



PITT CON

PROGRESS REPORT No. 1



PITTCON.....

PITTSBURGH . . . SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5, 1960

18th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

CARE OF DIRCE S. ARCHER • 1453 BARNSDALE STREET • PITTSBURGH 17, PA.

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY 1960

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to the PITTCON Treasurer. Advertising copy for the Second Pro-
gress Report must reach the Committee by April 15, 1960.

PITTCON COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Dirce S. Archer VICE CHAIRMAN: Ray Smith
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**YOUR PITTCON MEMBERSHIP CARD IS ENCLOSED
WITH THIS PROGRESS REPORT - PLEASE CHECK!**

REMEMBER THESE DATES!

- ➡ 15 April 1960: COPY DEADLINE for SECOND PROGRESS REPORT
- ➡ 25 & 26 June 1960: MIDWESTCON #11 at North Plaza Motel,
7911 Reading Road, Cincinnati 37, Ohio. Details from
Don Ford, Box 19T, Wards Corner Rd., Loveland, Ohio.
- ➡ 2, 3 & 4 July 1960: WESTERCON (BOYCON) at Boise, Idaho.
Check with Guy Terwilliger, 1412 Albright St., Boise,
Idaho. Guest of Honor - Rog Phillips.
- ➡ 3, 4 & 5 September 1960: PITTCON at the PENN-SHERATON
HOTEL, William Penn Place, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. Con-
vention registration: \$2.00 (\$1.00 overseas).
- ➡ HEADING EAST AT PITTCON TIME? If you're interested in
a fabulous Bjo-type travelcon from the West Coast to
Pittsburgh, contact:

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PITTCOON GUEST OF HONOR James Blish

We of the Pittcon Committee feel rather smug because we had asked James Blish to be our Guest of Honor, on what lawyers might call a "contingent" basis, before we knew that his novel, "A Case of Conscience," would be awarded the Hugo as best of 1958. We wanted him as our Banquet speaker, not only as one of our best writers, but because there are few persons better able to express the tough "single standard" point of view that science fiction needs and should ask for no critical subsidies. His Pittcon address (we'll give you the exact title in a later Progress Report) will concern itself with this conviction.

James Blish was born in East Orange, N.J. in 1921, but spent most of his boyhood in Chicago. He acquired the science fiction habit, he tells us, at the age of nine, when he discovered the April 1931 issue of Astounding. He began writing s-f while in high school, but didn't make his first sale until 1939, when he was a sophomore at Rutgers University. What that first story was we leave to the bibliographers. "It was dreadful," he says. "In fact, I don't think I had a readable s-f story published until ten years later." As of the moment, he can count 158 titles, not including reprints or foreign sales, already published or coming. Seventy-nine of these are science fiction; the rest are Western, detective and sports yarns, poetry, articles, criticism, and some miscellaneous material. He has appeared in most of the science fiction magazines (Amazing and Fantastic are the only significant exceptions he can think of), and in 22 anthologies. His stories have been published in ten countries, counting the United States. His latest book is a Signet paper-back, "Galactic Cluster."

Graduating from Rutgers in 1942, Blish was just in time to go almost directly into the Army, where he was a medical laboratory technician. Out again in 1944, he spent several years in graduate study at Columbia. "Here I became convinced that I would never make more than a third-rate sort of scientist," he reports frankly, "and since I didn't want to be a teacher — I had done some, and hated it — or a preparator, I switched to thinking of myself primarily as a writer."

James Blish has been, as he puts it, "on the fringes of the biological and medical sciences" ever since — first as an editor of trade papers for the pharmaceutical industry, then as a public relations counsel and science editor for the industry itself. He is now a full time free-lance writer, but still does considerable science writing for drug and chemical companies, and for agencies serving them. "This forces me to keep up with the journals," he points out, "though I don't have to pant at the task the way our Pittcon and Detention Toastmaster, Isaac Asimov, does." This work for industry adds up to several million words.

With James Blish at the Pittcon you'll meet his wife, the writer, poet and fan for many years, whose name — Virginia Kidd — will be remembered from the letter columns of the 1930s. Three young Blishes — Ben, 3; Beth, 5; and Karen Eden, 15 — may not be quite ready to encounter fandom en masse.

