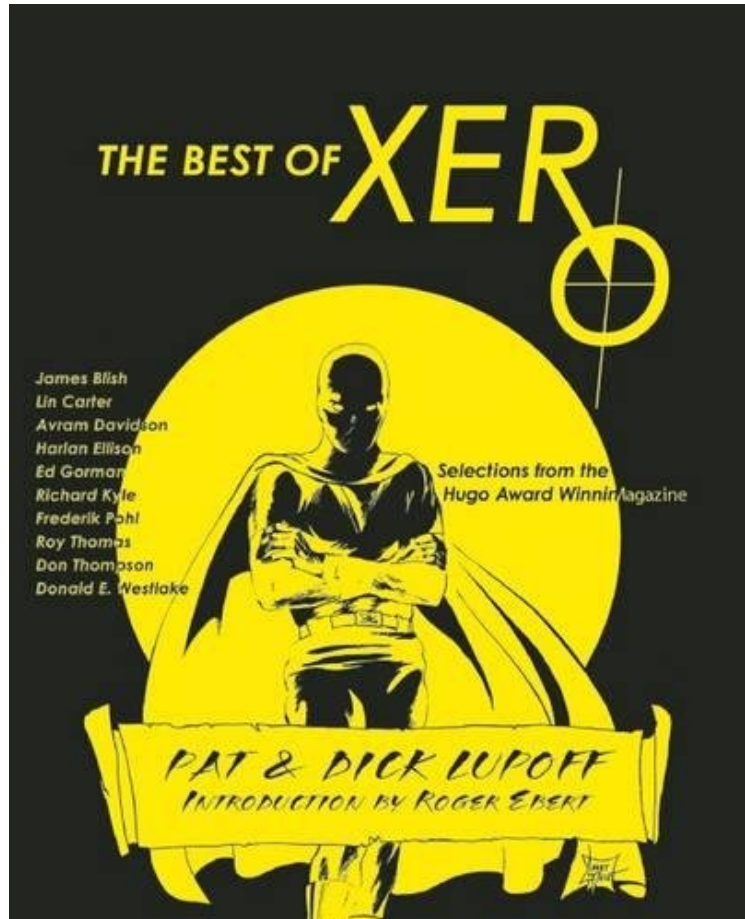


The Best of Xero

Pat Lupoff, Dick Lupoff
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Pat Lupoff, Dick Lupoff : The Best of Xero before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best of Xero:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This was fandom... (a glimpse)By Extollager[I should state at the outset that I did not read every word of this book.]Xero was a fanzine, a home-made magazine dedicated to the hobbies/literary passions of its editors -- in this case, science fiction, comic books, etc. This was true alternative press stuff, if you like, and the book should be purchased by many colleges and universities with library collections supportive of the history of same. The book appropriately suggests a pre-Internet kind of reader-writer engagement was going on. I'm reminded also of the "underground" press phenomenon that was to emerge a few years later. (Xero dates to 1966-62.) For members of the small "communities" of often widely-separated science fiction and comics fans, fanzines arrived in mailboxes as letters from one's own country (of the imagination). Of course a lot of what went on was just chat. I found plenty in this book that was still of interest -- in fact, one piece of information that was very useful for an article I've just submitted. The publishers have wisely included a generous helping of letters of comments

(LOCs) published in the lively pages of this classic early-Sixties fanzine. It would be good to see similar anthologies drawing on (say) the pages of Tolkien-related fanzines from years prior to and close to the first wave of mass popularity circa 1966.

From modest beginnings to the 1963 Hugo Award for Best Fanzine, Xero was a fascinating and controversial convergence of writers, artists, and a burgeoning fan community. Collected here from Pat Dick Lupoff's legendary fanzine are an array of excellent essays, memoirs, and ongoing debates on science fiction, mysteries, comic books, and popular culture as well as the revolving letters of comment that are virtual forerunners of the Internet. Highlights of The Best of Xero include Harlan Ellison's prescient take on the movie Psycho, Donald Westlake's humorous denouncement of the science-fiction field, James Blish's nostalgic look back on his scriptwriting stint for the Captain Video serial, Lin Carter's spot-on parody of Sax Rohmer's Fu Manchu novels; and Don Thompson's detailed analysis of the origins of ultrapowerful and mysterious comic-book heroes Dr. Fate and The Spectre. The Best of Xero also features original comics and illustrations from Xero and an introduction by film critic and Xero contributor Roger Ebert.

"Beautifully laid out and lots of fun to read . . . with lots of witty writing, fascinating illustrations . . ." -- The Agony Column
"The book as a whole is fun, intelligent, historically interesting and still relevant: much to be recommended." -- SF Site
About the Author
Pat and Dick Lupoff produced and edited the Hugo Award-winning fanzine Xero from its inception in 1960 through its last issue in 1962. Richard A. Lupoff went on to a long writing and editing career, publishing more than thirty novels and numerous volumes of short stories. Pat Lupoff works at Dark Carnival, a science-fiction and fantasy specialty bookstore, and has been a book buyer and seller for more than twenty years. Roger Ebert was the resident poet of Xero and also published his own fanzine, Stymie. He was perhaps better known for his role as a culturally iconic film critic.