



## **Willis E. McNelly Science Fiction collection: Forrest J. Ackerman archives**

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Finding aid written in English

University Archives and Special Collections

University Archives & Special Collections  
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<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/services/special-collections.php>

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## Summary Information

**Repository:** University Archives and Special Collections  
**Creator:** Ackerman, Forrest J., 1916 - 2008  
**Creator:** Ackerman, Forrest J. World of science fiction  
**Title:** Willis E. McNelly Science Fiction collection: Forrest J Ackerman and Wendayne Ackerman archives  
**Identifier:** SC-06-FA  
**Date:** 1968 - 2008

**Physical Description:** 16 boxes

**Language of Materials:** English

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains manuscripts from the Perry Rhodan series, Famous Monsters series, and Charles Nuetzel. Other notable items are short story manuscripts by John K. Aiken and Cleve Cartmill, among others. Ackerman's own articles and papers are included as well as literary correspondence dated 1968 - 2008.

## Physical Location

Aisle 8B, Shelf 7

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Patrons of the Library in 1969.

## Biographical / Historical

Forrest J Ackerman (no period after the middle initial) was born November 24, 1916 in Los Angeles, California. He saw his first fantasy film at age five and from that moment on his life and work was built around science fiction as fan, author, agent, publisher, editor and collector.

In 1923, at the age of seven, he was a charter member of the Science Fiction League and in 1930 he created The Boys' Scientification Club. In 1939 he attended the First World Science Fiction Convention, where he wore the first "futuristicostume" and sparked a tradition of fan costuming that continues to this day at science fiction conventions around the world; he has missed only two WorldCons in the ensuing 70 years. In 1946 he founded the Fantasy Foundation and helpd found the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society and the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). In 1953 he received a unique Hugo Award for "#1 Fan Personality."

His writing began almost as early as his fan activities -- in 1929, when he won a contest at the San Francisco Chronicle with his original story of a trip to Mars. Since then, fifty of his stories have been published, including collaborations with A. E. van Vogt, Francis Flagg, Robert A. W. Lowndes, Marion Zimmer

Bradley, Donald Wolheim and Catherine Moore, and his stories have been translated into six languages. He named and wrote the origin story for the title character of the Vampirella comic book series. In addition, he has ten non-fiction books (most on science fiction movies) and thirteen anthologies to his credit. His known pseudonyms include SF Balboa, Nick Beal, Walter Chinwell, J. Forrester Eckman, Jacques De Forest Erman, Laurajean Ermayne, Jone Lee Heard, Alus Kerlay, Alden Lorraine, Jack Parish, Spencer Strong, Fisher Trentworth, Allis Villette, Hubert George Wills, Weaver Wright, and Dr. Acula.

In addition to his own writing, Ackerman inspired or assisted many other future luminaries of the genre, including Ray Bradbury (whose first story was published by Ackerman), Ray Harryhausen, Charles Beaumont, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Stephen King (whose first story submission was to Ackerman's Spacemen magazine) and L. Ron Hubbard. He has represented some 200 science fiction and fantasy authors, including Hugo Gernsback, Andre Norton, A.E. van Vogt, and Jack Williamson, and was Ed Wood's "illiterate" agent. Ackerman is also credited with having coined the term "sci-fi" in 1954.

Ackerman edited, published, or otherwise assisted a number of science fiction magazines over the years, creating and inspiring a legion of fans. At the tender age of sixteen he became associate editor of Time Traveller magazine, the first-ever fanzine, and the next year became film editor of Science Fiction Digest. In 1939 he started his own magazine, Voice of Imagination, and later edited Famous Monsters of Filmland, Monster World, and Spacemen. He provided publishing assistance to The Daughters of Bilitis in the group's early days (that, and his several lesbian novels written under the name "Laurajean Ermayne," earned him the title of "honorary lesbian").

His love of the genre is not limited by national borders, as evidenced by his active contributions to film magazines from around the world, including the Argentinian La Cosa - Cine Fantástico, where he had a monthly column for over four years. In 1960, he introduced American readers to the longest science fiction series in history when he organized Ace Books' publication of an English translation of the German science fiction series Perry Rhodan (much of the translation was done by his German wife, Wendayne).

