

TORCON

SIXTH WORLD
SCIENCE FICTION
CONVENTION

JULY 3-5

1948



TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA

Astounding **SCIENCE FICTION** believes that, to maintain leadership, new authors must always be welcome, new approaches to old problems encouraged . . . and that the story, and the story alone, should determine acceptance or rejection.

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— *John W. Campbell, Jr.*

FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS an anthology of stories from Unknown Worlds, will appear on the stands about September. To some extent it will serve as a trial balloon to determine whether Unknown Worlds should be revived. It will contain fourteen of Unknown's best stories



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The Committee bids you Welcome

To the Sixth World Science Fiction Convention, the first truly international gathering in fandom's history.

A great many people have aided materially in making this convention the success that we think it will be. First and foremost, the plaudits of the Torcon Society should be showered upon an individual named Beak Taylor. Beak, as Official Editor, has spent long hours preparing Torque and begging advertisers to submit their copy on time. We think this booklet is an effective and artistic example of editing at its best. Many thanks, Beak Taylor.

To Bill Grant goes credit for the artwork that adorned the many ads that appeared through the courtesy of their editors in, *Canfan*, *Macabre*, *Fantasy*, *Advertiser*, *TNFF*, *Kay-Mai Trader* and many others. Thanks also to the editors of *Necromancer*, *Gorgon*, *Fantasy-Times*, *Spacewarp*, *Fanews*, *Fanscient*, *If*, *Grotesque*, *Tympani*, *Spaceteer*, *Dream Quest* and *Light*, who have used their editorial or artistic abilities to help make this the most widely publicized convention.

John Millard, Lyell Crane and the rest of the Derelicts have spent long hours working on the technical aspects of the convention as well as handling the tedious job of addressing and mailing innumerable announcements and advertising material.

Thanks also are due to Mary Gnaedinger, John W. Campbell Jr., Sam Merwin Jr., and Paul Payne, and to the publishers of the magazines which they edit. As you look around you at the many fine original illustrations, remember that these came to us through the courtesy of the above mentioned four.

Fantasy Press and Lloyd Eschbach are to be thanked in particular for the fine examples of Donnell's artwork and for the many manuscripts he donated to the auction.

We hope you enjoy yourselves.

BEAK TAYLOR,
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The Sixth World Science Fiction Convention marks the first international fan gathering in history. We are sorry that we are unable to attend but we are with you in spirit.

Reports from various sources show that fandom is being recognized by the rest of the world and Science Fiction is taking its place among the great literature of the world. Fans we have known in the past are now editors or well-known writers in fields other than Fantasy. They recognize and are thankful for the training that they received in the great fellowship of fandom. Everywhere people are looking towards the future of man and fankind is in the van.

We hope that TORCON carries on the tradition of interesting, informative programs attractively presented, a tradition that was nurtured carefully by the committees of the first four conventions and reached its culmination in the great gathering held at Philadelphia last year.

