

S.F.WEEKLY 2020 October 23, 1967

+++++ FORMERLY DEGLER +++++
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THE ROTATION PLAN: EDITORIAL: Let me state, here and now, that I am all for a Rotation Plan in fandom, so designed as to provide the various portions of the country with Equal Time, so to speak, in the selection and winning of the World SF Conventions. I am opposed, however, to the Rotation Plan as modified at the NYCon 3.

Briefly, the Rotation Plan affords that the West, Midwest, and East Coast regions of the US will each have a chance to hold a world convention. These regions, defined at the 1963 worldcon, extend into Canada and, presumably, south into Mexico (altho that portion of North America has never had an active fan group). The rules, as modified at the NYCon, offer an out-of-continental-north-america convention every 4th year, said year to fall between the time of the midwest and east's turns for the convention. If no city outside north america bids, the convention goes automatically to an East Coast city and foreign bidders must wait 4 more years before their turn comes again.

What I believe to be a valid point is this: with this plan in action, there will be a permanent two-year hiatus between worldcons in the midwest and the east, the two most populous, as far as fandom goes, areas in the world. This I believe to be unfair to easterners who will have to wait the two years each time for a worldcon, and two, unfair to the bidders for that Eastern city. Convention site voting is notoriously under-attended; a total of 450 votes were cast at the TriCon, which had 850 attendees; voting at the NYCon totalled up to 540, when almost 3 times that number of people were in attendance! A total of only a few dozen votes at the consite selection meeting of an overseas convention could swing the next convention either way. What interest would European or Asian fans have in an American worldcon, when so few, if any at all, would actually be able to attend? These are, I believe, valid points which should be answered before the new rotation plan is officially begun.

There are several suggestions which might solve some of the problems. One is to change the overseas convention site to every 5th year, thus placing it between Midwest and East the 1st rotation; between East and West the 2nd; between West and Midwest the 3rd, and so on. There is the possibility of holding a Continental Convention each 4th year, a convention without Hugoes and the "world" standing. A valid point is that such a convention would not be directly opposed to a foreign convention, as most foreign countries do not have a national holiday at the same time as the American Labor Day. There is the possibility of convention site voting for all members of the convention, rather than just attendees of the convention. This could be done with the same ballot used for Hugo voting, the results to be announced during the convention or at the Awards Banquet at the finale of the convention.

There are other answers, other problems that I do not see, or may have missed. Any mail on the subject will be printed; readers are advised to keep their letters brief.

DOCTOR DOLITTLE BOOKS READY FOR CHRISTMAS: A 5-volume set of Dr. Dolittle books by Hugh Lofting will be available for Christmas, as shown in an ad in Publishers' Weekly. The 5 books are The Story Of Dr. Dolittle, Dr. Dolittle's Zoo, Dr. Dolittle's Post Office, The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle, and Dr. Dolittle's Circus. The set is available for \$3.95, November 14th.

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Dolittle Fans Take Warning: While the 5 books are available as a set, they are not available seperately. And, the boxed set is illustrated with a picture of Rex Harrison, who looks not one iota like the original Dr. Dolittle. Further word from PW states: "not only are these books not illustrated (the original Lippincott editions have Hugh Lofting's own illustrations) but these Mayflower book will be unavailable individually until after Christmas (January 16th)."

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES: Penguin Books, Inc., Baltimore Md., will publish The Penguin Book Of Comics in time for Christmas. The 8 1/2" x 11" book, with a colorful vinyl-coated cover, will feature 256 pages of nostalgia and information on the life and history of strip comics. The book, written by George Perry and Alan Aldridge, is priced at \$4.50.

Ballantine Books has ordered new printings of E.R. Eddison's two books, The Worm Ouroboros and Mistress of Mistresses. The 25,000 additional copies of each book will arrive in bookstores across the U.S. in time for what is predicted to be the largest books-as-gifts season in US publishing history.

Just published by The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., is The Mad Gardener's Song, by Lewis Carroll with illustrations by Sean Morrison. The verses of the Gardeners are out-of-print in this country, and now united under one roof. \$2.95.

The Wizard of Oz books, published by Reilly & Lee, the children's division of Henry Regnery Co., are the company's best selling titles for over half-a century. Now the demand is greater than ever, most notably because of the "Off To See The Wizard" TV show. The demand for the Oz books plus the Dr. Dolittle books is seen as possibly as large a movement as the Tarzan books created several years ago.

