

Philcon News

- NUMBER ONE - FEB, 1947 -

**** OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PHILCON SOCIETY ****

Robert A. Madle, Editor.

* PHILCON OFFICERS *

Chairman: Milton A. Rothman
Editor: Robert A. Madle
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Printing: James A. Williams
Historian: A. V. Phillips
Big Pond Fund Chairman: F J Ackerman
California Representative: James Havelin

THE PHILCON NEWS is published for the members of THE PHILCON SOCIETY, and will appear occasionally until the time of the 5th World Science Fiction Convention. The tentative dates of the following issues will be April 15th and July 15th.

REMEMBER!

○ THE DATES

AUGUST 30, 31, AND SEPT. 1

FOR THE

FIFTH WORLD

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

Cuts and decorations by Jack Agnew.

Address all communications to the Editor, 1366 E. Columbia Ave.,
Phila., Pa.

PHILCON POLICY ①

Several things are required of a science fiction convention:

The delegates should have a good time.

The delegates should find it worth their while to come to the convention from long distances.

There should be plenty of opportunity for meeting fans, engaging in fangab, and conducting horse-trading among the collectors.

There should be a fast moving program which will stimulate the mind, and make the onlooker feel that science fiction fans are indeed unusual people who can do unusual things.

This is what we intend of the Philcon.

As we have said repeatedly in the past, this is not merely a show put on by the PSFS for the entertainment of fandom. This is a convention of fandom as a whole, and we intend that fandom as a whole shall be an intimate part of the program.

Our thoughts on the program have materialized up to this point: We intend that the program will be more like a convention of the American Chemical Society than of the American Legion. We intend to spend a minimum of time on political debate and sterner squabbling, and a maximum of time on the presentation of short papers on the literary and scientific aspects of fantasy fiction.

To that end, we urge that those fans who have pet topics which they would like to present as a paper should get in touch with the Convention Chairman and make arrangements for the presentation. You can see the opportunities for a symposium on science fiction such as has never been attained before. If a sufficient number of papers are obtained, we will have separate programs on "Writing of Fantasy", "Authors of Fantasy", "Collecting Fantasy"; and "The Science Behind Science Fiction".

Also on the blueprints are the program of fantasy music, and the exhibit of fantasy art which have previously been announced. So far we have three promises of original music, and two promises of art, but we need more and more. See the Chairman about this if you have something. His address is 2113 N. Franklin Street, Phila., Pa.

It has been our observation in the past that secrecy concerning plans for conventions produces the effect of defeating its own purposes. For that reason, we intend to discuss in these pages various questions concerning the convention so as to save trouble in the future.

The first of these burning questions is: should we have a costume party? Several of the local fans are in favor of it, but after witnessing such costume parties of the past, ye chairman has his doubts. Firstly, about 20% of the attendance bother to make a costume, while the others stand around forlornly. Secondly, these parties have a habit of degenerating into painfully dull affairs. Even Walt Daugherty,

who is as good a chairman as we can find in fandom, found it difficult to keep the party at the Pacificon from falling apart at the seams. whereas we in Philly, having no such gay extroverts, will have double the difficulty.

So that the costume party may well be replaced by the musical program, and those who wish to wear costumes may compromise by rigging up some sort of playlet to round out the evening's entertainment, for the musical program will surely not last longer than one hour.

The second problem to consider here is a more serious one. At the Pacificon a great deal of time was wasted arguing over the question of what to do with the profits from the convention. To consider that rather a sordid proceeding, and wish to avoid it at The Philcon. Our method is to argue the matter out in these pages prior to the convention, whereupon only a formal vote will be needed at the time of the convention to conform the tradition.

First, why do conventions have profits? Simply because it is impossible to calculate in advance exactly what the expenses will be, and how much will be brought in by the auction. The dollars representing Philcon Society memberships make up perhaps a fifth of the convention expense. The rest of the money must be raised by the program advertisements and auction proceeds.

