

Practical Information

Where It's At:

The first thing you should notice about the Lowell Hilton is how well our function space is laid out, enabling us (for the time being) to hold the whole con on one floor. Here's where everything is located:

Information: in the main lobby

Main Program: in a large ballroom, around the corner from Registration. You'll pass the hotel restaurant on the way.

Dealers' Room: next to Main Program.

Staff Office/Gopher Hole, Continuation Room, Mini-Track: around the corner from the Dealers' Room.

Special Programming Area: this is actually the Continuation and Mini-Track rooms, which we'll combine for certain events like the Auction, Meet the Pros(e) Reception, etc. (You'll find elevators and a set of doors leading right to the parking lot in this area).

Con Suite and Green Room are in the other direction from Registration, at the end of a long corridor.

As of this writing, there's a chance that the Staff Office and Green Room may trade locations (the issue involves phone access). Volunteers and program participants should check with Information.

Things Hotel Guests Should Know:

The Lowell Hilton accepts Visa, Mastercard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, and American Express. If you're not using a credit card, the hotel will want a \$25 deposit (in addition to any payment) to cover any additional payment. You'll get the balance back when you pay your final bill.

Check-in (3 P.M.) and check-out (1 P.M.) times are for real! However, the bell captain will be glad to check your bags should you arrive early or want to stay past check-out. Check with Information if you need to.

Separate arrivals for persons sharing a room are no problem. They'll ask each of you to pay a share, and give you each a key.

Non-smoking rooms are available. The beds in double rooms are king size. And there are no feather pillows anywhere!

Some Policies:

- **Things we won't be doing:** Films, video, gaming, or any *events* for costumes, although you can wear what you like within reason, except for weapons. Also, we won't be doing an Art Show until we can come up with an innovative approach that also reflects our special emphasis. We can't say when that will be.
- **No Weapons (period!)** : Massachusetts laws are quite specific on this, and anything we consider hazardous in a public area will be prohibited. Nor do we wish to see fake or display weapons, which detract from the atmosphere we're trying to create. The committee reserves the right to revoke memberships without refund for those who don't cooperate with our requests in this matter.
- **No Smoking** in program areas or Dealers' Room
- **No Eating or Drinking by customers in Dealers' Room.**
- **No Pets** (except for guide dogs): Many con attendees are allergic to a number of animals. As we are in enclosed spaces, we must ask you to respect their rights.
- **Child Policy** : Small children attached to adults do not need a membership. Anyone old enough to benefit from the program *does*. Children of any age seen wandering around on their own will be judged to be in the latter category. Please note: our facilities and budget do not allow for babysitting or any kind of childrens' programming.
- **Party Policy:** Standard advice for party-givers applies: keep it covered until it's in your room, be discreet, and check with us at Information (where we'll be keeping a list of open parties), for an updated situation report. After 11 P.M., hotel security patrols every 20 minutes, and they'll expect you to confine any party noise to your room. However, the Con Suite will be open until 2 A.M., so come on down!

About Lowell

I can hear you out there! "Why Lowell?" you're thinking. Or maybe it's "What's in Lowell?" with a look as if you expect to see a Hilton in the middle of a dairy pasture. Well, you're wrong. There's plenty enough to do in Lowell to occupy a weekend, even if you don't attend the programming ("Get the smelling salts for Eric!").

The section of Lowell in the vicinity of the hotel is a National Historical Park and a Heritage State Park, established in 1978 and 1976, respectively. Lowell boasts the first large-scale centers for the production of cotton cloth, and the canals and riverways built to service the textile industry are still there today. Museums and historical sites to visit include:

Patrick J. Morgan Cultural Center — A restored 1836 boardinghouse which includes exhibits on the "mill girls" and other working people.

Boott Mill — This museum contains an operating weave room, formal exhibits, a gallery, and a hands-on education center.

Jack Kerouac Commemorative — This famous American author was born in Lowell, and the city has this summer opened this park and monument on Bridge Street in downtown Lowell. His gravesite is in the Edson Cemetery on Rte. 3A (Gorham St.) near the Chelmsford line; many visitors such as Bob Dylan, Sam Sheppard, and Allen Ginsberg have left memorabilia at the site.

Walking tours leave the Park Visitor Center (Market Mills, maps will be provided) on a daily basis and last from 60 to 90 minutes. Some tours focus on mill heritage, labor history, or the history of water power, but some are unclassifiable. Members (or their companions) may find the following tours interesting and unusual:

Tunes and Tales: Alex Demas presents an absorbing and enriching live performance of tunes, anecdotes, and songs relating to the mill era.