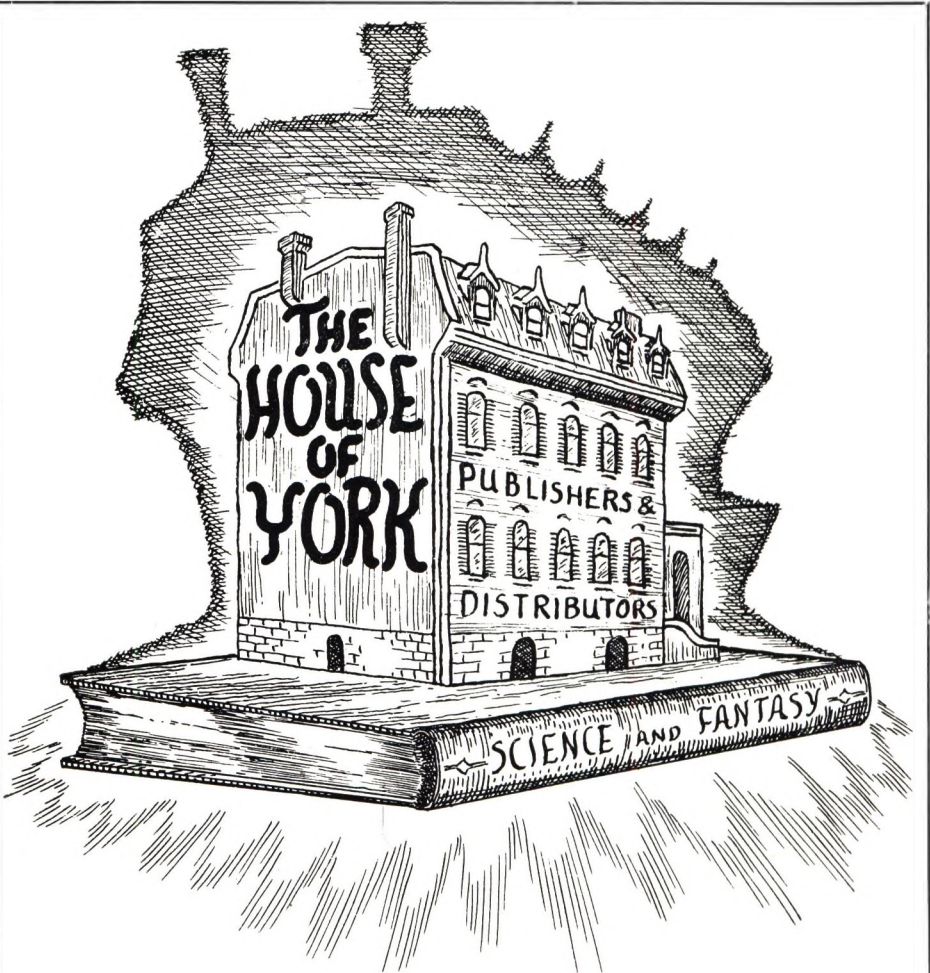
May we wish that in its striving for ever better things, fandom finds the *Sixth World Science Fiction Convention* the best ever.

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never underestimate the power of a spectator*

SPECTATORS SEIZE CONTROL OF STF-FANDOM AT TORONTO CONVENTION

**Many top Fans Killed in Struggle Preceding
coup; Mimeographs to be regulated by
new Autocratic Regime**

Toronto, July 4 (P.U.) — A dazed world learned this morning that a group of New York and New Jersey Fans had ousted the former ruling group of Fandom and proclaimed their own totalitarian regime.

The seizure took place at about three o'clock this morning, according to surviving Loyalists. It is thought the Spectators knew of the secret poker game going on in one of the hotel rooms, for it was there that they besieged the top Fans.

BESEIGE HOTEL

"I was a lookout on the Hotel Roof," said Harry Moore in an interview with this reporter, "and about two o'clock, I sighted the Spector Naval Squadron coming up King Street. Ron Christensen, Joe Kennedy and George Fox were in the lead bathtub." As the fleet neared the hotel it started to shell it with materials reportedly supplied by Jack Speer, a malcontent in the Old Northwest.

The Toronto Police attempted to stop the hostilities, but they gave up when the Spectators sicced a handy burlesque artiste on them.

In a matter of seconds, the landing force, consisting of Joe Schaumburger, Joe Gross and Phil Froeder, had stormed the lobby. Once the elevators were secured, there was no further obstacle to a drive to the Games.

LOYALISTS ROUTED

"We didn't have a chance," said Forrest Jackerman, who was in serious condition in Mount Stefmore Hospital. "They used the bellboy as a decoy so they could sneak behind our lines, and then one of them yelled 'Full House!'" It was terrible; half of us must have been killed in the rush for the door. Tucker used the window."