Over the years Ackerman amassed a comprehensive collection of science fiction, fantasy and horror film material amounting to some 300,000 items: books (including 500 editions of Frankenstein and Dracula), magazines, videos, photographs, clippings, manuscripts, autographs, toys, and movie memorabilia (among which is the head of The Creature from the Black Lagoon and a Martian death-ray machine from War of the Worlds). Until 2002 the collection resided in the 18-room "Ackermansion" in the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles; he later donated a number of items to the Seattle Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame, of which he is a board member. Among his friends are icons of the genre including Fritz Lang, Bela Lugosi, Vincent Price, and Boris Karloff, and he has made cameo appearances in more than fifty films.

His efforts across a broad spectrum of the arts not only encouraged the organization and spread of science fiction and its fans, but also did much to foster the acceptance of science fiction as a respectable literary, art and film genre. He has truly earned the sobriquet "Mr. Science Fiction."

Source: Syracuse University, [https://library.syracuse.edu/digital/guides/a/ackerman\\_fj.htm](https://library.syracuse.edu/digital/guides/a/ackerman_fj.htm).

## **Administrative Information**

### **Publication Statement**

University Archives and Special Collections

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<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/services/special-collections.php>

## Controlled Access Headings

- American Literature -- 20th century
- Editors -- United States
- Fantasy literature, American
- Monsters in mass media
- Science fiction, American

## Collection Inventory

Manuscripts	
Perry Rhodan Series	
#1	Document box 1 (Text)
Enterprise Stardust	Document box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Ackerman Recording, Reel 7-10	Document box 1 (Sound Recording)
Published Copy, 1969	Document box 1 (Books)
Manuscript, 1969	Document box 1; Folder 1 (Text)
The Third Power	Document box 1; Folder 2 (Text)
#2 - #3	Document box 2 (Text)
The Radiant dome	Document box 2 (Mixed Materials)
Manuscript, Part 1	Document box 2; Folder 1 (Text)
Published Copies, 1969	Document box 2 (Books)

Twilight of the Gods, Part 2

Document box 2; Folder 2 (Text)

Galactic alarm

Document box 2 (Text)

Published Copy, 1969

Document box 2 (Books)

Working draft

Document box 2; Folder 3 (Text)

Final Manuscript

Document box 2; Folder 4 (Text)

The Mutant corps

Document box 2 (Text)

Working draft

Document box 2; Folder 5 (Text)

Final draft

Document box 2; Folder 6 (Text)

#4 - #15

Document box 3 (Text)

Base on venus

Document box 3; Folder 1 (Text)

Invasion from space

Document box 3 (Text)

Published copy

Document box 3 (Books)

Working draft

Document box 3; Folder 2 (Text)

The Vega sector, 1970

Document box 3 (Books)

The Secret of the time vault, 1971

Document box 3 (Books)

Fortress of the six moons, 1971

Document box 3 (Books)

The Galactic riddle, 1971

Document box 3; Folder 3 (Text)

The Ghosts of gol, 1971

Document box 3 (Books)

The Immortal unknown

Document box 3; Folder 4 (Text)

Venus in danger

Document box 3; Folder 5 (Text)

Escape to venus

Document box 3; Folder 6 (Text)

#16 - #25

Document box 4 (Text)

Secret Barrier X

Document box 4; Folder 1 (Text)

Primeval Planet

Document box 4; Folder 2 (Text)

Menace of the mutant master

Document box 4; Folder 3 (Text)

**General**

Includes correspondence

Mutants vs. mutants

Document box 4; Folder 4 (Text)

Thrall of hypno

Document box 4; Folder 5 (Text)

Cosmic decoy

Document box 4; Folder 6 (Text)

The Fleet of springers

Document box 4; Folder 7 (Text)

**General**

Includes correspondence

The Exile of the skies

Document box 4; Folder 8 (Text)

Infinity flight

Document box 4; Folder 9 (Text)

Snowman in flames

Document box 4; Folder 10 (Text)

#26 - #32

Document box 5 (Text)

Cosmic traitor

Document box 5; Folder 1 (Text)

The Land of the gods

Document box 5; Folder 2 (Text)

Plague of oblivion

Document box 5; Folder 3 (Text)

A World gone bad

Document box 5; Folder 4 (Text)

To Arkon!

