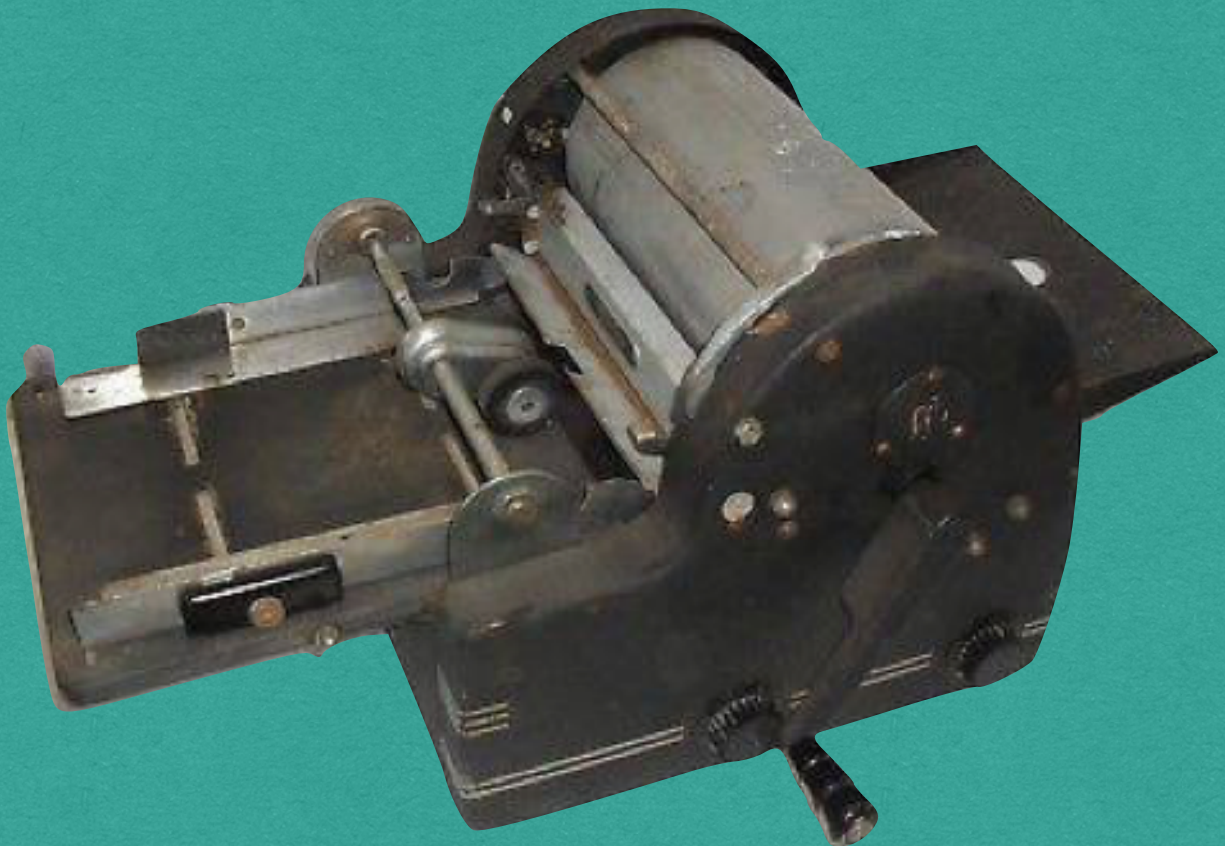


RANDOM JOTTINGS 15

Magic Mimeograph Issue (Corflu 36 PR 3)

December 2018



*"For the Magic Mimeograph is the one with a true fan at the handle."
The Enchanted Duplicator*



Corflu 36

The convention for fanzine fans
Home of the Fan Activity Achievement
Awards (FAAn Awards)

Thursday, May 2, 2019, through Sunday, May 5, 2019
Cambria Hotel, Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC)

All the details and newest progress reports available at

www.Corflu.org

Membership Rates (US\$):

(see website for details and how to register)

Attending: \$125 (through Jan. 31, 2019)

Supporting: Pay what you want to.

Premium: Additional \$50, or \$50+ for supporting

Prodigal Fan Discount: \$25 off attending if you
attended Corflu in at least three previous years

Do you know who saved the world? Was
Yngvi *really* a louse? Corflu is smooth?”?