Included in the American Institute of Graphic Arts Children's Book Show 1965-66 is The Roman Republic by Isaac Asimov, designed by Walter H. Lorraine; Houghton, Mifflin, \$4.

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PHILLYCON 1967: The 1967 Phillycon will be held November 11th and 12th at the Sylva Hotel, Locust & Juniper Sts., Philadelphia. Theme for the conference will be Two Years To The Moon, "a two day discussion about space travel by people who were talking about it before it became national policy." Discussants will include Willy Ley, Robert Silverberg, Frederik Pohl, James Blish, Ted White, Hal Clement, and others. Registration fee is \$1.50. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

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WILL PROJECT ART SHOW CONTINUE?: Bjo Trimble, director of the Project Art Show writes:

"I'd like to hear from people who are interested in seeing the art shows continue; the people willing to work their fannies off for the art show, same as the Trimbles. One thing in mind is a sort of group of people to help take the load off us, and who can put on the art show, utilizing the mistakes we've already made and the knowledge we've already gathered. I plan to continue the art show, but it would be very nice if I had help." Fans interested in helping with this worthwhile Fan Activity can write Bjo Trimble, 243 Santa Rosa Ave., Oakland, California 94610.

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MUST RENEW THIS ISSUE: Ned BROOKS; Charlie BROWN; Paul CRAWFORD; Frank DIETZ; Bill KUNKEL; Fred LERNER; Len MOFFATT; Sam MOSKOWITZ; Frank PRIETO; Alva ROGERS; and Ted SERRILL.

I didn't really intend that slash-out stuff on this issue's Slogan; it's just that three or four years of typing the incantation NEW YORK IN '67 on every little fannish creation got me pretty well in the habit of typing 1967.

FIRST DRAFT #137

Vol. 32, No. 1

13 Oct 67

Honest mistakes are the best policy.

ST LOUIS IN 1967 1968 1969!!

This is the Incredibly Weekly fanzine of Dave Van Arnham, of 1730 Harrison Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY, and it is available to all attendees of Fano-clasts and to subscribers to ~~DEGLER~~ SF WEEKLY, which is available from Andy Porter, weekly, at 14/\$1. You can also get SF WEEKLY by sending news items. You can't get FD by sending money, however. BUT if you were interested in trading your fanzine...

FD is also available in Apa L, for which I theoretically send 40 copies a week and get a mlg back. I backslid, however, and didn't send off last week's, the birth announcement. *sigh*

I did get all the mlg's since I rejoined, however -- and, with a generosity which stuns me to contemplate, Jean Berman sent me the 25 odd mailings I had missed. I believe that Jean Berman deserves the Fanoclast Hug, or something. (Though I think I shd point out that the Fanoclast Hug has certain traditions which have grown up about it; this may be one reason why it has only been tendered four times...)

ONE OF THE THINGS in one of the recent Apa L mailings got thru to me sufficiently for me to respond to it in FD, which generally speaking I never allow myself to do because it wd be too easy for me to turn this into an all-mc zine for Apa L, and that is not FD's purpose.

Bjo has taken me to task for a couple of things, one of which is not entirely clear in my mind, the other of which is a simple misapprehension. Apparently my discussion of the Pan Pacificon/Baycon hassle, though I was entirely on the side of L.A., was couched in terms too strong; I suppose the first time I decided to really speak out in FD on something I might have looked to getting stomped. Indeed, I did get a little stomped; I got a phone call from Big Bill Donaho, who set me straight on some misapprehensions I had set down in my 4-page NYCon report, and which I duly reported in the next issue. Anyway, I got the impression that Bjo was stomping me too. This nonplusses me a bit, which is why this paragraph has been so confused so far.

She also strongly objected to my mild little jab at Ted White in my con report; I don't have that issue with me so I can only quasiquote: "It was a gas to see hundreds of fans jump to their seats and rush forward to donate a quarter each so that the original STAR TREK presentation cd be donated to the Smithsonian. It is also a gas to realize that, deep in the bowels of the Smithsonian, STAR TREK and the NYCon 3 will forever be linked together. Sorry about that, Ted!"