PITTCON HEADQUARTERS.....

the Penn-Sheraton

Your Convention Committee has selected the Penn-Sheraton Hotel, in the midst of Pittsburgh's historic Golden Triangle, as headquarters of the 18th World Science Fiction Convention. Here are just a few of the reasons:

We have the entire 17th Floor for the Convention -- and it's one of the country's best layouts. The Hospitality Room will have its own bar. Right opposite, we'll have a second big room set up as our own private Convention lobby — lounge furniture, tables, and all the rest. Meeting rooms are next door; so is the Ball Room, where we'll hold the Banquet and the Masquerade. Exhibits are just down the hall, and there are smaller rooms where the Hyborian Legion, First Fandom, and other groups can get together. They're all ours.

There are two banks of express elevators — one lot straight to the Convention floor from the lobby, the other set back down. And Penn-Sheraton operators are used to handling lots of people. (They cope with 2000 chemists every March.)

The Masquerade will be cabaret style, like the Detention's, but with lots more room for both the doers and the seers. There's a balcony all 'round the Ball Room, so that the photographers will have an unobstructed view of what goes on (or comes off).

There will be a flat schedule of Convention rates for Pittcon members. Of course, the Hotel has to know that you are registering for the Convention. If you don't register until you get to Pittsburgh, make sure you identify yourself as a Pittcon member, if you want the special rates. Here they are:

Single Room	\$8.00 a day
Double Room	\$5.00 per person
Twin Beds	\$6.00 per person
Extra Rollaway Cot	\$3.00

There is no room charge for children under 14 who share a room with an adult.

Convention rates apply to early arrivals and late departures, if you identify yourself.

25% Suites — if you're attending as a group — will be 25% off the regular rate. (You should take a look at the Presidential Suite!) Those reservations you must make directly with the Manager of the Penn-Sheraton — the number is limited.

And all rooms will be air-conditioned ... which means a lot on a normally hot Labor Day weekend, anywhere south of Point Barrow!

We've enclosed a Penn-Sheraton reservation card for your own convenience. The sooner you mail it in, the sooner we — and the Hotel — can plan your accommodations.

HELP WANTED....ARTISTS!



Projected art show needs support.....paintings, black & white illustrations, and cartoons, by fan-artists, to be for display and sale at Pittcon and at future conventions.....artists and interested parties may contact Bjo Walla.....

980½ WHITE KNOLL DR., LOS ANGELES 12, CALIF.

THE "HUGO" NOMINATIONS

Enclosed with this Progress Report is your "Primary Ballot" for the 1960 Science Fiction and Fantasy Achievement Awards - the "Hugos" that the Clevention put on an annual basis, and named for the father of modern science fiction, Hugo Gernsback.

The 1960 awards will be made for stories, art work, etc. published during 1959, or — in the case of magazines — in an issue bearing a 1959 date. Stories in the January 1959 issues are eligible for a "Hugo;" stories in the January 1960 issues are not. Books — hard or paper-bound — must have been first published during 1959.

As before, the voting will take place in two steps. Right now, readers everywhere are asked to nominate their choices in each of the six award categories described below. The ballot allows you a 1st and a 2nd choice, and the votes will be weighted accordingly when they are totaled.

The stories, magazines, etc. with the most votes will go on a final Awards Ballot, to be mailed with our second Progress Report. Your votes on this second ballot will decide who wins the 1960 "Hugos," which will be awarded at the Pitcon Banquet. If there is no majority for any candidate, there will be no award in that category. The six Award Categories are:

BEST NOVEL: Any science fiction or fantasy novel appearing for the first time in 1959, as a hardbound or paperback book or as a magazine serial or "complete novel." Serials must have had at least one part in an issue dated in 1959, to be eligible.

BEST SHORTER FICTION: This year, this one award covers both short stories and novelettes. Stories published for the first time in a collection or anthology, out in 1959, are eligible.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: Another change. Any motion picture ... radio or TV program (single or series) ... or play produced for the first time in 1959 is eligible.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: An artist whose work has appeared in or on the covers or jackets of science fiction magazines or books published in 1959.

BEST PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE: Any science fiction or fantasy magazine that published at least one issue dated in 1959.

BEST FANZINE: Any non-professional magazine devoted to the science fiction and fantasy field in any of its aspects, and published with reasonable regularity during 1959. You nominate 'em and you vote for 'em, but the Committee feels that the "Hugos" should be awarded on the basis of consistent high-level publication, rather than to a once-in-a-lifetime masterpiece.

