

## THE FOSSIL

*Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism*  
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### GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS President's Report

**Guy Miller**

A letter from Fossil Barry Schrader on a separate matter prompts me to emphasize once again the services of our Library of Amateur Journalism located in the Special Collections Library of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I have tried to spread the word throughout the hobby from the time I was first elected Fossils President in 1994. Still the fact of its existence seems to have remained a best-kept secret.

In my January President's Report, I revealed my need to downsize my hobby office and observed: "Where to send a good portion of the journals is not a problem. I know that my collection of *It's a Small World*, *Campane*, *The Boxwooder*, *The Scarlet Cockerel*, *The Lucky Dog*, *Churinga*, various printed papers, and my ajay books will find their way either into other members' collections or the Library of Amateur Journalism...where...our Fossil collection of amateur journals has found a home."

If you have a collection of ajay journals you deem worthy of preservation, please consider these alternatives. It is satisfying to know that there are fellow ajays still collecting. Already, I have received replies from Barry Schrader and Robert Lichtman, who will be getting their specific requests as soon as the weather permits me to cart the journals to our downtown post office.

So, there you are. When you are ready to downsize, remember that there are fellow ajays still collecting and also that we have libraries that are housing special collections. I have mentioned our own LAJ, but also the American Antiquarian Society is looking for journals which predate 1900 and the Library of Illinois in Urbana will soon have established a special collection of ajay materials beginning with papers from AAS of the Moitoret collection which postdate 1900.

Now to the greetings. If one could type out a trumpet call, I would do so in welcoming into the Fossils Heath Row, a new member not only to the Fossils, but also to the AAPA and NAPA. And he lost no time in establishing himself as an active member in both groups. Hopefully, he will favor *The Fossil* with a bio for either this issue or the next. In

the meantime, if you are a member of either AAPA or NAPA, he will need no introduction. As pleased are we to greet NAPA President Jack Visser, who over the years has given freely of his time to our beloved hobby as NAPA Secretary-treasurer, Executive Judge, indispensable committee contribution in the organization of several of NAPA's conventions, and—what else? Maybe Jack will also contribute a bio for readers of *The Fossil*.

Sadly, though, as we send greetings to our new members, we must bid farewells to Fossil Eunice M. Fontenot and former Fossil Charles L. Bush. Eunice had faithfully served The Fossils as secretary-treasurer and later as Fossils President from 1974 to 1977. We plan to have a more complete report for members in our July issue. Charlie Bush, a member of the old United, joined the Fossils in 1975 and served a term as Fossils Historian (1986). He became a member of NAPA in 1977. But he gave his closest attention to AAPA which he joined in 1973. Immediately upon his affiliation, he resurrected his publication *The Arrow Amateur* and proceeded to extend his activity as an officer of several AAPA posts including mailing manager and president. It is with deep regret that we must bid goodbye to both Charlie and Eunice.

## **NIXON'S HISTORY REVISITED**

**Robert Lichtman**

*(Originally appeared in somewhat different form in Banana Wings no. 36,  
November 2008)*

I was reading recently in a science-fiction fanzine an article by a person in England who'd just received her "diploma in Paper Conservation." My first thought was that there are an awful lot of old fanzines—especially those early British ones afflicted with rusty staple-induced paper rot—that could use her services. Please pass the *Hyphens!* When I came to her reference to lignin-infested paper on which books were printed "in huge numbers, particularly in the U.S. from about 1870 onwards," and how "about fifty years later, librarians started to notice that the paper was falling apart," a flash of recognition took place in my mind. I remembered that I have a particularly rare example of one of those books: *History National Amateur Press Association* by John Travis Nixon, published in hardcover by Nixon himself in 1900. (He ran a small newspaper in rural Louisiana and did the printing in his shop on the same paper he used for his rag.) This is actually my second copy of the book. You'll excuse me if I backtrack to some personal history.

