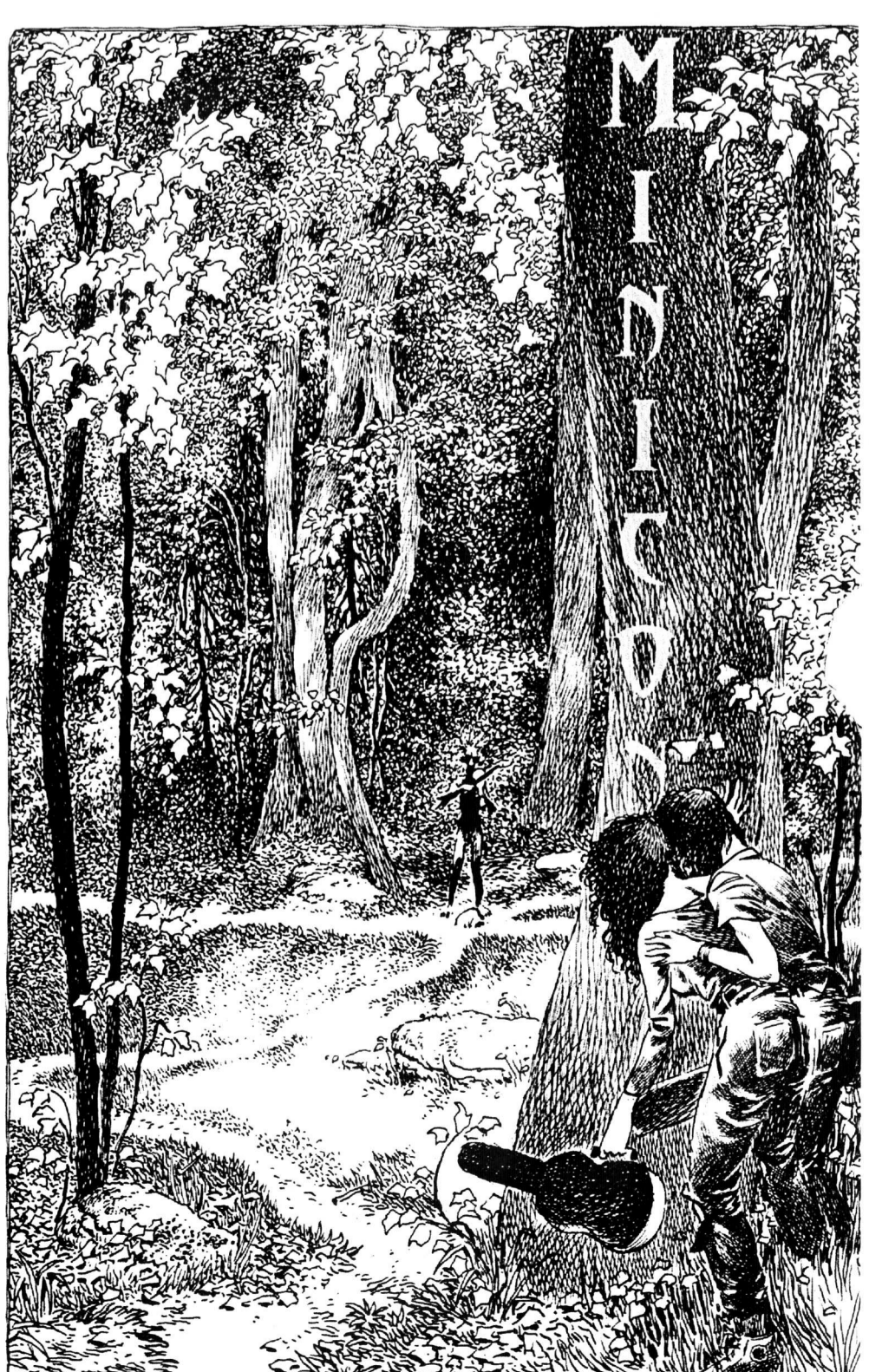


PO Box 8297
Mankato, MN
55408-0297



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Mankato, MN
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Minicon 42

April 6-8 2007

P.O. Box 8577, Lake Street Station

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minicon Membership Type

Child (Age 6-12)

Supporting

April Nov. 12 2006

Child (Age 6-12)

Supporting

Registration Instructions:

To register for Minicon 42, fill out this form and send it along with a check or money order in the address shown above. Make checks payable to Minicon 42. **NO CASH PLEASE!**

For information about party rooms, contact Kelly Strahl at 612-788-0188.