If you're into fanzines, tradition, randomness, and fan history,
Corflu 36 is the place for you. Plus, you—yes, *you*—might
become our Guest of Honor, chosen by lot at the con*!

* Opt out available.

Random Jottings 15

Random Jottings 15, THE MAGIC MIMEOGRAPH ISSUE, is another in a series of progress reports for Corflu 36. Like the previous issue, it is available only in PDF form through the generosity of Bill Burns, both at efanzines.com/RandomJottings and at corflu.org (also home to previous progress reports). Edited by Michael Dobson and published by Timespinner Press, 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817-2724, 301-404-7439, editor@timespinnerpress.com. Issue 15, November 2018. © 2018 Timespinner Press, CC BY-SA 4.0.

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The Corflu 36 Committee

Michael Dobson	Chair
Curt Philips	Hospitality, FAAn Awards
Ted White	Programming
Patti Ross	Treasurer
Andy Hooper	Auction
Bill Burns	Webmaster
Rob Jackson	British Agent, Online Corflu
Elaine Stiles	Registration
Pat Virzi	Logo
Doc Morgan	Trophy Design



Editorial

THIS IS THE THIRD PROGRESS REPORT for Corflu 36, to be held May 2-5 in Rockville, Maryland. Most of this issue is a discussion of the FAAn Awards, including a preliminary ballot. In the next PR, you'll get a final version along with recommendations from one or more Fannish Authorities about the worthy products deserving of your vote.

There's an updated membership list, preliminary information about programming, and even a few letters.

Price Change. You'll note the rate rollback on page 2. Getting memberships matters more than getting another \$25, so if you mention "RJ15," you get the original membership rate of \$100 (\$75 prodigal fan) through January 31 of next year. Tell your friends.

Publicity and Promotion. The Philcon people contacted me and offered a 1/8-page program book ad for Corflu for only \$65. We'll see if we get any extra people from it.

I visited BSFS to promote Corflu and get local fannish interest. I'm not sure whether that accomplished much, but their clubhouse is really cool and I got to spend the evening with Steve and Elaine.

Publications. I have one contribution to the Fanthology in hand and promises of several others. I'll be following up with email

requests in the coming weeks, so think about what you want to submit.

The process is simple:

1. Pick a piece of fan writing (or fan art, for that matter) you particularly like. It can be by any person from any zine at any time.
2. Get permission if practical
3. Scan the original fanzine pages (high quality TIF or PDF, 300 dpi or better).
4. Write a brief introduction about why you chose the piece and what makes it good/important.
5. Send it to me.

Swag. All the good swag turns out to be too expensive, especially in the small quantities we'll need. There will be some physical memento of Corflu 36, whether it's a shirt or a print or a beer glass, but the price will be set at breakeven or possibly a loss.

Next PR. I'll publish the FAAn Awards Official Ballot and Rules in early January. There's a rather extensive discussion of the awards and my intentions in the pages that follow, so if you're interested in the topic, be sure to read that section. If you don't care about the FAAn Awards at all, this will be a pretty short PR.

Cheers, Michael

The 2019 FAAn Awards

You Can't Spell "Award" Without War

TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T HAVE A VERY strong interest in the FAAN Awards. I'm not active enough or involved enough to be a decently knowledgeable voter; I get about six fanzines and am only religious about reading three of them. I don't publish often enough or distribute widely enough to be a contender, and I'm fine with that.

As Corflu chairman, I now find myself *ex officio* in charge of the awards. Originally, I had one objective, which was to have actual trophies for the winners. (More on this later.) Nic Farey, who did such an outstanding job the previous year, was to be in charge of the balloting and voting process, and Curt Phillips would be in charge of the presentation portion.

I did have one minor issue. I knew from several years' conversations that both Steve Stiles and Bill Burns had grown somewhat embarrassed by their string of wins, and had expressed an interest in being able to opt out. The possibility of a special award followed by future ineligibility was discussed. I assumed this would be easy enough to sort out.

This turns out not to be the case.

There are, in fact, a number of strong and principled objections to this, and there was quite a spirited discussion on the matter.

Would allowing certain frequent winners to opt out create a "Buggins' turn" feeling that whoever did win was really the second-place choice? Would manipulating the categories to avoid the automatic awards to Steve and Bill compromise the integrity of the awards? Is it appropriate to consider the feelings of the prospective awardees or should the awardees just accept the honor and move on?