The 1960 winners will get the last of the original "Hugos" designed and made by Ben Jason for the 1955 Clevention, and graciously made available by him.

YOU HAVE UNTIL MAY 1 TO GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN THE MAIL.

HOW BIG \$F POW-WOW



NFFF heap fine club. Not cost much wampum, but give heap much fun. You join um. Me bettcha you like um.

Or, as we say here at Radcliffe: The NFFF is a confederation with an organizational structure and modus operandi conducive to the realization of the maximum delectation of its constituent associates.

The pecuniary prerequisite is infinitesimal but the consequent felicity is colossal.

My considered prognostication is that your affiliation with it will engender your unmitigated delight.

Or in plain English: Rush \$1.60 for a years dues to Janie Lamb, Route 1, Heiskell, Tennessee, U.S.A.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation

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SEATTLE



YES, YOU SKEPTICS: Wally Weber is polishing the Adam's Apple for the
P * I * T * T * C * O * N

where he'll present the bid for the Fabulous '61 WorldCon in the name
of the SEATTLE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

(But don't be alarmed; that's just the good ol' Nameless Ones, girded
for action in our Superman suits).

APPARENTLY UNWILLING to compete with the '61 WorldCon, Greater Seattle
(Inc) has cautiously postponed its "Century 21" World's Fair until the
spring of 1962. We feel that Greater Seattle (Inc) is very chivalrous
to arrange it so that the tourist trade won't be running the hotel and
restaurant prices up on us, and we hope you are all properly grateful.
(And if you did want to see Century 21 -- come early and stay late.)

WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, we hope you'll find time to step out of the
hotel for a breath of ocean breeze before lunch and look around a bit.
The water-front a few blocks to the west is Elliott Bay (part of Puget
Sound), and the mountains on the farside are the Olympic Range, and
are rather photogenic. Too far to walk, though, and time for lunch,
anyway, by now.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE to produce a WorldCon? Let's not kid ourselves;
mainly it takes YOU -- as many of YOU as possible -- both voting for,
and especially attending the WorldCon at

SEATTLE in '61

THIS HAS BEEN a Sudsier Brainwash-- MUCH Sudsier -- from your friendly
neighborhood Seattle Science Fiction Club, currently consisting of:

Jerry Frahm	Wally Weber	Rose Stark	Wally Gonser	Flora Jones
Jim Webbert	Ed, Geneva and Marge Wyman	Elinor Busby	Ruth Moore	
and your Friendly Neighborhood Brainwasher, P. M. Busby				

PITTCON MEMBERSHIPS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Frank Kelly Freas | 52. Dr. Rosemary Becker | 102. Edward E. Smith |
| 2. Polly Freas | 53. Richard Hickey | 103. Nicholas L. Falasca |
| 3. George Nims Raybin | 54. Janie Lamb | 104. Phyllis Economou |
| 4. Edmund R. Mesrys | 55. Dale Tarr | 105. Marion Z. Bradley |
| 5. Lou Tabakow | 56. Edward Kuss | 106. Ben Jason |
| 6. Lloyd Eshbach | 57. Lewis J. Grant, Jr. | 107. J. A. Christoff |
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| 8. Harlan Ellison | 59. Pat Ellington | 109. Marion Stecker |
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| 32. Ken Krueger | 83. Carole Hickman | 133. E. Janda |
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| 44. George R. Heap | 95. Bill Thailing | 145. Ila Smith |
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| 50. Beatrice Taylor | 101. Jeannie Smith | 151. Joe Ryan |
| 51. Arthur Blackwell | | 152. William F. Benthake |

