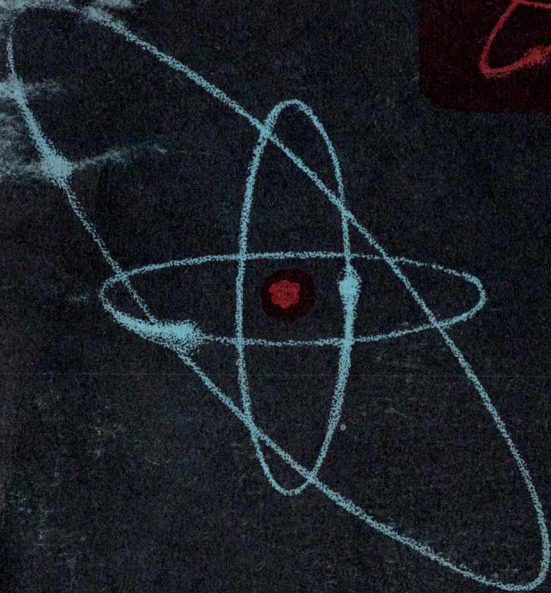
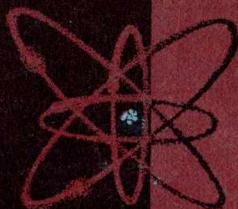


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SCIENCE FICTION
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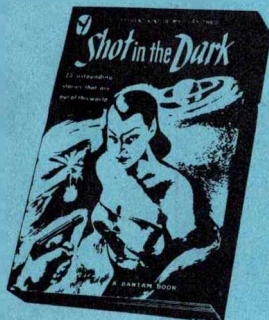
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Recent events in the world have convincingly shown that what man can imagine, he usually accomplishes. This stimulating and often frightening realization has encouraged the present swing toward science fiction. Thus, members of the Eastern Science Fiction Association and the Hydra Club have joined to form the N. Y. Science Fiction Conference celebrating science fiction's coming of age---a celebration to which everyone is cordially welcome.

The program has been devised to appeal to the interests you have expressed to the Committee, and we believe the listed speakers include many people directly responsible for the present upsurge of public interest. Whether you are a veteran reader or writer of science fiction, or a new recruit, we welcome you to the Conference. Science fiction lets you share in one of the most fascinating and rewarding activities of the human mind...imagination!

L. Jerome Stanton, Chairman
New York Science Fiction
Conference Committee.



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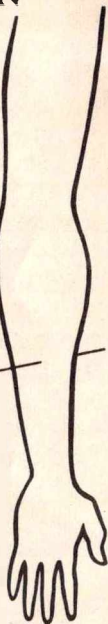
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A special flight has been scheduled for the benefit of attendees of the Science Fiction Conference. The good ship "Planetarium" will take off at 11 A.M., Monday July 3, from the dome of the Hayden Planetarium, 79 Street and Central Park West.

SPECIAL SHOWING

New Planetarium show: "A Trip to the Moon"

SPEAKERS

Willy Ley
"Rockets"

Fletcher Pratt
"Military Aspects of Space Travel"

L. Sprague de Camp
"Life in a Space Ship"

SPECIAL FEATURE

Demonstration lecture on the Planetarium machine by a Planetarium staff member.

Tickets are available at the Registration Desk in the private lobby, or through any member of the Conference Committee.

Admission \$.65 Per Person

BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

by Lester del Rey

Here, for those interested, it might be nice to give the very simple facts that lie behind the scenes, since nothing about this is secret---in fact, the only amazing feature is the realization that what began as only a vague idea that such a concentration of science fiction interest as can be found around New York City should find some regular outlet.

A group of us met one night and began batting it around---F. Pratt, C. Dye, F. Pohl, M. Greenberg, D. Kyle, and myself. We decided we were going to have a science fiction conclave in 1950. Since we were all members of the Hydra Club, it was inevitable that it should be brought up at a later meeting of the Club, presided over by Chairman L. Jerome Stanton.

The idea was happily accepted, but with the suggestion that it might be possible to get the World Science Fiction Convention held here instead. We settled on the idea that we'd try for the Convention, but that otherwise, we'd have a simple conference.

As everyone knows, Portland has won the Convention for 1950 (and is at present going great guns on it. If you haven't sent your buck for membership, get it to them at once. And nobody should fail to go out for the Norwescon. Plug!) Hence, we went back to our original plan of a conference.

It began that simply. Now, jointly produced by the Hydra Club and the ESFA, that has led to this N. Y. S-F Conference.

Yours for the asking

INFORMATION

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Program of Events

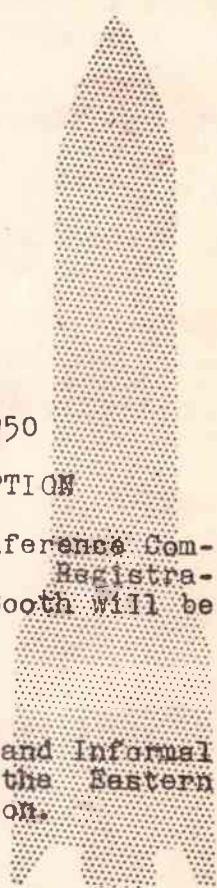
Saturday, July 1, 1950

REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION

3:00-6:00: Members of the Conference Committee will greet guests. Registration and Information Booth will be open all day Saturday.