Legends of Lowell: This walking tour examines the famous and the infamous, the heroes, villains, and even ghosts of Lowell.

Food

The Lowell Hilton is in the heart of Lowell. You'll be able to find many types of food within easy walking distance (even in November!).

Market Mills has a food court, where a variety of culinary nationalities, speeds, and prices can be found. There are old Irish pubs and trendy luncheonettes, with prices between \$3 and \$15 per person. We'll be providing a complete restaurant guide, including hours, prices, and reviews.

On the other hand, perhaps you're just too intrigued by the con to want to leave (or perhaps it's getting nasty outside), and you'd rather check out the hotel's eating facilities. In that case, be advised that the restaurant is open for breakfast from 6:30 to 11 A.M., for lunch from 11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and for dinner from 5 to 10 P.M. They'll likely be serving buffets (in the \$10.95 range) for those who don't have time to order from the menu. Sunday morning there's a great \$12.95 brunch. Adjacent to the restaurant is an oyster bar (open 11 A.M. to 1 A.M.), and on the second floor is a lounge called Vibrations (open 5 P.M. to 1 A.M.) which features cheap buffets.

Stay Informed!

Our Information table (in the main lobby) is there to (among other things) answer your questions (from 3:30-10 Fri., 10-10 Sat., and 10-3 Sun). Some of the things available are:

A list of open parties.

Sheets for you to list items for the auction.

At least one billboard for posting things.

Sign-up sheets for the "X/Y" Saturday dinner discussion groups.

A list of schedule/participant changes.

Replacement copies of these handouts.

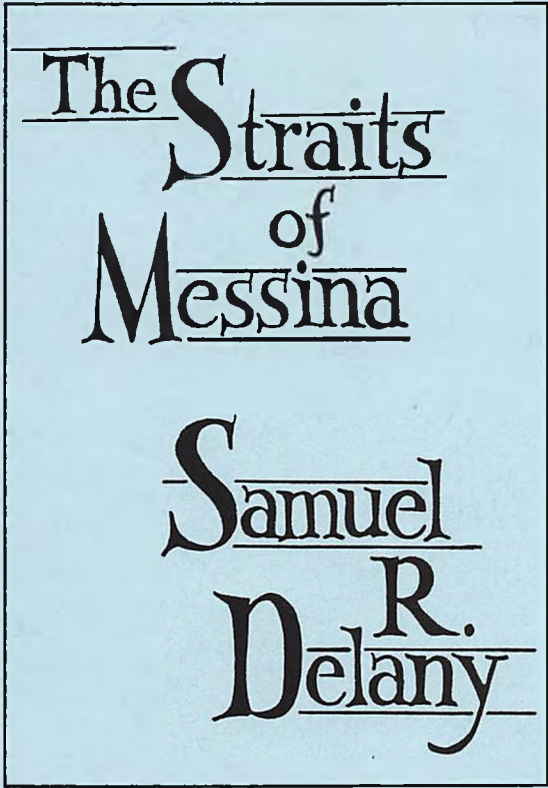
Merchandise! This includes our double-sided, 100% cotton, aqua blue shirts (and a few of the old silver-grey ones) for \$10, copies of last year's program book (featuring an original essay and bibliography comments by Gene Wolfe) for \$2, and possibly buttons.

And whatever appropriate things we can dream up in the next day or two.

In addition, this is the place to go if you have any hassles with the hotel (give them the necessary info and they'll put you in touch with our Hotel Liaison).

But remember, the most important thing Information will do is answer your questions. We're sure to have forgotten something while making up these handouts...

Be Seeing You!



Take A Dangerous Voyage With Samuel R. Delany . . .

. . .as he (and his *alter ego* "K. Leslie Steiner" sail the Mediterranean of his mind in this odyssey of the soul: past the sexual *Walpurgisnacht* of the unpublished *Hogg*; through the chaos of *Dhalgren*; around the barbarism, slavery and lust of the "Nevèryön" books; under the toppling *Towers of Toron* – all of them captured in metonymy and metaphor in *The Straits of Messina*.

Delany (and "Steiner") does all this in a series of penetrating and revealing essays, each on some aspect of his own work. Many of them see print for the first time in this book; others have only been published in obscure journals like *Australian Science Fiction Review* or in vastly different form. The casual Delany reader will find delight; the dedicated Delany fan will find insight; the would-be writer will find instruction; the explorer of alternate lifestyles will find inspiration.