Document box 5; Folder 5 (Text)

Realm of the Tri-Planets

Document box 5; Folder 6 (Text)

Challenge of the unknown

Document box 5; Folder 7 (Text)

#33 - #63

Document box 6 (Text)

Giant's partner

Document box 6; Folder 1 (Text)

SOS: Spaceship Titan!

Document box 6; Folder 2 (Text)

Beware the Microbots

Document box 6; Folder 3 (Text)

Man & Monster

Document box 6; Folder 4 (Text)

Epidemic Center: Aralon

Document box 6; Folder 5 (Text)

Project: Earthsave

Document box 6; Folder 6 (Text)

The Silence of Gom

Document box 6; Folder 7 (Text)

Red eye of Betelgeuse

Document box 6; Folder 8 (Text)

The Earth dies

Document box 6; Folder 9 (Text)

Time's lonely one

Document box 6; Folder 10 (Text)

The Pseudo one

Document box 6; Folder 11 (Text)

Again: Atlan!

Document box 6; Folder 12 (Text)

Shadow of the mutant master

Document box 6; Folder 13 (Text)

The Dead live

Document box 6; Folder 14 (Text)

Solar assassins

Document box 6; Folder 15 (Text)

Attack from the unseen

Document box 6; Folder 16 (Text)

Spybot!

Document box 6; Folder 17 (Text)

Blue dwarfs

Document box 6; Folder 18 (Text)

The Micro-technicians

Document box 6; Folder 19 (Text)

Prisoner of time

Document box 6; Folder 20 (Text)

A Touch of eternity

Document box 6; Folder 21 (Text)

The Guardians

Document box 6; Folder 22 (Text)

Pucky power

Document box 6; Folder 23 (Text)

Death waits in the Semispace / Last days of Atlantis

Document box 6; Folder 24 (Text)

The Spring of the Tigris

Document box 6; Folder 25 (Text)

#64 - #105

Document box 7 (Text)

Ambassadors from Aurigel

Document box 7; Folder 1 (Text)

Renegades of the future

Document box 7; Folder 2 (Text)

Horror

Document box 7; Folder 3 (Text)

Crimson Universe

Document box 7; Folder 4 (Text)

Under the stars of Druufon

Document box 7; Folder 5 (Text)

Bonds of eternity

Document box 7; Folder 6 (Text)

Thora's sacrifice

Document box 7; Folder 7 (Text)

The Atomhell of Grautier

Document box 7; Folder 8 (Text)

Cares of the Druufs

Document box 7; Folder 9 (Text)

Ship of Ancestors

Document box 7; Folder 10 (Text)

Checkmate: Universe

Document box 7; Folder 11 (Text)

Topide planet, please reply!

Document box 7; Folder 12 (Text)

Recruits for Arkon

Document box 7; Folder 13 (Text)

Sleepers

Document box 7; Folder 14 (Text)

Columbus Affair / Pucky's Greatest Hour

Document box 7; Folder 15 (Text)

Atlan in danger / Ernst Ellert

Document box 7; Folder 16 (Text)

Moluk / Enemy in the dark

Document box 7; Folder 17 (Text)

Blazing sun / Starless realm

Document box 7; Folder 18 (Text)

Anti / Powers price

Document box 7; Folder 19 (Text)

Unleashed powers

Document box 7; Folder 20 (Text)

Friend mankind

Document box 7; Folder 21 (Text)

Target star / Vagabond

Document box 7; Folder 22 (Text)

Plasma monster / Horn: Green

Document box 7; Folder 23 (Text)

Phantom fleet

Document box 7; Folder 24 (Text)

Idol from passa / The blue system

Document box 7; Folder 25 (Text)

Lepso / Really makes you... / Two face / Wonder flower

Document box 7; Folder 26 (Text)

Miscellaneous papers

Document box 7; Folder 27 (Text)

Miscellaneous papers, 1977

Document box 7; Folder 28 (Text)

## Short Stories

A-H

Document box 8 (Text)

?, Francis - The machine man of Ardatlua

Document box 8; Folder 1 (Text)