Back in the early '60's I got interested in what science-fiction fans like to call "mundane" amateur journalism (its participants call it "ayjay" or, more affectionately, "the 'dom"). I joined the National APA in 1962 and produced a couple of mimeographed papers for the mailings during the three or four years I remained a member. At that time I lived not far from a legendary amateur journalist, Wesley Porter, who invited me over to his house on several occasions and gifted me with great gobs of vintage ayjay publications from his collection. One of the things he gave me was a warped but serviceable copy of the Nixon history. It was warped, Wes told me, because it had gone through the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and become water-damaged in a house that was saved from the ensuing conflagration that wiped out a large part of the city. At age nineteen I found it a fascinating read, sort of an *All Our Yesterdays* or *Immortal Storm* of the early days of another print-

based subculture. But by 1966 my interest in amateur journalism had faded, and I ended up giving my holdings (which had become considerable in scarcity and quantity, thanks to Porter and some other older amateurs who saw me as a potential bright young thing) to an ayjay archivist in Virginia.

Sometime in the '90's my interest revived, in part due to Ken Faig, an amateur journalist himself, former member of FAPA, and prominent in HPL fandom. (He's also the current editor of *The Fossil*, official organ of The Fossils, a group founded in 1904 and which could be characterized as the First Fandom of amateur journalism. I'm a member these days, too.) I decided it would be nice to replace my original copy of Nixon's history and began including it in my routine searches on Bookfinder. I was dubious I would find one, because back then one could search libraries via Bookfinder (or maybe ABE) to see where books were located. The search came up with, as I recall, eight or nine copies. Finally, one day my obsessive searching was rewarded. A book dealer in nearby Santa Cruz had a copy which was described thus: "(Crowley, Louisiana, 1900) First Edition. Fair condition overall of a fragile publication printed on very brittle paper. Owner's signature, dated 1900, of Nelson G. Morton, President of the N.A.P.A. in the year of publication. SCARCE."

I wrote asking for more information on condition and received this reply: "Fair condition,' in antiquarian booksellers' terms, means a book which has a considerable amount of wear. It's a grading that's somewhat less than `Good,' but better than `Poor.' Specifically, there's moderate wear and soil to the cloth covers, mostly at the ends of the spine, and the inner hinges are separating, but could be strengthened and partially repaired. The biggest problem is that the book is printed on the kind of inferior paper used by small-town newspapers at the turn of the last century—not surprising, since it was indeed printed by a small-town Louisiana newspaper company. It is browned and very brittle, so that a few pages, such as the front flyleaf and last page of index, have separated from the spine, one of the large folding charts has come apart at the folds, and there is slight chipping at the very edge of some text pages. In general, it's a book that would have to be handled very gingerly when opened; the half-dozen American university libraries which have a copy keep them in their rare book collections, where they can be best preserved. I've never seen another copy in private hands, but imagine that all have the same problems, considering that the book was printed, a century ago, in a swampy Louisiana town with a population, at the time, of only 5,000. This is actually the first and only antiquarian book I've seen on amateur journalism. Our pricing was based on the rarity of the title, the fact that it was the personal copy of the N.A.P.A. President who was undoubtedly instrumental in its publication, and also that the subject is of broad interest to collectors of American private press imprints."

That told me what I wanted to know—the book was something of a disaster but it was apparently complete, and I wanted it—but there was another obstacle. His asking price was \$250. I wrote back: "You write that `this is actually the first and only antiquarian book I've seen on amateur journalism.' If by `seen,' you mean in your possession, I can see that. However, there are a few other ayjay books available via ABE: Truman J. Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* (500 copies, 1957) and *Cyclopedia of Amateur Journalism* (1891). There are also some items by Tim Thrift and Sheldon Wesson. I have others not currently

listed by Thomas G. Harrison, Alfred Babcock, and others. H. P. Lovecraft was also an active participant in amateur journalism before he became well-known for his fiction-writing. I've accumulated a small library of these books over the past year or so. Anyway, returning to the book I'm afraid that the best I could offer you would be \$125 (plus tax & shipping). I don't know how long you've had it listed or what your needs are regarding this title, but since I'm neither an institution nor a man of ample financial means I would hope you'd take my personal involvement in ayjay into consideration. In any event, thanks for your courtesy and your detailed reply."