ESFA PARTY

8:00-11:00: Cocktail Party and Informal Program, presented by the Eastern Science Fiction Association.



Sunday, July 2, 1950

LITERARY AND PUBLISHING ASPECTS
OF SCIENCE FICTION

12:00-1:00: Literary Aspects of S-F:

L. Sprague de Camp, author:

"Lest Darkness Fall"

Judith Merril, author:

"Shadow on the Hearth"

Harrison Smith, Publisher:

Sat. Review of Literature

1:00-1:45: S-F Magazine Publishing:

Sam Merwin, editor: Thrilling Wonder
Stories

Bea Mahaffey, editor: Other Worlds

Jerome Bixby, editor: Planet Stories

1:45-2:30: S-F Book Publishing:

Walter Bradbury, Doubleday & Company
Groff Conklin, noted anthologist

2:30-3:00: S-F Programs on the Radio:

Robert Arthur, author: "The Myster-
ious Traveler"

SERIOUS ASPECTS OF SCIENCE FICTION

3:30-4:00: Geriatrics:

Dr. Thomas S. Gardner

4:00-5:00: Robots and Thinking Machines:

Dr. Isaac Asimov and a representative
of an industrial firm

5:00-6:00: Dianetics:

Lester del Rey -- Dr. David H. Keller

(Cont'd.)

Sunday, July 2, 1950 (Cont'd.)

SCIENCE FICTION DINNER

7:00-10:30: Speeches by Will F. Jenkins (Murray Leinster); Willy Ley, on "Science Fiction Predictions Which Came True, and How"; and Philip Klass (William Tenn).

Monday, July 3, 1950

11:00-1:00: SPACE TRAVEL--FACT AND FANCY

(At the Hayden Planetarium, 81st St. and Central Park West.)

Special Showing: "A Trip to the Moon"

Willy Ley will speak on "Rockets"; L. Sprague de Camp on "Life in a Space Ship"; and Fletcher Pratt on "Military Aspects of Science Fiction".

There will also be a special demonstration of the Planetarium machine by a member of the staff.

3:00-4:00: Discussion (at Henry Hudson): Procedure for the First Annual Science Fiction Literary Awards.

4:00-6:00: Authors' Autographing Party.

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on Monday, July 3rd, at 3 P. M.

in the Ballroom Lounge

to discuss

THE NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE

for the

First Annual Science Fiction LITERARY AWARDS

Awards will be presented by the Hydra Club annually, for the best works in the field of science fiction writing. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the meeting to participate with the Awards Committee in the formulation of plans. A Nomination Committee will be organized at the meeting.

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by Judith Merril

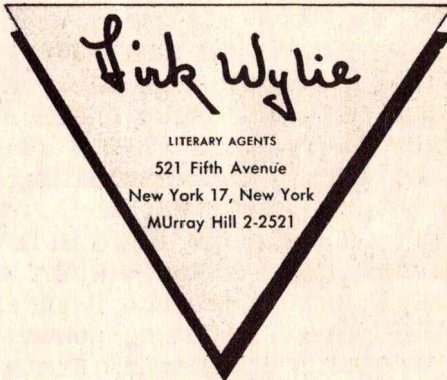
At a recent meeting of the Authors' Club in N. Y., top editors, authors, and anthologists tried to find what is science fiction. I believe the lack of an answer is the real fascination of the field.

When mystery fans turn from gorillas and gats to atoms and androids, what has been added that Westerns and love pulps do not supply? I believe it isn't that something new has been added---but that in s-f it is always being added.

Unlike pure fantasy, every s-f story tries to present some variations on an explanation of the unknown. Mysteries may also explain, but there can be only limited locked rooms or methods of murder. The variations on limited factors stereotype them. In s-f, the factors are always new, since science finds no limit to its boundaries. When space trips are trite, cosmic ray mutations and life on new planets will present new problems. Recently, sociology has begun a trend in s-f through the discoveries of semantics and cybernetics, for instance.

I find motivations in other fiction, unpredictability in fantasy---but only in s-f is there the self-regeneration which permits continual addition of that needed something new. This perpetual self-regeneration, it seems to me, is the answer to what makes s-f what it is.

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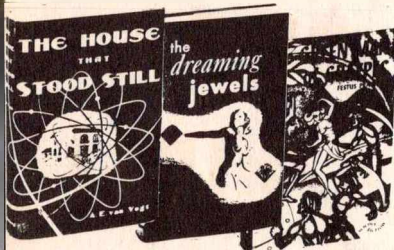
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M They printed the speech they poured on one tongue with ^{enough as to} ~~unthinking~~ ^{promiss} ~~speech~~ ^{sp. 1944.}

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