Aiken, John K. - Cassandra / Dragon's Teeth Pt. 2

Document box 8; Folder 2 (Text)

Aiken, John K. - Phoenix's Nest / Dragon's Teeth Pt. 3

Document box 8; Folder 3 (Text)

Arango, Angel - The Kindest cut of all / The Cosmonaut

Document box 8; Folder 4 (Text)

Barbet, Pierre - Psyborgs

Document box 8; Folder 5 (Text)

Beaumont, Charles & Nolan, William F. - Down the long night

Document box 8; Folder 6 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - The Space scavengers, 1975-04

Document box 8; Folder 7 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - Dead run, 1950-02

Document box 8; Folder 8 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - High Jack and dame, 1949-10

Document box 8; Folder 9 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - Little Joe, 1950-06

Document box 8; Folder 10 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - No hiding place, 1950-06

Document box 8; Folder 11 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - Salvage, 1949-08

Document box 8; Folder 12 (Text)

Cartmill, Cleve - Ticker than water, 1949-12

Document box 8; Folder 13 (Text)

Dye, Charles - The Prisoner in the skull, 1975-07-11

Document box 8; Folder 14 (Text)

Gable, J. Harris - The Last day, 1955

Document box 8; Folder 15 (Text)

Gold, H.L. - Editorials , 1953-10

Document box 8; Folder 16 (Text)

Glut, Donald F. - Miscellaneous short stories

Document box 8; Folder 17 (Text)

Handel, Leo A. - A Dog named "Duke"

Document box 8; Folder 18 (Text)

Hoffman, Eric - The Big and the small gift

Document box 8; Folder 19 (Text)

K-W

Document box 9 (Text)

Keller, David H. - Bindings de lux / The Golden bough

Document box 9; Folder 1 (Text)

Long, Amelia Reynolds - The Last man

Document box 9; Folder 2 (Text)

Maddock, Larry - Winner's circle	Document box 9; Folder 3 (Text)
Merliss, R.R. - The Stutterer, 1956-06-27	Document box 9; Folder 4 (Text)
Merritt, A. - Thru the dragon glass	Document box 9; Folder 5 (Text)
Merwin, Sam - The Cosmic frame	Document box 9; Folder 6 (Text)
Neville, Kris - Medical practice among the immortals	Document box 9; Folder 7 (Text)
Nipp, Zackery Lee - Miscellaneous	Document box 9; Folder 8 (Text)
Obbagy, Bill - Headlines from Horrorsville	Document box 9; Folder 9 (Text)
Parenti, Francesco - When the town got crazy	Document box 9; Folder 10 (Text)
Pearson, Martin - Observation platform	Document box 9; Folder 11 (Text)
Pruyn, Leonard - The Thirsty man, 1953-11	Document box 9; Folder 12 (Text)
Riemer, Svend - Really an earthquake?	Document box 9; Folder 13 (Text)
Riesner, Dean - The Sound of a million dolphins	Document box 9; Folder 14 (Text)
Skidmore, Joe W. - The Romance of Posi and Nega	Document box 9; Folder 15 (Text)
Strugatzki - Hard to be a God, 1973	Document box 9; Folder 16 (Text)
Weinbaum, Stanley G. - Dawn of flame	Document box 9; Folder 17 (Text)

Famous Monsters Series

Document box 10 (Text)

Monsters & Imagi-Movies Number 1, 1985

Document box 10; Folder 1 (Text)

Famous Monsters #136, 1977-08

Document box 10; Folder 1 (Text)

Famous Monsters #142, 1978-02

Document box 10; Folder 1 (Text)

Famous Monsters #191, 1983-03

Document box 10; Folder 1 (Text)

Famous Monsters - Star Wars Spectacular, 1977

Document box 10; Folder 1 (Text)

Famous monsters of filmland magazines & Miscellaneous papers (FM# 98 - 109)

Document box 10; Folder 2 (Text)

Famous monsters (FM# 111 - 119)

Document box 10; Folder 3 (Text)

Famous monsters (FM# 120 - 124)

Document box 10; Folder 4 (Text)

Nuetzel, Charles

Document box 11 (Text)

Swordsmen of Vistar

Document box 11; Folder 1 (Text)

Warrior of Haldolen

Document box 11; Folder 2 (Text)