To my great pleasure he wrote back: "Thanks for your very informative message. This is not a field in which I have the slightest bit of expertise. In fact, I'd never heard of Amateur Journalism until I acquired this book. I think the same is true of most antiquarian book dealers, and I suspect there would be material in this history of interest to dealers who specialize in American small-press printings, but, frankly, I'm afraid even to leaf through the book to find out, because of its fragility. My pricing was speculative, since I had nothing to compare the book with. I've looked at the *Cyclopedia* listings you mentioned, and, while that is obviously more common, it does give me some point of comparison. I think my original pricing is not entirely outrageous, in view of the book's scarcity, but, one the other hand, I would like to sell the book, without further ado, to someone such as yourself who is already familiar with its physical appearance and would not immediately return it to me out of disappointment with condition. This is not a book which would happily survive much to-and-fro-ing in the U.S. mails. Also, I suspect the Postal Service in Glen Ellen is probably less brutal than that of New York or Los Angeles. I should say that the text appears to be complete, but I can't absolutely guarantee that because, once again, I'm afraid to try to 'collate' the pages and charts in view of its delicacy. So, to get to the point, I'm pleased to accept your offer. With state sales tax and insured Priority Mail, the total comes to \$144.50."

I sent him the money posthaste, and he responded describing the packaging: "It will be coming in what looks like a pizza box; inside that will be a jiffy bag, and inside that, the book in bubble-wrap. That ought to protect it from normal Post Office thrashing. If we're lucky, your package will pass through the system on a day when one of those postal elephants (union creatures, yes, with a good contract guaranteeing them an excellent retirement after a sufficient number of years crushing packages) is off-duty." And indeed it came without additional deterioration beyond his description above. The layers of packaging were hell to get off due to his liberal application of plastic tape, but once done it was with great pleasure that I held this fragile book from my personal past in my hands, then set it down and carefully turned the front board. It was, indeed, fragile in the ways he'd described. I'd also asked him about the possibility of laying the book flat for scanning—something that Ken Faig had encouraged when I mentioned the book to him—and he'd said, "I don't think it would hold up very well if the text block were spread that far. It's likely that more of the pages would begin to separate from the binding." I immediately saw that he was correct. I spent an afternoon rereading the first twenty pages or so, turning each carefully, before putting it away. I've never gone back to it, but I'm really glad to have it. Perhaps in the future I'll decide that I can sacrifice it to posterity and scan it. That would be a large project, because it's 350 pages not counting the pull-out charts.

John Travis Nixon, by the way, was well-qualified to write on his subject. He

produced his first amateur publication in 1883 at the age of fifteen, when the organization was only eight years old, and served in official capacities numerous times. In *Our Ex-Presidents*, a 1919 hardcover by William C. Ahlhauser printed by the legendary W. Paul Cook, Nixon is listed as the NAPA's 34th President, elected to that position in 1901. He had previously served as Vice President in 1891 and was Official Editor three times. His entry speaks of the *History*: "John T. Nixon's most lasting monument to us is his 'History of the National Amateur Press Association,' which he brought out in 1900, and in which, in imperishable form, we have the record, year by year, of the grand old organization, from 1876 down to the year of publication." Rereading the line about "imperishable form," I cracked a smile. If only he knew...

(Cook did posterity a service by printing Ahlhauser's book on thick coated paper, which even after nearly ninety years is still bright white and supple.)

## **LEON STONE: AMATEUR JOURNALIST AND PIONEER LOVECRAFT COLLECTOR**

**Leigh Blackmore<sup>1</sup>**

*(Reprinted with permission from the author's Red Viscous Madness [vol. 1 no. 1] dated August 1984, circulated in the October 1984 mailing of the Esoteric Order of Dagon Amateur Press Association.)*

### *Introduction*

There is no evidence that Leon Stone was interested in Lovecraft or his writings save in the sense that Lovecraft was a prominent figure in the American amateur press movement, whose contributions to amateur journals were so diverse and numerous that they provided a collector like Stone with a rich field to explore. Whether Stone actually ever read any of Lovecraft's stories I have not yet been able to ascertain; Tom Cockcroft considers it more likely that Stone looked on him only as an author to collect. Certainly Stone's main interest lay in the mainstream of amateur journalism, and in the printing side of the hobby especially, rather than in the small area of the field which devoted itself to fantasy.

