize the best of the group's post mailing 100 material. There isn't really an *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!*, but there would be tons of tremendous stuff. (While we're at it, an electronic version of the original anthology would be something worth having, too, and would be the first chance for many, many fans to read *A Sense of FAPA* in any form.)" That original volume is nearly four hundred pages, and would constitute a major scanning project. However, since all but one of the fine fans who had material in it are now deceased (Speer being the exception) and it's all in the public domain, this is something that could be done without complicated copyright issues rearing their litigious heads. As for a second volume covering the next 45 years of FAPA mailings, although I have no doubt that an excellent anthology could be assembled, that would be a tremendous task for someone—and starts with the assumption that a complete set of mailings 101-present (the 282nd mailing is next month) is available.

"My fanzine collection hasn't really been accessible since Joyce and I moved to the Launch Pad, much to my displeasure. I greatly admire Robert's ability to retrieve specific issues with



relative ease. Maybe that'll be a project for 2008, now that Joyce needs a bit less daily care than she has for the last four years." I hope you can do this, Meyer—it'll be a good thing not to be the main source of fanzine research by dint of being one of the few whose collection is so easily accessible. And I know it'll make you happy once it's done and you, like me, can decide to read a favorite old fanzine and be able to go right to it without heavy lifting.

To John Purcell you write, "I'm looking forward to meeting you for the first time in person after getting to know you from afar." The same goes for me!

**Joyce Katz:** "I've been having trouble with my computer over the last couple of months, and I'm not sure why." What you describe is truly mysterious, and I tend to nod in the affirmative when you wonder, "Do I have a computer poltergeist at work?" My computer occasionally had its little oddities, too, but nothing on the order of yours—and a number of them (such as not keeping up with my typing sometimes) are due to memory being used in the background when automatic updates are downloading from Norton Anti-Virus or Windows. My computer is seven years old now, but other than those occasional glitches it's been behaving well. Like Arnie (and presumably you) I have a lot of old software, but it all does its job well with no compatibility issues (such as Arnie reports between Publisher and Acrobat).

Wow, those are lovely scarves and shawls you've shared with us in these stunning photographs! "I do not know why I am so attracted to shawls and scarves. Obviously, I like the warmth; and beautiful creations, like the two I've mentioned here, speak for themselves." You hint at some deep psychological reason, but in my view the ones you've written of here more than suffice.

To me you write: "Your remarks (made to Arnie in the last mailing) seem to indicate there is little chance that FAPA or SNAPS will decide to go electronic, and, just for the record, that makes me unhappy. I would be first on the waiting list to get back into FAPA if they'd go electronic. And, I'd also be stumping for SNAPS to get folded into FAPA if that happened. I was extremely sorry to drop out of FAPA, and would like to be a participant again, if and when they ever rethink their status." Considering that everyone in FAPA has internet access, there's really no impediment to its going electronic other than long-held tradition and sentiment. But those are strong factors and I don't think they're likely to change soon. I wish you and Arnie were back in FAPA, too, since you were some of my favorite fellow members. As for SNAPS getting folded into FAPA if the latter went electronic, I don't see a need for that since any SNAPS member interested in being in an e-FAPA could simply join and SNAPS could continue on its own.