153. Allan Howard
154. Jessie W. Sampson
155. James Blish
156. Virginia Blish
157. L. Sprague de Camp
158. Basil Davenport
159. F. M. Busby
160. Klinor Busby
161. Donald Franson
162. Ellen Parkes
163. Kenneth C. Parkes
164. Norbert Wilhelm
165. August Derleth
166. Dr. Donald Corbett
167. Joan Corbett
168. Barbara Johnson
169. George H. Scithers
170. Charles V. De Vet
171. Richard Brandshaft
172. Jim Harmon
173. John Cantwell
174. John Andrew Fisher
175. Ken F. Slater
176. H. Ken Bulmer
177. Archie Mercer
178. Seattle Science Club
179. Rose Stark
180. Flora Jones
181. The Nameless Ones
182. Harry C. Stubbs
183. Louis Meltzer
184. James V. Taurasi, Sr.
185. Frank R. Prieto, Jr.
186. Ray Van Houten
187. Norman C. Metcalf
✓ 188. Ruth Berman
189. Sybil Devore
190. John Pesta
191. Frank Arnold
192. Ella Parker
193. James Groves
194. Joy K. Clarke
195. A. Vince Clarke
196. H. P. Sanderson
197. John F. R. M. Burke
198. Arthur H. Rapp
199. Dr. C. Harry Constandy
200. Frank B. Long
201. Timothy J. Dumont
202. Professor Challenger
203. Philip Jose Farmer

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Alma Hill

SECRETARY PRO TEM
FOR NEW ENGLAND

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STAMP OUT

DRINKING

AT
SCIENCE FICTION
CONVENTIONS



SEND ALL OF YOUR
ENCOURAGEMENT
TO THE
CONVENTION
COMMITTEE.....
AND SEND ALL
OF YOUR MONEY
TO ME.

Emile Greenleaf

THE WEST COAST

'61

CHICAGO IN

62

D. C. OR PHILLY IN

63

ANYWHERE BUT NEW YORK IN

64

(In fact, let's hold
it in Hall first.)

NEW
ORLEANS
in '65

...

770

ALL OVER
AGAIN

...

BESIDES, 1965 WILL BE
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF NEW
ORLEANS, AND, WELL...

AD RATES....

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MAIL ALL COPY TO: PITTCON
c/o Dirce S. Archer
1453 Barnsdale Street
Pittsburgh 17, Pa.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: P. Schuyler Miller, Treasurer
or
18th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION COMMITTEE



THE
BIG
SWING
IS
TO
CHICAGO
FOR
NUMBER

20
1962

GO
CHICA
GO

THANKS to One and All

The PITTCON Committee wishes to thank the many friends who labored valiantly to get the 18th World Science Fiction Convention for Pittsburgh, and who are continuing to assist the Committee in giving you as enjoyable a convention as possible in 1960.

Washington and Philadelphia were worthy opponents who conducted their campaigns with dignity, and who have been helpful with their suggestions since the voting. We thank them for their good sportsmanship and continuing support.

The sincere, overwhelming, generous tide of support from all facets of the science fiction world is inspiring. The Detention gang (who might have been expected to take things easy for a year or so) ... the Chicago group ... Los Angeles ... New York ... and many, many more have been working as hard as we have to make the next Con memorable. That's fandom!

Space doesn't permit us to enumerate all the people who are contributing to the success of the Pittcon. We'll invite a small ovation for them on the convention floor. But we would lack elementary courtesy if we did not say, as sincerely as we know how, "Thank you all, very much."

➡➡➡➡➡➡ **YOU DEMANDED IT!!**

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PITTCON

CONVENTION... Program Notes

- ➔ Convention Guest of Honor is James Blish. Toastmaster, the one and only Isaac Asimov.
- ➔ Frank Belknap Long will give a talk on H.P. Lovecraft. For good measure, August Derleth has contributed, for auction, the galley proofs of Long's Arkham House book, "The Hounds of Tindalos," and those of the Lovecraft collection, "Something About Cats and Other Pieces."
- ➔ The PITTCON Committee guarantees that Sam Moskowitz will be given time to show some of his splendid slides of science fiction and fantasy artwork. Here is your chance to see some of the most colorful covers of the "good old days."
- ➔ Willy Ley will give a non-space-travel talk! It's on exotic zoology, his real first love.
- ➔ Arrangements are being made to present not one but two plays at the Pittcon. One is a fan production, the other by pros.
- ➔ Remember the Arkham House edition of A.E. van Vogt's classic "Slan"? Hubbell's original artwork for the jacket has been contributed for the auction.
- ➔ Whither SF? Harlan Ellison has some answers in his talk on "Mainstream Science Fiction in the Sophisticated Men's Magazines."

YOU'LL MISS THEM ALL IF YOU MISS THE PITTCON . . .

AMRA

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Edward Wood