Ultimately, we weren't able to come to an agreement that worked for everyone. Nic, a firm believer that the Corflu chair's preferences should carry the day, voluntarily stepped down as administrator.

While both Bill and Steve have said that they were okay with the status quo, I just couldn't support an award system that gave awards to people who didn't want them. At the same time, I don't want to ignore the very legitimate arguments and concerns raised by various people.

Categorical Imperatives

IF THE SAME PEOPLE WIN EVERY YEAR, there's something wrong. Either there isn't any competition in the category and the category should go away, or the category is badly drawn or confusing. I think there are different reasons why Steve and Bill have been winning so consistently.



With Steve, he has for the last several years been the most prolific fan artist by a wide margin. While there are a number of very talented artists in fandom, they haven't been particularly active in the last few years. Steve deserves his awards, but it's hardly meaningful without much competition.

In the case of Bill and efanzines.com, I think the problem is more that we are cramming the entirety of online fan activity into a single ballot category. News sites, archive sites, blogs, lists and groups, and general online activity are a large and growing part of contemporary fan activity.

These are the "Fan Activity Achievement Awards," not the "Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards." If that's the case, we should recognize fan activity wherever and however it takes place. So let's take a closer look at the awards.

The FAAn Awards Manifesto

THE FAAN AWARDS ARE A JOKE — but I mean that in a *good* way.

Jokes are an essential part of fannishness. We call them the FAAn Awards, a name no one can take seriously. We have a category named #1 Fan Face, for goodness sake. By the same token, Corflu is a joke. Other conventions recruit pros and BNFs to boost attendance; we pick our GoH by lot. We elect a past president of a nonexistent organization and treat it as a great honor. That's fannish.

While last year's award process was a masterpiece of administration, I remember a Corflu some years back in which I was cornered by the awards administrator on Saturday night to fill out a ballot for the awards that were to be given out the following morning.

While I don't want to get *that* casual, I do see this sort of thing as part of the charm. Fans at our best don't take ourselves seriously; we spoof our own traditions; we have fun. This has always been the part of fandom that attracts me.

Does this mean we shouldn't take the awards seriously? Well, that depends on what you mean by "serious." One sense of the word "serious" is professionalism: taking pride in a good job, striving for excellence, making sure the work gets done, and putting thought and effort into it. That kind of seriousness is good.

Another sense of the word is how we ascribe value of things. Is this "serious" business or not? How "serious" is it? Of course, your ideas and mine on what constitutes "too serious" or the "wrong" kind of serious may differ, but we all recognize there's a problem when those ideas of "seriousness" get in the way of other values.

The FAAn Awards honor our achievements and ideally encourage others to improve or increase their own fanac. They don't quite constitute an enduring final critical judgment for the ages, which is why there's frequent discussion about the great fanac that was overlooked or the mediocre fanac that took the prize. Fortunately, there are other sources of egoboo, and in the end, excellence is eventually recognized, awards notwithstanding.

We have a tradition of standing tradition on its head, and that's the sort of tradition I can get behind.

What is "Fan Activity?"

WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT FANS actually do that constitutes "fanac," I think of several categories, each of which have numerous sub-groups.

Fanzines can be genzines, newszines, personal zines, one-shots and special publications, apazines, and special interest fanzines.

Writing includes articles, humor, and letters.

Art includes covers, illustrated articles, spot illustrations, cartoons, non-cartoons, other media (not necessarily in fanzines, like art shows or sculptures), and graphic design.

Fannish activities include convention work, working for fannish causes and charities, club participation, and simply being good company.

Online fannish activity can include hosting archives, running news sites,

participating or leading groups and lists, blogging, and general online presence.

There's also a Lifetime Achievement Award, but that's decided by a Sekrit SMOF Group and isn't officially part of the FAAn Awards. I'm also planning a "We Wuz Robbed" Award for a product in the previous (say) five years that really should have gotten an award but was sadly overlooked.



All Categories Great and Small

TO BRING THIS DOWN TO A MORE manageable size, we will give both trophies and certificates. Trophies will be given for the main categories, with certificates for winners of subcategories. You will list your choice for each subcategory, plus give a vote to whatever you think is, for example, the best fanzine of the year, regardless of subcategory. Essentially, you have two votes for overall best plus a single vote each for as many of the subcategories as you chose to vote for.