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Primary Membership

Attending Child (6-12) Child (5 & Under) Supporting

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State/Province _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____ Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Additional Membership

Attending Child (6-12) Child (5 & Under) Supporting

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State/Province _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____ Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Minicon 42 **April 6-8, 2007**
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel Bloomington, Minnesota

And the question was...
That is one of the nicest things about coming to Minicon. Sometimes you don't even know the question and you still come away with an answer. And a lot of memories.

Come to Minicon and work on a whole new batch of memories and maybe an answer.
—Mark Richards, Minicon 42 Chairperson

Minicon 42 Guests of Honor

CHARLES DE LINT
Charles is the winner of many awards, including the prestigious World Fantasy Award. His works include *Widdershins* (2006), *The Blue Girl* (2004), *Seven Wif/ Sisters* (2002), *Moonlight and Vines* (1999), and *The Little Country* (1992), to mention just a few of his more than sixty books. In addition to being a great writer, Charles is also a fine musician and artist (don't let on to Charles, but we like to think we're getting these guests of honor for the price of one). Charles leaves fond memories and new friends wherever he appears, and he is without a doubt our favorite guest of honor this year!

CHARLES YESS
Charles is the winner of many awards, including the prestigious World Fantasy Award. His art can be seen in the pages of Heavy Metal, Klazz Press, and National Lampoon, as well as comic books published by Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, and Epic. Charles' work has earned awards in collaboration with such authors as Neil Gaiman, Jeff Smith, and Charles de Lint. He has been featured in gallery and museum exhibitions, including the first major exhibition of Science Fiction and Fantasy Art (New Britain Museum of American Art, 1980) and "Dreamweavers" (William King Regional Arts Center, 1994-95). Charles leaves fond memories and new friends wherever he appears, and he is without a doubt our favorite guest of honor this year!

Charles and Charles are frequent collaborators and close friends, and we are especially fortunate, this year, to have as guests two men who not only tower in their respective fields, but also both answer to the same name.

Registration

Here's the deal: you pull out the pre-registration form conveniently printed in this progress report, do a bit of scribbling of names and checking of boxes, add a check and a stamp and pop it in the mail on or before February 15th, 2007, and in return we'll give you \$15*, a brace of guests named Charles, great fun, great bands, great hiking, and the best hospitality suite in tandem.

Granted, there are downsides to registering early. You'll end up with extra money, and you'll miss the excitement that comes of spending the last hour before the post office closes on 2/15 frantically searching around for the registration form you have in your hands right now. Our advice? Go ahead and register now. After all, you can always take up bungee jumping for the adrenaline.

If you're a bit tight after the holidays, we understand; buy a supporting membership now for only \$15, and convert to a full membership at the door for only \$35.

* Well, okay, we aren't actually going to hand you fifteen dollars. But you will save that much over the at-the-door rate of \$65, and that amounts to the same thing, don't you think? The at-the-door rate for children 6-12 will be \$20, and for 5 and under, free.

Live outside the United States?

To avoid extra charges and difficulties with currency exchange or international money orders, members living in countries other than the United States may register in advance without enclosing payment. Then, upon arriving at the door at Minicon, they may pay the fee that was current at the time of registration, in U.S. funds. Simply make a note to this effect under the "Registration Instructions" section of your pre-registration form. Note that the fee charged at the door will depend on the date your pre-registration was mailed.

Registration Questions?

If you have any questions about registration, please email us at registration@minicon.msrf.org.