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<sup>1</sup> 78 Rowland Avenue, Wollongong, New South Wales 2500, Australia.

However, Stone's 'Australian Library of Amateur Journalism' (ALAJ for short) at one time contained a body of Lovecraft's work in amateur journals which probably equalled or surpassed any similar collection in the United States. Indeed, Stone's collection included examples of Lovecraft's amateur work previously owned by HPL himself.<sup>2</sup> For this reason, Lovecraftians may be interested in learning something of the ALAJ, and of the man who built it up. The ALAJ no longer exists, every single item it contained having been lost in a fire in Leon Stone's Sydney home in the 1950s—a tragic loss, since it would be well nigh impossible to assemble such a collection again today.

Stone today resides in the Sydney suburb of Neutral Bay. Thanks to the prompting of Randy Everts, I recently tracked him down and spoke with him. Actually, it was Mrs. Jean Stone, the current president of the Australian Book Collectors' Society, who put me in touch with him. (She is no relation to Leon; her late husband, the famous Sydney bookman Walter Stone, was a good friend of Leon's for many years.) Most of the information which follows was gleaned from my initial conversation with Leon; I hope to speak further with him soon, and gain a more complete picture of his career.<sup>3</sup>

On my visit, I learned that Jennifer M. E. Alison, a student researching the early history of the private press movement in this country, had recently completed her thesis on the subject, and that this work included several chapters referring to Leon Stone and his parents. With Miss Alison's kind permission, I have used a number of direct quotations from her thesis to supplement my article on Stone. The full title of the thesis is *The Private Press in Australia: A Study of Its Foundation and the Work of Some Early Printers*; it was submitted to the University of N.S.W. in April 1984, in satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Master of Librarianship. Quotations from the thesis are indicated by their enclosure in quotation marks, and the word "Alison," together with the relevant page numbers, in parentheses following each quotation. (All quotations are taken from Chapter 3 of the thesis, "The Amateur Journalists, Especially the Contributions of Hal E. Stone.")

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Leon Stone's lifelong devotion to the hobby of printing, and his early involvement with amateur journalism, was due in large part to the influence of his parents, both of whom were of a literary inclination.

Leon's father was Hal (A. E.) Stone, a Melbourne compositor, who produced the first

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<sup>2</sup> In his "Instructions in Case of Decease," Lovecraft had instructed R. H. Barlow to send his collection of amateur journals to Edwin Hadley Smith, for inclusion in the Library of Amateur Journalism, then housed in the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since many of the amateur journals in Lovecraft's collection duplicated material already in the Library of Amateur Journalism, Smith subsequently disposed of the duplicates to other amateur journalists like Leon Stone—Ed.

<sup>3</sup> Regrettably, Leon Stone died within a year of Leigh Blackmore's initial conversation with him, and Blackmore was unable to complete the additional research which he originally intended—Ed.

`manuscript magazine' in Australia with a group of friends. Its first number was titled *The Australian Kangaroo* (1892), but from the second issue until it ceased publication at Easter 1900, it was known as *The Victorian Kangaroo* in deference to a similar publication produced in Sydney, which coincidentally was titled *The Kangaroo*. This situation led to a "war of words" between Stone and the editor of the Sydney magazine, Coxhead, "over which of the two [groups] was the national body of the Golden Hours Corresponding Club and the Amateur Journalists' Association and who should be office bearers..." (Alison, p. 47).

Also involved in the history of *The Victorian Kangaroo* were such amateur journalism figures as the poet and printer Frank Wilmot; his sister, Ada Wilmot; Rose Duffy; and Herbert Round. Almost all issues of the magazine were printed by Hal Stone, who aimed at artistic production.