Subcategory winners get a certificate. Whatever gets the most total votes for the entire category gets the best fanzine award.

Unlike in previous years, you'll only write one item per category or subcategory. While the number of categories grows substantially, having only one entry per line means the burden of tabulation should be about the same. Frankly, I can't see much value in a top-three listing here; that approach would make more sense if there were a nominating round that narrowed the final choices.

A little later, I'll go through this in detail, and show you a sample ballot.

Isn't That Special?

ONE PROPOSAL TO HANDLE THE BILL and Steve situations is that we give a Special Award to each of them, which would make them ineligible in the future to win in their respective categories.

There was strong objection to this idea in our discussion. Instead of a Best Fan Artist category, we would essentially have a Best Fan Artist Who Isn't Steve Stiles Award.

In Steve's case, there's some justification for going this route anyway, because he so dominates the category at the present time that there really isn't any other serious contender. Moving him out of the category means that we can recognize other worthy fan artists who just don't happen to match Steve's prodigious output.

With Bill, as mentioned earlier, I think the problem is different. There's a lot of online fanac worthy of recognition, but

dumping everything into a single catchall category leads to people making the easy default choice. More categories will result in many more potential winner, and I don't think Bill will be as much of an automatic shoo-in as he's been in the past.

Still, I think it's important to recognize the preferences of those involved. If Bill and Steve want to be considered for a Special Award, that's enough reason for me to do so. However, the FAAn Award voters should have a say as well, so I'm going to put the question on the ballot and let you make the final decision.

If "For" wins, Steve or efanzines.com would still be eligible for a certificate in particular subcategories, but someone else would win the overall category trophy. If "Against" wins, all "For" votes would be counted toward the category trophy, so you wouldn't waste the vote either way.

By the way, another objection raised to the Special Award idea is that some people might be eligible but not want one. That's why the first requirement for a Special Award is that you have to want one.

Campaign Contributions

BECAUSE CAMPAIGNING HAS BEEN historically frowned upon, I say let's encourage it instead! There's nothing wrong, in my view, with those of you who have strong opinions about quality work sharing those opinions.

Rather than publish a list of eligible 2018 products and people, I plan to publish a

voter's guide. If you'd like to write up your recommendations and why they're so good, I'll publish them.

Voter information is good. As I said, I personally don't read lots of fanzines, so I really don't know the best of the year. With good recommendations, I'm more likely to check out a few things I might otherwise have missed.

A Laurel and Hearty Handshake

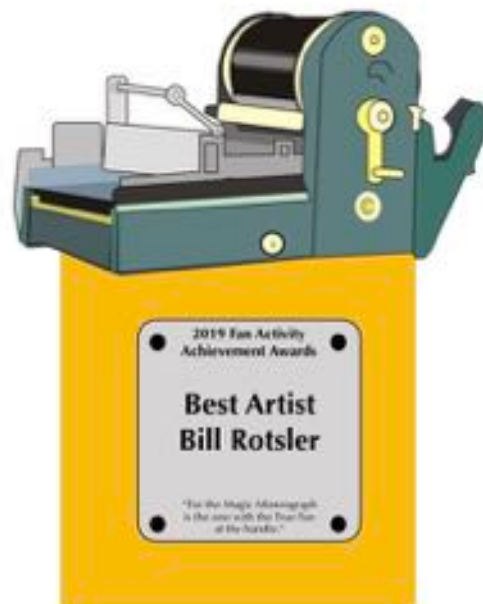
WHAT'S AN AWARD WITHOUT A TROPHY? Aside from the generous cash prize, eternal glory and the adulation of millions, I mean.

Providing actual trophies for FAAn Award winners was one of the first objectives I set for Corflu 36, but as is often the case, the project turned out to be a bit more difficult than I thought. There are numerous cheap trophies available, but none with a stfnal or fannish quality. At higher price points, you can get some nice things, but a custom trophy could easily run a few hundred dollars. I looked for alternatives: I found a rocket-shaped lava lamp (take that, Hugoes!), but it still looked cheesy. Then Bill Burns told me about Shapeways (www.shapeways.com).

Shapeways is a commercial 3-D printing service. Upload the design file and select your preferred material, with options ranging from plastic to platinum. Once you're in the system, ordering new trophies for each year is a matter of a few clicks. The cost (not counting design charges) is relatively modest, and it's possible to have exactly what you want.