The Spectators promise to release a statement for publication tomorrow, concerning their policies. Informed observers say government regulation of mimeographs is a sure thing.

Ron Maddox, African envoy of the new regime, stated "Ugh!"

*the slowest growing organizaton in Fandom

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To RAY BRADBURY for his generous help to a would-be writer

To DR. KELLER for his amazing renaissance, for his meteoric rise from author to actifan

To the fellows of FANTASY PRESS for the dream-book physical quality of their products

To the CRAWFORDS of FANTASY PUBLISHING CO. INC., for their stick-to-it-iveness and triumph over adversities

To STAN MULLEN for his continued great job on GORGON

To SAM MERWIN for such STARTLING improvements in WONDER .

To CHAS. BURBEE for accomplishing the long deemed impossible feat of *getting the FAPA mailings out on time*

To SLATER & KOESTNER for their hands-across-the-sea OPERATION FANTAST

To STAN WOOLSTON for his support of the BIG POND FUND

To DON BRATTON for his work on the FANTASY FOUNDATION . .

To GUS WILLMORTH for his virtual gift to fandom of the FANTASY ADVERTISER

To "Ron" HUBBARD and "Van" VAN VOGT for being "one of th' gang" around the LASFS and not Great Men

To FRAN LANEY for telling the truth about PAUL FREEHAFFER in his Memoirs

To RICK SNEARY, "just because — "

And with heartfelt apologies to those I have undoubtedly overlooked and will kick myself about when this comes out in print.

GOOD WISHES TO FEN OF GOODWILL EVERYWHERE

— *Forry Ackerman*

OPERATION FANTAST . . .

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But to the American and the Canadian, it is mainly a means whereby they can get British published SF and Fantasy Books. New or secondhand, we will do our best to supply your wants. But bear in mind that lots of good stuff went up in smoke during the war, and that new issues are very limited, owing to paper supplies. A popular book published in England is liable to be out of print within fourteen days of issue.

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And finally, don't forget, whatever you buy from us helps keep the British Fen from MENTAL STARVATION. And may I wish you all the best, and I hope you enjoy the TORCON — wish I could get there.

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— *by L. Sprague de Camp*

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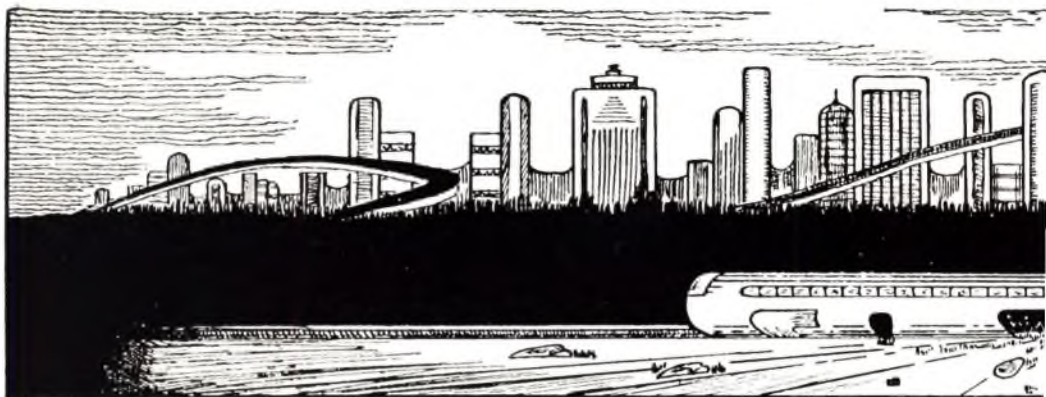
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SATURDAY, JULY 3

Afternoon Session: 1 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Introduction by the Committee
- II. Pro guest of Honor: Robert Bloch
- III. Intermission
- IV. Messages from Publishers