The Straits of Messina will be available soon—reserve your copy now. Hardbound, 192 pages, \$19.95. Please include \$1.25 postage for each copy ordered. If you have further questions, please write Serconia Press at P.O. Box 1786, Seattle, Washington 98111.

Order Blank

To: Serconia Press, P.O. Box 1786, Seattle, WA 98111

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Readercon Wants YOU!!

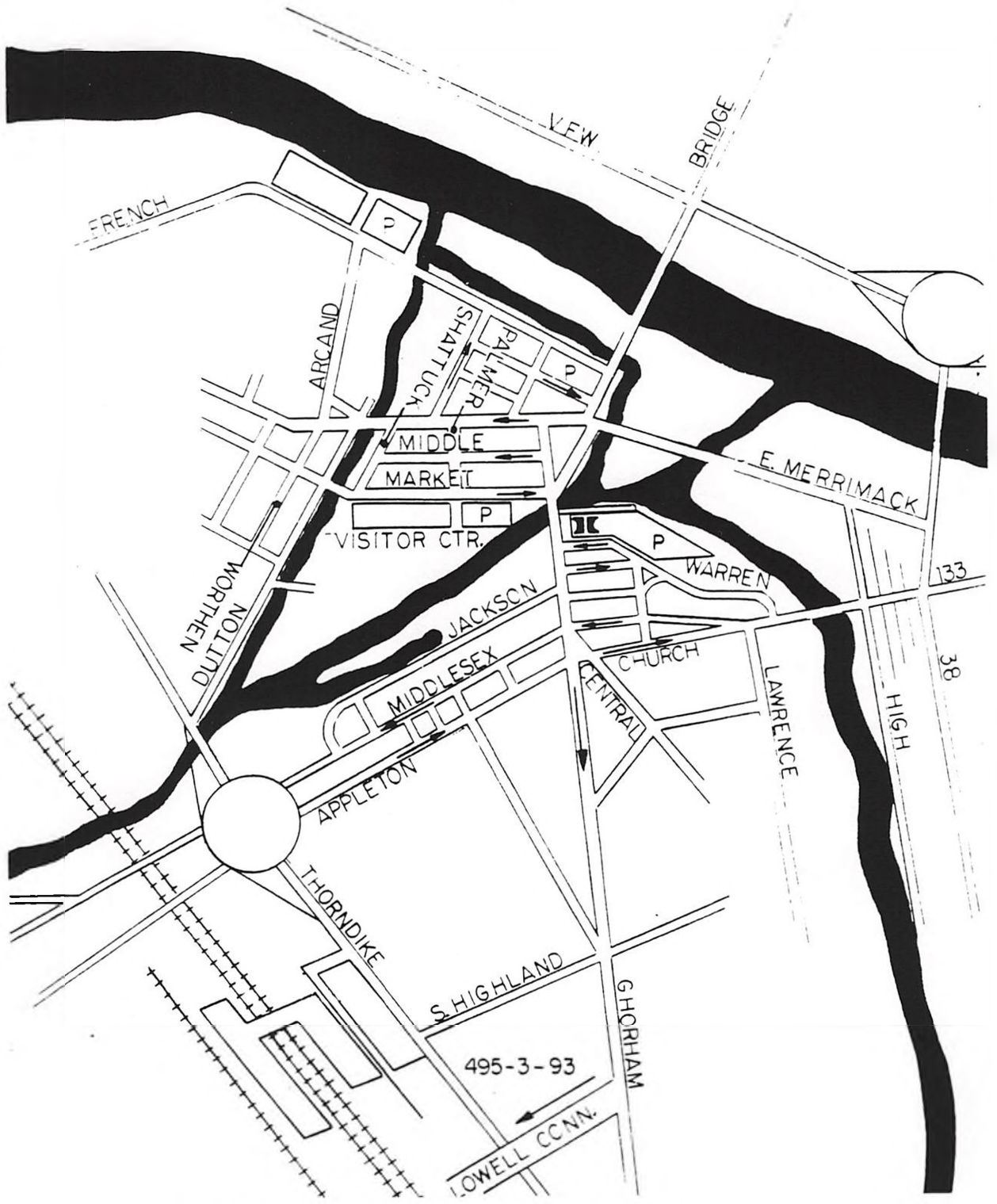
Nobody (except the hotel staff) gets paid to be at this con. But things have still got to be set up, torn down, checked on, refilled, or just generally babysat.