And what should the trophy be? In the fannish spirit, it seems to me that it should be a mimeograph. Not just any mimeograph, but the Magic Mimeograph, you know, the one with the true fan at the handle. In *The Enchanted Duplicator*, it's an old, beat-up mimeo sitting on a cube of gold. That means it would consist of two pieces: a gold-colored cube with a small hole on top and a gray mimeograph with a little post at the bottom that would fit in the hole.

Unfortunately, I don't know anything about 3-D printing, but this is, after all, fandom. If you need to know something obscure, there's a fan somewhere who's an expert in it. In our case, it's Toronto fan Doc Morgan. Doc is working on the final design, and we've got plenty of time to get everything done.



And the Mimeo Goes To...

IN THE CASE OF THE HUGO AWARDS, both the trophy and the awards have the same name. In the case of the Academy Awards, however, there's a difference: the awards are the Academy Awards but the trophy is called the Oscar. I think we should adopt something similar for the FAAn Awards.

As noted, while calling them "FAAn Awards" works within our little hobby, no one outside the in crowd can possibly take the name seriously. (I presume "FAAn Awards" is pronounced with the bleat sound, like "faan.") If the trophy is the Mimeo (or Magic Mimeo), then it would be equally acceptable to call the awards by either name. Personally, I'd sooner say I won a Mimeo than a FAAn Award — not that I will win either of them — but the choice is up to you.

Voting Process

THERE'S A SAMPLE BALLOT ON THE NEXT page. While there may be some fine tuning before the official release, you can start thinking about who you're going to vote for now. If you would like to share your ideas (see "Campaign Contributions"), fill out the ballot, write some commentary, and send it to me to be published in the next PR. I'll share all recommendations received.

There are 5 major categories, for which the winners will get a Magic Mimeo. Within each major category there are subcategories,

and winners of subcategories will receive a certificate. (You can win a Mimeo and also get one or more certificates.)

For each major category and subcategory, you can vote for one person, group, or product (as appropriate) of your choice, as long as the person did fanac in that category at some point during 2018.

For each subcategory, the top vote-getter wins the certificate and gets five bonus points toward the major prize. (Example: If Roscoe Q. Fakefan gets 20 direct votes for Best Fan Writer and also wins the Best Humorist subcategory, he gets a total of 25 votes.

Category Definitions

MOST OF THE CATEGORIES SHOULD BE self-explanatory, and if they're not, you're free to interpret them within reason.

The basic requirement for all categories and subcategories, as noted earlier, is that the person/group/product for which you vote has to have done fanac of that type during 2018, except for the Award for Unrecognized Achievement.

I don't have the knowledge, the time, or the desire to compile an exhaustive list of who and what is eligible, so unless your vote is obviously bogus (*Hyphen* for Best Fanzine), I'll count it. After all, just because someone didn't publish a fanzine in 2018 doesn't mean it isn't a current fanzine. I've gone 32 years between issues, myself.

I've done the best I could in thinking of subcategories, but I'm sure there are legitimate categories I haven't considered.

2019 Fan Activity Achievement Awards Sample Ballot

BEST FANZINE _____

BEST GENZINE _____

BEST PERZINE _____

BEST SPECIAL PUBLICATION _____

BEST NEWSZINE _____

BEST APAZINE _____

BEST SPECIAL INTEREST FANZINE _____

BEST FAN WRITER _____

BEST HUMORIST _____

BEST SERIOUS WRITER _____

BEST FAN HISTORIAN _____

BEST LETTERHACK _____

SPECIAL AWARD TO STEVE STILES FOR
ACHIEVEMENT IN FAN ART

FOR _____ AGAINST _____

ACHIEVEMENT IN FAN ART _____

BEST COVER _____

BEST INTERIOR ILLUSTRATOR _____

BEST PORTFOLIO _____

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER _____

BEST DIGITAL ART _____

BEST GRAPHIC DESIGN _____

#1 FAN FACE _____

CONVENTION WORK _____

WORK FOR FAN CAUSES _____

SERVICES TO THE HOBBY _____

GOOD COMPANY _____

SPECIAL AWARD TO BILL BURNS/
EFANZINES.COM FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN
ONLINE FANDOM

FOR _____ AGAINST _____

ONLINE ACHIEVEMENT _____

ARCHIVES AND RESOURCES _____

NEWS AND INFORMATION _____

BEST GROUP OR LIST _____

BEST BLOGGER _____

BEST ONLINE PRESENCE _____

AWARD FOR UNRECOGNIZED FAN
ACHIEVEMENT ('WE WUZ ROBBED') _____

Please feel free to suggest additions or alterations.