Hotel

Once again, Minicon will be held at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. The hotel is located at 7800 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439. Phone (952) 832-7800. If you haven't visited the hotel in the past few years, prepare to be impressed: Sheraton has made over the entire building, and from the guest rooms through the elevators to the function space, it looks brand-new.

Room Rates

\$85.00 Standard Room Rate
\$95.00 Cabana Room Rate

These are special Minicon-only room rates, so be sure to mention Minicon when calling the hotel, in order to receive the correct rate. These rates are guaranteed until March 19th; thereafter, the Minicon rate may still be honored depending on room availability.

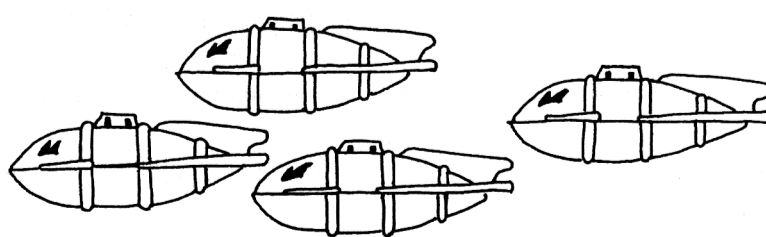
Directions and maps to the hotel can be found at the Sheraton website; see our convenient link at the Minicon 42 website, <http://www.msrf.org/minicon42/>.

Party Rooms

Interested in hosting a room party? Please contact Kelly Strait at parties@minicon.msrf.org, or call 612-788-0168.

Free Parking!

There is a great deal to like about the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. There are several convenient restaurants both within the hotel and in easy walking distance, and perhaps best of all – the parking is both plentiful and free!



Deciphering your Mailing Label

In the upper right corner of the mailing label on this progress report there is a number. This number tells you when you last registered for Minicon. If you see "42", you are registered for this year. Any other number means that we've been missing you, and everyone has been asking where you've been; what are you doing this Easter?

Charles de Livr <http://www.shinz.com/charlesdeivr/> was born in the town of Bussum in the Netherlands on December 22nd, 1951. In his early years, he grew up in a variety of places, including Britannia (Quebec), Western Canada, Quebec, Turkey, and Lebanon, before his family finally settled in Lucerne.

During that time, Charles began to read voraciously and widely. Initially interested in mythic matter and folklore, his reading soon branched out into Tolkien, Lord Dunsany, William Morris, James Branch Cable, F.R. Edisson, Mervyn Peake, Lin Carter, and Thomas Burnett Swann. After later becoming interested in Robert E. Howard, Lovecraft, and Clark Ashton Smith, Charles finally discovered Science Fiction by way of Andre Norton, Clifford Simak, and Roger Zelazny, among others. With such a start, it will surprise no one that Charles' reading remains eclectic; anyone who has read his monthly book review columns in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* will have seen first-hand how widely this man's tastes range.

It may then come as a surprise (at least to those who haven't heard him play) that Charles didn't originally consider making a living as a writer, but instead aspired to become a musician. His love of Celtic music came before its popularity was spread by Worldbeat, the Pogues, Spirit of the West, and other pioneers of the art, and for fourteen years Charles worked in a variety of record stores during the day and played gigs on weekend.

Although he wrote for personal pleasure during these years, it wasn't until the mid-seventies that Charles began to write seriously. Even that came about by chance: an artist friend, John Chavette, would draw, and Charles began to write stories for him to illustrate. John showed some of these to another writer, Charles K. Saunders, who, in turn, convinced Charles to send some of his work out to various small press magazines, where his first stories sold for all of \$10.

During the next six or seven years, Charles continued to work in record stores, played music, and wrote stories and novels, most of which came back unpublished. Finally, Andy Offutt picked up novella *"The Fate of the Grey Rose"* for his swordy *Against Darkness* series (which piece later grew into the novel *The Harp of the Grey Rose*).