Warriors of Noomas, 1969

Document box 11 (Books)

Youi of Noomas, 1969

Document box 11; Folder 3 (Text)

Miscellaneous writings

Articles

Document box 12 (Text)

Out of the unknown, 1969

Document box 12; Folder 1 (Text)

Esperanto

Document box 12; Folder 2 (Text)

"The Films of Fritz Lang" Exhibit Brochure - LA County Museum of Art, 1969-10-03 -  
1969-11-22

Document box 12; Folder 3 (Text)

Monsters of the Moon

Document box 12 (Text)

Repro/Adele drawings and writing

Document box 12 (Text)

Famous Monsters of Filmland, 1970-03

Document box 12 (Text)

Showcase Vol. 1 No. 4

Document box 12 (Text)

Fantasy Book Vol. 1 No. 1 - People of the crater by Andrew North, 1947

Document box 12 (Text)

Pin up surprise Vol. 59

Document box 12 (Text)

Sex & Censorship Vol. 1 No. 2, 1958

Document box 12 (Text)

Vampirella No.4, 1969

Document box 12 (Text)

Offbeat Vol. 1 No. 6, 1959

Document box 12 (Text)

Utopia / Sonderband No. 1 and 2, 1954

Document box 12 (Text)

LA County Museum of Art - Educational programs, 1969 - 1970

Document box 12 (Text)

Science Fiction worlds of Forrest J Ackerman & friends, 1969

Document box 12 (Text)

Fantasy Magazine, 1935-04

Document box 12 (Text)

Escape! Vol. 1 No. 1, 1961-01

Document box 12 (Text)

Fantasia, 1970-12

Document box 12 (Text)

Utopian Vol. 1 No. 6, 1952-06

Document box 12 (Text)

The Halloween Gazette, 1987

Document box 12 (Text)

Papers, writing, correspondence

Document box 13 (Text)

Writings, photos, items, 1957

Document box 13; Folder 1 (Text)

Enchanted Forrest, 1980

Document box 13; Folder 2 (Text)

Papers and correspondence

Document box 13; Folder 3 (Text)

Papers, 1974

Document box 13; Folder 4 (Text)

Papers and correspondence - film contest / film synopses, 1974

Document box 13; Folder 5 (Text)

Writings and correspondence, 1977

Document box 13; Folder 6 (Text)

Hollywood Museum: Phase One - Preliminary information, 1978-02-08

Document box 13 (Text)

The Diversifier, 1978-05 - 1978-07

Document box 13 (Text)

Amazing Forries, 1976	Document box 13 (Text)
A Checklist of Fantasy Magazines, 1945	Document box 13 (Text)
The Fantasy Foundation, 1946-06-14	Document box 13 (Text)
The yearbook of science, fantasy and weird fiction, 1940	Document box 13 (Text)
Amazing Stories, 1926-06	Document box 13 (Text)
Souvenir book of Mr. Science Fiction's Fantasy Museum, 1978	Document box 13 (Text)
The Split Atom, 1946	Document box 13 (Text)
Memorabilia	Document box 13 (Text)

## Correspondence

Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970	Document box 14 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1968 - 1969	Document box 14; Folder 1 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1969	Document box 14; Folder 2 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1969	Document box 14; Folder 3 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1969	Document box 14; Folder 4 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1970	Document box 14; Folder 5 (Text)
Ackerman Correspondence 1968 - 1970, 1970	Document box 14; Folder 6 (Text)

Correspondence Envelopes, 1969

Document box 14 (Mixed Materials)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1971 - 1976

Document box 15 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1971

Document box 15; Folder 1 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1971

Document box 15; Folder 2 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1973

Document box 15; Folder 3 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1974

Document box 15; Folder 4 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1976

Document box 15; Folder 5 (Text)

Correspondence Envelope, 1971

Document box 15 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1977 - 2008

Document box 16 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1977

Document box 16; Folder 1 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1978

Document box 16; Folder 2 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1979

Document box 16; Folder 3 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1980

Document box 16; Folder 4 (Text)

Ackerman Correspondence, 1981 - 2008

Document box 16; Folder 5 (Text)

Correspondence Envelope, 1978

Document box 16 (Text)