Best Fanzine. What's a genzine? What's a perzine? Use your best judgment. For example, I've never thought of *Random Jottings* as a perzine, but that's how it's been classified in the past. If one person thinks it's a perzine and someone else considers it a genzine or even a special publication (or given that I sent it through two apas, an apazine), it's okay with me and I'll count the votes in whatever category they're received.

Special publications can be completely stand-alone or can be a numbered issue of a fanzine (e.g. *Warhoon* 28).

Special Award for Achievement in Fan Art. If you vote FOR this award, don't also vote for Steve in the Achievement in Fan Art category. If FOR wins, Steve will be henceforth ineligible to win future Fan Art awards, although he can still win certificates. If AGAINST wins, all FOR votes will be counted as votes for Steve toward the Fan Art Mimeo.

If you vote AGAINST, but you still think Steve should get a regular Fan Art Mimeo, vote for him in the Achievement in Fan Art category as normal.

Achievement in Fan Art. The Fan Art category now includes photography, digital art, and graphic design.

Cover art and interior illustrations are separate categories. A portfolio is a multi-page collection of art by the same artist,

whether published as a stand-alone work or as a fanzine article. The art pieces can be stand-alone, or can constitute a comic story.

The best graphic design award is for a product, but is awarded to a person. If you choose Roscoe Q. Fakefan's design of the fanzine *Whazzap*, write *Whazzap (Roscoe Q. Fakefan)* on the ballot.

#1 Fan Face. This has historically been a meta award, combining votes from all categories. This year, the category covers in-person fan activity, from convention work to just being good company. However, to keep at least some tradition intact, #1 Fan Face will get five bonus points for every subcategory won across the board, and ten bonus points for every Magic Mimeo.

Special Award for Achievement in Online Fandom. This is a special award for Bill Burns/efanzines.com. Like with the Steve Stiles Award, if FOR wins, efanzines.com will no longer be eligible for the Online Achievement Award. If AGAINST wins, FOR votes will be counted as votes toward the Online Achievement Mimeo.

If you vote FOR, don't vote for [efanzines](http://efanzines.com) for Online Achievement, though you may vote for it in the appropriate subcategory.

Online Achievement. Subcategories cover the range of online activity. *Archives and resources* include sites like [efanzines](http://efanzines.com), the Internet Speculative Fiction Database, and other repositories of fannish or sfnal information.

News and information sites are eligible even if they also offer a fanzine-style publication in either print or PDF form. If it's mostly a fanzine-formatted news publication, vote for it in the Best Newszine category; if it's primarily an online blog, vote for them here; if they offer both versions, you can vote for them both places.

Groups and lists might include Facebook groups like FAANEDS, public or limited-access groups like InTheBar. Don't vote for lists that are supposed to be secret.

Bloggers can include people who do a lot of fannish content on Facebook or other platforms, but this is mostly intended for those who write a semi-regular blog.

Best Online Presence is sort of like Best Letterhack, in that it recognizes people who not only do their own thing but also participate on other sites or in public forums.

Award for Unrecognized Fan Achievement. If it was published in 2018, it is *not* eligible in this category. Instead, think of something that came out in the last five or so years that in your opinion *should* have won an award but didn't.

If no single item receives at least 20% of the total vote, then the award will be a certificate rather than a Mimeo.

I Hate It With the Heat of a
Thousand Suns

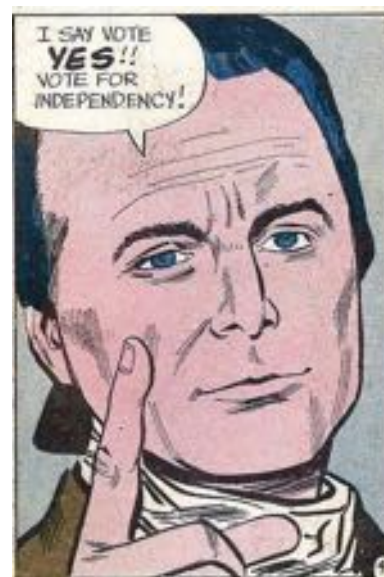
DRAFT VERSIONS OF THIS HAVE BEEN sent around, but there's still time to make changes. A number of the details (especially

the list of potential categories) are easy to modify, and I would really value your suggestions. Ideas on how best to administer this, or tweaks to the idea are also welcome. If you can think of additional categories in the graphics category, that would be particularly welcome.