In 1904, Hal Stone visited the United States, where he made a point of meeting other amateur journalists such as Charles Heins. He also visited England before returning to Australia. While on board the *Ventura* on the way to the States, he prepared a one-shot journal titled *At Sea*, which was to have been printed on the ship; but in fact, circumstances prevented this, and it was printed on Stone's return to Australia.

Leon Stone's mother was a New Zealander named Kate Partridge. She emigrated to the New England region of New South Wales, and became involved in amateur journalism, through which activity she met Hal Stone. They were married in 1905. Kate Stone wrote under the pseudonym `Sydney Partridge.' As early as 1898 she had brought out a handwritten journal, *Our Rag*; and later she issued a variety of manuscript journals and printed magazines such as *Coo-ee* (1905), *Daisy* (1907), and *The Sundowner* (1925). She published various novels, two of which were printed by her husband, *Life's Wallaby* (first edition, 1908, and second edition, 1910). The 1913 Sydney Partridge poetry collection, *The Lie and Other Lines*, was also printed by Hal Stone.

Following their marriage, "the Stones then moved to Adelaide, and thereafter to Melbourne and to Sydney, back to Adelaide for eight years and finally settled in Sydney in 1923. All the while Stone continued to print for his livelihood" (Allison, pp. 55-56).

"Stone seems to have imbued his press with the stamp of his own personality and printing ethos, both in his amateur journalism printing and in his general printing. He alone of all the amateur journalists named his press and, indeed, he used several names. He used the name Wayside Press up to 1907 and Sydney Partridge's Press for *Life's Wallaby* in 1908. The Yarul Press is associated with his early days in Sydney, Koolinda Press with Adelaide and Pallamana Press, which was the name of his house in Gordon in Sydney, with his later printing" (Allison, pp. 66-67).

Leon Stone was born in Victoria in 1907, "with printer's ink in his veins," as he himself expresses it. He had no formal schooling save two weeks in a private school, yet the literary atmosphere in which he was raised led him to a career in both amateur and professional journalism. He remembers that his parents' house was often the scene for lively intellectual gatherings; Frank Wilmot, who used the pseudonym `Furnely Maurice,' was a particularly frequent visitor.

"Leon Stone began his career in amateur journalism, no doubt greatly assisted by his father, at the age of eight with the issuing of number one of the *Odd Magazine* published in Adelaide in 1915. The colophon reads "Printed and published by Leon Stone,

Aged 8.” Issue number five confides that “As I cannot print half tone blocks yet my father printed the block of my photo for me.” The issues are of four or eight small pages and the content slight, befitting an eight to ten year old, with such statements as “I would like to be a printer when I grow up” or “I think it is a crime to send the children to Sunday School,” and just a few sentences make up each type page. Covers are of paper or wallpaper. The *Odd Magazine* ceased with the sixth issue and was followed by the *Austral Boy* which had one issue in 1921 and another in 1922. The colophon of number one reads, “Printed by Leon Stone and Hal E. Stone” and is issued in the interests of amateur journalism. There is some attempt at artistic effect in this magazine with colour printing in silver, red and blue, running heads in colour and tipped-in illustrations” (Alison, p. 57).

It was around this time that Leon established the Australian Library of Amateur Journalism by beginning to collect examples of other journalists' papers from Australia and overseas.

“Leon Stone's next venture was the *Boomerang*, a handwritten literary journal published in 1922. The fourth issue contains a short story by Sydney Partridge. The mailing list includes some familiar names: Round, Coxhead, Brennan and Frank Wilmot, to all of whom this fourth issue was to be sent” (Alison, p. 57).

In about 1923, the Stones settled at Elgin Street, Gordon, which was to be Leon's place of residence for forty-five years. “James Guinane, the editor of the amateur journal *Churinga*, reporting on a visit to the Stone residence “Pallamana,” in the Sydney suburb of Gordon, recorded that the house

appears to have been built of books. There are cases, cabinets and tables of books, and here and there a chair load of them.