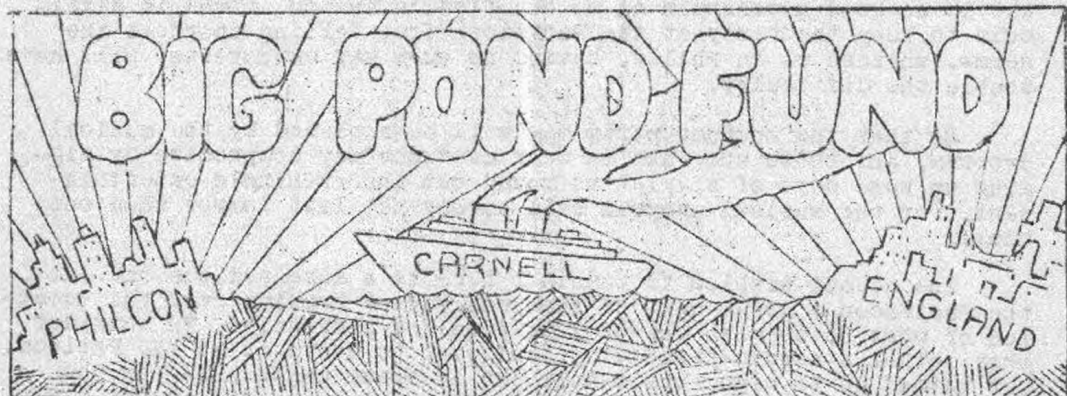
Second: why argue about what to do with the profits; why not simply turn over the profits to the people who put on the convention? Actually, this was done by the first two conventions, with the resulting feeling of unexpressed disapproval by the fans. We felt that something had been put over on us. It was not so much that they took the money, but it was the bluntness of manner in which the subject was proposed, and the rubberstamp character of the vote which followed that was objectionable.

At the Pacificon the worthy idea was proposed that this money belonged to fandom as a whole, and should be disposed of accordingly. The fact that this resulted in sordid argument was unfortunate. Looking at the Pacificon argument in retrospect, we find it remarkable that as long as the money was being divided among fan organizations, nobody proposed that the LASFS treasury get some of the convention profits.

The members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, possessing no such commendable modesty, are now proposing that a portion of the Philcon profits go to the PSFS treasury. The main reason is frank necessity. Supporting a \$25 a month clubroom is quite a strain for such a small club. The PSFS created the organization which is putting on the convention, and the labor of PSFS members, as well as the use of PSFS facilities is going into the preparation of this convention; so the PSFS members feel that as long as there is surplus money to distribute, the PSFS has some claim on it.

So, having tossed this proposition to the wolves, we retreat while you people kick it around, and we hope to hear your opinions on the subject before the next issue of the Philcon News appears.

--The Chairman



MAKE THIS REALLY A WORLD CONVENTION

There have been thus far four World Science Fiction Conventions. However, despite the all-encompassing title "World Convention", no one from outside the confines of the USA has ever attended. It will be a decidedly different story at THE PHILCON.

Forrest J Ackerman hit upon the idea of importing a British fan for this Convention. With this idea in mind, he conceived "The Big Pond Fund," and started the ball rolling with a five dollar contribution. Chairman Rothman, admiring the idea, officially sanctioned it, and appointed 46J "Big Pond Fund Chairman".

Now here is your opportunity to help bring this British fan to the Convention, and at the same time, take a shot at the big prize which will be given to some lucky "Big Pond Fund Sponsor". The Brit-isher coming is Ted Carnell, for many years one of England's most active fans, and now editor of the British prozmag, NEW WORLDS.

Books and other items are being collected here and in England, and will compose a jackpot of fantasy items known as the "The Big Pond Prize". Some lucky fan will take home from Philly a lot of good stuff such as the first four books of FANTASY PRESS, a copy of the already out-of-print, "The Fox Woman" by Merritt & Bok, "Away From Here and Now," a collection of stf stories by Clare Winger Harris, and probably numerous other items.

Every contributor will have an opportunity to be the winner, each dollar contributed allowing one shot at the prize. Naturally, the people contributing the most will have the best opportunity to win. Donations start at a buck. Send your contributions to:

Forrest J Ackerman
Big Pond Fund Chairman
Box 6151 Metro Station
Los Angeles, 55, Calif.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE PHILCON!

THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

1. As mentioned in "The Philocon Policy", we plan to have a musical program at the affair. If you write music or play an instrument contact the Chairman about contributing to the musical program.
2. If you are an artist of any type, let us have something for the Art Exhibit. This includes painting, sculpturing, drawings, photography, etc.
3. If you have an interesting topic on which to speak, let us know, and we will put you on the program. If you know somebody who can speak interestingly on an interesting subject, let us know and we will twist his arm.
4. If you have any ideas at all, send them in.
5. Save your money -- you might need it!

Contact the Chairman concerning any contributions to the program at 2113 N. Franklin Street, Phila., Pa.

PROGRAM ADS

Like the sponsors of THE PACIFICON we believe in an interesting and attractive program — and not a skimpy one either. The program will be similar to the one published by the LA-boys, and we have decided to have similar rates for advertisements.

Advertisements are now acceptable. Rates are as follows: Five dollars for a full page, two-fifty for a half-page, etc., on down the line. The smallest fraction of page sold will be an eighth-page. However, if you do not desire to purchase an ad of this type, we will also have Booster Ads. (Ah! Such an original idea!) The price to have your name on the program will be twenty-five cents. That is all — a mere quarter.

The program will be a photo-offset affair, therefore allowing lots of freedom for photographs, and other original lay-outs. All advertisements must be in our hands by July 1st.