If you think I need to provide additional detail on anything, let me know and I'll make the changes before the official ballot is released in January.

If you think this is a terrible idea and should be stopped, I'm willing to consider alternatives. I'm not willing to accept a solution that leaves the noncompetitive category problem unresolved. I prefer solutions that increase egoboo and recognition, and solutions that simplify administration. If you'd prefer to take this over and do it yourself, let me know, as long as my first condition is met.

There's not a tremendous downside to this. No matter what, my administration lasts only a single year, and the next Corflu committee gets to decide what to do next.



Membership and Hotel

Membership Rate Rollback

AS OF DECEMBER 1, WE HAVE 52 members, 42 of which are attending. I need 60 attending to break even because of the room block guarantee, so if you are (or know someone who is) planning to come but haven't registered yet, please do so.

Currently, the attending rate is US\$125, with a \$25 "Prodigal Fan" discount for anyone who hasn't been at any of the last three Corflus. Frankly, the rate increase was a way to encourage registration rather than a need for the extra \$25, so if you mention "RJ15" when you pay, you can still have the pre-September membership rate of \$100. Supporting members still pay whatever you like, and it's all appreciated.

There are a lot of people who *should* be at Corflu who for various reasons don't come. If you know someone in that category, please drop them an email or give them a call and mention the discount. Remember, the more people who come, the better the convention!

Finance and Auction

ASIDE FROM MY WORRIES ABOUT meeting the room block guarantee, we're in good financial shape. This is in large part due to Andy Hooper, who has managed to sell off

a significant portion of my fanzine collection (such as it is) through eBay. Thanx and a great big tip o' the Hatlo Hat to Mr. Hooper.



The Roll of Honor

1	Ted White	Attending
2	Michael Dobson	Attending
3	Colin Hinz	Attending
4	Catherine Crockett	Attending
5	Nigel Rowe	Attending
6	Tom Becker	Attending
7	Spike	Attending
8	Sandra Bond	Attending
9	Rob Jackson	Attending
10	Geri Sullivan	Attending
11	Murray Moore	Attending
12	Mark Olson	Attending
13	Deborah Dobson	Attending
14	Edie Stern	Attending
15	Joe Siclari	Attending
16	Ken Forman	Attending
17	Robert Lichtman	Supporting
18	Pat Virzi	Attending
19	Jay Kinney	Attending

20	R-Laurraine Tutihasi	Supporting
21	Claire Brialey	Supporting
22	Mark Plummer	Supporting
23	Dixie Kinney	Supporting
24	Gregory Benford	Attending
25	Curt Philips	Attending
26	Steve Stiles	Attending
27	Elaine Stiles	Attending
28	Rich Coad	Attending
29	Ian Sorensen	Attending
30	Mary Ellen Moore	Attending
31	Frank Lunney	Attending
32	Jeff Schalles	Attending
33	Jerry Kaufman	Supporting
34	Suzanne Tompkins	Supporting
35	Jim Benford	Attending
36	Andy Hooper	Attending
37	Carrie Root	Attending
38	Mary Burns	Attending
39	Bill Burns	Attending
40	Steve Jeffery*	Attending
41	Alan Rosenthal	Attending
42	Jeanne Bowman	Attending
43	Pat Charnock	Supporting
44	Bruce Newrock	Attending
45	Flo Newrock	Attending
46	Keith Lynch	Attending
47	Nic Farey	Supporting
48	Colleen Brown	Attending
49	Leonard Stockman	Attending
50	Dan Joy	Attending
51	Gordon Eklund	Attending
52	Doc Morgan	Supporting

* Steve Jeffery is our Corflu 50 winner.
Congratulations, Steve!

Hotel

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE ONLY significant worry I have is for the room block

guarantee. For Thursday and Sunday, the number is relatively low, but I need 40 people staying over Friday and Saturday nights or else I have to pay for the unsold rooms. One of those rooms I've already decided will be added to the consuite, but for the rest, the more of you who stay in the hotel and the earlier you book, the better. See last issue for the booking link or drop me an email.