Everyone in the Stone household buys books and magazines and papers. They are stacked in the big main room and overflow into the bedrooms and the den and on to the glassed-in front and back porches.

When light collects at the doors and windows...a lamp is lit—the lamp of friendship and a bookman's learning” (Alison, p. 64).

“Four issues of the *Moon*, a journal mainly composed of news items, appeared next, in 1923 and 1924. The colophon of the first number reads “printed and published by Leon Stone.” The last issue gives a definition of amateur journalism, as follows:

Amateur journalism is an institution composed of boys, girls, men, and women who edit, publish or contribute to miniature papers and magazines circulated for the purpose of mutual assistance and improvement in literary work; it is a stepping stone to success in the professional world” (Allison, pp. 57-58).

Leon at this time began to submit material to professional publications, and had work published in *Smith's Weekly* and *The Bulletin*. His “next journal, the *Kooraka*, was published in thirteen numbers (twelve separate issues) between 1923 and 1929. The colophon to the first number reads: “set in cold type, and printed when the spirit is willing and that tired feeling non existent by Leon Stone (age, 15 years).” The *Kooraka* is quite a substantial



publication as amateur journals go, totalling over one hundred and seventy five pages in all. The last number of *Kooraka* runs to forty pages and is claimed to be the largest issue published of an Australian amateur journal. It was entered in an American competition, which was cancelled for lack of entries, to Leon's great distress: "I never quite got over that, after all the toil my dad and I put into it." The journal is well printed with some use of colour. Different typefaces are employed to good effect. Decoration is restrained but judiciously used" (Alison, p. 58).

During this period, Leon also issued 7 numbers of the *Australian Amateur*, which ran from February 1925 to March 1927. Eventually he moved into a professional journalistic career, working as the foreign correspondent for magazines on tennis-playing, and also for the *Hollywood Reporter*. This job took him to London, Paris, Canada and even India. However, he continued to build up the ALAJ collection, and later produced his best publication, *Koolinda* (whose title is the Aboriginal word for 'kangaroo').

Between 1935 and 1938, the American amateur Edwin Hadley Smith sold Leon an enormous quantity of Lovecraft-related material which had previously been in the possession of James F. Morton. Much of the material in Morton's collection had been acquired from Lovecraft himself.

In 1942, Leon served in the Australian Army as gunner, 5th Heavy Training Battery. After five months spent in the hospital, however, he was discharged 'medically unfit' on September 9th of that year.

Leon was in regular contact with Robert George Barr of New Zealand, who corresponded with Lovecraft; however, Leon himself never wrote to Lovecraft. Barr donated many hundreds of amateur papers to the ALAJ, and his collection was second in size only to Leon's, which was the largest in the southern hemisphere. By 1948 the ALAJ collection had 13,000 papers; by 1952, 15,000; and at its height had some 30,000 amateur papers (including a complete run of *The National Amateur*) plus 3,000 books—all of which were lost in the disastrous fire which destroyed Leon's home entirely.<sup>4</sup>

"The ten issues of Leon Stone's last journal, *Koolinda*, appeared between 1943 and 1955. Each issue was printed in editions of two hundred fifty or three hundred copies, with the imprint of the Wayside Press. The typesetting was done by Leon and the machining by Hal using a fifty-year-old Chandler and Price power platen press, and printing one page at a time" (Alison, p. 58).

It was in *Koolinda* that Leon Stone began a regular column of news and bibliographical items called "Lovecraftana," wherein he discussed Lovecraft's amateur journalistic work, and commented on items which had come into the possession of the ALAJ.

Writings of Leon Stone  
(from <http://www.austlit.edu.au>)

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<sup>4</sup> Fortunately, Robert G. Barr's collection survived and was eventually donated to the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington. An on-line inventory of this collection may be found on the Internet—Ed.

"In Memory: A. E. (Hal) Stone," *Southerly*, vol. 17. no. 2, 1956, pp. 115-116. Obituary.