Send all advertisements to:

Robert A. Madle
Program Booklet Editor
1365 E. Columbia Ave.
Phila., 25, Pa.

PEOPLE & THINGS AROUND THE PHILCON

There's been a bit of a to-do around these parts concerning the burring and desperate question: "Who is giving the Philcon?" A number of people are worried because the Chairman of The Philcon Society made the surprising statement one time: "It isn't the PSFS which is giving The Philcon, but The Philcon Society."

We think that there would have been less excitement if the emphasis had been removed from the first part of the sentence, and I had merely said, "The Philcon Society is giving the Philcon." That is not such an astonishing statement, is it?

The fact behind all the words is this: The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is doing the physical work to put on the convention. The PSFS elected the convention chairman. The PSFS will act as hosts to the other fans when they come to Philadelphia. However: We like to think that this is a convention given by all fandom, and that the Philcon Society is the means for this to be done.

Enough about things.....

Here's something about people:

The majority of the PSFS members are fairly anonymous persons around fandom as a whole. They are not the national celebrities that infest the LASFS, for instance. Who are some of them?


You old-time fans remember Ossie Train and Bob Madle. Both of them have been fans for well over ten years, and up to 1941, Madle was publisher of Fantascience Digest, one of the most popular fan-zines of the time. Ossie has of recent years been editor of the PSFS News, president of the PSFS, and has been amassing a pile of books which puts him in a class with the biggest science fiction collectors in the country.

Jim Williams doesn't collect books, but he knows more about them than most anybody you could name. That's because he's been selling them for twenty years.

Alexander M. Phillips, our Historian, is well known as the author of "The Mislaid Charm" in Unknown, and several other yarns -- is also a long-time member of the PSFS.

Other people you will probably bump into around the PSFS club-rooms are Bud Waldo and Alfred Prime, members of the newly organized Prime Press; Helen Cloukey & Allison Williams, several of our more-active female members; Jack Agnew & John Newton, long-time PSFS members; and Jack Baltadonis, Benson Dooling, John Newton, Jay Klein, Al Pepper, etc., etc.

And let's not forget our Chairman -- the original member of the PSFS, and long-time active fan, Milton A. Rothman. Or our Treasurer, who rarely ever misses a meeting, Jean Bogert.

MEMBERSHIP LIST 

1. E. Everett Evans
2. Walter J. Daugherty
3. Tom Hadley
4. Charles Lucas
5. Ted Dikty
6. A. E. Waldo
7. Albert Pepper
8. Robert G. Thompson
9. Robert A. Madle
- 10 T. J. Mead
11. Jean Bogert
12. James A. Williams
13. Milton Moses
14. Milton A. Rothman
15. Oswald Train
16. A. K. Phillips
17. Forrest J Ackerman
18. Boff Perry
19. Ned Mokeown
20. F. Lee Baldwin
21. Norman F. Stanley
22. Leonard J Moffatt
23. Walter A. Coslet
24. Jack Spear
25. Eric Holmes
26. Paul Spencer
27. Donald B. Day
28. Arthur L. Widner
29. Don Bratton
30. George Lohneis
31. Raymond Bisio
32. Edwin M. Clinton, Jr.
33. Harry Warner, Jr.
34. F. Orlin Tremaine
35. Bob Tucker
36. L. A. Eszbach
37. Larry Shaw
38. Hyman Tiger
39. Sam Loveman
40. Alfred Prime
41. Walter Dunkelberger
42. John Nitka
43. Julius Unger
44. Allison Williams
45. Gene Hunter
46. Sam Moskowitz
47. Lloyd Alpaugh
48. Joe Frzoe
49. Gerry de la Ree
50. Ricky Slavin
51. Monroe Kuttner
52. James Hevelin
53. William S. Sykora
54. Frances Sykora
55. Thomas S. Gardner
56. David Kishi
57. Lee Budoff
58. Lee Mayer, Jr.
59. James V. Taurasi
60. Joe Kennedy
61. George R. Fox
62. Alex Osheroff
63. Ron Christensen
64. Tim O'Brien
65. Ronald Maddox
66. Ben Indick
67. Phil Froeder
68. Bob Sheridan
69. Jack Grubel
70. Bob Gaulin
71. Alvin Brown
72. Jacques Heller
73. Gilda Blitzer
74. Kay Brickman
75. Rohelen Brickman
76. Harold Cheney, Jr.
77. Joe Selinger
78. Erle M. Korshak
79. Donald B. Thompson
80. Gordon M. Kull
81. George R. Cowie
82. John Wasso, Jr.
83. Max Sonstein
84. Ralph Rayburn Phillips
85. Harry C. Martin
86. Arthur Levine
87. Jack Williamson
88. Vanguard Records
89. Stan Woolston
90. Jay Klein
91. Jack Agnew
92. Ray Curtis
93. Phyllisann Curtis

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