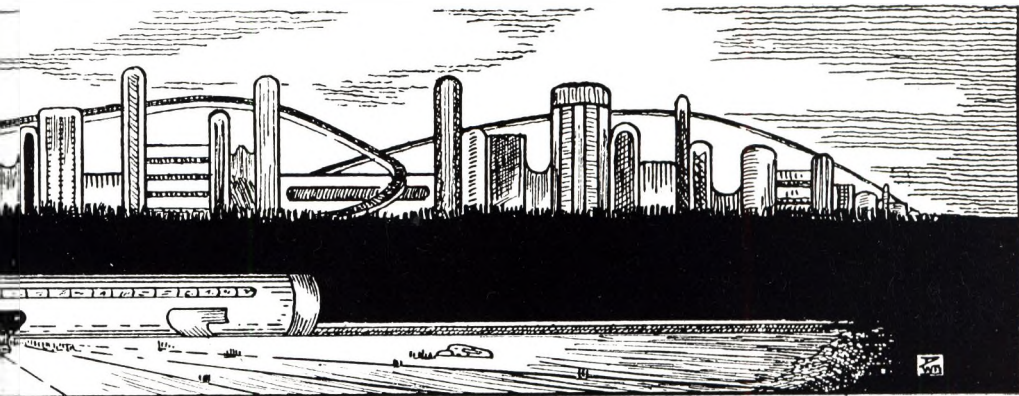
Evening Session: 7 p.m.

- I. Film: "Atomic Physics"
- II. George O. Smith, "Interplanetary Communications"

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Afternoon Session: 1 p.m.

- I. Auction of original illustrations, books and manuscripts —
Erle M. Korshak, Auctioneer



PROGRAM . . .

Evening Session: 7 p.m.

- I. Fan Guest of Honor: Bob Tucker, "A Fannish Survey"
- II. Report from the Editors

MONDAY, JULY 5

Afternoon Session: 1 p.m.

- I. Speaker: David H. Keller, M.D.
- II. Fan business, Financial Report, Choosing of site for next Convention.

Evening Session: 7 p.m.

- I. Buffanet
- II. Fan Entertainment and Discussion groups
- III. Farewell Address: Chairman

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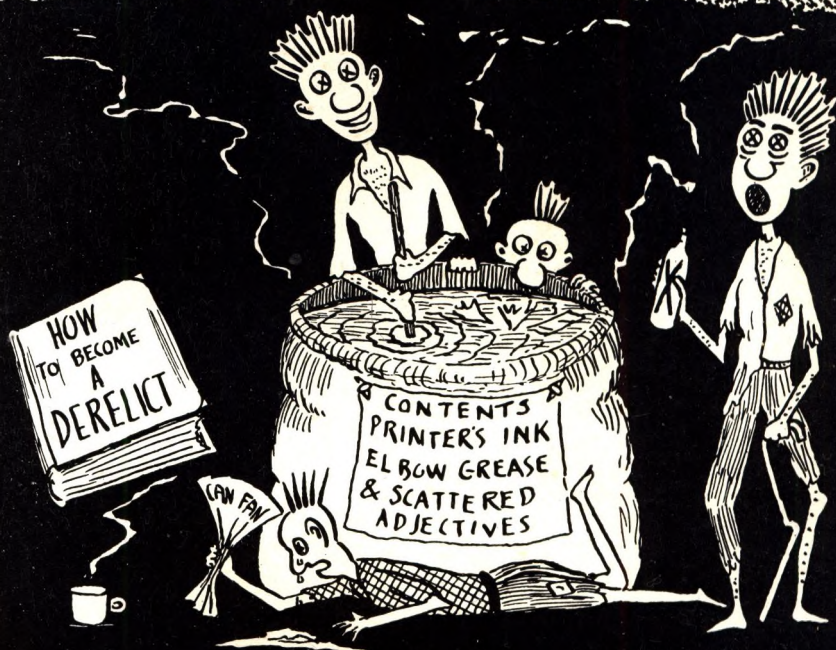
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