"Furnley Maurice vs. The Red Pagan," *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, vol. 4 no. 3-4 (2nd Series), 1970, pp. 10-12. About Furnley Maurice (1881-1942) (born Frank Leslie Thompson Wilmot).

[Untitled], *Meanjin* , vol. 10 no. 3, spring 1951, pp. 297-299. Little magazines. A predecessor article by Norman Bartlett, "The Necessity of the Little Magazine: The Australian Scene," had appeared in the same periodical, vol. 7 no. 2, winter 1948 (pp. 108-117).

#### About the Stones

Parr, Philip, "History of Hobby Printing in Australasia," *Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin*, vol. 4 no. 3, May 1980, pp. 203-211.

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

#### Ken Faig, Jr.

I want to thank Robert Lichtman and Leigh Blackmore for livening up this issue of *The Fossil* with their articles on Nixon's *History* and Leon Stone, respectively. Robert, himself a Fossil, is a veteran science fiction fan and editor of the well-respected fanzine *Trap Door*. He was involved with mainstream amateur journalism for several years in the 1960s and became the friend of veteran amateur journalist Wesley H. Porter. Robert's biographical sketch appeared in the October 2006 issue of *The Fossil*. Leigh Blackmore in recent years rejoined the Esoteric Order of Dagon Amateur Press Associated (devoted to H. P. Lovecraft and his associates) after some years of absence. He serves as a co-editor of *The Australian Journal of Weird Fiction* and his poetry collection *Spores From Sharnoth* was published by P'rea Press in 2008. Leigh is the subject of an excellent Wikipedia article with links to his own website.

I join our President Guy Miller in welcoming Heath Row and Jack Visser to our ranks. I hope Heath's remarkable beginning in a jay in AAPA and NAPA will bear fruit in many years of active membership. It has probably been some time since the Presidents of both AAPA and NAPA have simultaneously maintained membership in The Fossils. We now have that honor with both Lee Hawes and Jack Visser on our membership roll. I also join Guy in mourning the passing of longtime a jay Charlie Bush and our former Fossils President Eunice Fontenot.

As usual, our President is modest about his own many contributions to our hobby. As part of his "downsizing" campaign, he has donated the Guy Miller Amateur Printing Collection to the University of Iowa Special Collections & University Archives, where Fossil Librarian Mike Horvat's collection of science fiction "fanzines" also resides. At present, the Miller Collection (which is open for research, cataloged as MsC 881) consists of an

admirable run of publications by outstanding amateur Willametta (Turnepseed) Keffer and associated material. Related collections held by University of Iowa Special Collections also include 1.75 linear feet of the amateur papers of Lauren Geringer (MsC 847) and 0.80 linear feet of the correspondence of Burton Jay Smith and Willametta Turnepseed from 1941-1944 (MsC 868). Finding aids for the Miller, Horvat, Geringer, and Smith-Turnepseed Collections are all available on the library website at <http://www.lib.iowa.edu/special-coll>.

I would be delighted to have *your* contribution for a future issue of *The Fossil*. My future plans include issues focussing on the old Hoffman-Daas United (1912-1927), Charles A. A. Parker (1880-1965), and Professor Christine Alexander's Juvenilia Press.

### **WE WELCOME TO OUR RANKS**

**Heath Row**, 101 Russell St. #4-R, Brooklyn NY 11222

**Jack Visser**, 335 N. Grant St., Wooster OH 44691-3424

### **FOSSIL BOARD: 2008-2010**

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Membership Chair, Martha E. Shivvers, 1526 165th Avenue, Knoxville, IA 50138

Official Editor, Ken Faig, Jr., 2311 Swainwood Dr., Glenview, IL 60025-2741

Editorial E-Mail Address: [carolfaig@comcast.net](mailto:carolfaig@comcast.net)

**THE FOSSILS**  
<http://www.thefossils.org/>

This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, a non-profit organization whose purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as “Amateur Journalism” and to foster the practices of amateur journalism. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the 1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually—\$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to *The Fossil* without privileges of membership is \$10. Make remittances payable to The Fossils, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.