It is a lovely facility, brand new and in a restaurant-filled neighborhood, so you'll enjoy yourself, especially at the super-low (for this area, anyway) rate of \$109/night.

If you are planning to come in for the pre-Corflu activities or want to stay over extra days, my hotel contact says she'll be able to arrange a discount rate (though not the \$109 bargain) if the booking is done through her. Contact me to make arrangements.



Program and Activities

Pre-Corflu

THE FINAL PROGRAM ISN'T FINALIZED, of course, but we do have some pre-Corflu activities lined up for those who want to come in a few days ahead.

In addition to these, we may also have a battlefield tour (both Antietam and Gettysburg are within driving distance) and possibly a downtown Smithsonian tour. I suspect my own schedule will be a little tight, so I won't be able to do an Air & Space Museum tour. Any volunteers?

Wednesday. Baltimore is only an hour or so away, and Steve and Elaine Stiles have agreed to show you the city. Baltimore has excellent museums (my personal favorite is the Walters Art Gallery), historic attractions (Fort McHenry, the USS *Constellation*), and lots of good restaurants. You'll learn why people say "Virginia is for lovers, but Maryland is for crabs!"

Have something special you'd like to see or do in Baltimore? Send an email to Steve and Elaine.

Wednesday evening. I live about 20 minutes from the convention hotel, and will throw a party Wednesday evening. Details to follow.

Thursday. Colleen Brown spent many years working for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, located off the Mall in the Gallery Place/Chinatown neighborhood, and is offering a guided tour. In addition to NMAA, there's the National Portrait Gallery, the International Spy Museum, and lots of great restaurants.

Corflu

THE HOSPITALITY SUITE WILL OPEN Thursday evening, with the official convention starting early Friday evening with our opening ceremonies and selection of the Guest of Honor. The standard opt-out fee of \$20 will apply for those who don't want the "honor;" the money will go to buy a special gift for the one selected.

Regular programming will take place on Saturday, with evening activities following dinner. On Sunday, bring your appetite, because we'll have lots of tasty crottled greeps and other culinary delicacies.

Given that we pay for the program room for all day Sunday, I'm considering bringing playing cards and boardgames for those interested.

Letters

Lloyd Penney

Thank you for *Random Jottings* 14, otherwise known as Corflu 36's PR2. Something 48 pages long has GOT to have something in it to write a loca about? You'd think? Well? Guess I'll find out.

Well, Corflu 36 is looking good, and it looks like you're getting lots of members, saw something from Bill Burns on e-mail earlier today. Looks like you're heavy on the organization, and I hope you can find someone for all the positions on the committee. You're looking for attending interest? Some here, but guaranteed there will not be any money available for me to go. I still cannot find work in Toronto, so cash is a rarity right now. I will say a firm no right now, so that I am not tempted to spend money I don't have. (Well, if I can scrape up a few bucks, perhaps a supporting membership, but no promises.)

A huge quiz, which was at the Toronto Corflu...I didn't even try. I went home both Friday and Saturday nights at Corflu 35. You know, I've been to three of these now... perhaps it's just not for me.

Anyway...lately, we've become horrible hucksters, selling costume jewelry and Hawaiian shirts, and we've been doing more of it, and we're making a nice buck. Perhaps we need more of that.

But by all means, keep the PRs coming out, and I promise a loc each time. We will see you with the next one.

Robert Lichtman

I love the fanthology concept and will definitely provide something. Maybe several items depending on time and energy. Good that you'll accept multiple contributions from the same person.

Corflu swag: Could be interested in single beer mug. Not sure about polo shirt. Both of those kinda depend on what the graphic is. Definitely interested in Stiles print.

Don't know where Andy got his information, but Joe Kennedy's *Green Thoughts* #2 was published in March 1950. How do I know this with such precision? The usual way: I have a copy.

Murray Moore

Of the off-site options, in order, both of us, Baltimore, Washington, and third, battlefield (me). We explored Antietam on the drive to World Fantasy, several years ago, but I would go again if the others in the vehicle are congenial.

What dates do the con hotel rate begin and end?

Perhaps an off-site activity, Chopping Wood with Ted?

[The reservations cut-off date is April 3, 2019. Of course, early booking is strongly encouraged. MSD]



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