Please Help!

Come down to the staff room and offer some of your time! If you work 5 hours or more for us, we'll give you one of our limited-run red Readercon T-shirts! Join the Red Army, and stand TALL with the Readercon RedShirts!!

Thanks for your help, and enjoy the con.

Merryl Gross
Readercon Volunteer Coordinator



SEASON'S GREETINGS



The conference on imaginative literature,

READERCON 3

April 27 - 29, 1990

Lowell Hilton, Lowell, Massachusetts

[time and place tentative (but nearly certain)]

(25 miles northwest of Boston; accessible by public transportation; 508-452-1200)

Guest of Honor: T.B.A.

Obviously it's too early to have any kind of list of pro guests for Readercon 3. But we hope that most of this year's guests will return (as did nearly all of our guests from Readercon 1 this year).

While we don't want to raise any false expectations, there are a lot of well-known writers who were unable to make it to Readercon 2 who have expressed a *strong* interest in Readercon 3. Folks like Gene Wolfe, Michael Bishop, Kim Stanley Robinson, David Brin, George Alec Effinger (who had to cancel this year at the last moment), John M. Ford, Lucius Shepard, John Shirley, and Pamela Sargent. This year, we invited people four months before the con; for Readercon 3, invitations will go out a year in advance (not to mention the preliminary flyer that goes out next month).

We have invited yet another extremely cool, outstanding, fantastic guest of honor, whom we hope to hear from soon.

Membership for Readercon 3 will cost \$20; however, this will rise to \$25 some time before the con. All during Readercon 2 you can buy a membership for only \$15.

READERCON RESPONSE COUPON

Please mail to: READERCON, P.O. Box 6138, Boston, MA 02209 or call us at: 617-576-0415

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the following:

- Attending membership(s) (\$15 through 11/20/88; then \$20 at least through 6/30/89)
- Our fabulous T-shirts! Medium Large X-Large (\$10 each, + \$2 shipping)
Designed by Readercon 1 artist Joe Shea (aka Joey Zone); 100% cotton, sky-blue,
with READERCON logo on front, stylized "Follow the Reader" on back.
- Not joining now, but keep me on your mailing list.

Make check or money order payable to READERCON (no cash please!).

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Readercon Exit Survey

We are always looking for ways to improve Readercon. To do this, we need your help. Please take a moment before you leave to fill out this survey. Don't worry, no salesman will call!

About Your Book-Buying Habits:

On the average, how many **paperback** books per month do you buy for your own use?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| a) I don't buy paperbacks | d) 6 to 8 |
| b) 0 to 2 | e) 9 to 12 |
| c) 3 to 5 | f) 13 or more |

On the average, how many **hardcover** books per month do you buy for your own use?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| a) I don't buy hardcovers | d) 4 to 6 |
| b) 0 to 1 | e) 6 to 9 |
| c) 2 to 4 | f) 9 or more |

Do you prefer to buy your books **new** or **used**? New Used
Why? _____

On the average, approximately how much money per month do you spend on books (both new and used)? _____

About the Hotel:

In order to negotiate next year's room rates, we need some information about where you stayed during the con.

Did you stay at the hotel? Yes No

If **not**, why not?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Too expensive | c) Didn't find enough roommates |
| b) Con was too close to my home | d) Only came for one day |
| e) Other: _____ | |

What would be the **maximum** rate you would pay for a double room with two beds?

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a) I won't stay in the hotel for Readercon | e) \$75 to \$85 |
| b) \$45 to \$55 | f) \$85 to \$95 |
| c) \$55 to \$65 | g) \$100 or more |
| d) \$65 to \$75 | h) I don't care |

Please answer the next three questions **only** if you took a room and it was in your name. For statistical reasons, only one person from each roommate group should answer these questions.

How many nights did your group stay in the hotel? 1 2 3

If the rates were lower, would your group have stayed longer? Yes No

Did you crowd the room (don't worry, we won't tell!)? Yes No

About the Con:

Is there anything you would like to see more of in the Dealer's Room?

Did you discover any new books or authors that you intend to follow up on? If you did, please list some of them below.

Do you have an idea for next year's program? Please list it below.

Do you have any comments (good or bad) about Readercon 2? May we quote you on our posters? Yes No May we use your name? Yes No

Your name: _____