In 1980, Charles married his lovely wife, MaryAnn, who convinced him to push his stories out of laeric forests and into city streets, and also to have a go at writing full-time. He sold three novels that year, and the rest is history past, and history yet to come.

Today, Charles and MaryAnn work and play together in word, song, and art; warp and weft in a tapestry of their own weaving.

(poorly excerpted from a longer and finer piece in Charles' own words, which you should do yourself the favor of reading, at his website)

Charles Vess www.greenmanpress.com

was born in 1951 in Lynchburg, Virginia and has been drawing since he could hold a crayon. He drew his first full-length comic when he was 10 and called it "Aeonic Man". Minimalist in nature, it required no drawing of hands, feet or heads ("they just glowed"). Since then, he has painstakingly drawn thousands of hands, feet, and heads in great detail. Charles graduated with a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and worked in commercial animation for Candy Apple Productions in Richmond, Va., before moving to New York City in 1976. It was there that he became a freelance illustrator, working for many publications including Heavy Metal, Klutz Press, and National Lampoon. His award-winning work has graced the pages of numerous comic book publishers such as Marvel, DC, Darkhorse and Epic. He has been featured in several gallery and museum exhibitions across the nation, including the first major exhibition of Science Fiction and Fantasy Art (New Britain Museum of American Art, 1980) and "Dreamweavers" (William King Regional Arts Center, 1994-95). In 1991, Charles shared the prestigious World Fantasy Award for Best Short Story with Neil Gaiman for their collaboration on *Sandman #19* (DC Comics) – the first and only time a comic book has held this honor. In the summer of 1997, Charles won the Will Eisner Comic Industry Award for Best Penciler/Inker for his work on *The Book of Ballads* and *Sagas* (which he self-publishes through his own Green Man Press) as well as *Sandman #73*. Soon after Charles finished the last of 175 paintings for *Starlost*, a novel written by Neil Gaiman, for which he was given the 1999 World Fantasy Award as Best Artist.

In 2002 Charles won a second Will Eisner award, this time as Best Painter for his work on *Rose*, a 130-page epic fantasy saga written by Cartoon Books' Jeff Smith. The year continued to be busy for Charles with the publication of *Seven Wild Sisters* (Subterranean Press) and *The Green Man, Tales from the Mythic Forest* (Viking), both utilizing cover art and interior bio illustrations by the artist, and both making the 2003 American Library Association's list for Best Books for Young Adults! By the end of the year he had completed 28 paintings for his first children's picture book, *A Circle of Cats*, done in collaboration with writer Charles de Lint (Viking). This cover art won the Gold Award for Best Book Art in the 10th annual "Spectrum: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art" even before it was officially published. A new edition of *Three Fain* (Tartaruscape) featuring a cover as well as over 30 bio interior illustrations by Vess was released this past Fall. Another collaboration with de Lint, *Medicine Road* (Subterranean Press) and the YA anthology *The Fanny Reed* (Viking) will be arriving this spring and he is currently hard at work producing drawings for several new books, including *A Storm of Swords* (MishkinMelin), the 25th anniversary edition of *Moonturret* (Subterranean Press) and a graphic novel collection of his ballad material for Tor.

Charles and Karen live happily in the Appalachian foothills in a small farmhouse, in a small town, with 4 small cats and a dog with a very small but loving brain. Charles' favorite whiskies are the Scotch Highland single malts (such as Glenmorangie or Cragganmore) if you want to get him talking.

Programming

As always, programming will be a big part of Minicon. If you'd like to see what we're planning, or better yet, participate by providing some ideas of your own, there is no better place to visit than our Programming Brainstorming page at <http://www.lisawen.net/mid2/programming.html> We also have a link on our Minicon website.

Art Show

Minicon has a history of bringing fine art, and fine artists, to our convention. Two years ago, Fatner & Larson. Last year, John Picacio. This year, Charles Vess! Not to mention Charles de Lint; check out his website and you'll find that he's a pretty fine artist in addition to be a great writer.