The only purpose in this mild jibe was to rag Ted about how his convention and STAR TREK will forever be associated in federal files somewhere, and, to explain where no explanation shd be necessary, it is of course necessary in appreciating this to realize that Ted White loaths, hates, despises, and rejects everything about STAR TREK, and has with great skill and glee

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expressed himself at length on the subject in the pages of YANDRO and in conversation at the Fanoclasts and elsewhere. How jolly, then, that the official records on that STAR TREK presentation shd record that the deed of donating it to the Smithsonian occurred at the NYCon 3, which was pretty well stamped as Ted White's convention.

Bjo, however, distressed me by taking this as some kind of slur on all the people who had worked on Pan Pacificon and on TOFF -- for the benefit of the latter cause was the purpose of the STAR TREK auction, and a good cause too.

I guess I'm just dreadfully defensive; when someone thinks that I have done or said some particular thing with the intent of scorning or doing injury to parties I have nothing whatsoever against, I get upset and nothing will do but that I go thru the whole schemoz and try to make clear what I intended.

At other times I have had the intent of scorning (or conceivably even Doing Injury To) various parties; in these matters I am not particularly defensive at all. The present instance is not in this category.

To repeat and belabor the obvious, then, I am most distressed when people misunderstand me -- and supremely distressed when people misunderstand me and are needlessly aggrieved thereby.

...Well, this has been New Depths in Philosophizing by dgv, and we will proceed on to other matters.

SUCH AS: How does the idea of the President of the United States being a Holy Roller strike you? A Two-Seed-In-The-Spirit Baptist? A spiritualist (Pike for President?)? A Jehovah's Witness? A Black Muslim? (Or, hell, a White Muslim, for that matter)? A Scientologist? (That's not quite fair, however, since Sen may well work.)

I'm not going to multiply examples of lunatic fringe religious that all of us are probably far too familiar with in the first place (and besides, I can't offhand think of any more outstanding ones, and I'm in a hurry to finish this...). The point of this is that we already have two such lunatic-fringe-religion-candidates being taken seriously right now.

Gov. ~~Brazinwash~~ Romney is a Mormon. Sen. Percy is a Christian Scientist. Both are nut cults, and I am appalled that representatives -- devout representatives at that; both are very sincere about their nut-cultery -- of these aforesaid nut cults are presently in any way likely to become president of this country. Christian Science is to me more ludicrous than Mormonism, mostly because I've read Mark Twain's savagely hilarious book on the subject (in which he meticulously examines every aspect of Mrs Eddy's gibberish and shows their inherently self-contradictory foolishness with consummate ease). Mormonism may well be even worse, however, since included in it is an inherent anti-Negroism which is enough to make sensible people vomit all over Gov. Romney's feet. Most religion is, of course, pious slop anyway, but Mormonism manages to make racism pious, something that Southern Baptists at their most neanderthal have found it difficult to do convincingly... Of course, we survived having a Catholic president, but I'm still not sure about what happened there; besides, a nut cult like Catholicism, having survived for a millennia and a half, to most people does not look like a nut cult any longer, from which observation other amusing conclusions might be drawn... ☐ ☐ Hoping you are the sane...

-- dgv

The Fourth Annual

ELEVEN-FOOT POLL

(for science-fiction that you wouldn't touch with a 10-foot poll)

For several years there have been numerous polls asking science-fiction and fantasy fans what were the best novels, best prozines, best fanzines, etc. of the previous year. The Eleven-Foot Poll provides a way by which fandom can vote on the WORST items in these various categories. Eligibility for these categories shall be the same as for the corresponding categories on the Hugo ballot. Eligibility for categories not on the Hugo/Pong ballot is at the discretion of the voter. Any person considering him- or herself a science-fiction or fantasy fan may vote in the Eleven-Foot Poll.

All categories except "Worst Story Series" refer to science-fiction, fantasy, or fanac of 1966. There was no winner in the "Worst Story Series" in the Third Eleven-Foot Poll, so the category has been held over.

WORST NOVEL _____

WORST SHORT STORY _____

WORST NOVELETTE _____

WORST DRAMA _____

WORST PRO WRITER _____

WORST PRO ARTIST _____

WORST PROZINE _____

WORST STORY SERIES (all time) _____

WORST FANZINE _____

WORST FAN _____

WORST FAN ARTIST _____

WORST NEW FAN FACE _____

SPECIAL AWARDS _____

Return this ballot on or before 31 October 1967 to John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218, USA. The results of this poll will be published somewhere or other.

To prevent double voting, please fill out the lines below. YOUR REPLIES WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Name _____

Address _____