Our program book will be filled with art, our convention t-shirt will feature an amazing piece by Charles Vess, and yet it goes better. We have a room, at the convention, absolutely filled with great art, both fan and professional. Piece after piece of stunning artwork, some for sale, all for looking. From paintings and photography, to jewelry and sculpture, you'll be treated to a great variety of great art.

If you have art you'd like to display, or if you'd like to help set up the art show (please!), email us at artshow@minicon.msaf.org.

Music

Music has always been a vital part of the Minicon experience. Top-notch stage acts play to eager crowds in a music club atmosphere, and for those who like a more intimate experience, the folk circle runs well into the wee hours. Rumor has it that Charles de Lint and MaryAnn Harris will treat congers to their music. Musicians are encouraged to email us at music@minicon.msaf.org and join us on stage, or in circle.

Dealers' Room

Books, Artwork, Jewelry, Games and Gaming Supplies, Comics, Clothing, Handcrafts, Music, Movies, Hats, Bags, Scarves, Shawls, Creatures, Cards, T-shirts, Buttons, Magazines, Calendars, Toys, Figurines, Songbooks, Dragons, Poetry, I could go on, but you get the idea. All these things and more can be found in the Minicon dealers' room, so be sure to indulge in some browsing.

Dealer tables are available at a rate of \$45.00 per 2 1/2 X 6 table. (This price does not include membership to the convention). Dealers can reserve tables by emailing dealers@minicon.msaf.org.



Don't forget, volunteers can earn Dealer Dollars, worth \$5 at participating dealers!

Hospitality & Con Suite

Once again, Minicon will be bringing you some of the best food & drink at any convention, anywhere. Our hospitality suite will be serving a variety of tasty foods (last year, the tacos, Meatballs in Marinara, and Davam's pizza were particular favorites). In ~~THE SPOCKCRAFT~~ our convention bar, we serve such quality beers as Guinness, Newcastle Brown Ale, Summit Great Northern Pilsner, several types of hard cider, as well as a variety of other beers for all tastes. We vary the selection of food & drink from year to year to keep things fresh, but you can always count on the highest quality and know that some of your old favorites will be back again!

This year, we're looking for two subheads to run special events Friday and Saturday evening; please email hospitality@minicon.msaf.org, or call Joel & Beth Phillips at 612-720-7996.

Gaming

Once again, we will be hosting a wide variety of games for a wide variety of tastes. In addition, please feel free to bring, or suggest, your own favorite games. If you have any games you'd like to recommend to us or lend to us, or if you'd like to participate in gaming by helping to host a gaming session, please email us at gaming@minicon.msaf.org.

Volunteering

Our need for volunteers comes in all shapes and sizes. If you can set aside some time during the convention, please sign up in advance for volunteer shifts. Badging and registration are great ways to meet people; you get to sit in a comfy chair, and sooner or later, everybody comes by. The consite is also a great place to help. You can take a shift tending bar or serving food, or even just give us a few minutes help restocking food. If the con is just too busy for you (we understand, there is a lot to do during the convention), there are opportunities just before and after the con: helping to collate program books, decorate, and to set up and take down the facilities. (These are great times to meet the concom, by the way).

Even if you can only spare a few minutes when you happen to find yourself with a bit of free time, please feel free to drop by the bridge or one of the hospitality suites; chances are there will be something you can do that will really help us out and take only a few minutes of your time.

Volunteering for Minicon is often its own reward, but as a sign of our appreciation, we will once again be giving out Dealer Dollars worth \$5 in the dealers' room. In addition, we have a few other surprise rewards planned.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn how to help out before the convention, please email us at volunteers@minicon.mnsl.org.

Art Credits

Art by Charles Vess, copyright C. Vess and used with permission.
Cover: Fairy Fiddler from "Seven Wild Sisters" by Charles de Lint (Subterranean Press, 2002)
6: Puckwag from "Moonheart - The 20th Anniversary Edition" by Charles de Lint (Subterranean Press, 2004)

2, 8: Art by James Kuehl and used with permission.

